



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road

Merrimack, NH 03054

All Are Welcome!

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 4:30 PM  
Sunday - 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM  
Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri - 8:30 AM  
Holy Days - 8:30 AM  
and anticipated vigil - 7 PM

## Parish Staff

Rev Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor  
Email: FrPaul@OLMNH.org  
John Castelot, Deacon  
Email: DeaconJohn@OLMNH.org  
Marie Dancy, Pastoral Associate  
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Sharon Nagy, Business Manager  
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Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister  
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Kathleen Rush, Administrative Assistant  
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Karen Correia, Receptionist/Secretary  
Email: KCorreia@OLMNH.org  
Nancy King, Director of Music  
Email: NKing@OLMNH.org  
Muriel Gelinas, Sacristan  
Ron Ketchie, Custodian

## Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, founded in 1954, is a Roman Catholic community that shares in the life of Jesus Christ, obedient to the Father, and guided by the Holy Spirit. As a faith community, our mission is: to celebrate the sacraments and to proclaim the Word of God; to minister to the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish through prayer, works of charity, personal witness, education, and evangelization; to welcome all people to active participation in our parish community; and to preserve the faith of Church amidst a changing world and diverse social climate. We commit ourselves to this mission, under the patronage and protection of Mary, Mother of Mercy, with faith, hope and love in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May 1999

## Reconciliation

Confessions are available on Saturdays at 3 PM and by appointment.

## Outreach and Home Ministry

Please contact the office with your needs.

## Sacraments

**Baptism** for infants is usually celebrated on the last weekend of the month.

Please contact the office for more information about baptism and the other

**Sacraments of Initiation**. For the celebration of **Marriage**, 6 months notice is necessary.

Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757 Fatih Formation Office: 424-4477

Website: [www.olmnh.org](http://www.olmnh.org)

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **SATURDAY, March 2nd**

**Vigil: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4:30PM:** Patricia Adams req by Gordon & Denna Landry

### **SUNDAY, March 3rd**

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30AM:** Bill Camirand (1st Anniv) req by his wife

**10:30AM:** Edgar Begin req by Fran Pichette

### **Monday, March 4th**

**St. Casimir**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** For the intentions of Carole Brown req by her family

### **Tuesday, March 5th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** For the intentions of the celebrant

### **Wednesday, March 6th**

**Ash Wednesday**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** For "Bud" & Simone Hahn req by a friend

**7:00PM:** For deceased parishioners

### **Thursday, March 7th**

**Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs**

**6:10PM:** Evening Prayer

**6:30PM:** For Barbara Belushko req by a friend

### **Friday, March 8th**

**St. John of God, Religious**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30 AM:** For Lena Parker req by a friend

### **Saturday, March 9th**

**Vigil: First Sunday of Lent**

**4:30PM:** Debra Durant (1st Anniv) req by the Dwyer Family

### **Sunday, March 10th**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**8:30AM:** Donald Walls req by Joseph Mannion

**10:30AM:** For all parishioners

### **OLD PSALMS**

You may bring your old psalms to church and drop them off in any of the baskets located by the entrances. We will dispose of them for you. Thank You.

### **EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

This week, Jesus tells us that we must examine our own inner selves, our attitudes and dispositions, virtues and faults, rather than judging others. What is in our hearts comes out in what and how we speak. If our hearts are filled with kindness and compassion, those qualities will be evident in our speaking, just as beautiful, wholesome fruit comes only from healthy trees. And vice-versa. The Wisdom writer Sirach in the first reading agrees with this concept--that we will be judged by our words. Paul reminds us that the reward of discipleship is eternal life. Today's psalm of thanksgiving and praise reminds us of God's kindness and faithfulness, which we are to emulate in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are known, each of us, by our own fruit.

### **WORDS AND FRUIT**

What do these two things have in common? In Luke's Gospel today, Jesus uses the image of a fruit tree to explain the importance of speaking with care. If the tree is healthy (that is, good), we expect to enjoy tasty fruit, but no one would pick the fruit of a tree that appears to be diseased. Good fruit is like good words that indicate one's spiritual growth and maturity--a person whose heart and words are filled with goodness. We will be known as good or evil by the qualities--of mercy and compassion, or pride and selfishness--that come from our hearts and enter the world through our mouth. We hear similar advice from the book of Sirach in our first reading. Just as the fruit will indicate whether or not the tree from which it came was healthy, so too do our words indicate what we think, how we view the world and our neighbors. Words are important, indeed.

### **ACTIONS AND VICTORY**

But what about our actions? These surely are also signs of goodness or the opposite, aren't they? Today's psalm sings about the just ones who will be like trees flourishing in the house of the Lord, bearing fruit throughout their lives. Justice implies action--mercy, compassion, love. In the second reading, Paul advises the Corinthians to devote themselves to the work of the Lord, that their labors would not be in vain, because the reward of acting with integrity is victory over sin and death. The person of justice and integrity acts and speaks from a new heart, made possible by Jesus sacrifice.

Do actions speak louder than words? Maybe between this Gospel and last week's, when Jesus told us to love our enemies, Jesus is showing us that both are vital and essential aspects of following the life of discipleship. May our fruit always reflect the sweetness of living a good life.

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**February 24, 2019: \$4190.00**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 6, 2019—LENT BEGINS**

Lent is the 40 day period in the Church year set aside for the spiritual preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. There are two important aspects to the Lenten season. The first is new members of the Church preparing for the purifying Sacrament of Baptism. Those of us who are already Catholic recall our own Baptism. The second is to seek forgiveness for our sins, to reconcile ourselves with God, the Church and members of the community and to strengthen our faith. Lent prepares us to celebrate more fully the death and Resurrection of Jesus. For individuals and the community, it intensifies Christian faith, hope and love. The more deeply we observe Lent, the more we will benefit spiritually. Easter will have more meaning and more joy for us if we enter into Lent more fully.

### **Some suggestions for celebrating Lent...**

To spiritually celebrate the season of Lent, we acknowledge our sins, resolve to turn back to God and take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We strive to advance in holiness by cultivating Christian virtue, reflecting on the real meaning of our baptismal commitment and striving to be a reflection of God's goodness in our everyday life. Penance is an action showing a return to God, a conversion of mind and heart. Performing acts of penance such as following traditional Lenten practices like prayer, fasting and almsgiving is another way to spiritually celebrate Lent.

Ask Catholics what they're doing for Lent this year, and they'll probably tell you that they are giving up a favorite food, a favorite pastime or anything else they really love but isn't essential to their lives. Giving up something for Lent fosters self discipline and tempers our desires. It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance. It promotes spiritual growth. Think also about the possibility of doing something positive to bolster your spiritual life and make the world a better place. Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your faith, strengthen your spiritual life or perform special acts of mercy and kindness at home, at work, in your parish or in your community.

### **MASS WITH DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 8:30 AM AND 7:00 PM**

#### **REGULATIONS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

**Fasting**...is to be observed by all who are 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 60th birthday. On a day of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are.

**Abstinence**...is observed by all 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

**Ash Wednesday**...March 6, 2019 and Good Friday, April 19, 2019 are days of Fast and Abstinence. All Fridays of Lent of days of abstinence.

#### **Wondering What To Do for Your Lenten Prayer?**

The Stations of the Cross is a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. At each station, we recall and meditate on a specific event from Christ's last day. Prayers are recited as we move from station to station until all 14 are complete.



Pray the Stations of the Cross with us every Friday this Lent at 6:00 pm in the Church. It's a great way to grow closer to Christ on your Lenten journey. Join us for quiet moments of music, liturgical prayer, thoughtful meditation and silent reflection on Christ's journey to the cross. This devotion is a good way to walk with Jesus and meditate on his passion and to allow Jesus to walk with us in our daily lives and struggles. It only takes approximately 1/2 hour and it would be a perfect way to end your week and to begin your weekend.

This year soup and chowder will be served in the Church hall following the stations. Please try to join us.

#### **THURSDAY EVENING MASS**

As we have in past years, we will celebrate Mass on Thursday evenings during Lent.

We begin with Confession at 5:30 pm, evening prayer at 6:10 pm and Mass at 6:30 pm.

## **Journey to Jerusalem A Lenten Retreat**

**Save the dates:** on March 25, 26 and April 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM we will have a Lenten Retreat entitled "Journey to Jerusalem".

On March 25 we will focus on the teachings of Jesus after He set His face toward Jerusalem. Then, on March 26 and April 2, Mark Gillis, Headmaster of Holy Family Academy in Manchester, NH, will present "Journey to Jerusalem: The Theo-Drama of Holy Week". This is an engaging and insightful presentation based on the Scriptural account of Jesus' final days where attendees will dive deeper into holy week than they ever have before.

Join us and journey with us this Lent and encounter Christ's passion in a new way this year.

### **VIDEO & DISCUSSION**

On Thursday, March 7th at 7:15pm, after the 6:30 Mass, a 12-minute video, Crux, will be shown and discussion to follow. The topic concerns the mystery of life, and the transcendent moments when God makes himself known to us. This video and discussion will be repeated on Tuesday, March 12th at 9:15 AM.

### **SUMMER PROGRAM SAVE THE DATE**



We are aware that parents are beginning to plan family summer vacations, kids camps, etc., so we wanted to let you know as soon as possible the Summer Program Faith Formation Schedule for 2019.

Summer classes will take place for 2 weeks in July-the weeks of July 15th and July 22nd. Hope this will help out with your plans.

### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of March 2nd through March 8th is lit **in memory of**  
**William Camirand.**



If you would like to have the Sanctuary Lamp lit in memory of or for the intentions of a loved one, please call the parish office at 424-3757.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**St. Patrick's Day Parish Party**  
**Saturday, March 16th**

Tickets are on sale after Mass this weekend and next for the St Patrick's Day Parish Party on Saturday, March 16th after the 4:30 Mass.



The show will feature the *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* and an Irish sing-along featuring pianist Jim Otis. Skellig will perform traditional rigs and reels during mealtime.

Ticket prices are \$10.00 for ages 16 through adults; \$5.00 for ages 10-15 and no charge for anyone age 9 and under.

Refreshments include soups, sandwiches, beverages and desserts. This parish event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING**

Blood Drive



When you give blood you give another birthday, another anniversary, another day at the beach, another night under the stars, another talk with a friend, another laugh, another hug, another chance.

Thank you to all who donated blood and platelets at the Red Cross Blood Drive held here at Our Lady of Mercy Parish last week. We collected 48 units of blood. We are very grateful.

**120 CLUB WINNERS**

**Week #4: Tad Stephanek & Maria Gannon**

**COLLECTION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**—will be the annual collection for Aid to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa. This combined collection supports the Catholic Church in several different parts of the world, funding catechesis, youth ministry and seminarian education.

**Faith Episcopal Church Invites You...**

Come celebrate Mardi Gras—Come Get Ready for Lent  
Come Listen and Sing—Come Have Fun!  
Sunday, March 3, 2019 @ 7:00 pm  
Wheeler memorial Chapel  
590 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack

Admission is free—an offering will be taken up.  
Parking is limited—You might consider parking at Shaws

## Information Page

Acct #: 694750

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Merrimack, NH 03054

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*Bulletin for March 3, 2019*

**Kathy**