



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
Email: MDancy@OLMNH.org
Sharon Nagy, Business Manager
Email: SNagy@OLMNH.org
Laura Paison, Director of Faith Formation
Email: LPaison@OLMNH.org
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister
Email: CCoughlin@OLMNH.org
Kathleen Rush, Administrative Assistant
for Faith Formation
Email: KJRush1@OLMNH.org
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

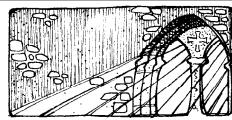
Baptism for infants is usually celebrated on the last weekend of the month.

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 23rd

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Jean Gelinas req by his family

Sunday, March 24th

Third Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: For the intentions of the James family

10:30AM: For all parishioners

Monday, March 25th

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Charlotte Ann Morgan req by Tom & Adrienne Warguska

Tuesday, March 26th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Norman Harrison req by Tom & Adrienne Warguska

Wednesday, March 27th

NO MASS

Thursday, March 28th

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: For deceased priests of the Diocese

Friday, March 29th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30 AM: Francis Britton req by Michael & Regina Bowser

Saturday, March 30th

Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Antonia & Alfred Bernier req by their family and for all parishioners

SUNDAY, March 31st

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Ruth Watkins (5th anniv) req by Rachel Watkins & family and by Diane Boissy

10:30AM: Ron Matviya req by Marsha Kelly and his friends

Overconfident?

As we get to the halfway point of Lent, we may be tempted to overconfidence: "The first three weeks weren't so hard. I can go a few more weeks without the things I gave up. And I've only committed a few sins; maybe I'll go to confession right before Easter." If so, it might be a good idea to look at the second reading and the Gospel.

St. Paul says that anyone who is overconfident about their lack of sin "should take care not to fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). He compares those people to the ones Moses brought through the desert. Just because they were God's chosen people and had survived years in the desert doesn't mean they are perfect. In fact, many were punished because they were tempted to follow false gods or to complain about the food and drink God provided them. Could the same thing happen to us?

One form of overconfidence is rejecting what we learned as children. We may think, "I'm old enough to decide if I should go to church" or "I can take care of myself now; I don't need God's help." Or we may think that holiness is just for priests and religious: "I go to church on Sundays; no need to pray the other days of the week." If these sound familiar because you have thought that way yourself, Paul has a warning. His analogy of the Rock following the Hebrews in the desert refers to God's constant presence to the people. In the same way, he is present to us today. A couple of chapters after our second reading Paul says, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). But just as God was not pleased with those in the desert, God may not be pleased with us if we continue to ignore the Lord. That brings us to the Gospel. In the parable of the fig tree, the owner is not pleased--the tree has not produced any fruit. Unlike the fig tree, God would be happy with any fruit we produce. We could be generous to the poor, we could fight for the unborn child's right to life, we could welcome new members to the church, or we could simply teach our children how to pray. But if all we give is one hour a week in church, and ignore God the rest of the time, we need to take heed. Like the owner of the fig tree, God is patient, but we only have so much time. So when do you plan to bear fruit?

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of March 17th: \$2120.00

Lenten Almsgiving: \$6122.00

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Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum



Don't miss the best part! Don't miss the celebrations of Holy week. The Liturgical services on Passion Sunday and the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) are among the very best things we do in the Church. Holy Week is the week before Easter. During this week, the celebrations have the special purpose of helping us to prepare for the most holy day of our Church year, Easter.

SUNDAY—April 14th: PALM SUNDAY—On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the “paschal mystery”. We enter into Jerusalem with Christ; we enter into our holiest week; we enter into our final preparation for the Easter feast. During this mass, we enter into Christ's entrance into Jerusalem.

MONDAY—April 15th : SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 11:00 am to 1:00 PM; 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM in the Church

WEDNESDAY—April 17th : CELEBRATION OF TENEBRAE —at 7:00 pm we will celebrate a Tenebrae Service. Tenebrae (meaning shadows) is distinctive for its gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms are prayed. During the service the Passion of Christ is retold, and after each psalm a candle is extinguished. At the end the book of Gospels is slammed shut, symbolizing the earthquake that followed Christ's death. When the service is complete, all rise and leave in silence and darkness.

THURSDAY, April 18th @ 7:00 pm: First Day of the Triduum-The day Christ gave himself up to death: Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday evening is the beginning of the Holy Triduum. The Church celebrates Christ sharing His Last Supper with the disciples and Jesus' institution of the Eucharist. We pray that God sends the Holy Spirit upon the community gathered so that all of us who are gathered and are nourished by the Eucharist will become one body in Christ. The priest follows Christ's example of humility when he washes the feet of the parishioners.



FRIDAY, April 19th @ 7:00 pm: Second Day of the Triduum-Jesus Dies on the Cross: Good Friday

Good Friday commemorates the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a sober celebration. We simply come together to pray the paradox of the cross. Through Christ's suffering on the cross, Christ is gloriously raised to life and we receive salvation. It is truly impossible to explain the mystery of the cross in a few words, but we can experience it on Good Friday. We pray with Jesus on the cross and venerate the cross. It is with eyes of faith that we see and understand the glory of the cross.

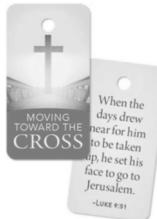
SATURDAY, April 20th @ 7:30 pm :Third Day of the Triduum-Jesus is raised from the dead: Easter

The celebration of Easter begins with the Easter Vigil, a time of purposeful waiting and watching. We are not waiting alone, but with generations of those before us who waited for Christ to come from the Tomb. During the Easter Vigil, we tell our story of salvation and listen to the gospel proclaim the resurrection. Christ is Risen!! On Easter Day, Christians everywhere celebrate that Christ rose from the dead. Alleluia is sung throughout the day, proclaiming that Christ is risen!!



SUNDAY, April 21st: Easter Sunday Masses at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Journey to Jerusalem - Our Lenten Retreat



In the ninth chapter of the Luke's gospel we read, " When the days for His being taken up were fulfilled, Jesus resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and He sent messengers ahead of Him." In Jerusalem, the City of Destiny, is where His suffering, death, resurrection, and

ascension is to take place and salvation is to be accomplished. From Jerusalem the proclamation of God's saving word will go forth. From this point in the ninth chapter of Luke's gospel, Jesus prepares His chosen ones for the role they will play after His ascension: they are to be His witnesses to the people. These teachings are important.

Our Lenten Retreat will examine those teachings of Jesus on the way to Jerusalem. Among other things, He teaches about MATERIALISM, PRAYER, CONVERSATION, and FORGIVENESS. We will examine these topics on **Monday, March 25, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**, beginning in Church Hall.

Then, on **Tuesday, March 26th from 6:30 – 8:30pm** in the church, Mark Gillis will present: the Theo-Drama of Holy Week centering on events of Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday.

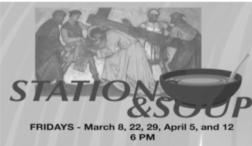
Our retreat will conclude on **Tuesday, April 2nd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** - Mark Gillis will present: the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

VIDEOS & DISCUSSIONS DURING LENT

Tuesday, March 26th at 9:15 AM in the church hall - This week's video is entitled BLAZE. It focuses on the effects of the Holy Spirit active in the Church. In the person of Jesus, God was completely revealed. In the Church, Jesus is revealed....in us. We will examine how Jesus is revealed in the Word, the Sacraments and in the Church's acts of charity and justice.

Thursday, March 28th at 7:15 PM in the church hall we will present a new short Lenten video clip followed by a discussion. This will be shown again next Tuesday morning at 9:15 am in the church hall. Hope you can join us.

Wednesday People will be meeting this Wednesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome to join us.



Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening of Lent (March 29th, April 5th and April 12th) at 6:00 pm in Church.

Immediately after the Friday evening stations, please join us down in the Church Hall to gather with friends for some homemade soup and conversation.

Home Health & Hospice Foot Clinic

On Thursday, March 28th from 8:30 to 1:00 pm, Our Lady of Mercy will be hosting a Foot Care Clinic sponsored by the nurses of Home, Health and Hospice Care. **The cost is \$32.00** and is payable by cash or check at the time of your appointment.

To schedule your appointment or for more information, please call Home, Health and Hospice at 689-2931.

Deanery Reconciliation Service

A deanery wide Lenten Penance service will take place on Sunday, **April 7th at 2:00 pm at Immaculate Conception Parish in Nashua.**

MEN OF ST JOSEPH

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 6th-7:00 to 8:15 am

The Men of St. Joseph invites all Catholic men to become members and we desire that all men enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live a life filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. We desire that all men have the oneness with God without insisting that all become the same. "There are indeed many different members, but one body." (I Cor.12:20) Men of St Joseph is a Catholic Association dedicated to uniting men through vital relationships, encouraging their transformations as individuals, brothers, fathers, and parishioners by living according to God's Word. Please join us!

Interfaith Women

The prophet by Khalil Gibran

You are invited to come explore the universal themes and influences of this enduring poetic work and their relevance in the 21st century.

1st Congregational Church
508 Union St, Manchester

Book discussion facilitated by Selma Naccach-Hoff
RSVP 233-7760 or interfaithwomennh@gmail.com

120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #7: Durelle Masciarelli & Louise Tedeschi

Information Page

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Merrimack, NH 03054

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Bulletin for March 24, 2019

Kathy