



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
Michael Coughlin, Dir of Faith Formation
Email: MCoughlin@OLMNH.org
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister
Email: CCoughlin@OLMNH.org
Kathleen Rush, Administrative Assistant
for Religious Education
Email: KJRush1@OLMNH.org
Karen Correia, Receptionist/Secretary
Email: KCorreia@OLMNH.org
Nancy King, Director of Music
Email: NKing@OLMNH.org

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

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.

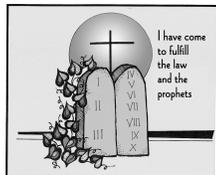
Reconciliation

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

Outreach and Home Ministry

Please contact the office with your needs.

Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757 Faith Formation Office: 424-4477
Website: www.olmnh.org



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 15th

Vigil: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Skip Watkins req by his loving family & friends

Sunday, February 16th

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Garrett Gregoire req by his family

10:30AM: Kathryn Loretta Fleming req by Ray & Kathy Turk

Monday, February 17th

NO MASS

Tuesday, February 18th

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Maurice Gagne (17th Anniv) req by his children

Wednesday, February 19th

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: John Niggeling req by the parish

Thursday, February 20th

NO MASS

Friday, February 21st

St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: James Angus req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Saturday, February 22nd

Vigil: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Jean Boyer Stow req by her mother Barbara

Sunday, February 23rd

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Deceased parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM: Jeanne Kimball req by her loving family

License to Sin

In the James Bond movies, 007 has a license to kill. He can shoot all the bad guys he wants without worrying about being charged with murder. God, however, does not issue a license to sin. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that any time we choose between life and death, good and evil, it is our free choice and our responsibility. God may allow us to make bad choices, but God never commands anyone to sin.

Jesus goes even deeper than Sirach. The people of Sirach's time had followed the laws and commandments that governed external actions. As long as they treated others fairly, did not kill anyone or steal from them, they could think whatever they wanted. But Jesus taught that thoughts and desires that lead to sin can also be freely chosen or rejected. In the Gospel he gives us some examples.

The first is about killing. Jesus says that anyone who gets angry enough to kill or who looks down on his neighbor as not deserving to live has committed murder in his heart. What prejudices or grudges am I holding in my heart? The longer I hold onto hurtful feelings, the more likely it becomes that they will lead to hurtful actions. Because the Eucharist is our sacrament of unity, we should take care to be reconciled with others before coming to the altar.

The next warning is about adultery, which also begins with interior feelings. Jesus exaggerates when he tells us to cut off a hand or tear out an eye, because he knew how easily we rationalize our feelings and pretend they are harmless. This leads to the next warning about divorce. Jesus takes marriage seriously and expects his disciples to do the same.

His final example concerns taking oaths. Apparently, people would swear upon almost anything in an effort to be believed. Jesus gets to the point and says that we wouldn't need oaths if we always told the truth and kept our promises. Our faith is based on the knowledge that God keeps promises. Shouldn't we do the same?

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

RCIA—if you are interested in becoming Baptized, Confirmed or receive Eucharist, you are welcomed to attend Monday morning at 11am or Wednesday evening at 5:45pm. Please call the parish office to register.

Wednesday People—Those people who gather on Wednesday evening will come together again on February 19th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Office to explore the readings for the following weekend. All are welcome to join us. This is not a commitment to come every week—feel free to just come this week.

Life Matters... “God the giver of all life, human and divine. Do we, as children of God; made in his image and likeness, have the right to decide when a life has become such a burden that it’s human form should be ended? God is the giver of all life! Aren’t our lives (and bodies) then gifts from God for which we are now the caretakers/stewards and not the “owners”? These are the true core values that must inform our thoughts and actions in all matters of life. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that God is in charge and our prayers should be for guidance, courage, strength and faith in living out God’s Plan for us, whatever that plan is and however inconvenient, difficult, or painful life’s circumstances may be at times.”

Lenten Information



Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Mass with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at the 8:30 am and 7:00 pm Masses

Lenten Program: An Overview of Church History—takes place on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 am and repeated on Thursday evenings at 7:15 pm during Lent

Lenten Daily Mass Schedule:

8:15 AM—Morning Prayer
 8:30 AM—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
 6:10 PM—Thursday only during Lent—Evening Prayer
 6:30 PM—Thursday (Lent only)

Stations of the Cross & Soup:

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday evenings during Lent at 6:30 pm in the Church. Join us in the Church Hall after for soup and conversation.
 Good Friday Stations (April 10th) will take place at 3:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

3:00 PM Saturdays
 5:30—6:00 pm Thursdays (Lent only)
 Monday, April 6th: 11:00 am—1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
 Deanery Reconciliation Service: March 29, 2020 @ 2:00 pm Immaculate Conception
 Parish in Nashua, NH

Regulations on Fast and Abstinence

Fasting is observed by all who are 18 to 59 years of age. On a day of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two lighter meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each persons needs. Nothing should be eaten between meals, but liquids such as water, milk and juices are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all who are 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed unless health or ability to work would be seriously affected.

Ash Wednesday, February 26th and Good Friday, April 10th are both days of Fast and Abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of Abstinence.



St Andrew Dinners

St Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow him. We would like to invite men in our diocese who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner from 6 to 8pm at the Joseph House in Manchester.

Dinner on February 21st is for young men ages 13-18 and dinner on February 28th is for men ages 19-60. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at rvinson@rcbm.org or call 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

Lenten Series:

An Overview of Church History

Take some time this Lent to explore the fascinating history of the Catholic Church, from Jesus and the Apostles to the present day. This adventure will be offered over 6 sessions, with each session offered twice a week, Tuesdays at 9:15 am and Thursdays at 7:15 pm, in the church hall. Begins Tuesday, 2/25, and Thursday, 2/27. Led by Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation.

HOME HEALTH FOOT CLINIC

February 27, 2020

On February 27th from 8:30am to 1:00 pm, we will be hosting a foot care clinic operated 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 the appointment.

For more information or to schedule your appointment, please call Home Health & Hospice Care at 689-2931.

Electronic Giving Bulletin Announcement

Thank you for your generous support of our parish during our *God's House, Our Home* Program! We are beginning to see signs that our Sunday offertory collections are growing through the generosity of many, many parishioners. Thank you so very much to all who have chosen to participate in this very important program.

If you currently use electronic giving, please make sure you go into the application and update your giving to reflect your new commitment. If you do not remember what you have committed to or if you need help logging in to the electronic giving application, please contact the parish office. Your generosity shows your willingness, as a faithful steward, to be a part of the ongoing mission of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

LADIES GUILD MEETING

The Ladies Guild will be having their next monthly meeting on **February 18th at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall**. All ladies of the parish are welcome. If you are new to the parish or would like to learn more about our ministry, please join us or contact Pat Miller at 440-3370.

BLOOD DRIVE—February 20, 2020

Our Lady of Mercy will be hosting a **Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, February 20th from 2:00pm to 7:00 pm in the Church Hall**.

THE NEED IS GREAT!! Did you know that cancer patients are among the most common recipients of blood transfusions. Donations are also used daily for surgery patients, accident victims, organ transplant recipients and burn patients. Please consider donating. Call the American Red Cross at **1-800-733-2767** to schedule an appointment. Walk ins are always welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

March 14th, St. Patrick's Day Parish Party following the 4:30 pm Mass. Irish dance performances and new Irish sing-along tunes. Full Irish dinner.



Dixieland Sunday- February 23 @ 4:00 pm Faith Episcopal Church-Wheeler Memorial Chapel

Come celebrate Mardi Gras-come get ready for Lent - singing 'n praying; marching 'n partying; beads n' masks; live music and refreshments provided. Just need you to come!



Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Peter Libasci invites all couples celebrating an anniversary in 2020 of 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55+ years, to attend the Spring Wedding Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester.



To register, please contact your parish office by March 20th. The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. Couples celebrating anniversaries of 5, 25 or 50 years will be asked to register later for a fall celebration. To all other married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this spring's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

FAST FOR SOCIAL ACTION FOOD DRIVE

**Drop off items on the weekends of February 29/
March 1 or March 7th/ 8th at all entrances
of the church.**

What if Fast for Social Action?

This is an activity for Catholic teens who learn about hunger by fasting for 40 hours, collecting food donations and studying about the causes of poverty and hunger in the world. This Fast for Social Action is held at St. John Neumann Parish the weekend of March 27th and 28th.

By participating in the food drive you...

Help feed those in need in our community
Help stock the Food Pantry

Suggested food items:

peanut butter or other nut butters, jelly, pasta and sauce, canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, canned meats (stews, chicken, tuna, etc) canned or dry beans, rolled oats, low sodium soups, rice, cereal, snacks for kids (popcorn, nuts, granola bars, fruit cups, canned fruit, or dry fruit, etc), boxed mixes (cookies, brownies, muffins, etc).

Parish Stewardship

Week of February 9, 2020: \$5599.00

Fuel Collection: \$2565.00



120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #2: Pat Osterland & Teresa Earl

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Contact Person: Kathleen Rush

Phone: (603) 424-4477 or (603) 424-3757

Fax: (603) 424-1780

Email Address: kjrush1@olmnh.org

Bulletin for February 16, 2020

Kathy