



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
Katie Corsetti, Administrative Assistant
for Faith Formation
Email: KCorsetti@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: 262-1484
Website: www.olmnh.org - see website for possible Mass schedule changes

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19th
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30PM: Norman Peppin requested by his wife, Diane

Sunday, December 20th
Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: Don Olson requested by his wife, Arlene
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Noella Ouellette req by her loving family

Monday, December 21st
Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jean Gelinis requested by Muriel

Tuesday, December 22nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Skip Watkins requested by the family

Wednesday, December 23rd
Saint John of Kanty, Priest

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Pat Hayes requested by the family

Thursday, December 24th
Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM: Roland & Lucille Delude & Clayton & Helen
Rush requested by their children

7:00PM: Frank Candelari requested by his family

Midnight (12:00AM): Theresa, Jill, & William Fleming
requested by the family

Friday, December 25th
The Nativity of the Lord

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

Saturday, December 26th
Vigil: The Holy Family

4:30PM: Brigitte Noe requested by Solange Bechar d

Sunday, December 27th
The Holy Family

8:30AM: Kenny Robinson, Jr requested by his family

10:30AM: Beverly Soucy requested by the Hewitt family
For all parishioners

FAITH FORMATION



As always, families are invited to pray together...

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 2626-2639), there are five forms of prayer.

- ♥Blessing and Adoration
- ♥Prayer of Petition
- ♥Prayer of Intercession
- ♥Prayer of Thanksgiving
- ♥Prayer of Praise

In a prayer of **blessing** , we ask for help from the Holy Spirit. We offer our prayer of blessing up to God, and He sends down His grace upon us through the Holy Spirit. The priest blesses the bread and wine at Mass and it becomes Christ's Body and Blood, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Priests also bless things like homes, objects like rosaries, and people. We can all make prayers of blessing by asking for God's grace to be with us.

Reflect as a family:

When have you felt blessed by God?

What would you like God to bless in your life now?

Respond:

As a family, pray the most common Catholic blessing that families share: a mealtime prayer asking for God's blessing upon your family and your food.

As parents, look for opportunities to bless your children. Trace a cross on their foreheads when tucking them in or when they leave the house. Put your hands on your child and say a special prayer just for him or her. For little ones, maybe a bible song that includes the words, "may the Lord bless and keep you." Be creative and follow where the Holy Spirit leads you!

Christmas Trees

Christians throughout the world decorate Christmas trees inside and outside of their homes. There is much symbolism and meaning in that special tradition.

Evergreen Leaves—Pine and fir trees are evergreen and remind us of the everlasting life we share with God through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A Tree—The Christmas tree itself reminds us of the Tree of Life in the Genesis Creation story. Jesus is the new Tree of Life and the source of everlasting life.

Ornaments—For many years people decorated their evergreen trees with red apples and for Christians this was a further reminder of the fruit of the Tree of Life in the story of Adam and Eve. Today ornaments come in all shapes, sizes, and designs and each decoration can have unique meaning for families.

Christmas Lights—Candles and lights on trees remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. It is especially beautiful that Jesus comes to us during the long, dark days of winter.

Star—Stars are often placed on the top of Christmas trees as a reminder of the Star of Bethlehem that led the Magi to find Jesus in the Epiphany story.

Angel—An angel is sometimes placed on the top of the tree rather than a star as a reminder of the angels in the fields who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.

Tannenbaum is a German term that literally means “fir tree.”

Prayer around your tree:

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,
You bear a joyful message:

That faith and hope shall ever bloom
To bring us light in winter’s gloom.

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,
You bear a joyful message!



Advent: Week 4 Love in and around us...

As we light the fourth Advent candle for love, we realize that Christmas is upon us with hope and peace; joy, and love flowing in our hearts and souls.

Today you met the donkey. We don’t hear much about the donkey who carried Mary and the Holy Family all the way to Bethlehem and stayed with them to witness the birth of Jesus. To learn more, see another session in the Formed.org **Advent** series. Open the **Advent**, series and scroll across to session 1, **Prepare the Way** by Bob Rice as he brings us through the busyness of life and engages us to ponder the busy place where Mary and Joseph found to rest in a stable with the animals. He invites us to go back in time to what it really must have been like for the Holy Family. This is a realistic and down-to-earth view of that Holy Night we will soon celebrate! He asks the pertinent question, “What gift will you bring to Jesus this Christmas?” This video is part of a bible study that incorporates 10 second pauses for reading a bible verse or discussion, which is optional. It runs for 18 minutes.

What better way to celebrate love than to gather your children and all those in your household for this next selection?! Go to Formed.org with your children and enter into **The wonderful World of Benjamin Cello**. Select episode 2, **A Donkey is the Best Friend Ever**. Join Benjamin Cello and his friends as they impart “Donkey knowledge” right from the Donkey’s mouth. You’ll also hear from other cast members. This will make you look at donkeys in a whole new light as their true character is exposed! It might be a bit corny, but it will make you laugh and ponder the beauty of God’s animal creations as God Himself tells us they are “very good.” This episode runs for about 18 minutes.

To view any of these videos go to OLMNH.Formed.org and search for the exact title. Daily reflections for Advent are also available and are 5 minutes or less! See **Road to Bethlehem** which also has an added written reflection.

If you picked up **The Word Among Us** don’t miss the article, **Saint Francis and the First Christmas Creche**. Copies are still available in the Church Hall or the office.

Advent wreath candles

- Candle 1—Hope
- Candle 2—Peace
- Candle 3—Joy
- Candle 4—Love.



Advent reflection: How do you experience hope, peace, joy, and love as you get ready for Christmas?

Christmas Mass schedule

4:00PM Christmas Eve

This Mass will also be broadcasted over the radio to cars in the parking lot for those wanting to be out of public settings. Stay tuned to the website for details.

7:00PM Christmas Eve

This Mass will be live-streamed to watch live or at a later time.

Midnight Mass

10:30AM Christmas Day



Are you being called?

“Be it done unto me according to our word.” Docile obedience to the Lord’s will is the fruit of humble prayer. If God is inviting you to a deeper consecration as a priest, brother or sister, call Father Matthew Mason (603) 663-0132 or write: mmason@rcbm.org.

December Office Hours

During December the office will be open
Monday—Thursday
from
9:00AM—1:00PM.

The
Office is closed on Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve.



Winter Weather Cancellations

Please be advised that morning Mass may be canceled due to winter storms. If Merrimack schools are closed due to weather, then Morning Mass is canceled. Cancellations will also be posted on our website at olmnh.org.

Weekend Masses will follow a normal schedule. Please use caution when deciding whether or not to travel in inclement weather.



Family & Faith in the Home

Parents: Start the new year off with an interactive webinar series led by Mike & Alicia Hernon of the Messy Family Project, sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester.

“You can figure this out! We are here to help spark a conversation with you and your spouse and unleash your distinctive approach to leading your family because there is no one perfect way to be a parent.”

-Mike & Alicia

Free live events:

January 13 8-9:30PM—Communication in Marriage

January 20, 8-9:30PM—Messy Parenting 101

January 27, 8-9:30PM—Evangelizing Your Children

Register at www.messyfamily.eventbrite.com

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intentions: December

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns the week of
December 19th—December 25th in memory of
Gerard M. Raby & Daniel A. Raby

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish —Please drop off at the parish office (located behind the mailbox) not the church
16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Thank you!

Contact Person: Katie Corsetti

Phone: (603) 424-3757

Email Address: kcorsetti@olmnh.org

Bulletin for December 20

100 Copies of bulletin for December 20

Thank you!
Katie