



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, February 20th
Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Joyce & Dick Foulks req by their children

Sunday, February 21st
First Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Garrett Gregoire requested anonymously
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Frank Kimball req by Karen & Bob Correia

Monday, February 22nd
The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Joan M. Sypher requested by Linda Duval

Tuesday, February 23rd
Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: David Hurd req by Diane Schultz

Wednesday, February 24th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Robert Lang req by Tom, Keith, & Diane

Thursday, February 25th

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Frank Kimball requested anonymously

Friday, February 26th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

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

Saturday, February 27th
Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Gobnait O’Leary req by the Fleming family

Sunday, February 28th
Second Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: David Hebert (5th ann) req by Paul Hebert

10:30AM: For all parishioners
Skip Watkins (8th ann) req by Rachel & Family

Marriage in Christ

The **Marriage in Christ** program has been changing lives for 11 years in parish group settings by helping couples make the Lord the center of their married life. A new “at-home” program has been developed and is now available for free!

The new **Marriage in Christ At Home Seminar** is a 5-week couple’s experience that consists of streaming videos, downloadable activity packets, and easy instructions to help couples pray, talk, and act together. The cost is normally \$40, but for a limited time, Communication Center is offering it to parishioners for FREE!

See details including endorsements by Catholic bishops, priests, and couples at www.marriageinchrist.com. Take advantage of this offer: register on the website before March 31, 2021 (access available until May 31, 2021).

This is a way for couples to make their marriages stronger and happier in just five weeks. Think of the difference that will make for the world as couples allow Christ to be the center of their married life!



Lord, as we begin this season of Lent, help us to recognize the importance of Your Son’s passion and death. May these 40 days of devotion, lead us deeper into communion with You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

**Online Lenten Retreat:
Journey with St. Joseph**

All are welcome to this **online** Lenten retreat presented by Boston’s St. John’s Seminary on **Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 PM.**

With reflections from Bishop William Byrne, Bishop of Springfield, MA and Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, author of “Consecration to Saint Joseph: the Wonders of our Spiritual Father.”

Register at www.sjs.edu/lentenretreat.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns the week of February 20th-26th in memory of **Joan Adams.**

FAITH FORMATION

Due to COVID-19, all in-person classes are suspended through February. We will re-evaluate monthly.

Life Teen & Edge: will meet remotely via Zoom on the regularly scheduled dates. Be on the lookout for a Flocknote message a few days before the session!

Grades 1-5: Please use this time to work on lessons in your classroom books together as a family. Check in with the office if you have any questions. Keep an eye out for weekly emails from the Faith Formation office on chapters to cover and other resources.

Children's Ash Wednesday Service—February 17 at 4:15 in the church. This is not a Mass, but a prayer service for families to begin the Lenten season. There will be the distribution of ashes.

Grades 8-12 Be Transformed! A virtual Lenten

Retreat: Join us Sunday, February 28 from 3:00-5:00 PM for an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with Jesus and renew your hope. Now, more than ever, God is calling us to transform our hearts and rekindle our faith as we walk along life's faith journey. Register by going to:

lenten youth retreat.eventbrite.com.

Once registered, each participant will receive an email with the Zoom link. **The deadline for registration is February 21.** This is a free event!



"Faith Foundations" Lenten Series

Take time this Lent to dive into the foundations of our Catholic faith. Join with us on Tuesdays to learn more about what we believe as Catholics and what we profess each Sunday in the Creed. The group will meet on Tuesdays during Lent (at 9:15 AM or 6:30 PM) in the church, which will allow us to social distance, and each session will last about an hour. The topics for each session are as follows:

Tuesday 2/23/2021: Human Nature & Divine Revelation
 Tuesday 3/2/2021: God, One and Three
 Tuesday 3/9/2021: God the Father
 Tuesday 3/16/2021: God the Son
 Tuesday 3/23/2021: God the Holy Spirit

Email Michael at mcoughlin@olmnh.org with questions or if you are interested in attending.

Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

Live your Baptism

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. And they are all tied to the Lenten theme of Baptism.

Prayer: More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our Baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for others preparing for Baptism at Easter. Pray from your heart. God is listening!

Prayer helps to grow our relationship with God. We need to spend time talking with God and listening. Try sitting in silence and meditate on a favorite scripture passage, a passage that's new to you, or just thinking about Jesus or our heavenly Father.

Fasting: Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. Fasting is more than developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The prophet Isaiah points out another important dimension of fasting. Isaiah insists that fasting without changing your behavior is not pleasing to God "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Isiah 58:6-7).

Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who suffer. So fasting too, is linked to our Baptismal promises because by our Baptism we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

Almsgiving: this third traditional pillar is linked to our Baptismal commitment because it is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life that we began the moment we were Baptized.

Read more about Lent at: catholic.org/lent.

The Lenten Season: Live Your Baptism

During Lent we are reminded of our Baptismal promises and given time to consider how we are living up to them. Lent provides moments to reflect, repent, and renew.

Lenten offerings

Faith Foundations Series taught by Faith Formation director, Michael Coughlin, on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM or 6:30 PM

- The evening session will be live streamed to be watched live

Evening confession & Mass opportunities Thursdays

- 5:30-6:10 PM Confession

- 6:10 PM Evening Prayer

- 6:30 PM Mass

Stations of the Cross

- Fridays at 6:30 PM

- Soup “to go” available

The Word Among Us: daily reflections based on scripture. Pick up a copy at the doors of the church.

Best Lent Ever: Receive short, daily reflections in your email from Matthew Kelly (author of *I Heard God Laugh*) and the Dynamic Catholic team. Sign up for free at dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever.

Go to Formed.org to see various video reflections, stories, and Lenten inspirations all for free

Sign up at Formed.org/lent for daily reflections

The Search: From Real Life Catholic comes a 7-week Lenten retreat. Big questions will be explored: Why am I here? What is the life I was made for? Does God care about me? View each episode on Formed.org for free.

40 Days for Life prayer vigil, Manchester*

Journey with St. Joseph online retreat February 24*

Be Transformed! online Youth Retreat February 28*

Marriage in Christ online retreat. Register by Mar 31*

Almsgiving: OLM almsgiving collections will go to the Nashua Soup Kitchen and the St. John Neumann Food Pantry in an effort to help meet some of the local need.

*More info within this bulletin.

40 Days for Life

The OLM Life Matters Ministry invites you to participate in the 2021 "40 Days For Life" prayer vigil to end abortion, an annual vigil held in 63 countries. The local goal is to have a presence each day during lent (Feb 17-Mar 28) from 7 AM to 7 PM outside Planned Parenthood on Penacook Street in Manchester, peacefully walking in prayer on the public sidewalk. We invite parishioners to commit to one hour per week (total of 6 hours) to pray for an end to abortion, a change of heart for anyone considering, performing, facilitating, or legislating abortions, and spiritual/emotional healing for anyone who has been involved in abortions.

We hope to fill as many time slots from OLM as possible (two or more people per hour so no one is asked to be there alone). We'll gladly accompany anyone to get started--no special training required, only a willingness to pray and be a visible witness to the sanctity of innocent human life.

To sign up, or for more information, please contact Norm Thibault at 603-289-0574 or email at norm8thibault@yahoo.com.

Can you help after Mass?

Thank you to our Greeters for their continued warm welcome and all they do to keep our church sanitized.

If you are available to help with sanitizing after any Masses, please let one of the Greeters know or call the office. Any help you can give is appreciated!

120 Club Winners

Week 17 Claire Dow & Linda Ketchie

Week 18 Bill Saitz & William Ziemer

Week 19 Peggy Iannacone & Jeannette Popovski

Week 20 Finale:

Linda Horvath

Shirley Small

Theresa Earls

Eileen Buckley

Ginney Prive

Tom Barowski

Lynne St. Armand

Sandra Mayo

Congratulations!

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 February 21

150 Copies of bulletin for February 21st

Thank you!
Katie