

**“YOU SHALL NOT
PUT THE
Lord, your God,
TO THE TEST.”**

LUKE 4:12

©IPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

March 6, 2022



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
603-424-3757
www.olmnh.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:30PM
Sunday 8:30AM & 10:30AM
Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri 8:30AM
Holy Days 8:30AM and anticipated vigil 7:00PM

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-3:45PM
By appointment: please call the office to schedule with Fr. Paul.

Baptism

Please call the office for an appointment. Baptisms are usually planned for the last weekend of the month.

Marriage

Please contact the office to schedule marriage preparation with Fr. Paul.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is a process for those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of themselves becoming a Catholic.

Funerals

The contact person for the deceased (or the funeral home) should connect with the office to schedule.

Planning ahead for funeral Mass celebrations is also available to all parishioners.

Faith Formation

We offer Faith Formation for all ages. Please see the website for current dates and programs.

Parish Staff

Rev Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor
FrPaul@olmnh.org
John Castelot, Deacon
DeaconJohn@olmnh.org
Sharon Nagy, Business Manager
SNagy@olmnh.org
Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation
MCoughlin@olmnh.org
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister
CCoughlin@olmnh.org
Christian Copeley, Director of Music
CCopeley@olmnh.org
Katie Corsetti, Faith Formation Admin Assistant
KCorsetti@olmnh.org
Muriel Gelinas, Sacristan
Tony Ste. Marie, Building & Grounds Facilitator

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Church Hours

The church will be locked for safety. You are welcome to spend time in the church for prayer during office hours! Please come into the office and someone will be happy to let you into the church.

Livestreaming available at olmnh.org

The 4:30 vigil Mass is live streamed each week to be watched live or at a later time and available on the website at www.olmnh.org.

Sanctuary Candle

Please contact the office to have the sanctuary candle lit in memory of, or for the intentions of, a loved one.

Mass Intentions

©JPPC

Saturday, March 5th Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: For the health & strength of Bob Alamshah requested by Claude & Sandy Mayo

Sunday, March 6th First Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Raymond Mondoux requested by the Knights of Columbus

10:30AM: Edgar Begin requested by Fran Pichette
For all parishioners

Monday, March 7th Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Rosa Gelinas requested by Muriel Gelinas

Tuesday, March 8th Saint John of God, Religious

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Bert O'Brien requested by Muriel Gelinas

Wednesday, March 9th Saint Francis of Rome, Religious

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: George & Sophie Malburne req by friends

Thursday, March 10th

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Frances Clevette req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Friday, March 11th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Edward Bellemore requested by the Bob, Ray, & Chuck Bellemore families

Saturday, March 12th Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Philip Russell Dwyer requested by Jane Dwyer & family
For all parishioners

Sunday, March 13th Second Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Deceased members of the Fournier family

10:30AM: Dick & Joyce Foulks req by their family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns the week of
March 5th - 11th in memory of
Robert Hill.



Lenten Prayer

Dear Lord,

As I make my Lenten journey with you,
send me Your Spirit,
help me to give of myself,
help me to turn away from sin,
and help me to fast and pray,
so that I may know You and serve You better.
Let me be renewed through my journey
to share Your grace with the world.

Amen!



Readings for the Week: March 6, 2022

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15;
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19;
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8;
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8;
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14;
Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- **Next Grades 1-5 Wednesday classes:** Wednesday, March 9
- **Family Lenten Session All Grades 1-5 & Parents:** Saturday, March 19 at 3:00pm in the church hall; All elementary school families welcome! Please RSVP to kcorsetti@olmnh.org or call the office. Thank you!
- **Next Edge:** Sunday, March 20 from 6:15-7:45pm
- **Next Life Teen:** Sunday, March 13 from 6:15-7:45pm

Jesus is Tempted *Luke 4:1-13*

In the three Synoptic Gospels, after His baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying. In Luke and Matthew, the devil presents three temptations. The devil tempts Jesus to use His power to appease His hunger; he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus worships him; and he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. Jesus resists all temptations.

Each temptation Jesus faces offers insight into the spirituality we hope to develop as we keep the 40 days of Lent. We can trust God to provide. We worship God because God alone has dominion over us and our world. We can trust God to be faithful to His promises. Grounding Himself on the Word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil by His confidence in God's protection and faithfulness.

This Gospel highlights one of the central themes of Lent. We are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or to distrust its sufficiency, is a temptation from the devil.

Luke ends his report by noting that the devil departs for a time. The implication is that the devil will return. Jesus knows that He will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus's final rebuke of the devil is His sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus teaches us how we can respond to temptation. As we start our journey through Lent, this Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence of Jesus: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Lent Began on Ash Wednesday, March 2

The Church gives us seasons to help provide a focus for growth in our faith. Since the Christmas season ended, we have been in Ordinary Time (not because it's "ordinary," but because it "orders" our Sundays numerically); and as of Ash Wednesday, we entered into Lent. 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. How are you going to make your Lent meaningful so that you are ready to welcome the Risen Christ into your heart without reservation this Easter?

Lenten offerings...

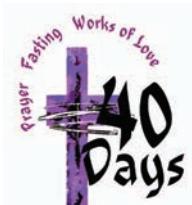
Adult Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 5 beginning with the 4:30 Mass, dinner following Mass in the church hall, then our guest speaker Fr. Briody will present a Lenten talk.

Evening Confession & Mass

Thursdays throughout Lent

- 5:30-6:10pm Confession
- 6:10pm Evening Prayer
- 6:30pm Mass



Stations of the Cross

Fridays throughout Lent at 6:30pm followed by an optional simple meal of soup in the church hall

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 by email from Matthew Kelly (author of *Life is Messy*) and the Dynamic Catholic team. Sign up for free at dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever.

Formed.org: see various video reflections, stories, and Lenten inspirations. Sign up at Formed.org/lent for daily reflections. All at no charge to parishioners.

40 Days for Life prayer vigil, Manchester

See www.40daysforlife.com/manchester for more.

Lenten Session for Grades 1-5 Families

All elementary school families are invited on March 19 at 3:00pm in the church hall for children and par-



Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, in the church hall after the Sunday Masses this weekend

Prayer Group: Monday, March 7 at 4:00pm in the church

Faith Formation classes Grades 1-5: Wednesday, March 9 at 4:30pm OR 5:45pm in the parish office building

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, March 10 in the parish office building

Confession & Mass: Thursday, March 10 starting at 5:30pm; Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 11 at 6:30pm in the church; soup to follow in the church hall

Men of St. Joseph: Saturday, March 12 at 7:00am in the church hall

Coffee & Donuts: Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, in the church hall after the Sunday Masses March 13

Life Matters Ministry: Sunday, March 13 at 9:30 in the church hall

Life Teen: Sunday, March 13 at 6:15pm, church hall

Parish Stewardship

February 26 & 27: \$4,138

Thank you for your generosity!

New: SIMON MINISTRY

Is there someone in your life dealing with a mental health issue? Would you like to know how you could be of help or support? Are you interested in learning more about related mental health topics? Would you welcome an opportunity to share with others who have similar experience or interest?

If so, then consider attending the **first session of the Simon Ministry at Our Lady of Mercy Parish on Tuesday, March 15th, at 6:00 pm in the church hall.** Taking its name from Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry His cross, the Simon Ministry is intended for those who care for or care about individuals struggling with mental health issues. Please contact Cindy with questions at ccoughlin@olmnh.org.

This Lent: Walk with Jesus

The Diocese of Manchester provides online Lenten resources for Lent. Please see www.catholicnh.org/worship-and-sacraments/faith/liturgical-calendar/lent for several resources including the weekly Lenten series, "Walk with Jesus."

Understanding the Lenten Fast

The critical difference between fasting and dieting is **intention.** Both involve a limited intake of food, but dieting is purely for the sake of physical health or even personal vanity, while fasting is a spiritual exercise.

What does this spiritual exercise do?

A few of the main benefits of fasting: it tames our bodily appetites, which can be sources of temptation for us; detaches us from physical comforts, which can weaken us and impede growth in virtue; and aids us in personal self-mastery, so that we can resist sin and choose the good even when it's difficult to do so.

Fasting also purifies and liberates our prayer. The detachment it produces sharpens our focus on God and helps us to enter into prayer more freely. It quiets the demands of the body so that we can focus on God without hindrance. In fact, fasting isn't just helpful to prayer: it must be joined to prayer. It's ineffective on its own.

As St. Peter Julian Eymard said:

"The two actions must be joined and never separated, filling our soul with love by prayer, and purifying ourselves exteriorly by mortification. It is easy to say, 'I love God,' but if this word is not followed by mortification, it is vain and unfounded. Self-love has quickly taken the place of the love of God."

Fasting has physical benefits, as the secular world has recently discovered. It goes to show that God takes care of *all* our needs, physical and spiritual—body and soul!

Fasting combined with prayer is a crucial part of our progress towards God. The Church prescribes two obligatory fast days a year: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition to these days, we should consider adding in a bit of extra fasting to our spiritual routines, according to our ability, health, and duties in life.

-edited from catholiccompany.com/getfed

120 Club Winners

February 20	February 27
Maureen Hall	Jane Coelho
Jeannette Popovsky	Muriel Benbrook
March 6	
Pat Tyszko	
George Torrice	
Thank you for your continued support!	

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