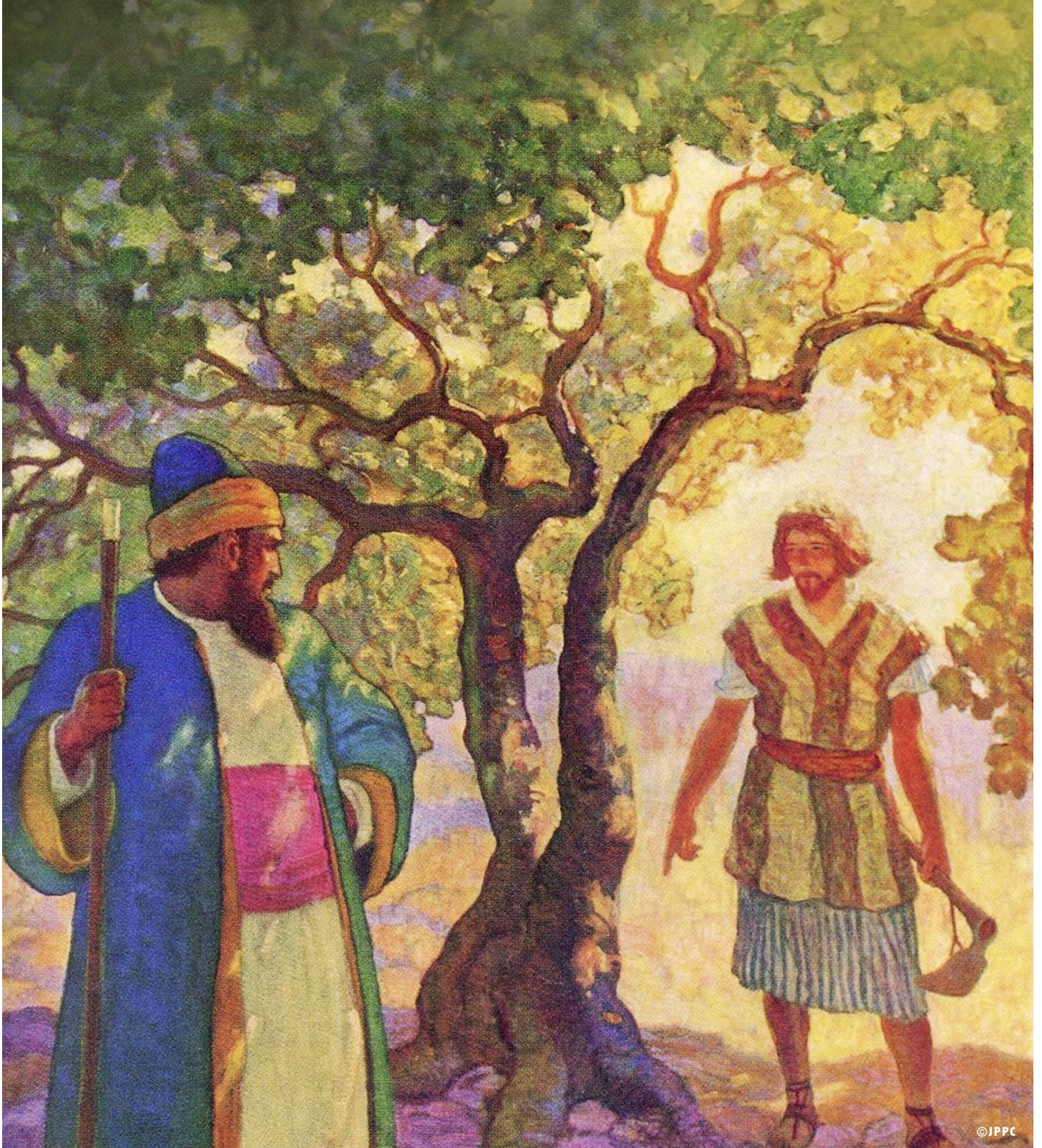


"...it may bear fruit in the future."

LUKE 13:9



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

March 20, 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 19th **Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent**

4:30PM: Alma Purcell, 5th anniversary, requested by the family

Sunday, March 20th **Third Sunday of Lent**

8:30AM: Deceased members of the Nicolo family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Josette Howarth requested by a friend

Monday, March 21st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Holly Simpson requested by Bruce & Janet Angus

Tuesday, March 22nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Chapdelaine

Wednesday, March 23rd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Lafond

Thursday, March 24th **Saint Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr**

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Durean Caron requested by the family

Friday, March 25th **The Annunciation of the Lord**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Mr. & Mrs. Donald St. Germain

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross followed by soup

Saturday, March 26th **Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent**

4:30PM: The intentions of Gordon MacRae
requested by Deacon John

Sunday, March 27th **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8:30AM: Private Intention

10:30AM: Vicky Killkelley requested by Victor Rana
For all parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE



The Sanctuary Candle burns the week of
March 19th - 25th in memory of
Ann Beaupre.

Lenten Penance Service

All are invited to a communal penance service on Sunday, March 27 from 2:00-4:00pm, at Immaculate Conception Parish, 216 E. Dunstable Road in Nashua. The opportunity for individual confession will be provided.

The Annunciation of the Lord

“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him . . . might have eternal life” (John 3:16). At the Annunciation God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what He promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God’s invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of His Son.

This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as His mother, would nourish and care for Him. This call meant that she had a special place in God’s plan for salvation. Mary replied, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your word” (Luke 1:38). In saying yes, Mary agreed to God’s plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain; all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Readings for the Week: March 20, 2022

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4;
Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9;
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9;
Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11;
Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab;
Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2
Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Next Grades 1-5 Wednesday classes:** Wednesday, March 23 4:30pm OR 5:45pm in the office building
- Next Edge:** Sunday, March 20 from 6:15-7:45pm
- Parent/Child Confirmation & First Communion Session:** Saturday, March 26 at 9:30am, church
- Next Life Teen:** Sunday, March 27 from 6:15-7:45pm

8 Ways to Pray During Lent

What do we do when we're facing a big event, celebration, or special occasion? We prepare. Holy Week and Easter are "big events" in the liturgical year of the Church and our spiritual life. So, we prepare spiritually for these through Lent and rededicate ourselves to prayer. Some suggestions for your Lenten prayer life:

1. Make your abstinence a prayer-in-action.

As Catholics we are called to give up something for Lent. You can make what you're giving up a prayer: a prayer-in-action. Whenever you encounter the thing you are abstaining from or the time of day that you would normally enjoy it, take a moment to pray.

2. Renew yourself through personal reflective prayer.

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. Try some of the many free online resources to reinvigorate your prayer life. A few resources are Loyola Press's 3-Minute Retreats and Seven Last Words of Christ guided meditation, or try the prayer reflections offered by the website Sacred Space, or "Walk with Jesus" on the Diocese of Manchester website.

3. Pray the Stations of the Cross.

This prayer helps us reflect on the passion and death of Christ in preparation for Good Friday observance and the Easter celebration. We offer Stations on Fridays at 6:30pm, which we also live-stream.

4. Meditate on Holy Scripture with Lectio Divina.

This method of prayer is characterized by the slow reading and consideration of a text from Scripture, with repetition and meditation on key words or phrases. Lectio divina is rooted in the belief that the scriptural word speaks in the human heart as the word of God and can reveal the thoughts of our hearts in response to God.

Continued next week...

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Jesus Preaches About Repentance

Luke 13:1-9

In the third week of Lent, the Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today Luke describes Jesus's journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge His authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's nor Matthew's Gospels for today's Gospel. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus's words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout His journey to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as He prepares His Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within His power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit He desires from us.

This is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, He chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of His efforts.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Edge: Sunday, March 20 at 6:15pm, church hall

Prayer Group: Monday, March 21 at 4:00pm, church

Faith Formation Classes Grades 1-5: Wednesday, March 23 at 4:30pm OR 5:45pm, parish office building

Foot Clinic: Thursday, March 24 at 9:00am, church hall; please call 603-424-3822 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, March 24 at noon, parish office building

Confession & Mass: Thursday, March 24 starting at 5:30pm; Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 25 at 6:30pm in the church; soup to follow in the church hall

Women at the Well: Saturday, March 26 at 9:30am, parish office building

Parent/Child Confirmation & First Communion Session: Saturday, March 26 at 9:30am, church

Lenten Penance Service: Sunday, March 27 from 2:00-4:00pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, Nashua

Life Teen: Sunday, March 27 at 6:15pm, church hall

Palms from Last Year

You are welcome to bring any palms left from Palm Sunday last year to church. There will be collection bins at the entrances on the weekends of April 2&3 and 9&10. Palms will be burned at the Easter Vigil.

120 Club Winners

March 13
Sandy Mayo
Jeanine Tamulonis

Thank you for your continued support!

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2022, and those recently unable to participate due to COVID-19, to a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:00pm at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester.** To register, please contact your parish office **by April 8, 2022.** Once registered couples will receive an invitation to this special celebration.

Please note that this may be subject to change. Registration will remain open until we have reached capacity; please no guests.



Lenten offerings

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.

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."

Lenten Penance Service

Hosted at Immaculate Conception Parish, 216 E. Dunstable Road, Nashua on March 27 from 2-4pm.

Holy Thursday—Washing of the Feet

The parish is in need of a pitcher and bowl set for the washing of the feet that takes place on Holy Thursday. Please call the office if you are able to donate a set or have one to lend. Holy Thursday is on April 14. Thank you!

Parish Stewardship

March 12 & 13: \$3,897

Lenten Almsgiving March 12 & 13: \$1,992

February online: \$18,031

Thank you for your generosity!