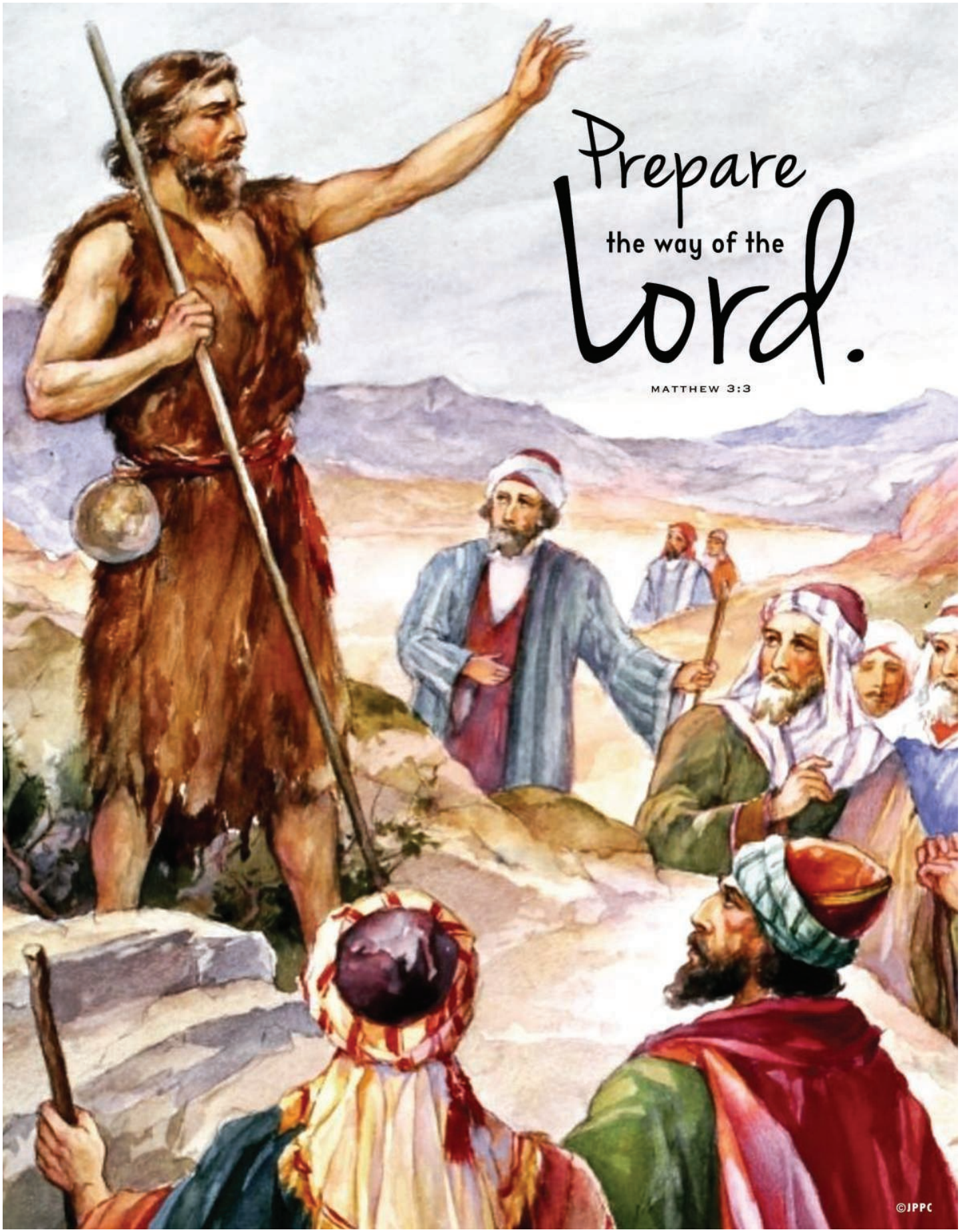

Our Lady of Mercy Parish December 4, 2022

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

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.

Live streaming available at olmnh.org

The 4:30pm vigil Mass is live streamed each week and will remain available to view for 24 hours 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

Saturday, December 3rd
Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:30PM: Donald & Arlene Olson req by the family
For all parishioners

Sunday, December 4th
Second Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: Carmelle Murch requested by her husband

10:30AM: Sharon Vanderploeg req by Jackie Larmie

Monday, December 5th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: Jean-Marc Bechard req by Solange Bechard

Tuesday, December 6th
Saint Nicholas, Bishop

8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: Joann Schuettinger requested by Bruce & Janet Angus

Wednesday, December 7th
Vigil: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00PM: Bette Tylock req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Thursday, December 8th
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: Roger Bonenfant, 8th anniversary, requested by his wife

Friday, December 9th
Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatloatzin

No Mass

Saturday, December 10th
Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

4:30PM: Billy Fleming requested by the family

Sunday, December 11th
Third Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: Mrs. Bombardier req by the Wolf family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Durean & Frank Caron req by the family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

December 3rd-9th
in memory of **Roger Bonenfant.**

We Welcome our Newly Baptized!

Baptized in November:

Ellie Gianotis
Jackson Gianotis
Knox Kendall

"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism."
-Ephesians 4:5

Thank you Lord for making me a living temple of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for the water of my baptism through which You have given me new life in Christ. Amen!

Thank You Ladies Guild!

After decades of service to our parish the OLM Ladies Guild has decided to retire. The Guild has been steadfast in support of the parish, quietly volunteering and providing financial support through its fundraising efforts. Whenever and wherever there was a need, the Guild stepped in to help.

A big

from the heart to all members, past and recent! God bless you!

Join us today: Sunday, December 4 at 6:30pm for this beautiful Advent tradition! All are welcome!

Readings for the Week: December 4, 2022

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3bc-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

•**Life Teen:** Sunday, December 4 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!

•**Edge:** Sunday, December 4 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!

•**Grades 1-5 Wednesday:** Wednesday, December 7 at 4:30pm OR 5:45pm, in the parish office building

•**Confirmation & First Communication Prep:** Parent meeting: Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00pm, church hall

•**Advent Family Session:** Parents and their grades 1-5 children (other siblings welcome too!) are invited to reflect on preparing for Jesus. Join us on Saturday, December 17 at 3:00pm in the church hall. The session will end in time to attend the 4:30 Mass.

"Let it be done to me as you say."
Luke 1:26-38

December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate God's choice of Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God preserved Mary from original sin from the moment of her conception.

The Gospel tells the story of the Annunciation. In Luke, the Annunciation begins with the birth of John the Baptist. "In the sixth month," referring to Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel appears to a virgin of Nazareth - Mary. There are many parallels in Luke's accounts of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus.

We learn that Mary is a virgin from Nazareth betrothed to Joseph, from the house of David. The angel greets Mary glowingly, acknowledging the favor she has with God. The son Mary will conceive is will be called "Son of the Most High" and the "Son of God."

Mary is troubled by Gabriel's greeting and questions, "How am I to bear a son if I have no relations with a man?" Mary is told that she will conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and is offered a sign in the miraculous pregnancy of her elder cousin Elizabeth.

Mary's affirmative response to this seemingly impossible message gives evidence to the grace we know that she possesses from God. Only one who is "full of grace" can be so receptive to and cooperative with the will of God. Because of this, Mary is the model of discipleship for all Christians.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

John the Baptist Preaches Repentance
Matthew 3:1-12

In this week's Gospel and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. This week Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus's baptism by John; an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus's public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus's coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, church hall

RCIA: Sunday, December 4 at 11:30am, parish office

Edge & Life Teen: Sunday, December 4 at 6:15pm, church hall to start before Lessons & Carols

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, Dec 4 at 6:30pm, church

Prayer Group: Monday, Dec 5 at 4:00pm, church

Grades 1-5 Faith Formation classes: Wednesday, December 7 at 4:30pm OR 5:45, parish office building

Office Closed: Thursday, December 8

Men of St. Joseph: Saturday, December 10 at 7:00am, church hall

K of C Breakfast: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, December 11, church hall

Life Teen & Edge: Sunday, December 11 at 6:15pm, church hall

Life Matters Ministry: Save the Dates

•Concord March for Life: January 14, 2023

•Washington March for Life: January 20, 2023

Parish Stewardship

November 19 & 20: $4,928

November 26 & 27: $5,189

Thank you for your generosity!

2023 Envelopes are Here

For those who have requested to use offertory envelopes, they are ready to be picked up. You will find them on tables in the church hall. Thank you for your continued support!

Winter Weather Cancellations

Daily morning Mass may be canceled due to winter storms. If Merrimack schools are delayed or closed due to weather, then daily Mass is canceled. Cancelations will also be posted on our website at www.olmnh.org and in the WMUR scrolling announcements.

Weekend Masses will follow the normal schedule. Please use caution when deciding to travel in inclement weather.

Second week of Advent: PEACE

Week two of Advent is devoted to **peace**. Even the angels proclaimed peace at the birth of Jesus:

"Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to people on earth!"

True peace comes from our relationship and trust in God. Sin moves us further away from God. Even in today's Gospel, John the Baptist warns us to repent. During His ministry on earth, Jesus teaches that peace comes in our own heart when we turn away from sin, repent, and trust God.

Consider ways you can cooperate more deeply with God's grace to make the peace of Christ a reality in your heart and soul. How should you turn away from sinful selfishness and turn more toward love, toward God?

Advent Penance Service

Light shall rise for you in the darkness….

You are invited to the Souhegan Deanery Penance Service on **Sunday, December 11 at 2:00pm** at Saint Joseph the Worker, 777 West Hollis Street in Nashua.

A Gift for You

You are invited and encouraged to take a copy of **Holy Moments**. Written by Matthew Kelly of Dynamic Catholic, this book shares a simple, practical approach to strengthening your faith. Explore it this Christmas season!

Books are located at the entrances of the church.

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