

©IPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish January 1, 2023



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. View by going to 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

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Saturday, December 31st

Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

4:00PM: Mr. & Mrs. Alex Chapdelaine

Sunday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:30AM: Annette King
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Durean & Frank Caron and Michael
Perrault requested by the family

Monday, January 2nd

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops & Doctors of the Church

No Mass

Tuesday, January 3rd
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Gloria Sabalauskas requested by John &
Eileen Buckley

Wednesday, January 4th

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For a private intention

Thursday, January 5th

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

No Mass

Friday, January 6th
Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Barbara Mulhern requested by a friend

Saturday, January 7th

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:30PM: Carolyn Caprioglio req by the Ladies Guild

Sunday, January 8th
The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30AM: Lorraine Bourgeois, 1st anniversary,
requested by Diane, Al, & Jonathan Boissy

10:30AM: Phillip Valliere requested by Bill &
Phyllis McCarthy

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
December 31st - January 6th in memory of
Gloria Sabalauskas.



Please pray for our recently deceased

John Hamilton

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and
the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We Welcome our Newly Baptized!

Baptized in December:

Malina Deifik
McKayla Deifik
Kyler Harris
Allison Londry
Christopher Londry



"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!

Readings for the Week: January 1, 2023

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;
Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5;
Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20;
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b;
Jn 2:1-11

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- **Life Teen:** Sunday, January 8 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- **Edge:** Sunday, January 22 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- **Grades 1-5 Wednesdays:** Wednesday, January 11 at 4:30pm OR 5:45pm, in the parish office building
- **Confirmation & First Communication Prep:** Parent/child session: Saturday, March 25 at 9:30am, church hall
- **Adult Faith Formation:** The next session on the Vatican II series will be Tuesday, January 17 at 9:15am OR 6:30pm, church hall. This session: What Happened after Vatican II? The Post-Conciliar Period

New Year Prayer



God of all time,
Help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are as children of God,
and mindful that our words and actions
make an impact on others and our world.
May we walk gently.
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
Help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that You have endowed all of Creation
with beauty and purpose.
May we regard the world and
all Your people in it with
tenderness.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year
joyfully, remembering our
many gifts with thanks.

May the grace and peace of
Christ bless us now and in the
days ahead.

Amen!

The Shepherds Find Jesus in a Manger

Luke 2:16-21

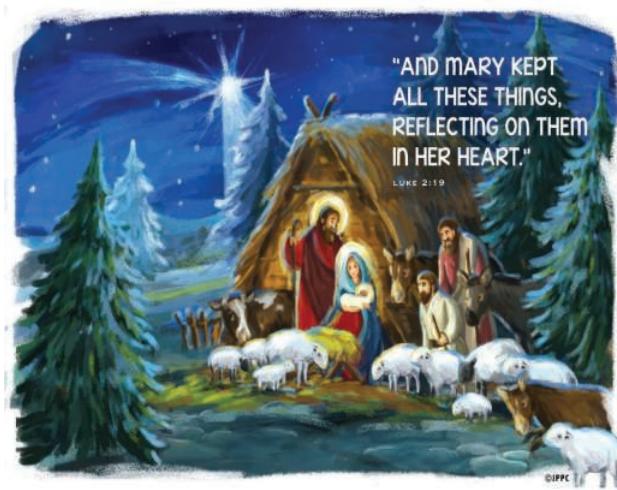
Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas midnight Mass. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger. Upon their arrival, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. Because of this, the shepherds' visit becomes a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we all receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she received the gift of God's Son and accepted her role in God's plan for salvation. Mary models for us the path of discipleship. She is known as the Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship includes three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.



Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, January 1, church hall

Office closed: Monday, January 2

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, January 5 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office building at 4:00-5:30pm, church

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, January 8, church hall

RCIA: Sunday, January 8 at 11:30am, parish office

Life Teen: Sunday, January 8 at 6:15pm, church hall



Parish Stewardship

Immaculate Conception: \$1,529

Weekend Dec. 10 & 11: \$8,153

Religious Retirement: \$1,662

Weekend Dec. 17 & 18: \$6,059

Thank you for your generosity!

2023 Envelopes are Here

For those who have requested to use offertory envelopes for 2023, they are ready to be picked up. You will find them on tables in the church hall. Thank you for your continued support!

Are you being called?

God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. If the Spirit of Jesus is prompting you to love and serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at 603-663-0196 or email mmason@rcbm.org

Examen for the New Year

The Examen is a simple, prayerful reflection usually done daily, but the new year brings an opportunity to review the year past and look forward to the year ahead.

Step 1: Become aware of God's presence. One way is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you review the year with a holy perspective; with wisdom, grace, and faith. Ask for the grace to see your life more as God sees it. Of course you will see failings, but God sees you as a beloved daughter or son who has a future and a hope. Of course you will see your accomplishments, but God sees your deeper self, the person behind all the activity; a person made in God's image.

Step 2: Review the year with gratitude. As you use this holy perspective to review the year, pay attention to the good gifts from 2022. Name those that come to memory, and thank God for them.

Step 3: Pay attention to your emotions. Think over the year again, and notice your emotional reactions. What memories speak to you? What events, conversations, relationships, or activities bring up the most emotion? Ask God to help you linger with these emotions, whether they are pleasant or difficult. Ask God for help in understanding them.

Step 4: Choose one feature of the year and pray from it. Perhaps it is an event, or maybe a pattern of your behavior that comes to mind. Whatever emerges, allow it to fuel your prayer.

Step 5: Look forward to the new year. Imagine what challenges and blessings await. Think of your important relationships, decisions to be made, skills to learn, habits to build, healing to seek, good work to accomplish. Make a simple list of highlights—matters that you expect to take prominence in your life this year. Bring them to God, and ask for the graces you will need. End your prayer, thanking God for love and life and holy possibilities.

-edited from ignatianspirituality.com

Trinity High School, Manchester

You are invited to learn about Trinity High School, a co-ed, college prep Catholic high school. Trinity helps students develop a sound work ethic, self-discipline, and Catholic ideals. To be part of our Zoom info on January 11 at 7:00pm, register at admissions@trinity-hs.org. To schedule in person tours call 603-668-2910 x220. For more info please visit the school's website at www.trinity-hs.org.

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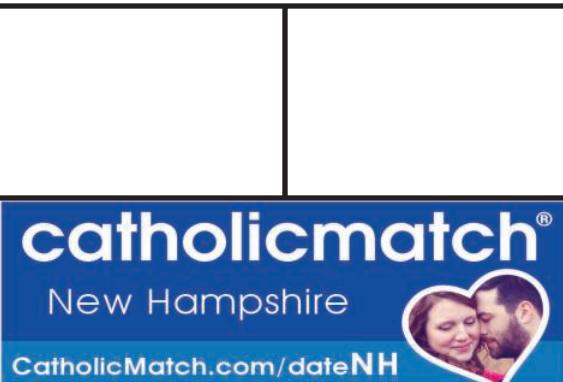


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