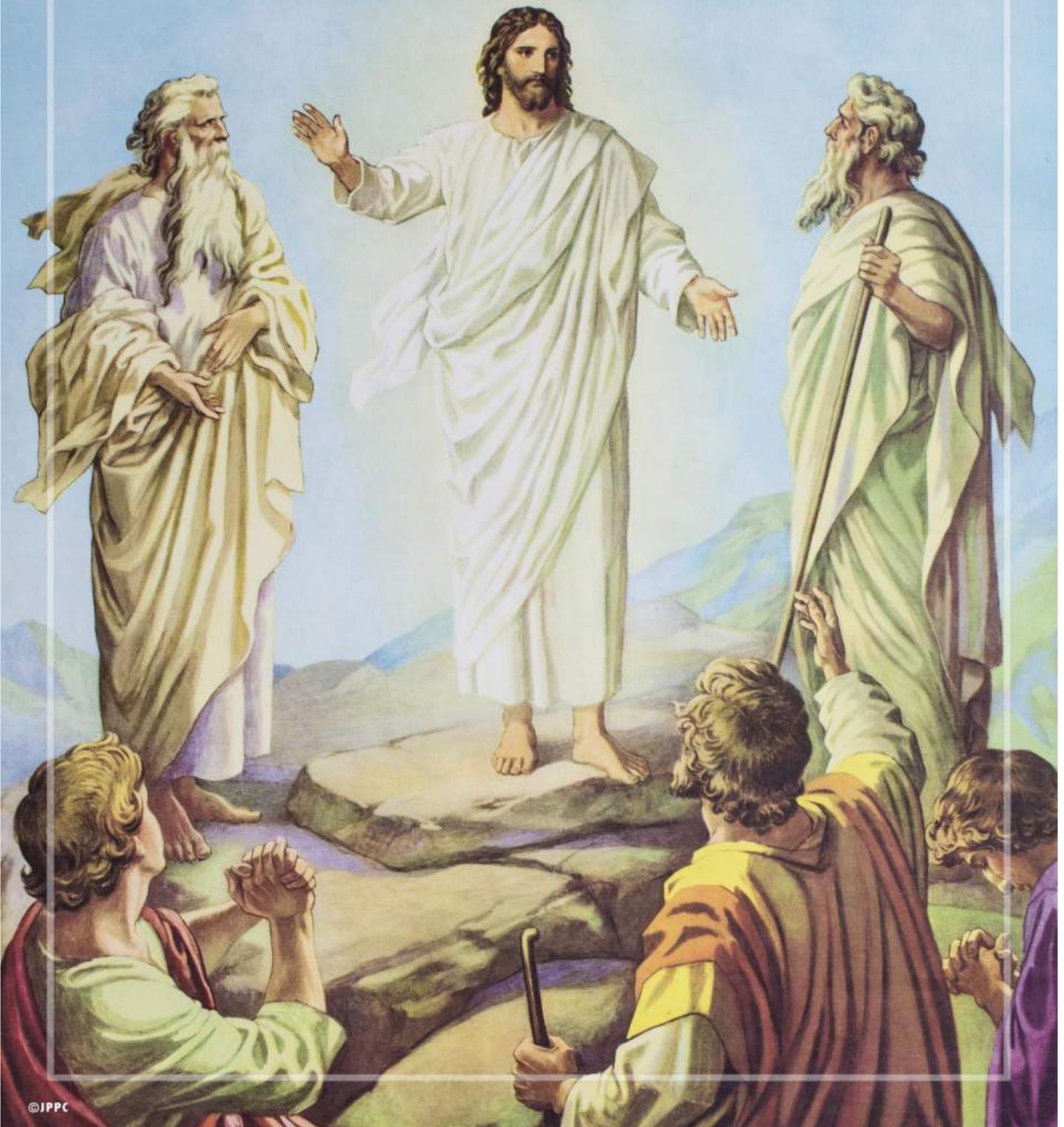


**THIS IS MY BELOVED SON**

*with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

MATTHEW 17:5



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

March 5, 2023



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road  
Merrimack, NH 03054  
603-424-3757  
[www.olmnh.org](http://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](mailto:FrPaul@olmnh.org)  
John Castelot, Deacon  
[DeaconJohn@olmnh.org](mailto:DeaconJohn@olmnh.org)  
Sharon Nagy, Business Manager  
[SNagy@olmnh.org](mailto:SNagy@olmnh.org)  
Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation  
[MCoughlin@olmnh.org](mailto:MCoughlin@olmnh.org)  
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister  
[CCoughlin@olmnh.org](mailto:CCoughlin@olmnh.org)  
Christian Copeley, Director of Music  
[CCopeley@olmnh.org](mailto:CCopeley@olmnh.org)  
Katie Corsetti, Faith Formation Admin Assistant  
[KCorsetti@olmnh.org](mailto: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](http://olmnh.org)

The 4:30pm vigil Mass is live streamed. View by going to the website at [www.olmnh.org](http://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, March 4th**

**Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent**

**4:30PM:** Carmelle Murch requested by her husband

**Sunday, March 5th**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**8:30AM:** Jeff Photiades req by the Guman family  
For all parishioners

**10:30AM:** Marshall Kamrass requested by Ron &  
Katie Corsetti family

**Monday, March 6th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Annette King

**Tuesday, March 7th**

**Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Irene Caron

**Wednesday, March 8th**

**Saint John of God, Religious**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Joe Blazonis

**Thursday, March 9th**

**Saint Frances of Rome, Religious**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Lydia Lemoi requested by her niece

**Friday, March 10th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Dorothy Lyon

**6:30PM:** Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 11th**

**Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent**

**4:30PM:** Philip Russell Dwyer req by the Dwyer family

**Sunday, March 12th**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**8:30AM:** Lucille Gagnon req by the Ladies Guild

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

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns  
March 4 - 10th in memory of  
**Robert Tedeschi.**



## Help with Lenten Prayer

When we're not at Mass, sometimes we just need short, simple prayers to remain close to God during our busy days.

Lent is no different.

Here are some easy prayers to help feel connected to God during Lent this year:

♥God, may Your light guide my day, and Your spirit bring me peace. Amen.

♥God, may my sacrifice of today of (state your Lenten sacrifice) remind me of my dependence on You for all the blessings I enjoy. Amen.

♥May I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in Your love, and may I work to build Your kingdom here on earth.

♥Heavenly Father, I'm truly sorry for the moments today where I missed the mark. I ask for your forgiveness and the strength to better follow Your call tomorrow. Amen.

♥God, I lift up (name of the person you'd like to pray for) today. I ask that You bless him/her abundantly today and throughout Lent. Amen.

♥Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to You. Take care of everything. Amen.

-edited from Hallow.com



## Readings for the Week: March 5, 2023

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Sunday:** Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Life Teen:** Sunday, March 12 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Edge:** Sunday, March 19 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Grades 1-5 Faith Formation classes:** Wednesday, March 8 at 4:30pm OR 5:45, parish office building
- Grades 1-5 Family Lenten Session:** Parents and their grades 1-5 children (other siblings welcome too!) are invited to a Lenten reflection. Saturday, March 18 at 3:00pm in the church hall.
- Confirmation & First Communication Prep:** Parent/child session: Saturday, March 25 at 9:30am, church hall; preparation books are due at class

What are Scrutinies?

The scrutinies are a series of rites for adults who wish to be Baptized. They are celebrated in the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of the Lenten season. This is considered a period of purification and enlightenment for the elect. (The elect are those who are preparing to be fully initiated into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation.) There are prayers of exorcism which are intended to help purify the elect from sin and sinful desires. The overall prayers and laying on of hands are to help the elect be enlightened by the Word and grace of God.

The rites take place after the homily. Their basic structure:

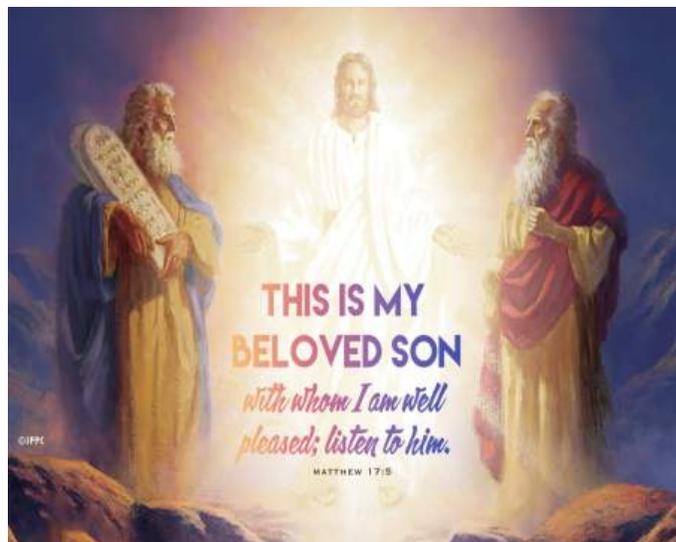
- The elect (with sponsors) are invited forward
- Invitation for parish to silently pray for the elect
- Intercessions for the elect
- Prayer of exorcism
- Laying on of hands on the elect
- Prayer over the elect
- Dismissal of the elect

-edited from Catholic.com

The scrutinies will take place starting next weekend: at the 4:30 Mass on March 11, the 8:30 Mass on March 19, and the 10:30 Mass on March 26. Please keep Alexis and Ken in your prayers as they are parishioners who are journeying toward full initiation this Easter.

Jesus is Transfigured

Matthew 17:1-9



Today we move from Jesus’s retreat into the desert to His Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus’s temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus’s Transfiguration. The Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels the Transfiguration follows Jesus’s first prediction of His death and His teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus’s Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus’s glory, His Resurrection.

On a mountain in today’s reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God’s Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus’s baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God’s relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God’s complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus’s disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew’s Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an “inner circle” among the disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany Him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before His arrest.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

## Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

**Coffee & Donuts:** sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, March 5, church hall

**Prayer Group:** Monday, March 6 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

**Grades 1-5 Faith Formation classes:** Wednesday, March 8 at 4:30pm OR 5:45, parish office building

**Knitting Ministry:** Thursday, March 9 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office building

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 10 at 6:30pm, church

**Men of St. Joseph:** Saturday, March 11 at 7:00am, church hall

**St. Patrick's Day Party:** Saturday, March 11 after the 4:30 Mass, church hall

**Life Matters:** Sunday, March 12 at 9:30, church hall

**RCIA:** Sunday, March 12 at 11:30am, parish office

**Life Teen:** Sunday, March 12 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall

## Parish Stewardship

Weekend February 25 & 26: \$4,913

Ash Wednesday - Aid to churches in Central & Eastern Europe and Africa: \$921

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## St. Patrick's Day Dispensation

From Bishop Libasci: I, as Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester, grant to all Catholic men and women, boys and girls of the Diocese of Manchester and all visitors as well, a dispensation from abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17, 2023.

## Magdalen College Open House & Scholarship

Magdalen College in Warner, NH invites all high school students to experience the mountain! Join us at our OPEN HOUSE on **March 18, 2023**.

Register at: [www.magdalen.edu/admissions-mc/open-house-registration/](http://www.magdalen.edu/admissions-mc/open-house-registration/)

Open house participants will receive a \$2,000 freshman year scholarship!

## St. Patrick's Party

Tickets are on sale after Mass this weekend for the St. Patrick's party to be held on **Saturday, March 11** after the 4:30pm Mass. Performances by the *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* and an Irish sing-along featuring **pianist Jim Otis**.



Tickets will be on sale after the Masses on February 25 & 26 and March 4 & 5.

Ticket prices:

\$10 for ages 16 - adults

\$5 for ages 10-15

free for children 9 and under.

## Feast of St. Joseph

Bishop Libasci invites men of the Diocese of Manchester to Holy Mass and breakfast at St. Joseph Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, patron of our diocese on Saturday, March 18th.

Register to attend on the homepage of the Diocese at [www.CatholicNH.org](http://www.CatholicNH.org).

## Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites couples celebrating 5, 10, 25, 50, and 60+ years of marriage in 2023 to attend a Mass followed by a cake and coffee reception, in celebration of significant wedding anniversaries. The Mass will be held on **Sunday, April 30 at 2:00pm** with the reception to follow at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester.

**Register by April 7, 2023** by contacting Katie at [KCorsetti@olmnh.org](mailto:KCorsetti@olmnh.org). Once registration has been completed by the parish office, couples will receive a mailed invitation to this special celebration.

To those celebrating the indicated anniversary years, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at the Cathedral this spring!

## Air Conditioners Available

Winter may still be upon us, but warmer days are coming! We have some window air conditioner units available we no longer can use that are in good condition. Contact the office if interested.

## Please note...

**Thursday, March 9 Lenten schedule change:**

Mass will be at 8:30am

No confession, no evening prayer, no 6:30pm Mass

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