

Our Lady of Mercy Parish September 24, 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

Saturday, September 23rd

Vigil: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: Liz Lochman req by the Gehling family
For all parishioners

Sunday, September 24th

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Carolyn Disco requested by her husband

10:30AM: Sandra Debus requested by her cousin,
Kathy Cooner

Monday, September 25th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Eileen Bianchin req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Tuesday, September 26th

Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Henry McCaffrey

Wednesday, September 27th

Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Tom Voute req by Tom & Elaine Lamb

Thursday, September 28th

No Mass

Friday, September 29th

**Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael,
Archangels**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Marguerite Nicolo requested by her family

Saturday, September 30th

Vigil: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: Michael Tsatsa requested by his family

Sunday, October 1st

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Durean Caron requested by the family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Carol Ann Hauver requested by
Christopher & Kathleen Kemp

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns

September 23rd – 29th

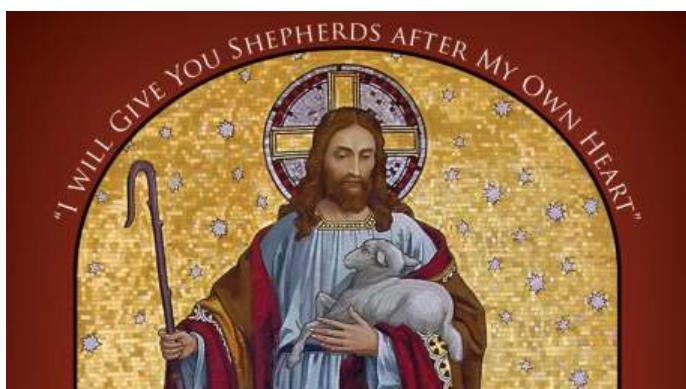
in memory of

Rosanna "Irene" Caron.



Priesthood Sunday: September 24, 2023

On this Priesthood Sunday and every day, we are thankful to you Fr. Paul, our pastor and shepherd! You are a gift to our parish. God bless you Fr. Paul!



A Priesthood Sunday Blessing

In Your loving kindness,
O good and gracious God,
You sent Your Son to be our shepherd and guide.
Through our priests,
we experience Your presence in the sacraments.

Father Paul continues Christ's ministry
by sustaining and guiding Your holy people.
Please bless Father Paul.

Let Your spirit uphold him always in his service to
the people of this parish and beyond.

May the power of Your mercy
accompany Fr. Paul and all priests everywhere
and keep them protected always.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Readings for the Week: September 24, 2023

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb 13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8;

Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5;

Jn 1:47-51

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13;

Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5];

Mt 21:28-32



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session Wednesday, October 18 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church
- Edge & Life Teen (Youth Ministry):** Sunday, October 1 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- First Reconciliation:** Parent meeting on Wednesday, September 27 at 6:00pm, church hall

Feast of Our Lady of Mercy *Luke 1:39-55*

Gospel for the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

This Gospel recalls Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's salvation plan. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus's identity as God. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

In further considering the role of our Blessed Mother in our own faith journey, her title of Our Lady of Mercy is so fitting because she brought forth for us Jesus Christ, the true manifestation of the mercy of God. Jesus Christ is the mercy of God made flesh, and so Mary is truly the "Mother of Mercy."

Mary is the image of the Church, which rejoices to receive God's mercy through her Son. As we look to her, our Mother of Mercy and Our Lady of Mercy, may be merciful to others and may we pray for God's mercy for all.

God is Merciful *Matthew 20:1-16*

Gospel for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where He is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus's demand that he leave his possessions to follow Him. Jesus's response to the rich man sounds like the conclusion we find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own notions of how fairness should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms negotiated. The landowner has acted justly. The parable goes beyond that however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just; he is radically just. He is exceptionally just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. He has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly, just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain look foolish.

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, He offers abundantly. At times we are tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms



rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

-edited from
Loyola
press.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Parish Picnic: Sunday, September 24 from noon to 4:00pm, American Legion picnic grounds

Prayer Group: Monday, September 25 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

Simon Ministry: Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30pm, church hall

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting: Wednesday, September 27 at 6:00pm, church hall

Foot Clinic: Thursday, Sept. 28 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, September 28 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, October 1 after Masses, sponsored by the Knights

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 1 at 2:00pm, church parking lot; please restrain animals

Youth Ministry Edge & Life Teen: Sunday, October 1 at 6:15pm, church hall

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections September 11 - 17, 2023

Offertory/Miscellaneous

Budget: \$9,231

Actual: \$10,179

Variance: \$948

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you!

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy:

Thank you for your warm welcome and generous support for the SOLT missions. May God bless you for all the ways you witness Christ to others and encourage those around you to live their faith. Thank you for welcoming me and supporting the work of SOLT through your prayers, consideration of a volunteer opportunity, and financial help. Be assured of my prayers for you.

In the hearts of Jesus
and Mary,

Fr. Larry Tucker,
SOLT
www.solt.net



SOCIETY of OUR LADY
of the Most Holy Trinity

Parish Picnic: Don't Miss It!

It's here! Join us on Sunday, September 24, the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy from noon to 4:00pm at the American Legion picnic grounds..

- Party Sandwiches, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Side Dishes, Desserts, Refreshments
- Activities and Games for Children
- Fellowship for all

Food Donations welcome: Homemade or store bought (salads, desserts).

Food donation drop off: Sat., September 23 from 3:00-6:00pm at the church hall kitchen OR Sunday the 24th from 9:00am to noon at American Legion (purple canopy).



Please bring your own folding chairs.

After the 10:30 Mass there will be a procession from the church to the American Legion. Join us for the procession or meet us at the picnic grounds!

In the event of rain, the picnic will be held in the church hall.

Blessing of the Animals



Bring your pets for a blessing next Sunday, October 1 at 2:00pm to the church parking lot. Please be sure to have your pets restrained.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

You are invited on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, including Rome Pre-Tour Extension with an optional 3-night Jordan Post Tour Extension from January 13 though January 25, 2024.

Price for double is \$5,198 per person

Price for single is \$6,498

Contact Fr. PaulMontminy at
pdmontminy@gmail.com.

Due to the large number of pilgrims interested, a second bus has been booked. Please call the office at Immaculate Conception Parish in Nashua at 603-888-0321 for a brochure.



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