

The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

MATTHEW 25:31-46



©IPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish November 26, 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. 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
Christian Copeley, Director of Music
CCopeley@olmnh.org
Tony Ste. Marie, Youth Minister
Facilities Manager
T.Ste.Marie@olmnh.org
Katie Corsetti, Director of Faith Formation
KCorsetti@olmnh.org
Linda Durbin, Faith Formation Admin Assistant
LDurbin@olmnh.org
Karen Correia, Admin Assistant
KCorreia@olmnh.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Church Hours

The church will be locked for safety. You are welcome to spend prayer time in church 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, November 25th

Vigil: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: The McCarthy & McDonough family
requested by Bill & Phyllis

Sunday, November 26th

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Anita Creager requested by the Bergin family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Donald Morin requested by Pat Osterlund

Monday, November 27th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For the intention of the celebrant

Tuesday, November 28th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Rita Arcifa requested by the Lamb family

Wednesday, November 29th

No Mass

Thursday, November 30th

No Mass

Friday, December 1st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Brian McKenna, 1st anniversary, requested
by the family

Adoration

Saturday, December 2nd

Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: Sandy Debus requested by the Lyons family
Adoration

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Ronald Nicholas Distasio requested by the
Knight of Columbus

10:30AM: Anita Creager requested by Jeannine Notter
& Maureen Mooney
For all parishioners

Adoration



SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
November 25th – December 1st
in memory of
Lorraine Boissy

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer

I adore You Jesus, true God and true man,
present in the Holy Eucharist,
kneeling before You
and united in spirit
with all the faithful on earth
and all the saints in heaven.
In gratitude for so great a blessing,
I love You with all my heart,
for You are worthy of all praise and adoration.
Amen!



Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song. Nine Scripture lessons are each followed by a carol or other music that reflects the lesson's message and a brief prayer. Mark your calendar for the first Sunday of Advent: December 3 at 6:30pm for this wonderful Advent tradition!

Readings for the Week: November 26, 2023

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28;
Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,
18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session Wednesday, December 13 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church
- Youth Ministry (Edge & Life Teen):** Sunday, December 3 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- First Reconciliation:** Rehearsal Tuesday, November 28 at 6pm & Celebration Friday, December 1 at 6pm
- Confirmation & First Communion:** Parent meeting Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00pm, church hall

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

As Catholics, one of the ways that we spend time with the Lord and gaze upon God's beauty is through the practice of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During Adoration, we sit, kneel, or stand before the Eucharist - the Body of Christ - which is exposed in a beautiful vessel called a *monstrance*. As we meditate on the beauty of God, we are drawn to speak to God in the silence of our hearts. This is a conversation that, according to Saint Ignatius of Loyola, should resemble one friend speaking to another.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available in the church on Friday, December 1 after the 8:30 Mass, Saturday, December 2 after the 4:30 Mass and Sunday, December 3 after the 10:30 Mass. Start of the season of Advent by spending a few minutes, an hour, or some time in between in the Real Presence of Jesus.

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my flesh
or the life of the world.*

-JOHN 6:51

The Son of Man will Judge the Nations

Matthew 25:31-46

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of Jesus's discourse with His disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year: the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on the life and ministry of Jesus; while in his remaining chapters Matthew reports the events of Jesus's Passion and Resurrection.



In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to His disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before Him, and He will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies Himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ Himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent that Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows Himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept Him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, November 26, church hall

First Reconciliation Rehearsal: Tuesday, November 28 at 6:00pm, church

Foot Clinic: Thursday, Nov. 30 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, November 30 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Adoration: Friday, December 1 after Mass

First Reconciliation Celebration: Friday, December 1 at 6:00pm, church

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, December 2 at 8:30am, church

Adoration: Saturday, December 2 after Mass

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, December 3, church hall

Adoration: Sunday, December 3 after the 10:30 Mass

RCIA: Sunday, December 3 at 11:30am, parish office

Youth Ministry: Sunday, December 3 at 6:15, hall

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 3 at 6:30pm, church

Upcoming Schola Dates

The Scola choir will be participating at the 10:30am Masses on November 26 and December 17.

120 Club

Week 6
Anna Hanlon
Jessica Barowski

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
HIGH SCHOOL
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**OPEN
HOUSE**

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 30, 2023
6:00-8:00PM

SCAN TO
REGISTER >>>



Schola Choir has Openings

Our Lady of Mercy's Schola is seeking altos and sopranos. Schola is a choir that sings once a month at the 10:30 Mass. We primarily sing sacred music, including traditional hymns, motets, and Gregorian chant. Being able to read music is recommended but not required. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. See Christian if you are interested in joining.

Life Matters Ministry Seeks New Members

Are you being called to participate in Life Matters Ministry? The ministry is seeking new members to help with activities including rosary intentions for life in January, May, and October; Mother's Day Carnations for Birthright; Baby Bottle Collections for St. Gianna's Place; Baby Showers for Pennacook Pregnancy Center, OurPlace, and RealOptions; information and resource sheets on various life topics; and more.

The group welcomes new ideas to honor, dignify, and - especially - celebrate life at all its stages. To learn more, contact the office or Norm Thibault at 603-289-0574.

New Ministry: Loaves & Fishes

Do you have or want to develop a servant's heart? The Loaves & Fishes Ministry will support people with meals on a short term basis. Those being served could be newly discharged from the hospital or convalescing at home or busy caring for a loved one.

Members of Loaves & Fishes would be called to provide a meal when needed. Please call the office for more info or to sign up!

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations



Daily Mass may be canceled due to inclement winter weather. If Merrimack schools are delayed or closed because of weather, then daily Mass is canceled.

Cancellations are also posted on our website and in the WMUR scrolling announcements.

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

Bulletin insert...

Advent Begins December 3!

Advent Giving Tree



Starting this weekend – November 25 & 26 – our annual Giving Tree will be available with gift cards to be purchased then returned to OLM. The Giving Tree is located in the main church entrance. Donations will be made in bundles to local charities. Thank you for supporting our community!

Lessons & Carols

You are invited....

Sunday, December 3 at 6:30pm in the church



Hear Scripture lessons, accompanying prayers, and seasonal hymns and carols. A wonderful tradition to begin the Advent Season. All are welcome!



Beautiful Eucharist

Please take a copy of author Matthew Kelly's ***Beautiful Eucharist***, from Dynamic Catholic. This book is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so that you can spread that life-giving presence in the world. Books are located at the church entrances.

Advent Devotionals

The Word Among Us and *Waiting in Joyful Hope* are daily devotionals to guide you through Advent prayer. Copies are available at the church entrances.

Advent: Preparing for Jesus

Advent can come as a surprise sometimes, beginning right after Thanksgiving. That's not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

Advent Traditions

During the four weeks of Advent we set up Nativity scenes, light Advent candles, and decorate our homes. Four candles adorn an Advent wreath, one for each week. As we light an additional candle each week, we are getting closer to Jesus, the Light of the World, coming to bring light into darkness.

Advent colors are worn by the priests and deacons and decorate the church. They are represented in the candles that surround the Advent wreath:

Violet: royalty, repentance, and fasting (First, Second, and Fourth Week of Advent)

Rose: abundant joy (Third Week of Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, joy in Latin)

Scripture and Prayers for Advent

During Advent there are three prevalent themes we see as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ. We long for the Messiah, are urged to be alert for Jesus' Second Coming, and meditate on Christ's presence in our lives now. The Scripture readings during Advent revolve around the first two of these themes. They encourage proper preparation, point to the grace and humility of Mary, show us how to adore God in the Incarnation, and recognize the glory of Jesus and how He frees us from sin and ingratitude. We hear from the prophet Isaiah and are drawn to the compelling message of John the Baptist in the Gospels.

It is important to consider how we can grow in spiritual wholeness during such a busy, commercial season. Take time for silence and reflection each day with Scripture, a devotional prayer, or with an Advent calendar. Dwell with the scene of the Nativity. What is it like to imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph and to be with them as the baby Jesus comes into the world? A prayerful journey with the Holy Family and the Church throughout Advent will lead to gifts of gratitude and joy when we enter the Christmas Season.



Week 1: HOPE

Week 3: JOY

Week 2: PEACE

Week 4: LOVE