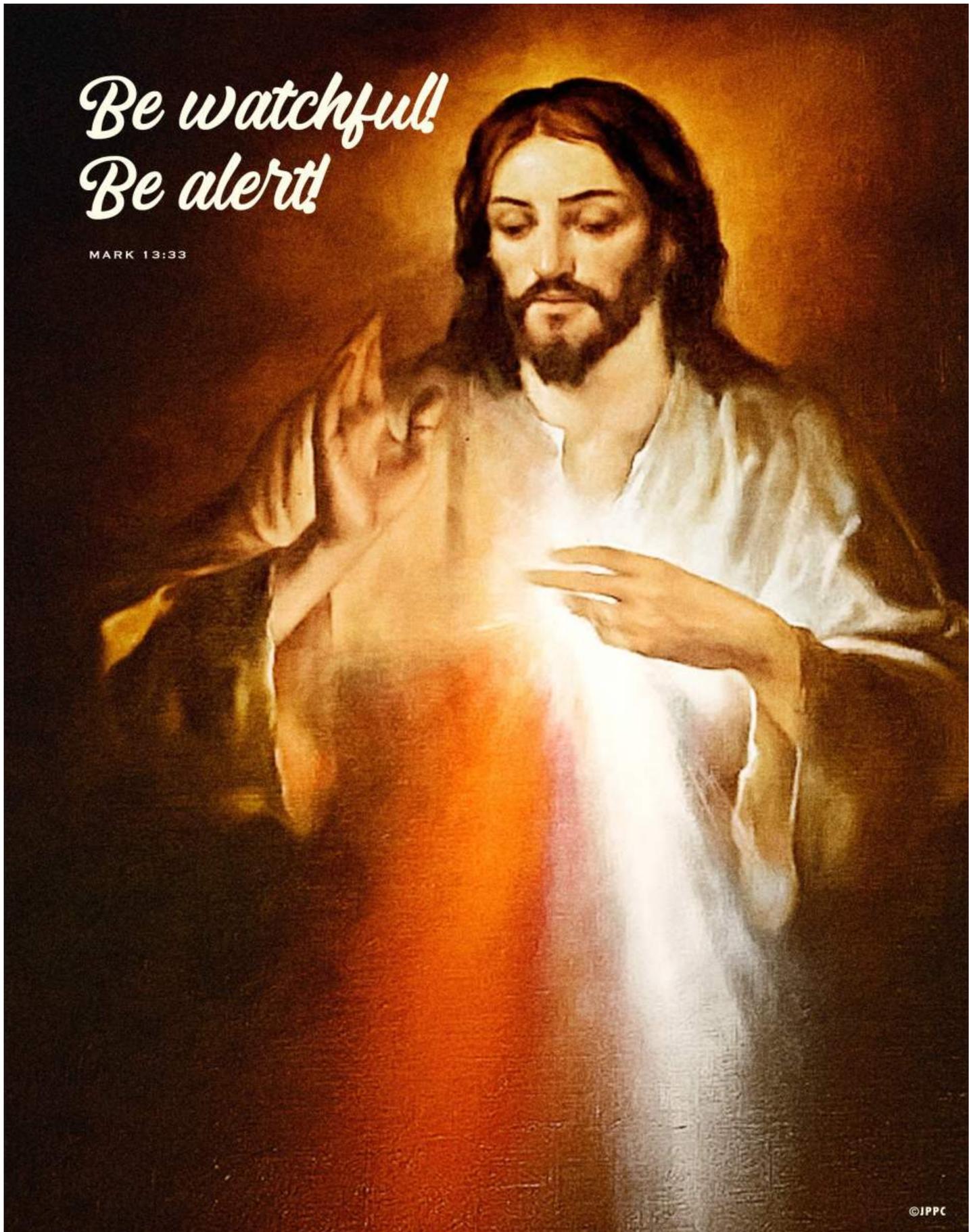


*Be watchful!
Be alert!*

MARK 13:33



Our Lady of Mercy Parish December 3, 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
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, 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

Monday, December 4th

Saint John Damascene,

Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Annette King

Tuesday, December 5th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Anita Creager requested by the Lamb family

Wednesday, December 6th

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Patrick Paulson req by the Lamb family

Thursday, December 7th

**Vigil: The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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

Friday, December 8th

**Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jake Durkin requested by his family

Saturday, December 9th

Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

Twenty-Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: Roger Bonenfant, 9th anniversary, requested
by Helen
For all parishioners

Sunday, December 10th

Second Sunday of Advent

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Carmen Canton requested by Diane Schultz

10:30AM: William "Billy" Fleming req by the family

We Welcome our Newly Baptized!

Baptized in November:

**Julian Peterson
Charles Weiland**



"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!

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
December 2nd – 8th
in memory of
Roger Bonenfant



Readings for the Week: December 3, 2023

Monday, December 4, 2023 Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2,
3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2,
7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:
1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7, 2023 Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 and
8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 8, 2023 Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1,
2-3ab, 3cd-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9, 2023 Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 10, 2023 Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:
9-10-11-12, 13-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8



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:** Sunday, December 10 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Confirmation & First Communion:** Parent meeting Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00pm, church hall

Congratulations First Reconciliation Recipients!

May all who received First Reconciliation discover the beauty of God’s forgiveness through this Sacrament of Healing. May God’s love be upon you and God’s presence always guide you!

Time to Prepare our Hearts for Jesus

First Week of Advent: December 3, 2023: HOPE

Light the first purple candle.

Scripture reflection: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelled in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

-Isaiah 9:2

Advent wreath prayer:

Dear Jesus,
 You are the hope in our messy world.
 This Advent, help us slow down,
 listen to Your voice,
 and focus on what’s really important.
 We place our hope in You as we prepare our hearts
 to celebrate Your birth on Christmas. Amen!

-DynamicCatholic.com



Today’s Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

Be Watchful for the Son of Man

Mark 13:33-37

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel: Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year’s first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses on Mark’s Gospel. This week and next week, our readings from the Gospel of Mark present two important Advent themes: the Lord’s return at the end of time and John the Baptist’s preparation for Jesus.

Today’s Gospel comes from the end of Mark; the chapter that immediately precedes his account of Jesus’s Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by His disciples - Peter, James, John, and Andrew - who want details about His prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today’s passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus’s warnings to His disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared.

Scholars believe that Mark’s Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70AD. Mark’s audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times; times of conflict. They were likely facing persecution as followers of Jesus. During this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’s warning to remain alert and watchful, and His words helped them to persevere.

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

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 6:15pm, hall

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

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, December 4 from 4:00 to 5:30pm, church

Confirmation & First Communion Parent meeting: Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00pm, church hall

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, December 7 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Men of St. Joseph: Saturday, December 9 at 7:00am, church hall

K of C Breakfast: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, December 10, church hall

Youth Ministry: Sunday, December 10 at 6:15pm, hall

120 Club

Week 7
Louise LeDuc
Sue Proulx

Congratulations and thank you for your support!



Lessons & Carols

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!

Advent Penance Service

Advent Penance Service: Sunday, December 10 at 2:00pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Nashua. Along with this communal penance service, there will be an opportunity for individual confession. Consider receiving this Sacrament of Healing as part of your Advent preparation for Jesus.

Schola Choir Seeking New Members

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. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings. See Christian if you are interested in joining.

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections November 13 - 19, 2023

Offertory/Miscellaneous

Budget:	\$9,231
Actual:	\$8,520
Variance:	(\$711)

Weekly Collections November 20 - 26, 2023

Budget:	\$9,231
Actual:	\$9,107
Variance:	(\$124)

Thank you for your generosity!

Beautiful Eucharist

You are welcome to a copy of Dynamic Catholic author Matthew Kelly's *Beautiful Eucharist*. 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 all church entrances.



Advent Giving Tree

The Advent Giving Tree has gift card requests 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!

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

If Merrimack Schools are canceled for weather then daily Mass will be canceled. Weekend Masses will follow the normal schedule, but please use caution when deciding to travel in bad weather.



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