

## 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.

## Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road<br>Merrimack, NH 03054

603-424-3757
www.olmnh.org

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
Mary-Elizabeth Hauver, Youth Minister
MEHauver@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.

Saturday, January 6th
Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
4:30PM: Martha Corsini requested by the family For all parishioners
Adoration
Sunday, January 7th
The Epiphany of the Lord Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
8:30AM: Rose \& Robert Tedeschi
10:30AM: Carole Nichols, 15 th anniversary, requested by Mary Jane Nichols

## Adoration

Monday, January 8th
The Baptism of the Lord
8:10AM: Morning prayer
8:30AM: Grace Villiard req by Bruce \& Janet Angus
Tuesday, January 9th
8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: Andrew \& Kathleen Warguska requested by Tom Warguska

Wednesday, January 10th
8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: All Souls in Purgatory req by Tom Warguska
Thursday, January 11th
No Mass
Friday, January 12th
8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: G. Edward Susa
Saturday, January 13th
Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Thirty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
4:30PM: Dorothy Lavallee requested by her family
Sunday, January 14th
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thirty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
8:30AM: Lorraine Bourgeois req by Diane Boissy For all parishioners

10:30AM: Bette Bell req by Tom \& Elaine Lamb

SANCTUARY CANDLE
The sanctuary candle burns January 6th - 12th in memory of Lorraine Bourgeois


January Rosary Intentions
January 7 - Queen of Peace: Rouse all politicians to defend life.
January 8 - Mother of Miracles: Protect our men \& women in the military.
January 9 - Mother Mary: Assist families in financial distress.
January 10 - Loving Mother: End human trafficking of children.
January 11 - Queen of Heaven: Give peace to those troubled by conflict in the world.
January 12 - Our Lady of Lourdes: Comfort our elderly in their daily struggle.
January 13 - Mother of God: Inspire pregnant women with your motherly love.

## Adoration This Weekend

-Friday, January 5 after morning Mass
-Saturday, January 6 after the 4:30 Mass
-Sunday, January 7 after the 10:30 Mass
 Start off the new year spending some quiet, personal prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

## 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!

Readings for the Week: January 7, 2024
Monday Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4 Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6
Jn 1:29-34
Thursday 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42
Friday 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4 , 5 Jn 1:43-51
Saturday 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
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

-Grades 1-5: Parent/Child session Wednesday, January 17 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church
-Youth Ministry: Sunday, January 7 from 6:15-
7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
-Confirmation \& First Communion: Parent \& child session Saturday, March 9 at 9:30am, church hall

## Rite of Acceptance

On Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil many are Baptized into the Catholic Church. Parishes welcome new Catholics through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Prior to becoming a Christian an individual comes to some knowledge of Jesus Christ, considers his or her relationship with Jesus, and is attracted to the Catholic Church. This period is known as the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate. This is a time of learning and discerning. If acceptance into the Order of Catechumens is desired, the person will participate in the Rite of Acceptance. During this Rite the person stands before the parish community and states that he or she desires to become a Baptized member of the Catholic Church. The assembly affirms this goal and the person becomes a Catechumen.
The length of time one is a Catechumen can last for several years or a much shorter time. It depends on how the person is growing in faith, what questions he or she encounters, and how God leads this individual journey. Catechumens consider what God is saying to them in the Scriptures, what changes in their lives they need to make to respond to God, and what Baptism in the Catholic Church truly means.
The Rite of Acceptance will be at the 10:30 Mass this Sunday, January 7. Our prayers are with you!

Jesus the Lamb of God<br>John 1:35-42

Today's Gospel continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. This Gospel follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.


We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus: Lamb of God. For those hearing from John the Baptist however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus's passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus's Last Supper.
The first two followers of Jesus, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. From John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus they came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Jesus gave Simon a new name, Peter, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four Gospels.
In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought
out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that He sought out individuals, inviting them to be His followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus's identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

## Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee \& Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, January 7, church hall

Adoration: Sunday, January 7 after the 10:30 Mass
RCIA: Sunday, January 7 at 11:30am, parish office
Youth Ministry: Sunday, Jan. 7 at 6:15pm, church hall
Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, January 8 from 4:00 to 5:30pm, church
K of C Rosary Prayer Group: Monday, January 8 from 6:30 to 7:00pm, church; all are welcome
Knitting Ministry: Thursday, January 11 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Men of St. Joseph: Saturday, January 13 at 7:00am, church hall
K of C Breakfast: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, January 14, church hall
Life Matters: Sunday, Jan. 14 at 9:30am, church hall

## Offertory Envelopes for 2024

If you use offertory envelopes to make your parish contributions, please pick up your 2024 set in the back of the church. Any remaining sets after January 7 may be picked up in the office. Thank you!

## Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections Dec 18-24, 2023
Offertory/Miscellaneous
Budget:
\$9,231
Actual:
\$17,401
Variance:
$(\$ 8,170)$
Thank you for your generosity!

## Parishioner Record Updates

The new year brings the opportunity to update records and contact information for ALL parishioners. Check upcoming bulletins for paper forms for all parishioners to complete and return to church. If you prefer, you may makes updates in person after the Masses later in January. Stay tuned for dates. Thank you!

## 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.


## 120 Club

Week 12

## Mary Bathey

Kathleen Felski
Congratulations and thank you for your support!

## Toothbrush Collection

Volunteers from St. John's Church in Westport, MA will work with PROJECT
 EDEN ADELANTE on a medical mission to San Francisco de la Paz region, Olancho Honduras in 2024.

To support this team, please place a new, unused manual toothbrush (adult or child) in the red bin located in the main entrance of the church between January 6 to January 31.

The mission of Project Eden Adelante is "providing support and resources to improve the health and well-being of people in the San Francisco de la Paz region, Olancho, Honduras."

## Please visit the website at

 www.ProjectEdenHonduras.org to learn more and to find other ways to help!
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## Widows \& Widowers Support

The Widow/Widowers group meets the second Saturday of the month at 9:30am at St. John Neumann in room 3, off the church hall.
For more information or questions, please contact Tricia Mroz at 603-494-2517.
Next meeting: Saturday, January 13 at 9:30am.
Our Lady of Mercy Family Records Update 2024

Family Member Information

1. Family Member Name:

Please write the name of family members already involved in the following ministries:
Homebound (Holy Communion visits)

I would like to be contacted about my interest/possible participation in the following ministries:

Scripture for Epiphany:


* In the magi, representatives of the neightoring pagan religions, the sospelsees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the incarnation. The magis coming to gerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the gews shous that theyseek in pracel, in the messianic light of thestar of dlavid, the one who will beking of the nations." "CCC528

Pray dogether- Make the Sign of the Cross

- Read an Epiphany Scripture passage
(suggestions on next page)
- Pray
"Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to
every nation by the guidance of a star
Bless this house and all who inhabit it
Fill us with the light of Christ, that
our concern for others may reflect your
love We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen"
(from uscob org)
- Chalk the door, door frame, or plaque with
20+C+M+B+24 (or current year)
- Pray the Our Father
- Sing an Epiphany Song (suggestions on
next page)
- Make the Sign of the Cross
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage " the Sunday between January 2nd-8th
-Matthew 22
After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family was visited by three Magi from the east They came to worship Christ and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th Day of


 Wise Men and asking for protection and blessing on the home and all who enter

 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and

 this house "Writing on the door also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus,

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