

Our Lady of Mercy Parish February 11, 2024



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

Mary-Elizabeth Hauver, Youth Minister
MHauver@olmnh.org

Katie Corsetti, Director of Faith Formation
KCorsetti@olmnh.org

Linda Durbin, 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, February 10th
Vigil: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thirty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Joyce & Dick Foulks requested by the family

Sunday, February 11th
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thirty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: Timothy Dwyer requested by the family

10:30AM: Carole Ann Brown requested by her mom,
Christine Franklin
For all parishioners

Monday, February 12th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Carole Ann Brown requested by the family

Tuesday, February 13th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Fran Clevette req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jennifer Polce

4:30PM: Children's Prayer Service - all welcome

7:00PM: Edward Susa

Thursday, February 15th

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Skip Watkins requested by Rachel

Friday, February 16th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Laura Morrissey

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 17th

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

Thirty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Carmelle Murch req by her loving husband
For all parishioners

Sunday, February 18th

First Sunday of Lent

Thirty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: David Hebert, 8th anniversary, req by family

10:30AM: Frank Caron

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
from February 10th to 16th
in memory of
Skip Watkins.



Lenten Preview



Lent is an invitation to connect deeply with Jesus Christ and all He's done for us.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Mass with distribution of Ashes at 8:30am and 7:00pm

Children's Prayer Service with the distribution of
Ashes at 4:30pm; all ages welcome

Evening Mass on Thursdays starting on February 15
at 6:30pm; evening prayer begins at 6:10pm

Confession available on Thursdays starting on
February 15 from 5:30-6:00pm

Stations of the Cross on Fridays beginning on
February 16 at 6:30pm; soup served starting at 5:30pm

Lenten Retreat *Opening our Hearts Wide to God* led by
Fr. John Fortin, OSV, offered March 11 through 13
after morning Mass and repeated at 6:30pm

Formed.org for reflections and inspiration for all ages

Best Lent Ever sign up at DynamicCatholic.com

Hallow app for daily reflections and more

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations



If Merrimack schools are canceled or
delayed due to weather then daily Mass will
be canceled.

Weekend Masses will follow the normal
schedule, but please use caution when
deciding about travel in bad weather.

Readings for the Week: February 11, 2024

Monday Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 and
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 and
Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17
2 Cor 5:20-6:2 and Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Lk 9:22-25
Friday Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 and
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. 1 Pt 3:18-22
and Mk 1:12-15



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session Wednesday, February 21 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church
- Children's Ash Wednesday Prayer Service:** Wednesday, February 14 at 4:30, church
- Youth Ministry:** Sunday, March 10 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Confirmation & First Communion:** Parent & child session Saturday, March 9 at 9:30am, church hall

Getting Started this Lent



Let go of a bad habit.

What would you list as a bad habit? Pick a bad habit and try a day at a time, to let it go. Jesus came to free the prisoners. If you feel like a prisoner to a bad habit, take advantage of Lent to loosen its grip on you.

Strengthen a good habit.

Take a minute to write down three skills that you're good at: keeping a sense of humor, staying calm when everyone else is flying off the handle, taking care of the daily details, seeing the big picture, to name some examples. Pick one and think of how you can put this strength to good use on a daily basis. Healthy living is contagious. Exercising your strengths can also benefit those you live and spend time with.

Ask God to lead you.

Every morning, first thing, ask God to help you be a better person. Even when you're worried about a difficult situation, try to think ahead to that situation and picture God already there. This helps to weaken fear while allowing room for love to grow.

A small change over time can add up to big life changes in the long run. Lent provides for that opportunity. Practice Lent right where you are. It's where God is waiting for you.



Thank you!

Thank you to all involved in our February 1 Red Cross blood drive! Our volunteers worked tirelessly to make it happen. The donors came out to provide more units than expected. We collected 44 units during this drive. With supplies low, this is greatly appreciated!

Miraculous Healings of Jesus

Mark 1:40-45

Mark's Gospel today begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy, a disfiguring, infectious skin disease. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified as a bacterial infection. Modern studies have shown transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available and patients no longer need to isolate once treatment has begun.

In Jesus's time, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests. If leprosy was identified the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation. If the sores healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite for the person to return to the community.

In this Gospel, the man with leprosy approached Jesus and asked for healing. He violated religious customs by approaching a clean person. His request to Jesus could be seen as courageous and daring. His words can also be read as challenging Jesus; asking how far Jesus would go to heal someone. Jesus touched the man, violating social norms. This is a sign of the depth of Jesus's compassion and also a statement about Jesus's interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the man, He did not break completely with the Law of Moses. Jesus instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to go to the priests as prescribed by the Law. Jesus's second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel reports that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus's breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made Himself unclean. Mark's narrative though, leads to the conclusion that Jesus's movement was hampered by His popularity. Despite His instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus's healing power. (Though it's hard to blame the man for this!) People then sought Jesus out in search of His healing.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Meatball Subs: Saturday, February 10 **and** Sunday February 11 after the Masses, church hall

RCIA: Sunday, February 11 at 11:30am, parish office

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, February 12 from 4:00 to 5:30pm, church

K of C Prayer Ministry: Monday, February 12 from 6:30-7:00pm, all welcome, church

Ash Wednesday: Lent begins Wednesday, Feb. 14

Foot Clinic: Thursday, Feb. 15 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, February 15 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Confession, Evening Prayer & Mass: Thursday, February 15; confession at 5:30pm, evening prayer at 6:10pm and Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross: Friday, February 16 at 6:30pm; prior to Stations, soup served starting at 5:30pm

K of C Breakfast: Sunday, February 18 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

How to Join Hallow

Sign up to use the Hallow prayer app 3 ways:

- download the app to your smartphone;
- go to Hallow.com on your computer;
- use your smartphone with the QR code on the Hallow cards at the church entrances.

To use the QR code, hold your smartphone camera over the code as if to take a picture. Don't take a picture, but click on the link that appears and it will take you to the Hallow sign up. With all methods, sign up for 3 months free. No payment info is required.

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections Jan 22 - 28, 2024

Budget: \$9,231
Actual: \$7,097
Variance: (\$2,134)

Weekly Collections Jan 29 - Feb 4, 2024

Budget: \$9,321
Actual: \$12,846
Variance: (\$3,615)
January online: \$18,263

Thank you for your generosity!

Book Review:

The Cries of Jesus From the Cross

by Archbishop Fulton Sheen Sophia Institute Press

This book comprises an anthology of the writings of Bishop Sheen from 1933 through 1945. DO NOT be put off by the dates of the texts in the book. Not only will this probably be the best book you read this year, but you will keep it as a reference for many years to come. It is not a short book and may be best utilized as a daily "devotional" reader.

The book description says, "As death approaches, the human heart speaks its greatest words of love to those it holds most dear. So it is with Jesus, who in His final hours gave us seven last 'words,' rich in spiritual meaning for every human soul. Sheen shows how the seven words are, in fact, a full catechism of the spiritual life."

With Archbishop Sheen as your guide you'll learn:

- Why, during His Passion, Jesus never proclaimed His innocence.
- Why Jesus appealed to His father to forgive the crowd, but did not Himself forgive directly.
- Why darkness covered the earth after Jesus spoke His fourth word.
- How envy becomes the denial of all justice and love.
- How the conversion of the good thief is the key to the conversion of our modern world.

Sheen discusses Jesus' cry, "I thirst" and writes: Human worth can be judged by human desires. Tell me your hungers and your thirsts, and I will tell you what you are. Do you hunger for money more than mercy, for riches more than for virtue, and for power more than service? Then you are selfish, pampered, and proud. Do you thirst for the wine of everlasting life more than for pleasure, and for the poor more than for the favor of the rich, and for souls more than for the first place at the table? Then you are a humble Christian.

120 Club

Week 17

Jackie Bessette
Theresa Maki

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

St. Patrick's Party SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendar for **March 16** for the St. Patrick's Party following the 4:30pm Mass, sponsored by our Knights. Includes Irish dancers, music, and food!

St. Patrick's Day Party



PRAY EVERY DAY THIS

LENT

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FR. JOSH JOHNSON Author and Podcast Host

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EMILY WILSON Author and Motivational Speaker

Hallow

HE LEADETH ME

LENT

Dive deeper into prayer
this Lent with **Hallow**

*"I have prayed for a guide during Lent
and I have found it! Thank you Hallow!"*



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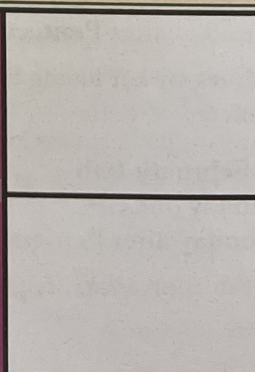
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