



*This is my beloved Son.  
Listen to Him.*

MARK 9:7

©IPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish February 25, 2024



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road  
Merrimack, NH 03054  
603-424-3757  
[www.olmnh.org](http://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](mailto:FrPaul@olmnh.org)

John Castelot, Deacon  
[DeaconJohn@olmnh.org](mailto:DeaconJohn@olmnh.org)

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Christian Copeley, Director of Music  
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Mary-Elizabeth Hauver, Youth Minister  
[MHauver@olmnh.org](mailto:MHauver@olmnh.org)

Katie Corsetti, Director of Faith Formation  
[KCorsetti@olmnh.org](mailto:KCorsetti@olmnh.org)

Linda Durbin, Admin Assistant  
[LDurbin@olmnh.org](mailto:LDurbin@olmnh.org)

Karen Correia, Admin Assistant  
[KCorreia@olmnh.org](mailto: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](http://olmnh.org)

The 4:30pm vigil Mass is live streamed. View by going to the website at [www.olmnh.org](http://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 24th**  
**Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent**

**4:30PM:** Susan Burdett

**Sunday, February 25th**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**8:30AM:** Gobnait O'Leary req by the Fleming family  
For all parishioners

**10:30AM:** JoAnn Connolly and Shaun Lindmark  
requested by Kim Bowse

**Monday, February 26th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Donna LaValley

**Tuesday, February 27th**  
**Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** William O'Connell

**Wednesday, February 28th**

**8:10AM: Morning Prayer**

**8:30AM:** Carol Plumley req by Barbara Lantiegne

**Thursday, February 29th**

**5:30PM:** Confession

**6:10PM:** Evening Prayer

**6:30PM:** Dennis Smith, 1st anniversary, requested by  
his wife Carol

**Friday, March 1st**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Gary Rich

**Adoration**

**6:30PM:** Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 2nd**  
**Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent**

**4:30PM:** Elizabeth Vegliante requested by the family

**Sunday, March 3rd**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

**8:30AM:** Paul Durkin req by the Durkin & Nagy family

**10:30AM:** Frank & Dureen Caron and Michael Perrault  
For all parishioners

**Adoration**

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns  
from February 24th to March 1st  
in memory of  
**David Hebert.**



**Please pray for our recently deceased**

**William O'Connell, February 13**

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and  
let perpetual light shine upon him.*

*May his soul and the souls of  
all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen.*

## 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 25, 2024

**Monday** Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 and  
Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday** Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23  
and Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday** Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 and  
Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday** Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 and  
Lk 16:19-31

**Friday** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-17,  
18-19, 20-21 and Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10,  
11-12 and Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Sunday** Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17 Ps 19:8,  
9, 10, 11 1 Cor 1:22-25 and Jn 2:13-25



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session Wednesday, March 20 at 4:30 OR 5:45, 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

Tips for Lenten Prayer

...Continued from last week's bulletin tips...

Reflect deeper on your liturgical prayer

When attending Mass during Lent, meditate on the words you pray in the liturgy. For example, the Eucharistic Prayer has special significance during Lent. After receiving communion, try reflecting deeply on this great prayer of the Church.

Join or start a prayer group

Being able to offer and experience a positive prayer example, support and encouragement, and inspiration are a few benefits of praying with others. Get started by inviting your spouse, a family member, or close friend to pray with you regularly throughout Lent.

Pray with children or as a family

Share your faith with children by letting them see and hear you pray and by praying together. Dinner time is a great opportunity for family prayer.

Practice daily prayer that will last after Lent

Use Lent as a time to instill prayer habits that will last long after Lent.

Enjoy your Lenten prayer. You don't have to do everything! Choose something to try to more fully experience the pilgrim journey toward Easter that is Lent.



confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey Him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus's baptism.

In His Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus's Resurrection. In each report of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man rises from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus's Transfiguration until they also witness His passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus's Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. We now anticipate Jesus's Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember the passion and death of Jesus during the sober season that is Lent.

The Transfiguration

*Mark 9:2-10*

On the second Sunday of Lent each year, the Gospel proclaims Jesus's Transfiguration. This is reported in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year in Cycle B, we hear Mark's report.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration account is similar to that in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospels. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus's prediction about His passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.

In each account, Jesus takes three disciples - Peter, James, and John - to a mountain. There, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. Matthew and Mark refer to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. Only Luke's Gospel includes that the conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from Yahweh. In appearing with Jesus at His Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the Jews. Elijah is one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. The appearance of these important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus's continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and witnessing His Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports the disciples are terrified by what they saw and that Peter's offer is made out of

## Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

**Coffee & Donuts:** Sunday, February 25 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

**RCIA:** Sunday, February 25 at 11:30, parish office

**Prayer Group with Guided Adoration:** Monday, February 26 from 4:00-5:30pm,

**Wednesday People:** Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30pm, downstairs in the parish office building

**Knitting Ministry:** Thursday, February 29 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

**Confession, Evening Prayer & Mass:** Thursday, February 29; confession at 5:30pm, evening prayer at 6:10pm and Mass at 6:30pm

**Adoration:** Friday, March 1 after 8:30 Mass, church

**Stations of the Cross & Soup:** Friday, March 1 at 6:30pm, church; prior to Stations, soup served starting at 5:30pm, church hall

**Rosary Cenacle:** Saturday, March 2 at 8:30am, church

**RCIA:** Saturday, March 2 at 5:30pm, parish office

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

**Adoration:** Sunday, March 3 after 10:30 Mass, church

## St. Patrick's Party

Our St. Patrick's Party will be held on **March 16** after the 4:30pm Mass. The *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* will be featured and there will be a variety of Irish songs and instrumentals performed. Tickets will be on sale after the weekend Masses starting March 2 & 3.

Ticket prices: \$10 for ages 16 through adults; \$5 for ages 10-15; no charge for age 9 and under. A light meal with dessert and beverages provided. Sponsored by our Knights.



### 120 Club

Week 19

Lorraine Audet

Richard Vachon

**Congratulations and thank you for your support!**

## Lenten Nails: A Reminder

You are invited to carry a nail with you this Lent as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for our salvation. Find nails are at all church entrances.

## Eucharistic Adoration Next Weekend

- Friday, March 1 after the 8:30am Mass
- Sunday, March 3 after the 10:30am Mass

Lent is the perfect opportunity to spend some quiet, personal prayer in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



## Lenten Almsgiving 2024

Our parish Lenten Almsgiving is an offering made during Lent to support local need. This year our Lenten Almsgiving collection will support Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, a community based, Veteran focused, non-profit based in Haverhill, MA. The center provides a continuum of care to Veterans and their families in Essex, Middlesex and Barnstable Counties in Massachusetts and Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties in New Hampshire. Your upcoming Lenten almsgiving generosity is much appreciated!!

## NH Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

invites all women of the Diocese to join us!

### Lenten Morning of Prayer and Fellowship

At St. Joseph Cathedral

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Schedule:

- 8AM Mass
- 9AM Continental Breakfast
- 10AM History & Tour of the Cathedral with Fr. Jason, Rector of the Cathedral and Diocesan Director of Worship

Free will offerings will be accepted to support the NHDCCW charitable mission. Please register by March 15 online at [www.form.jotform.com/RCBM/lenten-prayer](http://www.form.jotform.com/RCBM/lenten-prayer) OR call Marie Becklo at 603-663-0108.

## Lenten Retreat

**Mark your calendar for our upcoming retreat on March 11, 12, & 13!**



Fr. John Fortin, OSV from St. Anselm College will be with us for all weekend Masses on March 9 and 10. The retreat, *Opening our Hearts Wide to God*, will be led by Fr. Fortin starting on Monday, March 11. It will run twice per day: once after the 8:30 morning Mass and that session will be repeated in the evening at 6:30pm each day, March 11-13. Please plan to join us!



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