

THREE DAYS.

I WILL RAISE IT UP.



©JPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish March 3, 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, March 2nd

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

Fortieth Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Elizabeth Vegliante requested by the family

Sunday, March 3rd

Third Sunday of Lent

Fortieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30AM: Frank & Dureen Caron and Michael Perrault

For all parishioners

Adoration

Monday, March 4th

Saint Casimir

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Mary Kidd

Tuesday, March 5th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Grace Sheltc requested by Mary DeCourcy

Wednesday, March 6th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Mary Theresa & Thomas Spellissy

Thursday, March 7th

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Carmelle Murch requested by her husband

Friday, March 8th

Saint John of God, Religious

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Robert Tedeschi

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9th

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Forty-First Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Gail Bergin requested by Bob Bergin

For all parishioners

Sunday, March 10th

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Forty-First Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: Philip Russell Dwyer requested by the family

10:30AM: Howard Franklin req by his wife, Christine

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
from March 2nd to 8th
in memory of
Denise Buccio.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Martha Lang, February 22

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

May her soul and the souls of
all the faithful departed,

through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

Lenten Penance Service

Repentance is an important part of our journey through Lent. All are invited to a deanery Penance Service at:

Immaculate Conception Parish
216 E. Dunstable Road in Nashua
Sunday, March 10 at 2:00pm.

There will be an opportunity for individual confession.

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: March 3, 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

The Scrutinies

The Scrutinies are a series of rites for the elect: adults who wish to be baptized into the Catholic Church. The Scrutinies are celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. This period of time for the elect is considered a time of purification and enlightenment. The prayers of exorcism are intended to help purify the elect from sin and sinful desires. The overall prayers and laying on of hands are to help the elect wholeheartedly receive by the Word and grace of God.

The basic structure for the Scrutinies takes place following the homily:

- The elect (with sponsors) are invited forward
- Invitation for parishioners to silently join in prayer for the elect
- Intercessions for the elect
- Prayer of exorcism
- Laying on of hands
- Prayer over the elect
- Dismissal of the elect



For our elect, the First Scrutiny is this weekend at the vigil Mass on March 2 at 4:30. The Second Scrutiny will be at the 8:30 Mass on March 10. The Third Scrutiny will be at the 10:30 Mass on March 17. Please continue to keep our elect in your prayers.



Eucharistic Adoration This Weekend

- 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.



Jesus: I will Raise the Temple in 3 Days

John 2:13-25

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus overturned the tables of merchants and moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In these days, worship at the Temple included animal sacrifice so merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins for temple coins needed to pay the temple tax.

This action by Jesus at the Temple is in all four Gospels and often understood to be among the events that led to His arrest and Crucifixion. John's Gospel however, places this much earlier in Jesus's ministry. John puts it after Jesus's miracle at the wedding feast at Cana at the beginning of Jesus's ministry.

The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and Jewish authorities. It was the last of the four Gospels written, and it reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christians. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, John recalls Jesus's cleansing of the Temple and uses that to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience - an early Christian community - that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections for this Christian community.

After clearing the Temple, John tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus's authority for Him to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted His death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of "signs" is distinctive. Jesus's miracles are called signs, and people look to them for proof of His authority.

Lent offers an opportunity for reflection. We might consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with Christ. In our worship, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives.

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

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

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

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, March 4 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

Wednesday People: Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30pm, downstairs in the parish office building

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

Confession, Evening Prayer & Mass: Thursday, March 7; confession at 5:30pm, evening prayer at 6:10pm and Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross & Soup: Friday, March 8 at 6:30pm, church; prior to Stations, soup served starting at 5:30pm, church hall

Confirmation & 1st Communion: Parent and Child session Saturday, March 9 at 9:30am, church hall

Parish Dinner: Saturday, March 9 after the 4:30 Mass to welcome retreat leader Fr. John Fortin; please sign up on clipboard located at each church entrance

RCIA: Sunday, March 10 at 9:30am, parish office

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, March 10 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

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

120 Club

Week 20

Warren Hayes \$250

Eileen Buckley \$100

Lorraine Bellemore \$50

Judith Durst \$50

Ann Cunningham \$25

Elaine Lavallee \$25

Denise Burns \$25

Clay & Kathy Rush \$25

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Important Online and Phone Security Notice

Some parishioners have received emails and texts from “Fr. Paul” asking for gift cards. The messages always instruct to do everything through the link in the email or text. These are fraudulent and NOT Fr. Paul! He would never ask for donations of any kind in this way.

To be clear, the Sunday Lenten “Note from Fr. Paul” is from Father through our parish messaging system. Please call the office if you have any questions or ever want to verify a message.

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!

Parish Dinner on March 9: Join us!

Join us for a parish dinner next Saturday, March 9 after the 4:30 Mass to help welcome Fr. John Fortin, our Lenten retreat leader. Roast pork will be served. Please sign up on one of the clipboards located at the church entrances to help determine attendance.

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.



Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections Feb 12 - 18, 2024

Budget: \$9,231

Actual: \$10,540

Variance: (\$1,309)

Weekly Collections Feb. 19-25

Budget: \$9,231

Actual: \$8,294

Variance: (\$937)

Thank you for your generosity!



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