



Our Lady of Mercy Parish March 10, 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 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

Monday, March 11th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Louis Bourgoin requested by Claire

Tuesday, March 12th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Alice Grady requested by a neighbor

Wednesday, March 13th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Barbara Mulhern requested by a friend

Thursday, March 14th

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: John Sadlier requested by his goddaughter

Friday, March 15th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Marguerite & Carmine Nicolo requested by
the family

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16th

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent
Forty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Marjorie Puccia requested by her family

Sunday, March 17th

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Forty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: Anthony Palladino requested by Kim Bowse
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Nicole Ayotte requested by the family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
from March 9th to 15th
in memory of
Lorraine Bourgeois.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Brian Gagne, February 29

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.

Lenten Retreat

Our retreat is this week: March 11, 12, & 13!



WELCOME Fr. John Fortin, OSV, from St. Anselm College! Fr. John will be with us this weekend for all Masses. He will lead our retreat, *Opening our Hearts Wide to God*, 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!

Readings for the Week: March 10, 2024

Monday Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b and Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 and Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 and Jn 5:17-30

Thursday Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 and Jn 5:31-47

Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 and Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 and Jn 7:40-53

Sunday Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Heb 5:7-9 and Jn 12:20-33



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:** rehearsal on Monday, May 13 at 6:00pm, church; the Celebration is Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00pm

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 was March 2 at the 4:30 Vigil Mass. The Second Scrutiny is this Sunday at the 8:30 Mass. The Third Scrutiny will be at the 10:30 Mass next weekend, March 17. Please keep all of the elect in your prayers.

Lenten Prayer Practice

Our world can be noisy. Our prayers can even feel “noisy” or perhaps unfulfilling. Sometimes they are hurried or unfocused or just a long list of petitions.



This Lent, remember Psalm 46:10. “Be still, and know that I am God!” Try quieting yourself and sitting in silence. Stop the flow of words. Create space to just BE with God.

The Way to Eternal Life

John 3:14-21

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word meaning “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that we will experience at Easter.

Today’s Gospel is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. First comes the final sentence of Jesus’s reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus and acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God. He seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between the two was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in his questions.

In their discussion Jesus referred to the Old Testament when the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert. God sent venomous serpents to punish them for so much complaining. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’s prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked at the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be achieved through His death and Resurrection.

The second part is a theological reflection on Jesus’s words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection. In these reflections, John elaborates on the themes in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

John’s Gospel is a reflection on human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world. Yet we often prefer darkness. We tend to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come to reveal our sins so they may be forgiven. This is the Good News. This is the reason for rejoicing in Lent and always.

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

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

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

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

Lenten Retreat: Monday, March 11 after 8:30am Mass and repeated at 6:30pm, church

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, March 11 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

Lenten Retreat: Tuesday, March 12 after 8:30am Mass and repeated at 6:30pm, church

Lenten Retreat: Wednesday, March 13 after 8:30am Mass and repeated at 6:30pm, church; light reception to follow this last session, hall

Foot Clinic: Thursday, March 14 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, March 14 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Confession, Evening Prayer & Mass: Thursday, March 14; confession at 5:30pm, evening prayer at 6:10pm and Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross & Soup: Friday, March 15 at 6:30pm, church; prior to Stations, soup served starting at 5:30pm, church hall

St. Patrick's Party: Saturday, March 16 after the 4:30pm Mass, church hall

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, March 17 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

RCIA: Sunday, March 17 at 11:30am, parish office

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.



St. Patrick's Party

Tickets are on sale after Masses this weekend for the St. Patrick's Party held on **Saturday, March 16** after the 4:30pm Mass. The *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* will be featured and there will be a of Irish songs and instrumentals performed. 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.



Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Libasci invites couples celebrating 5, 10, 25, 50, and 60+ years of marriage in 2024 to attend a Mass in celebration on **Sunday, May 5 at 2:00pm** at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester.

To register, please contact the OLM parish office by April 12, 2024. Once registration has been completed through the parish office, couples will receive a mailed invitation. To those celebrating the indicated anniversary years, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at the Cathedral this spring!

Parish Stewardship

February Online: \$17,946

Thank you for your generosity!

Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday

If you are interested in being one of the 12 whose feet is washed during the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday at 7:00pm, please contact the office.

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://form.jotform.com/RCBM/lenten-prayer) OR call Marie Becklo at 603-663-0108.



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