

Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and
dies, it remains just a grain
of wheat.

JOHN 12:24

Our Lady of Mercy Parish March 17, 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 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

Monday, March 18th

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop &
Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Ann Beaupre requested by her family

Tuesday, March 19th

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Edward DeCourcy requested by Mary

Wednesday, March 20th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Holly Simpson req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Thursday, March 21st

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Stephen Vollmer

Friday, March 22nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jacqueline McSweeney requested by a friend

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 23rd

Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Forty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Walter Ball requested by Caroline Sousa

Sunday, March 24th

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Forty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: John D'Arbonne req by Ron & Katie Corsetti

10:30AM: Winnie Knight requested by Ron Sloane
For all parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
from March 16th to 22nd
in memory of
Ann Beaupre.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Sean Fagan, March 8

John Vey, March 8

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

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

St. Patrick Prayer



Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen!

Readings for the Week: March 17, 2024

Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 and Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27
and 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 and Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or
Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56 and Jn 8:31-42

Thursday Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 and
Jn 8:51-59

Friday Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 and
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday Ez 37:21-28 Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 and
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Phil
2:6-11 Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 and Mk 14:1-15:47
or Mk 15:1-39



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 24 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 was Sunday, March 10 at the 8:30 Mass. The Third Scrutiny will be at the 10:30 Mass on March 17. Please keep all of the elect in your prayers.

Lenten Fasting Practice

We are tempted to think that we need many things in life sustain us. But it is God alone who sustains us. Through fasting, we learn to practice self-denial, to lead a life of moderation that deepens our compassion for people in need, and to develop a deeper hunger and thirst for God. And when fasting gets challenging, we are encouraged to turn to God in prayer for help.



A Voice from Heaven

John 12:20-33

Today's Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is preparation for the beginning of the Passion narrative. Jesus just raised Lazarus from the dead - an important sign in John's Gospel - which inspired many to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus's conflict with the Jewish authorities. John tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the twelfth chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus with this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted His suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared His disciples to believe in the salvation that His death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that His dying would be beneficial. He also taught that His disciples must follow His example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an example of service.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. The Gospel of John does not record Jesus's anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before His arrest, but this Gospel from John uses similar language. Jesus asks God to save Him from His impending death. Then Jesus Himself knows this is His purpose, and a voice from heaven speaks as if in answer to Jesus's prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus's baptism and at Jesus's Transfiguration (events not in John's Gospel) affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in Him.

Today we also hear Jesus speak about the framework for our understanding of His passion, death, and Resurrection. Through His death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and brought salvation to the world.

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

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

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

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, March 18 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

Grades 1-5 Parent/Child Session: Wednesday, March 20 at 4:30pm OR 5:45pm, church

Wednesday People: Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30pm, parish office building

Foot Clinic: Thursday, March 21 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, March 21 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

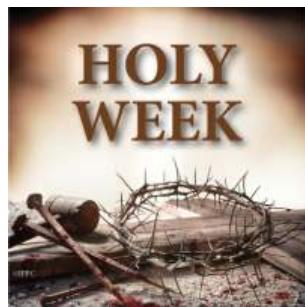
Confession, Evening Prayer & Mass: Thursday, March 21; confession at 5:30pm, evening prayer at 6:10pm and Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross & Soup: Friday, March 22 at 6:30pm, church; prior to Stations, soup served starting at 5:30pm, church hall

K of C Breakfast: Palm Sunday, March 24 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

Baptism Class: Palm Sunday, March 24 at 11:30am

Youth Ministry: Palm Sunday, March 24 at 6:15pm, hall



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday - March 24

Confession - Monday, March 25 from 11:00am-1:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm

Tenebrae - Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00pm

Holy Thursday - March 28 at 8:30am for morning prayer and 7:00pm for the Mass of the Last Supper

Good Friday - March 29 at 8:30am for morning prayer, 3:00pm for Stations of the Cross in the church, and 7:00pm for the Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday - March 30 at 8:30am for morning prayer and 7:30pm for the Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - March 31 Mass at 8:30am and 10:30am

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections Feb 26 - March 3, 2024

Budget: \$9,231

Actual: \$9,484

Variance: (\$253)

Weekly Collections March 4 - 10, 2024

Budget: \$9,321

Actual: \$12,405

Variance: (\$3,174)

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.

Loaves & Fishes Ministry

Our Loaves & Fishes Ministry is for those who need temporary help with meals such as after the death of a loved one, after a hospital stay, while recovering from an injury, or when bringing a newborn home to name a few examples. If you would like to help provide these meals please contact the office to be part of this ministry.

If you are in need of meal help, please contact the office and we'll get a meal sign up started.

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!

Stations of the Cross

Our Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 22 will be led by our youth. If you haven't been to Stations yet this Lent, this Friday will be a special opportunity to pray with the youth of our parish. Hope to see you at 6:30pm in the church. A simple Lenten meal will be served starting at 5:30pm in the church hall. All are welcome!



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