

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 27th, 2022



Saturday March 26, Vigil Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00pm Alice Brousseau Req. Family

Sunday March 27, Fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday*

8:30am For the Intentions of All Parishioners of the Parish

10:30am 1st. Reconciliation Mass & Service, Theresa Dumond Req. Brenda

Monday March 28, *Lenten Weekday*

8:00am Zdzislaw Kajzer Req. Maria

5 – 6pm Confession

Tuesday March 29, *Lenten Weekday*

8:00am Blanche & Steven Winiarski Req. Daughter

Wednesday March 30, *Lenten Weekday*

No Mass

Thursday March 31, *Lenten Weekday*

8:00am Carol Ann LaRose Req. Family

Friday April 1, *Lenten Weekday*

8:00am For the Intentions of Drzol & Kolakowski Families & All My Friends Req. Ana

8:30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30p Stations of the Cross

Saturday April 2, *St. Francis of Paola, Hermit*

8:00am Rosalie Sastre 1st Anniv.

Lucille Dumas 1st. Anniv.

Saturday April 2, *Vigil Fifth Sunday of Lent*

4:00pm Helen Hybner Req. Daughter

Sunday April 3, *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

8:30am For the Intentions of All Parishioners of the Parish

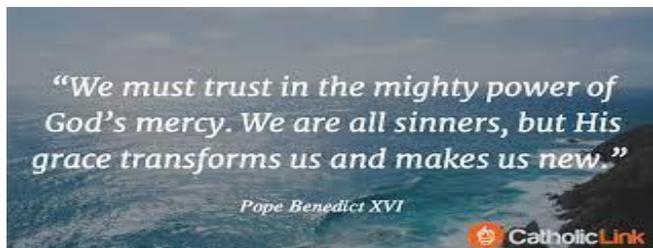
10:30am Elinor Silverio Req. Joe & Jo-Ann



WEEKLY OFFERTORY

\$6,133 Weekly Donation for
March 20

Please use the Donation Boxes at the Entrances of the Church. Thank You for Your Continuous, Generous Support & May God Bless You!



A Thought for the Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year C

Our Gospel reading today is from Luke 15: 1-3, 11- 32. In this passage we read the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable is also known as the Parable of the Forgiving Father.



The story line of this parable is well known. In it we read about a father with two sons with the younger of them asking for his inheritance. Upon receiving it, he squanders it. Eventually, he comes to his senses and returns home and is reconciled with his father.

The Gospel reading today ends with the older brother remaining outside the family residence, mulling over his father's pleading with him to join the feast that celebrates the return of his younger brother. The reading ends leaving the reader wondering what the older brother will do. Will he swallow his pride and go in? Or will he wallow in his resentment and refuse his father's wish for reconciliation?

What would you do?

God Bless, Fr. Ray

Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy!



If you are new to our parish and wish to become a member of OLM, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor, Fr. Raymond Smialowski, and to register. Registration can be completed by stopping by the Parish Office, completing a short registration form which can be found on our home page at www.olmct.org under the heading "New to Our Parish?", or calling the Parish Office at 860.747.6825 and we can fill it out with you over the phone. Please return the hard copy to the office by dropping it off at the Parish Office, the collection box, or mailing it to 19 S. Canal St., Plainville.

The Tabernacle Lamp...
is lighted for the Greater Glory of God and in recognition of the Real Presence of Christ. This week the candle is flickering **in Memory of Robert W. Anderson.**



Evening Scripture Study

We are pleased to announce that an evening Scripture Study Group will begin meeting this **Monday, March 28 @ 6:30pm** in the Parish Center.

also...

The Tuesday Morning Group continues to meet every **Tuesday in the Parish Center @ 9am**. Everyone is welcome and invited to participate. If you have questions, please contact Sophia at 860.583.7674 or Fr. Ray at the Parish Center at 860.747.6825.

Saturday March 26

7p AA, *Gym*

Sunday March 27

8a – Noon Lion's Club

Breakfast, *Parish Center*

10:30a AA, *Room 106*

5:30 – 7:30p CHOSEN, *Parish Center*

Monday March 28

9:30a Legion of Mary, *Room 102*

6 – 7:30p EDGE, *Parish Center*

6:30pm Scripture Study, *Room 102*

6:30 – 9p Knights of Columbus, *Room 101*

Tuesday March 29

9a Scripture Study, *Library*

4:30 – 7p Atrium, *Parish Center*

5 – 6p Scouts, *Library*

Wednesday March 30

1 – 2:30p Atrium, *Parish Center*

Thursday March 31

4:30 – 7p Atrium, *Parish Center*

6:30p Prayer & Worship Committee, *Room 102*

Saturday April 2

4p Fair-Trade Sale, *Gathering Space Before & After Mass*

7p AA, *Gym*

Sunday April 3

8a – Noon Fair-Trade Sale, *Gathering Space*

10:30a AA, *Room 106*

Confirmation...

Next Session is **THIS** Sunday, *March 27, 2022, 5:30 – 7:30pm, Parish Center*. Look for opportunities to be in service in your Faith! Come to Teen Mass: *April 10 – Palm Sunday (10:30 AM Mass)* Check out olmseek.org and email olmteens@gmail.com for questions or information!

EDGE

Next session is **THIS** Monday, *March 28, 6 – 7:30pm, Parish*

Center. See you there!!! olmteens@gmail.com. Check out www.olmseek.org Grades 6-8 page!

TEEN MASS

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THIS GROUP OR GET INVOLVED IN THE TEEN FOCUSED MASS EMAIL OLMTEENS@GMAIL.COM! GREETERS, READERS, LECTORS, ALTAR SERVERS, MUSICIANS... COME PRAY AND WORSHIP TOGETHER! NEXT TEEN FOCUSED MASS IS SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH AT 10:30AM!

TEEN Night

Next Teen Night is *April 9, 2022*

from 6-8pm in the Gym for

Dinner, ISSUE NIGHT! daily

issues...where is my faith in this? and open gym!

olmteens@gmail.com Check out olmseek.org on the teens page!



VBS Planning

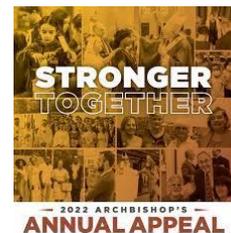
Looking for a few more adults and students to help volunteer and organize the Vacation Bible School for grades 1-5 students for the week of July 11 – 15.

Thank you to those who have responded so far! All who are interested please Contact: Michelle at Ourladyofmercyreled@gmail.com

Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2022

It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds received are being used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports the ministries and programs indicated in the 2022 Appeal literature! Organizations such as the Plainville Food Pantry, right here in our own town,

received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in the lives of our local neighbors. Please visit the Appeal website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org to learn more and make your gift today. All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at



<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>.

No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



Stations of the Cross

This Friday at 6:30pm. All are invited to remember our Lord's Passion.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" (USCCA). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. They are: **Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Clothe the Naked, Shelter the Homeless, Visit the Sick, Visit the Imprisoned, and Bury the Dead.** We will be giving suggestions of how to incorporate the Corporal Works of Mercy each week during Lent. This week is **Shelter the Homeless.** We invite you to donate brand new blankets (no comforters) next weekend. There will be a bin placed in the Gathering Space.



These blankets will be offered to different shelters in the area. Or you can send a check to the:

Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.,
P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT, 06510-1966 and in the memo line write "Ukraine Solidarity Fund". To make your donation by credit card, please go to the home page of www.archdioceseofhartford.org. Your donation will provide much needed supplies to those fleeing the Ukraine and the Knights of New Haven will match your donation dollar for dollar!



Driven By A Dream

Malnutrition is widespread in Rwanda, but Gloriose and her husband are doing everything they

can to keep their children healthy and set them up for success. From learning to grow a kitchen garden to participating in a micro-savings group, Gloriose and Karedezi know it takes many resources to help their children thrive. How have you helped others access what they need this Lent? Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Lenten Food Drive

We are continuing to collect during Lent non-perishable food items, cleaning products, and toiletries every weekend. All items donated will be distributed to those in need through the Plainville Food Pantry.



Monday Evening Confessions

During Lent, Confessions will be heard on Mondays now through April 11, from 5 – 6pm in the church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be offered at its regular time on Saturdays at 12 Noon.



Catholic Relief Services National Collection

YOUR DONATIONS HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS . . . IN THE UNITED STATES

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariate of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

AND AROUND THE WORLD

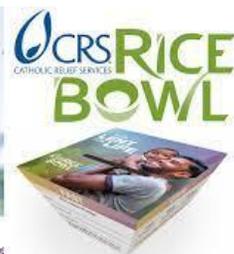
Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Syria and Nigeria . . . through the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

St. Joseph Cemetery Clean Up

All winter decorations will be cleaned up **THIS WEEK.** If you wish to keep any of these items, please retrieve them from the cemetery this week.

Lenten Mite Boxes

Please plan to return your Lenten Mite Box on Palm Sunday, April 10. All enclosed donations will assist the work of the Catholic Relief Services, which includes partnering with Caritas



International to help the millions of Ukrainian refugees and those homeless and ravaged as a result of the war in Ukraine. If you do not have a Lenten Mite Box or Rice Bowl, they are available at the church entrances.



Fair-Trade Sale

There will be a Fair-Trade sale after all the Masses next weekend, April 2-3. There will be some new products as well as the wonderful coffee, chocolate and olive oil. This is a great time to shop for gifts for Easter, Mother's Day, or any other upcoming gift giving occasion!

Opening Hymn

We have arrived as individuals, and indeed up to this point we have prayed as individuals. All of our thoughts and prayers have been between God and us. But the Mass is a communal prayer, so to help us join with the others who are gathered as the Body of Christ in the Church, we now sing together.

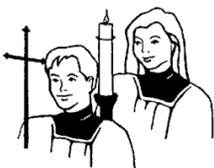
Truly worshiping God requires the death of our ego. Jesus said that no one could be His disciple unless they took up their cross and denied their very self and followed Him. Unfortunately, many of us fail to deny ourselves at this crucial moment of the Mass, refusing to join in the singing of the opening hymn.



We may have our reasons: We can't carry a note or we don't like the song. There is no greater obstacle to an experience of God than our refusal to die to ourselves. The goal of the opening hymn is to bring the Body of Christ together. We give evidence of our love for God by raising our voices in song at the beginning of the Mass.

The Procession

While the opening hymn is being sung, those with an official ministry to perform enter the church in a solemn procession. The cross bearer holding aloft the sign of our salvation, with two altar servers holding candles on either side. A lector may carry the Book of the Gospels. Last is the presider of the liturgy, a priest or bishop. The procession allows the presider of the liturgy and the other ministers to enter the church in an orderly way.



Once they arrive at the sanctuary of the church, together they will make a solemn bow toward the altar. The priest

will go to the altar and venerate it by kissing it. Remember, the altar is a symbol of Christ within the church building.

While all of this is going on, the opening hymn continues. Do not be distracted by this, but rather realize that all of this is helping you to let go of yourself and to be open to God.

The Sign of the Cross and the Greeting

The priest and with him the entire congregation make the sign of the cross. It reminds us of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and how He died for us on the wood of the cross.

It is a sign of God's love for us, that while we were sinners, He sent His Son to save us from our sin. We remind ourselves that Jesus by His cross has overcome the powers of sin and death.

We are no longer alone as when we entered the church, but with others who believe in and trust God in the same way we do. Every part of the Mass is a reminder that we are not alone...God is with us, and so are our fellow believers.

Next, in the words of St. Paul the Apostle, the priest greets us. Our reply is "and with your spirit," meaning we wish the celebrant will feel this "grace" and "peace" to the core of his being.

Why should a greeting of "Peace" be the way in which the Mass begins? Again, think about your state of mind. What are you thinking about? The apostles were locked in a room for fear of the authorities who had crucified Jesus. Often we can be locked in our own little room with a thousand dreads. Some will fear their sins, personal situations at the time, upcoming events, or will be preoccupied with the past. Listen to the greeting of peace and accept it into the deepest core of your being. *Taken from: [The How-To-Book of the Mass](#)*



Just Adore

Do you ever run out of things to say during your prayer time? Or worse, do you ever get weary of saying the same things over and over? Why not just



sit in silent adoration of the one who loves you more than you can imagine? What words can be better or more appropriate than that?