

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

March 19, 2023

94 BROAD STREET - PLAINVILLE, CT 06062-2799

A Roman Catholic Community of Faith & Good Works

The Celebration of the HOLY EUCHARIST

Sunday Vigil (Saturday): 4:00 p.m. – Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m. (No morning Mass on Wednesdays)

The Sacrament of RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Saturday: 12 Noon or by appointment

During Lent: Fridays at 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Reverend Raymond Smialowski, *Pastor*

Sandra DeBlois, *Bookkeeper*

Phyllis Roche, *Administrative Assistant,*

Parish Office & St. Joseph's Cemetery

Eric Hoffman, *Organist and Music Director*

Michelle Batista, *Faith Ministry for Young Children*

Karen Roche, *Middle School "Edge" Coordinator*

Daniel Kulas, *Maintenance*

Eva Schilling, *Custodian*

Parish and Cemetery Office: 19 South Canal Street

Telephone: 860-747-6825; Fax: 860-747-5407

NEW Hours: Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., *afternoon by appointments only*

Parish email: olmct@sbcglobal.net Parish website: www.olmct.org

Faith Formation website: www.OLMseek.org

Facebook®: OurLadyOfMercyChurchCT

*Born as a Mission of Bristol in 1864 and
Established as a Parish in 1881*

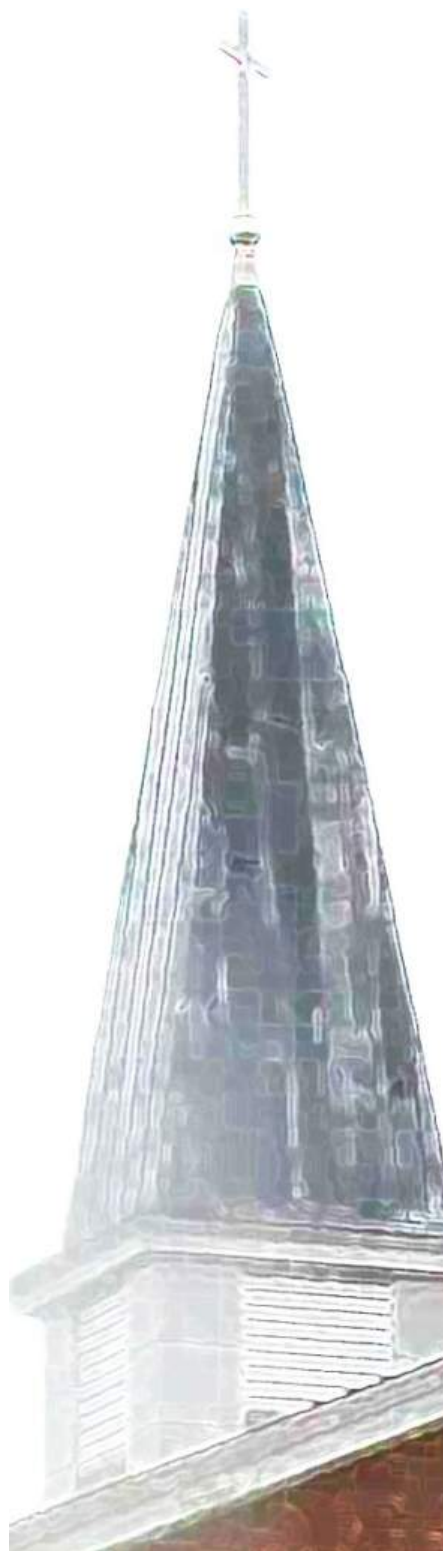
WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH!

If you are new to the area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in our celebration of the Eucharist. We invite you to become part of our parish family. To register or to update your address or phone number, please complete this form and mail it to the Parish Office or place in the collection box. *Thank you.*

☐ New Parishioner ☐ Address/Phone Number Change
Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone#: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

“Do whatever He tells you.”

– Mary to the disciples of Jesus (John 2:5)



Mass Schedule for This Week

Saturday, March 18th, *Lenten Weekday, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

8:00 a.m. Margaret Burgio, 1st Anniversary;
Maria Cutler, 1st Anniversary;
Thomas St. Onge, Month's Mind;
Jacqueline Watrous, Month's Mind

Noon Confession

Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. The Kelly Family req. Vincent Family

Sunday, March 19th, *Fourth Sunday of Lent*,

8:30 a.m. For the Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30 a.m. Ray Tyminski req. wife Sandy

Monday, March 20th, *Lenten Weekday,*

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. The Bemavage Family

Tuesday, March 21st, *Lenten Weekday,*

8:00 a.m. Frances Andros req. A Friend

Wednesday, March 22nd, *Lenten Weekday*
No Mass

Thursday, March 23rd, *Lenten Weekday,*

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Agnes Perrault

Friday, March 24th, *Lenten Weekday,*

8:00 a.m. Donald Wallace req. Wife

8:30 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 25th, *Lenten Weekday,*

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Priscilla Dombroski, 1st Anniversary;
Emilia Bucci, 1st Anniversary;
Salvatore Cristofaro, Month's Mind;
John Conti, Month's Mind

Noon Confession

Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. The Frank Stawski, 50th Ann. req. Family

Sunday, March 26th, *Fifth Sunday of Lent*,

8:30 a.m. For the Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30 a.m. Alice Brousseau req. Family

A Thought for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Our gospel passage today from John 9:1-41 is about a man who was healed of blindness and who also eagerly told others what happened to him. Two things happen for the man: firstly, he is healed of physical blindness and secondly, he becomes a follower, a believer and as such he receives the gift of faith.

It might seem strange that the man who was transformed in today's gospel didn't really say anything until after he was healed. He doesn't ask Jesus for a cure nor did he tell his story of being relegated to begging in a world he had never seen. He was just there. No doubt he was the object of other people's judgement. When they saw him, they no doubt asked: *Whose sin caused his blindness?* Or, *Whose fault was it?* Or, *Who should we blame?* Isn't that what we do so often when we see the plight of others?

Jesus' response to such questions was: *It's no one's fault. No one is to blame.* It is an opportunity for God's works to show forth. It is an opportunity to love.

As our Lenten journey continues, let us pray for the grace to respond to the needs of others with love and to see them as opportunities to love and to extend God's love.

Good Bless,
Father Ray



The Tabernacle Lamp:

is lite for the Greater Glory of God and in recognition of the Real Presence of Christ. This week the candle is flickering Special Intentions for:



Jennia Faiazza



Weekly Offertory

March 12, 2023

\$7,050.74

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

Our Lady of Mercy Church:

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 by clicking the button **New Here?** at www.olmct.org then click **Welcome!** Or call 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 in the Church, or by mailing it to 19 South Canal Street, Plainville

Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2023:

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2023 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

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.*

Cemetery Palm Crosses:

Cemetery Palm Crosses are on sale at **Saint Lucian's** on 532 Burritt St., New Britain. Prices range from **\$6.00** and up. The sale will take place on **March 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th**, and **April 1st** from **8 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Call Gail at 860-667-3367 with any questions.

Coffee and Donuts:

Coffee and Donuts will be served this **Sunday** following the **8:30 a.m. Mass** in the Gathering Space. Please plan to spend a few minutes after Mass over some delicious coffee and the good company of Fellow Church Members.



Easter Flowers:

There is no designated collection to help with the cost of Easter flowers. Please use the Easter Flower envelope to make a donation and place it in the Donation Box at the church entrance or in the offertory basket when it is passed at Mass on any weekend before Easter. If you are not using offertory envelopes, an offering for Easter flowers can be placed in a plain envelope. If you would like to make an offering of Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please indicate their names on the envelope. A listing in whose **Memory Easter Flowers** have been given will be printed for the Second Sunday of Easter on April 16th.



Human Concerns & Social Justice Committee:

The Committee on Human Concerns and Social Justice will meet on **Monday, March 20th** at **7 p.m.** at the Parish Center. The meeting will begin with a presentation by the Director of the Blessed Michael McGivney Center for Renewal. The Center works to support individuals on a journey out of poverty, teaching needed life skills. All parishioners are welcome to attend the presentation, and are also welcome to stay for the meeting if they wish.

Lenten Rice Bowls:

Please plan to return your Rice Bowls on **Palm Sunday, April 2nd** with and enclosed donation for the Catholic Relief Services.



Lenten Scripture Retreat:

Lenten Scripture Retreat, entitled "Unlocking the Power of Praying the Psalms" will be held on **Sat., March 25th** from **8:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.** The retreat is being sponsored by the Hartford Catholic Biblical School. For more information, call 860-242-5573.

Palm Cross Making Workshop:



You are invited to learn how to make palm crosses on **Thursday evening, March 30th** in the Parish Center. A sign-up sheet for those interested is located on the oak table in the Church Gathering Space.

Pastoral Council Meeting:

The Pastoral Council will meet this **Thursday, March 23rd** at **7 p.m.** in Room 102 in the Parish Center. Parishioners are invited.

Plainville Food Pantry Donations:

We are collecting every weekend during Lent non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, etc. to be donated to the Plainville Food Pantry. Please keep this in mind when you come to Mass next Sunday.



Pastoral Visits:

If you would like a visit or know of someone who is homebound and would like a visit by members of The Legion of Mary or by our Pastor, Fr. Raymond Smialowski, please call the Parish Center at 860-747-6825. During this Lenten Season, Fr. Ray will be happy to visit to hear confessions and bring Holy Communion.

Pro-Life Mass:

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will celebrate a CT March for Life Mass on

Wednesday, March 22nd

prior to the March for Life at

9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral at

140 Farmington Ave., Hartford. A shuttle bus will be available to bring people from the Mass to the Capital Building and for a return trip to the Cathedral at the end of the March.

**Support Local Police & Fire Depts:**

The First Annual Police versus Fire Cook Off will be held on **Sun., March 19th** from **2 p.m.-4 p.m.** at the VFW Hall, 7 Northwest Dr., Plainville. Tickets can be purchased at the Plainville Fire or Police Departments. Event will include music, raffles, prizes and it is a BYOB. All proceeds benefit the Plainville Food Pantry. **Donation: \$20**

Religious Education

Religious Education:

Instructions for children in grades 1-5 will be held on **Monday, March 20th** at **4:30 p.m.**

The Edge:

The next Edge session for Middle School Students will be held on **Monday, March 27th** beginning at **6:15 p.m.** with an open gym followed by a guided discussion. All middle school students are invited to attend.

All Confirmation Preparation Classes:

All Confirmation Preparation Groups for Year 1 & 2 will meet on **Sunday, March 26th** at **11:45 a.m.** at the Parish Center in the St. Timothy's Room.

Teen Night:

The next Teen Night is scheduled for Saturday evening, **April 1st** beginning at **6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.** in the gym. All teens are welcome to attend. Mark your calendar for **May 6th** Teen Night with the same timeframe and place.



Thank You to Everyone!

Stewardship Fairs: Thank you to **Everyone** who stopped by and visited the information tables during our Parish's Stewardship Fairs over the past three weekends. We are very grateful to the Pastoral Council for organizing the Stewardship Fairs and to the various Parish Organizations, Committees, and Ministries for preparing very interesting displays.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner: Thank you to **Everyone** who supported it last Saturday. It was a wonderful evening with good food, entertainment, singing and fellowship.

A special thank you to the chairpersons, Don and Sue Melanson, the many Knights of Columbus who helped as well as parishioners who shared their time and talents. We look forward to next year's St. Patrick's Day Dinner!

Sunday's Breakfast: Thank you to **Everyone** who supported it. We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for preparing a delicious breakfast as well as to other volunteers who helped out. The next breakfast will be on **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**. Plan ahead to be there.

Thank You Letter:

We received a Thank You Letter from the Rev. Michael Whyte, Vicar for the Catholic Education and Formation for the Archdiocese of Hartford extending gratitude for our Parish's contribution of **\$2,140.00** to the High School collection. Specifically, the letter stated, "*We thank you and your Parish for working together to fulfill our universal mission to inspire educational excellence and transform lifelong faith formation*".



Prayers for the Deceased

Please remember the deceased of our Parish in your prayers:

Margaret Burgio, 1st Anniversary;
Maria Cutler, 1st Anniversary;
Thomas St. Onge, Month's Mind;
Jacqueline Watrous, Month's Mind



"Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O' Lord"

Pysanky: The Art of Eggs:

Father Paul Luniw, Ukrainian Catholic priest and egg artist extraordinaire, will present a free demonstration of the Ukrainian tradition of colorfully decorating Easter eggs known as pysanky. The practice evolved from pre-Christian times, and many patterns and symbols have remained for millennia. The presentation is free and open to the public, **Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m.** Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, 1 State St., New Haven, CT 06511. Info at: michaelmcgivneycenter.org

Soup Sale to

Benefit Steubenville East:

When: **Sat., April 1 & Sun., April 2, 2023**

after Masses in the OLM Gathering Space

Cost: **\$6.00** for 16 oz. container

Soups include: Corn Chowder, Clam Chowder, Italian Wedding, Pasta e Fagioli, Vegan Lentil and Loaded Baked Potato.

100% of sales and contributions will benefit students attending **Steubenville East Conference**, sponsored by LifeTeen at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA from **July 21-23, 2023**.

This year's theme is **REFUGE - Matthew 11:28**. The mission of the Steubenville East Conference is to encounter Jesus more deeply. It is for youth entering 9th grade to students graduating 12th grade by the Summer of 2023. It fosters teens to experience the love of Christ and be strengthened in their journey of discipleship with thousands of Catholics from surrounding states. It consists of various Scripture scholars discussing topics relevant to teens, inspirational music, games, Adoration, Mass, Reconciliation and much more.

Please contact **Debbie Boyle** for further information debbie_jeff@hotmail.com or 860-841-8668.

The Bulletin Board

Saturday, March 18th

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday, March 19th

11:30 a.m. Choir Practice, *in the Church*

Monday, March 20th

4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Religion Classes, Gr. 1-5

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. RCIA, *Atrium*

6:30 p.m. Scripture Study, *Timothy Room*

Tuesday, March 21st

9:00 a.m. Scripture Study, *Timothy Room*

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts, *Timothy Rm & Gym*

Wednesday, March 22nd

No Activities Scheduled

Thursday, March 23rd

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. RCIC, *Atrium*

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council, *Room 102*

Friday, March 24th

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., *Gym*

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, March 25th

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, *in the Church*

1st Communion Retreat, 3rd grade and 1 Parent, *in the Gym*

Sunday, March 26th

11:30 a.m. Choir Practice, *in the Church*

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All Confirmation Preparation Classes will meet at this time, *Timothy Room*

Tax Letter:

If you wish to receive a tax donation letter, please call the office at 860-747-6825 or email at olmct@sbcglobal.net. We ask for your patience as we are unable to print the letters while you wait. It can be picked up at the Parish Center Office or it will be mailed to you upon request.



Bulletin Submissions Deadline:

Deadline for submissions to the next bulletin is Thursday, **March 23rd by 4 p.m.** Call the office at 860-747-6825 or send an email to olmct@sbcglobal.net.

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