

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

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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)

SEE MASS SCHEDULE ON PAGE 2 FOR HOLY WEEK

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*

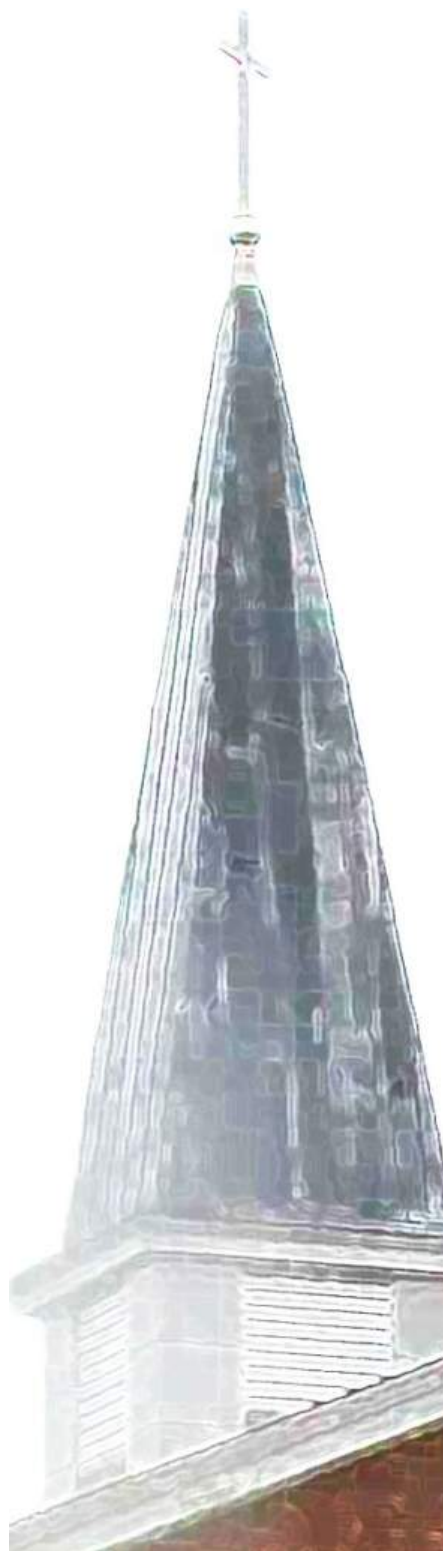
WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH!

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 Holy Week

Saturday, April 1st, *Lenten Weekday*

8:00 a.m. Ryszard Waclaw, 1st Anniversary

Noon Confession

Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:00 p.m. Ellie Silverio, req. Joe and Jo-Ann

Sunday, April 2nd, *PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD*

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

10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of Ewelina's Birthday
req. Mom

Blessed Palms will be distributed at all Masses

Monday, April 3rd, *Holy Weekday*

8:00 a.m. Husband Renaldo Harvey req. Wife & Children

Tuesday, April 4th, *Holy Weekday*

8:00 a.m. Aurelio Toribia Ascencion & Cesar Culling
req. Nanez & Culling Families

Wednesday, April 5th, *Holy Weekday*

No Mass

Thursday, April 6th, *HOLY THURSDAY*

No 8:00 a.m. Mass

7:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 7th, *GOOD FRIDAY*

No 8:00 a.m. Mass

3:00 p.m. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of the Lord

Confessions: following the 3 p.m. Mass

7:00 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 8th, *HOLY SATURDAY*

No 8:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Blessing of the Easter Food, Church
12 noon Confessions

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9th, *EASTER SUNDAY*

8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass

10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass

A Thought for the Beginning of Holy Week

In a CCD class a teacher was working with her young students on the subject of the crucifixion. In the course of describing and explaining what had occurred the teacher asked her students: "Do you understand? Do you understand the crucifixion?"

The children all nodded their heads indicating that they understood. The teacher wanted to make sure that they understood so she said: "Do you really understand the meaning of the cross for you and for me?" To which one of the youngsters replied: "Why are you trying to make it so hard? It just means that God would do almost anything for us!"

What a beautiful answer! God will do almost anything for us!...even the death of his own Son! It would be hard to come up with a better interpretation of the crucifixion!

The cross of Christ is our ultimate sign of the awesome Good News of God's love for us.

The cross of Jesus Christ is our ultimate sign that God will do anything for us. The cross of Christ is our ultimate assurance that God will not abandon us...ever. The cross is the ultimate sign of God's willingness to forgive us our sins.

God Bless,
Father Ray



March 26, 2023

Weekly Offertory

\$4,130.00



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

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

Requested by Family & Caminiti Faiazza

March Food Pantry Collection:

A total of **817 lbs.** of non-perishable food items were collected and sent to the Plainville Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!



Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2023:

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 2023 Appeal literature! Organizations such as the Plainville Food Pantry and the Plainville Senior Center Dial-A-Ride 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.*

Blessing of the Easter Food:

Blessing of the Food will take place on **Holy Saturday** at **11 a.m.** in the Church.



Collection of Non-Perishable Food:

Please bring some non-perishable food items to the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** on **Holy Thursday** at **7 p.m.** All items will be distributed to those in need through the Plainville Food Pantry.

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.

Easter Vigil 7:30 p.m.:

The **Easter Vigil** will begin with the blessing of the **Easter Fire** and the lighting of the **Paschal Candle** outside the main entrance of the Church. The Faithful are invited to gather there and proceed into the darkened Church to spread the Light of Christ. Tapers will be provided for everyone participating.



Help Decorate the Church:

Come and help us decorate the Church for **Easter** this **Saturday**. We will begin at **8:30 a.m.** Everyone is invited and welcome to help!

Holy Moments:

Holy Moments by Matthew Kelly, a handbook for the Rest of Your Life will be available on the Information Table in Church during Easter Weekend. Please pick up a copy.

Invitation to

Steubenville East Conference:

CALLING ALL TEENS entering 9th grade in the Fall to graduating from 12th grade in the Summer of 2023! Steubenville East Conference, sponsored by LifeTeen, will take place at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA from **July 21-23, 2023**. Steubenville East has 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.



Holy Thursday - Washing of the Feet:

Washing of the Feet will take place during the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** at **7 p.m.** If you would like to participate by having one foot washed, please contact Fr. Ray.



Holy Thursday Procession:

The **Mass of the Lord's Supper** will end with a **Procession** with the **Holy Eucharist** to the **Altar of Reservation** which will be set up in the Gathering Space. All the Faithful present at the Mass are invited to walk in the Procession. The **Church** will remain **open until 10 p.m.** for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Living Stations of the Cross:



Living Stations of the Cross will be presented on **Good Friday** evening, **April 7th** at **7 p.m.** in the church by students of the Queen of Apostles Preparatory Academy. Please plan to join us for a very inspiring presentation of the Passion and Death of Our Lord.

March for Life Rally Update:

Our Parish was well represented at the March 22nd. March for Life Rally in Hartford. Many of our Parishioners took advantage of the free transportation on the bus our Parish sponsored together with St. Patrick Church in Farmington. In addition, Our Lady of Mercy was represented by many parishioners who drove to Hartford on their own. Also, one of the speakers at the rally was Marcelina Halas who is a Plainville resident and a student at CCSU.

St. Anthony's Society:

The St. Anthony's Society will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, April 13, 2023** at **6 p.m.** in **Room 102** in the Parish Center.

Also, they will be holding their **Annual Spring Tea** on **Sunday, April 30, 2023** at **1 p.m.** in the Parish Center Gymnasium.



Tickets will go on sale soon. Please help support their Annual Spring Tea Event!

Thank You!

Thank you to the **Parents** of the children in our 3rd grade faith formation class who prepared a great reception following the First Reconciliation of our 2nd graders last Sunday. A **Special Thanks** to **Melissa Sweeney** for overseeing the reception!



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Please let us know why your child would like to attend QOTA in the note section.

Virtus Training:

Virtus is a special training that serves the purpose of educating adults in the Catholic Community about abuse prevention and how to recognize signs of and report abuse in order to create safe environments for children and vulnerable adults. This training is required of all who work or serve in a Catholic Church. This training is required of all adults who work, serve, or volunteer in a Catholic Parish. Being Virtus trained involves completing a 3-hour in person or online course. An in-person Virtus training will take place on **Sat., April 15th** from **9 a.m. – 12 p.m.** in our Parish Center. It will be facilitated by Ginamarie Garabedian, Director of Safe Environment for the Archdiocese of Hartford. All Parish volunteers who have not yet been Virtus trained are asked to attend or to complete an online training. Online training is available at www.virtustraining.org. Those who complete the training online are asked to present the certificate of completion to Fr. Ray.

Religious Education

Religious Education:

There will not be any religious instructions for children in grades 1-5 this coming Monday. Will resume on **April 17th**.

The Edge:

The next Edge session for Middle School Students will be held on **Monday, April 24th** beginning at **6:00 p.m.** with an open gym followed by a guided discussion. All middle school students are invited to attend.

Confirmation Preparation Classes:

No Classes during Holy Week. Class will resume on **Sunday, April 23rd** **11:45 a.m.** Confirmation Group Year 1 Year 1 will meet in the St. Timothy Room in the Parish Center.

Teen Night:

The next Teen Night is scheduled for Saturday evening, **May 6th** beginning at **6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** in the gym. All teens are welcome to attend.

Prayers for the Deceased

Please remember the deceased of our Parish in your prayers:

Ryszard Waclaw, 1st Anniversary

"Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O' Lord"



Selection Process of

Pastoral Council Members:

In May, four new Pastoral Council members will be selected to fill vacancies caused by members whose terms are due to expire at the end of May, 2023. Parishioners are asked to give prayerful consideration to nominating other parishioners or themselves. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Nomination forms will be distributed in the bulletin next weekend and will also be available in the Gathering Space on weekends. Completed Nomination Forms can be deposited in the Nomination Box that will be located in the Gathering Space beginning next weekend. This year you may also call in your nominations to the Parish Office at 860-747-6825, or email your nominations in at olmct@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, May 7, 2023.

Please Support the Soup Sale:

The Soup Sale will be held today in the Gathering Space. All proceeds will encourage and help our youth planning to attend the **Steubenville East Conference** in Springfield, MA on July 21-23, 2023.

Cost: \$6.00 for 16 oz. container

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



Welcome - New Parishioners!

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, CT 06062.

The Bulletin Board

Saturday, April 1st

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Teen Night, Gym

Sunday, April 2nd

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. **Knights of Columbus**

Palm Sunday Breakfast, Gym

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

Monday, April 3rd

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

4:30 p.m. **Stations of the Cross for Children and Sacrament of Reconciliation** available following the **Stations of the Cross**, *in the Church*

Tuesday, April 4th

No Activities Scheduled

Wednesday, April 5th

No Activities Scheduled

Thursday, April 6th

No Activities Scheduled

Friday, April 7th

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, April 8th

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday, April 9th

Happy Easter!



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:

The Easter Bulletin has already been sent to the publisher due to an early deadline. The next deadline for submissions to the April 16th bulletin is **Thursday, April 13th by 4 p.m.** Call the office at 860-747-6825 or send an email to olmct@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

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~ELAINE~

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