

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 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

Rev. M. David Dawson, *Pastor*

Sandra DeBlois, *Bookkeeper*

Phyllis Roche, *Administrative Assistant,*
Parish Office & St. Joseph's Cemetery

Mary Ann Truszkowski, *Office Assistant*

Eric Hoffman, *Organist and Music Director*

Joseph Savidge, *Religious Education Coordinator*

Brian Roche, *Maintenance*

Eva Schilling, *Custodian*

Parish and Cemetery Office: 19 South Canal Street, Plainville
Telephone: 860-747-6825; Fax: 860-747-5407

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: Administration@olmct.org Parish website: www.olmct.org

Facebook: [OurLadyofMercyPlainville](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofMercyPlainville)

*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, December 23th, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. 1st Annivesary: Lucille Boilard,
James John Capazzi & Anna Czekaj
Months Reminder: Charles Kraut, Jr.

4:00 p.m. Jane Mary Masse requested by
Husband

Sunday, December 24th, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. For Parish Youth to grow deep in Faith
10:30 a.m. For the People of Our Lady of Mercy
4:00 p.m. For the Volunteers of the Parish

**Monday, December 25th, Christmas,
The Nativity of the Lord**

**Midnight Mass (12:00 a.m.) For the People of
Our Lady of Mercy**

9:00 a.m. For the Return of those who have
left the Church

Parish Office Closed for Christmas!

**Tuesday, December 26th, St. Stephen, The First
Martyr**

8:00 a.m. Antonio Ettore requested by
Leona and Laurie

**Wednesday, December 27th, St. John, AP Evangelist
NO MASS**

**Thursday, December 28th, The Holy Innocents
Martyrs**

8:00 a.m. Aurelio Sr. & Toribia Culling requested
by Jean Culling

**Friday, December 29th, Fifth Day within the Octave
of the Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Donald Wallace requested by Wife

**Saturday, December 30rd, Sixth Day within the
Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. 1st Annivesary: Walter Duksa
4:00 p.m. Bertha Lanagan & Kathleen Carroll-Goff
requested by Jim & Maryann Davis and Family

**Sunday, December 31th, The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:30 a.m. Yvette Bouchard Albert & Joan Albert
requested by Wes & Rose

10:30 a.m. For the People of Our Lady of Mercy

Monday, January 1st, Mary, Holy Mother of God

9:00 a.m. Brian McCarthy requested by Leona

Parish Office Closed Today!

The True Meaning of Christmas December 24, 2023

Waiting is a very good thing. (Have you ever
heard a less contemporary thought in your life.)
Yet it is true.

The Jewish people waited thousands of years
for the Messiah. The one they got was so much
greater than their fondest hope.

Have you waited for a purpose in your life?
Have you tried to figure out the meaning of
existence? Are you looking for more to what
you're doing?

The answer to each of these we celebrate with
our Christmas liturgies, you probably guessed
but the answer's name is Jesus Christ.

The grandness and immensity of who Christ is,
is beyond our understanding and our ability to
grasp. We begin to get to know our Lord. It is a
journey and there is growth. An eternity is not
enough to know Him completely but there is
always the ability to grow in intimacy with the
Almighty. What He invites you to, was prepared
for you at creation.

He has done the hardest part. Emptying himself
of the fullness of Divinity into human infancy.
Suffering, dying, resurrecting... He not only did
these for you but invites you to do the same
becoming more like Him. Choose humility,
sacrifice for love, die to sin and self, resurrect
for the ultimate purpose and reality. You have
been waiting, but He has been waiting for you
since the first dawn. Accept the invitation, that is
why there is a Christmas!

*Praised be Christ Jesus, now and forever.
Fr. Dawson*



Next Sat. & Sun. Mass Schedule**Extraordinary Ministers
Of Holy Communion**Saturday, December 30th at 4 p.m.

Bob & Judy Anderson

Sunday, December 31st at 8:30 a.m.

Leona Bisson & Bill Fasciano

Sunday, December 31st at 10:30 a.m.

Brian Roche & Jessica Murcyn

Monday, January 1st at 9:00 a.m.

Lidia Onisto

Lector ScheduleSaturday, December 30th at 4 p.m.

Marge Rio

Sunday, December 31st at 8:30 a.m.

Bonnie Miller & Jim Cassidy

Sunday, December 31st 10:30 a.m.

Carol Haddad & Sarah Mangiafico

Sunday, January 1st at 9:00 a.m.

Carol Haddad

Tabernacle Lamp

December 24, 2023

**In Memory of
Anthony Dlugoszewski***Requested by Daughter & Family*Please remember the recently deceased
members of our Parish in your prayers**Louis Angelillo****Mary L. Douglass****Marie Ouellette*****“Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O’Lord”*****Into the Breach:**

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a program to view a video of the topic called “Into the Breach” which covers prayer and fellowship. Followed by a discussion of the information and refreshments. It will take place on **Wed., Dec. 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center, Room 102.** Any questions, see Brian.

**New to the Our Parish?**

If you are new to our parish and wish to become a member of Our Lady of Mercy, please register and we invite you to introduce yourself to our Pastor,

Fr. M. David Dawson.

Registration can be completed by calling the Parish Office at 860-747-6825, filling in the short form on the front of the bulletin and dropping it in the donation box in the church or by mailing it in to the office: 19 S. Canal St., Plainville, CT 06062.

You can also drop by the Parish Office during the normal business hours to register, or by completing a short registration form which can be found by clicking the button **New Here?** at www.olmct.org then click **Welcome!**

Please return the hard copy to the office by mail, dropping it off in person, or putting it in the collection box in the Church.

A Special Thanks from Carol the Yarn Lady!

Thank you all for your Donation of Yarn this year. We used the yarn to make many items for the Babies. The baby blankets and other items were much appreciated by their Families. God Bless you all for being so generous!

Reminder: Inclement Weather

Check our Facebook page, especially to see if weather has affected our event for a particular evening at *Our Lady of Mercy Plainville*. If school is cancelled, religious education will not occur that evening. Make up date will be possible in the future. If outdoor conditions are not suitable for you to safely attend Holy Mass, then on that occasion do not. **Yet, if you are up to going to do anything else, then getting to Mass should be at least as viable.**

December 17, 2023**Offertory for December 17, 2023 will be announced in the next Bulletin.**

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



The Christmas Story

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were

amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

<https://www.bible.com/bible/111/LUK.2.15-20.NIV>



The Historical Version of the First Christmas Celebration

Christmas was first celebrated as a religious event on December 25 in 352 A.D.

Nobody knows the exact date when – or in what year – Jesus was born. And it didn't really matter back in those first centuries.

Birthdays were less important than remembering the day when someone died.

In fact, early Christians often celebrated the birth of Jesus on January 6. During the second century, five dates in three different months (including December 25) were considered as possible birth dates for Jesus.

Finally, in the fourth century, St Pope Julius I and other Church leaders specified December 25 as the official date for celebrating the birth of Jesus – to replace the Roman holiday celebrating the birthday of the sun god, and the return of

www.littlebooks.org longer days of sunlight.



Saturday, December 23rd

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. AA, Back to Basics, Room 103

Sunday, December 24th

10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon AA, Room 103

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Church

Monday, December 25th **Merry Christmas**

Parish Office Closed Christmas Day!

Tuesday, December 26th

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Scripture Study, Tim Room

Wednesday, December 27th

7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus "Into the Breach", Room 102

Thursday, December 28th

No Activities

Friday, December 29th

10: 00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. Blood Drive, Gym

Saturday, December 30th

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. AA, Back Basics, Rom 103

Sunday, December 31st

10:30 a.m. — 12 Noon, AA, Room, 103

11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Church

Faith Formation Class Schedule

It is never too late to sign up for faith formation classes. You can contact Joseph Savidge at the Parish Office at 860-747-6825, ext. 117.

*Any questions, please contact Joseph Savidge.
For exact dates of sessions, please see the schedule on the OLM website.*

Bulletin Submissions Deadline

All submissions for the bulletin must be in two weeks prior to when you would like your ad to run. All committee chairs please take note. Call the office at 860-747-6825 or send an email to bulletin@olmct.org
Thank you!

Christmas Wafer Oplatki

Christmas wafer (Polish: *opłatek*, plural *opłatki*; Lithuanian: *kalėdaitis*, plural *kalėdaičiai*; Slovak: *oblátka*, plural *oblátky*) is a Catholic Christmas tradition celebrated in Poland,^[1] Lithuania,^[1] Moravia,^[2] and Slovakia.^[3] The custom is traditionally observed during *Kūčios* in Lithuania and *Wigilia* in Poland on December 24th.

The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape^[4] and very thin; they are identical in composition to the altar bread that becomes the Eucharist at the consecration during Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. The Oplatki wafers are embossed with Christmas-related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_wafer

**These Christmas Wafers
Oplatki
Are available for you in our Parish.
The suggested Donation is
\$3.00**



OUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*
94 BROAD STREET - PLAINVILLE, CT 06062-2799
A Roman Catholic Community of Faith & Good Works



December 17th: Sung Vespers at 4 p.m.

December 19th: Extra Confessions at 7 p.m.

Fourth Week of Advent:

December 23rd: The Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

December 24th: Sunday Masses at 8:30 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m.

The Nativity of the LORD

Christmas Masses:

December 24th: **Christmas Eve** at 4 p.m.

December 25th: **Christmas Day** beginning at
Midnight Mass (12 a.m.)
and 9 a.m.

December 26th: Tuesday Weekday
Morning Mass at 9 a.m.

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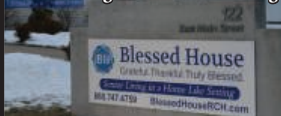


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~ELAINE~

860-747-2528

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WEBSITE AT: WWW.OLMCT.ORG

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