

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

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: Monday 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m.
(No morning Mass on Mondays & Wednesdays)

The Sacrament of RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Saturday: 12 Noon or by appointment

Rev. M. David Dawson, *Pastor*

Michael Cassella, *Deacon*

Eric Hoffman, *Organist and Music Director*

Gina Burby, *Religious Education Coordinator*

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: _____

Would you like to receive weekly envelopes? Yes No

“Do whatever He tells you.”

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



Mass Schedule for This Week

Saturday, December 13th Weekday

8:00 a.m. Ernest Robertson requested
by Son

12:00 Noon **Confessions Today**

4:00 p.m. Thomas Papapietro requested
by James Norris

Sunday, December 14th Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. David Walko requested
by Sister Francine

10:30 a.m. Mass for the People of
Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Monday, December 15th Holy Day of Obligation

6:00 p.m. Jeffrey Plourde requested by Parents

Tuesday, December 16th Weekday

8:00 a.m. Leo & Irene Charette requested
by The St. Anthony's Society

6:00 p.m. **Confessions Today**

Wednesday, December 17th Weekday

No Mass Today

Thursday, December 18th Weekday

8:00 a.m. Gary Boukus requested by
Michael Verrett & Brenda Tella

Friday, December 19th Weekday

8:00 a.m. Marianne O'Brien requested
by Barbara Wallace

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

Saturday, December 20th Weekday

8:00 a.m. Ernest Robertson requested
by Son Edward

12:00 Noon **Confessions Today**

4:00 p.m. Susie Perzan requested by Cheryl

Sunday, December 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Mass for the People of
Our Lady of Mercy Parish

10:30 a.m. Mass for the Employees of
Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Next Sat. & Sun. Mass Schedule

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m.:

Anne W., Sarah C.

Sunday, December 21st at 8:30 a.m.:

Sophia W., Leona B.

Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 a.m.:

Jessica M., Lidia O.

Monday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.:

Brian R.



Pectors

Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m.:

Carolyn M.

Sunday, December 21st at 8:30 a.m.:

Francine W.

Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 a.m.:

Carol H.

Monday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.:

Bonnie M.



The Tabernacle Lamp:

is lit for the Greater Glory of God in
Recognition of the Real Presence of Christ.

This week the candle is flickering for the

Memory of: **Leo & Irene Charette**

Requested by: **Family**



Recently Deceased

Please remember the recently
Deceased members of our Parish
in your prayers.

**Mary Lou Farrell, Italia Letitia
Gladys Waz**

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, "Lord."



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring
glad tidings to the poor. Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*



November 30, 2025

Offertory \$5,346.00

Please place your Donations in the offertory
baskets during the Mass. **Thank you!** For
your generous support. May God Bless You!



The Bulletin Board

Saturday, December 13th
 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. AA, Back to Basics, *Rm. 103*
Sunday, December 14th
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Breakfast with Santa in the Parish Ctr. Gym sponsored by K of C
 10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon, AA, *Rm. 103*
Monday, December 15th
9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary, *Rm. 102*
6:30 p.m. Scripture Study, *Rm. 102*
Tuesday, December 16th
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Scripture Study, *Rm. 102*
Wednesday, December 17th No Activities
Thursday, December 18th No Activities
Friday, December 19th "Give the Gift of Life"
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
American Red Cross Blood Drive, Gym
Saturday, December 20th
 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. AA, Back to Basics, *Rm. 103*
Sunday, December 21st
8:30 a.m. After Mass Coffee & Donuts
 10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon, AA, *Rm. 103*



WOW

450 lbs. of Food Donated to the Plainville Food Pantry.

A special note of thanks to all the parishioners for the food that was donated for the month of November to the Plainville Food Pantry. The Donations help the people in the Plainville community who are most grateful for your help. God Bless to you all.

WOW

Christmas Wafer - Oplatki

Christmas wafer (Polish: *oplatek*, plural *oplatki*; 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 at the Parish Office. The suggested Donation is \$3.00**

Winter Is Coming!

Whether you love it or loathe it, it is a fact. This always leads to questions like: "If there is bad weather do I still need to go to Mass?" That is a fair question. Here are some things to consider when reaching a decision.:

Can I confidently get to Mass and back home safely?

Would I be willing to go to the Superbowl or anywhere else in this weather?

Christ is more important than even Superbowl tickets!

With my health is it prudent to go to Mass in these conditions?

A related question: Will there still be Mass when there is bad weather? I live across the street from the Church. By God's holy grace; I do not have another church to get to, so its pretty easy for me to be here. If the weather were so very bad, that I cannot get there, you probably should not be considering it.

A special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held on December 14th. This collection helps the senior sisters, brothers, religious order priests. Please consider giving and thank you for your donation to this cause. God Bless!

OUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*
 Parish Office Located at:
 19 South Canal St., Plainville
 94 BROAD STREET - PLAINVILLE, CT 06062-2799
A Roman Catholic Community of Faith & Good Works



Tuesday,
 December 16th: Extra
 Confessions: 6 p.m.

Fourth Week of Advent:

December 20th: Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

December 21st: 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.

January 1st: **Solemnity of Mary,
 Mother of God Mass** at 9 a.m.

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Saint Nicholas of
 Myra, Bishop
 Defender of
 Orthodoxy
 Wonderworker
 Holy Hierarch
 Bishop of Myra
 03/15/270
 to
 12/06/343

Saint Nicholas of Myra, Bishop

Saint Nicholas of Myra^[a] (traditionally 15 March 270 – 6 December 343),^{[3][4][b]} also known as **Nicholas of Bari**, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor (Greek: Μύρα; modern-day Demre, Turkey) during the time of the Roman Empire.^{[7][8]} Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as **Nicholas the Wonderworker**.^[c] Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. His reputation evolved among the pious, as was common for early Christian saints, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of **Santa Claus** ("Saint Nick") through Sinterklaas. Little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas. The earliest accounts of his life were written centuries after his death and probably contain legendary elaborations. He is said to have been born in the Greek seaport of Patara, Lycia, in Asia Minor to wealthy Christian parents.

In one of the earliest attested and most famous incidents from his life, he is said to have rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by dropping a sack of gold coins through the window of their house each night for three nights so their father could pay a dowry for each of them. Other early stories tell of him calming a storm at sea, saving three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution, and chopping down a tree possessed by a demon. In his youth, he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Egypt and Palestine. Shortly after his return, he became Bishop of Myra. He was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian, but was released after the accession of Constantine.

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

This question has been coming up more and more!

This question has been coming up more and more. I thought you would appreciate an answer from another source: <https://adoremus.org/2023/11/rite-questions-who-can-be-dispensed-from-the-sunday-obligation-to-attend-mass-and-when/>

Rite Questions: Who can be dispensed from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass—and when?

by [The Editors](#)

A: The Sunday obligation is articulated in Canon 1246 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law where we read that “Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holy day of obligation.” Canon 1247 specifies an essential way that this day of obligation must be observed: “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

This obligation is not, however, understood in an absolute way. The Code of Canon Law (CIC) itself foresees that “participation in the eucharistic celebration” might be “impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause” (CIC 1248, §2). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), examples of such “serious reasons” are “illness” and the “care of infants” (CCC, 2181). As John Meinert and Emily Stimpson put it, if “you’re seriously ill, wounded, or contagious with a communicable virus (such as the stomach flu), you’re not deliberately missing Mass. Likewise, if you’re caring for someone who is seriously ill or injured and who needs constant attention, and there is no one available to relieve you, you’re also not deliberately missing Mass. The same goes for not having transportation or any possible means of getting to Mass” (*Christ Alive in Us*, 49).

Also foreseen are possibilities where though it might not be “impossible” to attend Mass on Sunday, an individual might be dispensed “from the obligation of observing a feast day” by his pastor for a “just cause” (CIC 1245). A “just cause” is distinguished from a “grave cause” and is generally understood as being low-bar canon-law-speak for *some good reason* or “reasonable cause.” It is left to the pastor’s discretion to judge what constitutes a “just cause.” However, the pastor cannot simply declare that no one in his parish has to observe the Sunday obligation for a given week. The pastor’s power to dispense is restricted to “individual cases,” which refer not only to single instances, but might also refer to individual situations that are ongoing, e.g., a firefighter who needs to be at work one Sunday each month during the times of all Sunday Masses. Perhaps a farmer might be in desperate need to harvest a crop and so requests a dispensation from his pastor. The pastor considers the spiritual good of the parishioner and weighs the cause being put forward for the dispensation. The law also gives the pastor the ability to commute the obligation to another pious work (CIC 1245). For example, during the height of the Covid pandemic, a couple with severe health issues were concerned about going to Mass in a crowded church. The pastor could have dispensed them from the Sunday obligation, but after discussing the situation with the couple he commuted the obligation to the attendance at another, less-crowded Mass during the week.

—Answered by the Editors



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~ELAINE~

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