

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

December 21, 2025
Fourth 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 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

Monday, December 22nd Holy Day of Obligation

6:00 p.m. Georgianna Hoffman requested
by Sandra & Bob

Tuesday, December 23rd Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass for all those spending
the Holiday alone

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Mass for all the Benefactors
of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day

The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 a.m. Mass for all the Volunteers
of Our Lady Mercy Parish

9:00 a.m. Mass for all the People
of Our Lady Mercy Parish

Friday, December 26th St. Stephen, First Martyr

8:00 a.m. Mass for all Special Intentions

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

Saturday, December 27th St. John, Apostle & Evg.

8:00 a.m. Mass for all those who have
never had a Funeral Mass

12:00 Noon **Confessions Today**

4:00 p.m. Louis Avitabile requested
by Daughter Karen

Sunday, December 28th

The Holy Family Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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

10:30 a.m. Walter Duksa requested by Wife

Next Sat. & Sun. Mass Schedule

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.:

Sarah C., Leona B.

Thursday, December 25th at 12:00 a.m.:

Brian R., Jessica M.

Thursday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.:

Bob A., Judy A.

Saturday, December 27th at 4:00 p.m.:

Bob A., Judy A.

Sunday, December 28th at 8:30 a.m.:

Leona B., Francine W.

Sunday, December 28th at 10:30 a.m.:

Brian R., Charlene S.

Monday, December 29th at 6:00 p.m.:

Leona B.

Lectors

Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.:

Carol D.

Thursday, December 25th at 12:00 a.m.:

Phyllis R.

Thursday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.:

Brennan H.

Saturday, December 27th at 4:00 p.m.:

Kathy R.

Sunday, December 28th at 8:30 a.m.:

Jeffrey B.

Sunday, December 28th at 10:30 a.m.:

Nicolas V.

Monday, December 29th at 6:00 p.m.:

Francine W.



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: **Louis Avitabile**

Requested by: **Daughter Karen**



December 7, 2025 Offertory \$5,198.00

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 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*

Monday, December 22nd

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

6:30 p.m. Scripture Study, *Rm. 102*

Tuesday, December 23rd

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Scripture Study, *Rm. 102*

Wednesday, December 24th No Activities

Parish office closing at Noon today.

Thursday, December 25th No Activities

Parish Office Closed Today.

Friday, December 26th No Activities

Parish Office Closed Today.

Saturday, December 27th

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

Sunday, December 28th

10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon, AA, *Rm. 103*

Merry Christmas



Recently Deceased

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

Joseph Martel

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, "Lord."



The 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

The Christmas Wafers Oplatki

**Are available for you at the Parish Office
for \$3.00. First come first served.**



Winter Season

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.

Say to the faint of heart; Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us. Isaiah 35:4

OUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*
 Parish Office Located at:
 19 South Canal St., Plainville
 94 BROAD STREET - PLAINVILLE, CT 06062-2799
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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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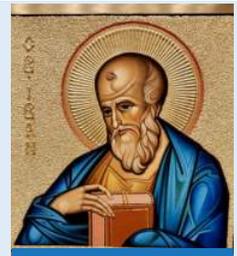
Saint John , Apostle and Evangelist

John first met Jesus when he was fishing with his brother James on the Sea of Galilee. After an entire night of fruitless efforts, they were dubious when Jesus told them to lower their nets into the water once more. Yet they complied and caught more fish than they could keep in their boat (Luke 5:1-11). After this miracle, Jesus asked them to follow him, saying he would make them fishers of men (Matthew 4:18-22). Immediately, they cast aside their nets to follow him, and did not look back. What is striking about this account is that there was no hesitation on their part. James and John's response to the call to follow Christ was immediate, unquestioning, and complete.

John is known as the disciple "whom Jesus loved." (John 13:23)

John was one of Jesus' closest disciples and was present for some of the critical moments of Jesus' time on earth – witnessing the Transfiguration and the raising of Jairus' daughter, and accompanying Jesus the night before His crucifixion in the garden of Gethsemane. He was also the only disciple to be present at Jesus' crucifixion. During the Last Supper, John is described as having his head resting on Jesus, in a posture customary of the Eastern dining tradition and indicative of their close friendship.

John and his brother James were the only people to receive nicknames from Jesus. John and his brother James' fiery evangelical zeal and extreme reactions inspired Jesus to – rather humorously – dub them "the Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). When James and John heard a man casting out devils in Jesus' name, they forbade him from doing it (Luke 9:49). Later in that same chapter, when Jesus set out for Jerusalem and the Samaritans refused to receive him on his journey, James and John were incensed. "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" they asked. In both instances, Jesus rebuked them for their extreme reactions and unnecessary hostility.



<https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/6-things-you-should-know-about-st-john-the-apostle/>

St. John Portrayed in the Byzantine Ruthenian Chapel

Jesus Christ, The Word Among Us

Jesus Christ, the Word among us, is the very reality that is hope. How greatly do we need TRUE hope? We live in a time where people feel alone; without purpose; and disconnected from what is greater than themselves. Our entertainments, interpersonal exchanges, societal problems, and saddest of all families are embedded in individuality at the expense of everyone.

There were events in history where people felt a connectedness. They would ask "Where were you when X happened???" and it would build a small bridge between the people in that they were both affected by the same thing at the same time. Today there is perceived shared experience but so little genuine connection.

Yet, there is HOPE and His name is Jesus. He should be the primary shared experience between all of us. He is the point that our eyes and lives should be fixated upon. He is the context of reality itself. Recognition of WHO HE IS should overwhelm each of us with awe. Unlike political or natural events, which unite those among the earth at a given time, JESUS IS THE ETERNAL context.

Jesus unites not all of the survivors of a single historical moment, but He invites everyone of all time to be united in Him. He offers to be the definition in and of our lives, for only in Him is there the fullness of Truth. We need to look at the facets of our life, through Him. We need to look through the slats of a manger; upon the wood of THE Cross; up above us contemplating the Ascension; and gaze upon our daily obligations in light of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist.

He is not the hero of today. He is the eternal hero for those who will be saved through Him and what He offers through His Church. If we gaze upon anything or anyone and we are not gazing through the reality that is Christ, we do not truly see. Get on your knees before the manger to see your life. Get on your knees before a crucifix to make your life choices.

**GET ON YOUR KNEES AND WORSHIP THAT SAME JESUS CHRIST,
TRULY PRESENT IN THE EUCHARIST.**

*Merry Christmas
Praise be Jesus Christ now and forever
Rev. M. David Dawson*

Awaken to the presence of God on Christmas morning: *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).* An amazing truth occurred at the first Christmas; God came and lived among us. Even more amazing, He continues to live among us. During Advent, take steps to become more aware of His presence. **Begin each day in His presence.** Before you get out of bed in the morning, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to *"be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)* **Seek God's Word.** Start your day with Scripture such as the daily Mass readings. Ask God to teach you during the day from your selected reading. **Speak to Him throughout the day.** Picture the Lord next to you throughout your day and talk with Him as you experience the day together. Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk, suggested prayer shouldn't be confined to formal times.

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