



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road Merrimack, NH 03054

**All Are
Welcome!**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 4:30 PM
Sunday - 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM
Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri - 8:30 AM
Holy Days - 8:30 AM
and anticipated vigil - 7 PM

Parish Staff

Rev Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor
Email: FrPaul@OLMNH.org
John Castelot, Deacon
Email: DeaconJohn@OLMNH.org
Marie Dancy, Pastoral Associate
Email: MDancy@OLMNH.org
Sharon Nagy, Business Manager
Email: SNagy@OLMNH.org
Laura Paison, Director of Faith Formation
Email: LPaison@OLMNH.org
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister
Email: CCoughlin@OLMNH.org
Kathleen Rush, Administrative Assistant
for Faith Formation
Email: KJRush1@OLMNH.org
Karen Correia, Receptionist/Secretary
Email: KCorreia@OLMNH.org
Nancy King, Director of Music
Email: NKing@OLMNH.org
Muriel Gelinas, Sacristan
Ron Ketchie, Custodian

Reconciliation

Confessions are available on Saturdays
at 3 PM and by appointment.

Outreach and Home Ministry

Please contact the office with your
needs.

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, founded in 1954, is a Roman Catholic community that shares in the life of Jesus Christ, obedient to the Father, and guided by the Holy Spirit. As a faith community, our mission is: to celebrate the sacraments and to proclaim the Word of God; to minister to the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish through prayer, works of charity, personal witness, education, and evangelization; to welcome all people to active participation in our parish community; and to preserve the faith of Church amidst a changing world and diverse social climate. We commit ourselves to this mission, under the patronage and protection of Mary, Mother of Mercy, with faith, hope and love in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May 1999

Sacraments

Baptism for infants is usually celebrated on the last weekend of the month. Please contact the office for more information about baptism and the other **Sacraments of Initiation**. For the celebration of **Marriage**, 6 months notice is necessary.

Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757 Faith Formation Office: 424-4477
Website: www.olmnh.org



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, January 19th

Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Mary Anne Van Dyke req by Barbara Nicosia

SUNDAY, January 20th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Marge Rush req by Clay & Kathy Rush

10:30AM: For all parishioners

Monday, January 21st

NO MASS

Tuesday, January 22nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For the intentions of Kenneth Kanady req by
Tom Warguska

Wednesday, January 23rd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For the intentions of William Lambrukos req
by Tom Warguska

Thursday, January 24th

NO MASS

Friday, January 25th

The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30 AM: For the Souls in Purgatory req by a
parishioner

Saturday, January 26th

Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: John Lorden req by Larry & Pat Miller and
for all parishioners

Sunday, January 27th

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Andrew DeCourcy req by Mary DeCourcy
and family

10:30AM: Mrs. Adeline Mildnese req by Ron &
Ingrid Fish

Flipped-out Pharisees

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is not only the first miracle in John's Gospel, it is also John's first mention of Jesus' mother. I used to find it odd that Jesus addressed her as "Woman." I can't imagine my Dad letting me get away with that. But in that time the word was more respectful; it could even be affectionate. (The last time Jesus speaks to his mother--John 19:26--he also calls her "Woman." He certainly wasn't being disrespectful on the cross.) Jesus does help as his mother requested, but he does so in a way that doesn't draw attention to himself and also is a lesson about God's love.

You have probably heard how the Jewish people in Jesus' time performed purification rituals before eating anything. The cleansings were a sign that they wanted to be like God, completely free from sin. Eventually, it came to mean that you could not approach God until you cleansed yourself. Jesus used the miracle to show us a different way of understanding holiness. Jesus could have made the wine in bottles or wineskins to show that it was new. But he used the "six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings" (John 2:6). That meant that once they were full of wine, no one could wash themselves from the jars. I wonder how many Pharisees flipped out when they saw that.

The point is that no one can cleanse themselves. We don't purify ourselves in order to come to God--we come to God to be purified. God is the only one who can make us holy. God offers this to sinners especially, because sinners who know they need forgiveness are the only ones to receive it. Not because God excludes the rest. Those who don't think they are sinners or don't think they can be forgiven won't ask for it. God never forces mercy on anyone. It is offered to those who ask for it. The amount of wine (six big jars of about twenty-five gallons each) symbolizes the extent of God's mercy. As there was now more than enough wine for the wedding, God has more than enough mercy for those who need it. Wine is also a symbol of joy in the Old Testament. There is no greater joy than knowing that you have been forgiven by the Lord.

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PLEASE NOTE:

If you have booked a Mass and would like for you or your family to bring up the gifts at that Mass, please let one of the ushers know before Mass begins.



PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2019 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

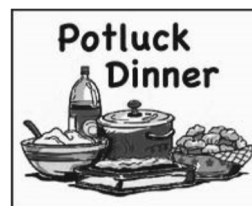


PARISH POTLUCK VALENTINE'S DINNER February 9, 2019 @ 5:30 PM

Break out your best Recipe. It's time for a pot luck!!!

Join us after the 4:30 Mass for good food, music and fun for the whole family! Bring your favorite pot luck entrée to share. Desserts and drinks will be provided by the parish.

Sign up sheets will be at the doors of the church beginning the week-end of January 26/27th or you may call the office with the number of persons attending and what you will be bringing.



Home Health & Hospice Foot Clinic January 24, 2019

On Thursday, January 24th from 8:30 to 1:00 pm, Our Lady of Mercy will be hosting a Foot Care Clinic sponsored by the nurses of Home, Health and Hospice Care. **The cost is \$32.00** and is payable by cash or check at the time of your appointment.

To schedule your appointment or for more information, please call Home, Health and Hospice at 689-2931.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of January 19th through January 25th is lit in memory of **Jean Gelinas**.

If you would like to have the Sanctuary Lamp lit in memory of or for the intentions of a loved one, please call the parish office at 424-3757.



MEN OF ST JOSEPH

The Men of St. Joseph is an association of Christian men, united under the Catholic Church, who meet monthly to pray together and encourage each other to be the spiritual leaders of their families. The purpose of the Men of St. Joseph is to instill holiness in men and facilitate spiritual leadership in family and community life.

Join us on the first Saturday of each month from 7:00 am to 8:15 am in the Church Hall. Our next meeting is February 2, 2019.

Are you looking to start back on your Journey of Faith? Are you ready? The road to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation is ahead if you are ready.

Do you want to complete your Catholic Sacraments of Initiation? Perhaps you want to get on the road—to come to the Catholic Church—to be Baptized and start on your Journey of Faith? Did you receive your First Communion and then get sidetracked and never got around to celebrating Confirmation? It is never too late to get back on the road and continue on your faith journey. It is never too late to receive your First Communion or Confirmation and to step right back into your last footsteps of your faith journey and begin again as an adult.



The gift of faith

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This is an exciting process especially designed for adults who want to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and/or Confirmation called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Don't hesitate if you are ready. Just call the parish office at 424-3757 and speak with Marie Dancy, our Pastoral Associate. She will give you all the details and help you get started.

FORMED.ORG

This is a new online platform which provides access to the best Catholic audio talks, movies, ebooks, and video-based studies from trusted providers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, Catholic Answers, Sophia Institute Press, and St. Paul Center—right at your fingertips—on your laptop, tablet or smartphone!!

Formed is available to all parishioners—free of charge. How can you use it?

- * Prepare for Mass each week by watching a five-minute video on the Sunday readings
- * Enjoy movies as a family that are both nourishing and entertaining
- * Enrich your marriage with the award-winning video Beloved
- * Help your children grow in faith and character with engaging children's materials

Create your own account—it's simple, fast and free

OLMNH.FORMED.ORG

Watch the video previews before or after all Masses in the entrance to the Church.

WARM COATS NEEDED

St. James Clothes Closet

Merrimack, NH

Clothing donations to the Clothes Closet are always welcomed. We are especially in need of warm winter coats of all sizes. Items must be in excellent condition, current styles, with no stains or worn spots, and free of pet hair and cigarette smoke. ***Clothing donations are graciously accepted Mon. – Thurs. from 8:15 – 2:00 pm.***

The Clothes Closet is a used clothing boutique for people in our community who have a financial need, **open Tuesdays 9:00am to 12 noon**. In addition to serving the Merrimack community, we also give clothing to the Upper Room, and the Maine Economic Ministry (an outreach program supported by the United Methodist Church). We have also supported a minister in Africa and various individuals with special needs.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP



Weekend of January 12/13: \$4961.00

ROSARY CALENDAR SIGN UP

Each day of January 2019 will be dedicated to a specific intention. There is a large calendar in the main entrance of the church for you to sign your name on the day you choose to recite the rosary. Each day may be chosen by more than one person.



Parents, please talk about the daily intention with your children and say a short prayer with them each day. Pray for families, for our priests, for the elderly, the unborn and our government leaders. Life is God's gift to all of us.

Sign ups begin THIS WEEKEND and will continue throughout the month of January. Please join us in praying the rosary.

SUPPORT THE 120 CLUB

The Ladies Guild thanks you for your past support of the 120 Club. Profits have been used to purchase items for the church, support Catholic Charities, the Giving Tree at Easter and Christmas, our seminarians, Community Hospice House, the Food Pantry and other charities.

The cost to join the 120 Club is \$1.00 per week for 20 weeks, for a total of \$20.00 at the signups. The first drawing will take place on February 2nd and 3rd. Each week 2 winners are drawn for a prize of \$25.00. On the twentieth week, eight numbers are drawn. The first number drawn will be the grand prize winner of \$250.00; the 2nd number wins \$100.00; 3rd and 4th numbers win \$50.00 each; the next 4 numbers drawn win \$25.00 each. Winners receive their prizes in the mail.

Members of the Ladies Guild will be at the church doors on the weekend of January 26th and 27th to assist you in selecting your numbers. Help support this fundraiser that benefits so many charities as well as the needs of our parish. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Coelho at 424-5392.



MORNING MASS SNOW POLICY!!



For the safety of our parishioners and also to give our maintenance staff a chance to clear walkways and to make sure the parking lot is plowed, when Merrimack schools are closed or if there is a delayed opening, Mass is cancelled. We will call and reschedule the Mass intentions for that day.



Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Contact Person: Kathleen Rush

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Bulletin for January 20, 2019

Kathy