



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, March 9th

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Debra Durant (1st Anniv) req by the
Dwyer Family

Sunday, March 10th

First Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Donald Walls req by Joseph Mannion

10:30AM: For all parishioners

Monday, March 11th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Donald Walls Req by Joseph Mannion

Tuesday, March 12th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For the intentions of the celebrant

Wednesday, March 13th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For all deceased Parishioners

Thursday, March 14th

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Alice & Rocco Gerace req by the
Gehling family

Friday, March 15th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30 AM: Gayle Bergin req by her family

Saturday, March 16th

Second Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Patrick & Rite DiPlatzi & Patrick Johnston req
by Kent & Kathy Johnston

SUNDAY, March 17th

Second Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Nicole Ayotte req by her family & for all
parishioners

10:30AM: Frank DiChiara req by Bob & Sylvia

Putting God to the Test

I always thought of the temptations in the desert as part of Jesus' growth in "wisdom, age, and grace" (Luke 2:52). They show how Jesus was tempted to be a Messiah in a way that matched human expectations--those of Jews waiting for a messiah--instead of doing what his Father wanted. So he could have provided for all our needs (turn stones into bread,) brought peace to the world as a great leader (worship the devil,) or been a superhero (jump off the temple without harm). But I also wonder if these temptations are what we expect of God.

Do we expect God to provide for our needs by turning stones into "bread" (i.e., money)? When we ask God to help us by doing everything for us, we are tempting the Lord. God does help us with our troubles, but usually by giving us the strength to get through them with our God-given abilities. This might mean finding a better job that uses more of our talents. It might be forgiving us, if we are the cause of our own troubles, and giving us the courage to start over. It might be a friend who helps us find the right doctor for a medical problem.

Or do we expect God to bring peace to the world by instantly removing all nuclear weapons or capturing all terrorists? When we pray for peace, we could pray that God show us what we can do to bring about that peace. We could follow Jesus' command to love those around us, so that peace spreads from our actions. We could be generous in giving to the poor, especially where poverty is the cause of war.

Maybe we expect God to be a superhero for us, curing diseases, stopping hurricanes or earthquakes, and strengthening our faith with spectacular miracles. Jesus would tell us the same thing he told the devil: "Don't put the Lord your God to the test" (see Luke 4:12). Instead, as we take time to pray over the scriptures, read spiritual books, and share our faith with others, we will find our faith growing and know that the Lord has been with us all along the way.

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OLD PALMS

You may bring your old palms to church and drop them off in any of the baskets located by the entrances. We will dispose of them for you. Thank You.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

March 3, 2019: \$4654.00

Online Giving Month of February: \$8535.50

LENT BEGINS

Lent is the 40 day period in the Church year set aside for the spiritual preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. There are two important aspects to the Lenten season. The first is new members of the Church preparing for the purifying Sacrament of Baptism. Those of us who are already Catholic recall our own Baptism. The second is to seek forgiveness for our sins, to reconcile ourselves with God, the Church and members of the community and to strengthen our faith. Lent prepares us to celebrate more fully the death and Resurrection of Jesus. For individuals and the community, it intensifies Christian faith, hope and love. The more deeply we observe Lent, the more we will benefit spiritually. Easter will have more meaning and more joy for us if we enter into Lent more fully.

Some suggestions for celebrating Lent...

To spiritually celebrate the season of Lent, we acknowledge our sins, resolve to turn back to God and take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We strive to advance in holiness by cultivating Christian virtue, reflecting on the real meaning of our baptismal commitment and striving to be a reflection of God's goodness in our everyday life. Penance is an action showing a return to God, a conversion of mind and heart. Performing acts of penance such as following traditional Lenten practices like prayer, fasting and almsgiving is another way to spiritually celebrate Lent.

Ask Catholics what they're doing for Lent this year, and they'll probably tell you that they are giving up a favorite food, a favorite pastime or anything else they really love but isn't essential to their lives. Giving up something for Lent fosters self discipline and tempers our desires. It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance. It promotes spiritual growth. Think also about the possibility of doing something positive to bolster your spiritual life and make the world a better place. Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your faith, strengthen your spiritual life or perform special acts of mercy and kindness at home, at work, in your parish or in your community.

Deanery Reconciliation Service

A deanery wide Lenten Penance service will take place on Sunday, **April 7th at 2:00 pm at Immaculate Conception Parish in Nashua.**

As we prepare for Easter, come to the Lord and experience the extraordinary grace of His forgiveness! Many priests will be available for your convenience.

Reconciliation is available here at Our Lady of Mercy parish at 3:00 pm each Saturday, 5:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursday evenings during Lent and on Monday, April 15th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and again from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

THANK YOU...

The team from Honduras returned recently. We served 881 people and distributed over 2000 toothbrushes to families in villages around San Francisco de la Paz in Olancho, Honduras. The parishioners here at OLM donated over 900 toothbrushes. Your efforts directly impacted hundreds of God's beloved poor. Our team is grateful for your support.

God Bless
Evelyn Hagan

Food Drive for St. John Neumann Food Pantry

The 23rd annual Fast for Social Action held at St. John Neumann's Parish will take place on the weekend of March 22 and 23rd. Our parish will once again be helping the students there by collecting food for their Food Pantry. From now through March 21st there will be boxes at all the entrances of the Church to collect non perishable food items. Items needed include:

- Hamburger Helper
- Coffee
- Hearty Soups
- Baked beans
- Pudding and cake mixes
- Condiments
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned meats (tuna, spam, chicken, etc)
- Canned fruit
- Canned stew
- Bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Canned meals (such as Chef Boyardee)

Thank you

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening of Lent (March 8th, March 22nd, March 29th, April 5th and April 12th) at 6:00 pm in Church. Immediately after the stations, please join us down in the Church Hall to gather with friends for some homemade soup and conversation.

Stations of the Cross will not take place on March 15th.

Journey to Jerusalem-A Lenten Retreat

Save the dates: on March 25, 26 and April 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM we will have a Lenten Retreat entitled "Journey to Jerusalem".

On March 25 we will focus on the teachings of Jesus after He set His face toward Jerusalem. Then, on March 26 and April 2, Mark Gillis, Headmaster of Holy Family Academy in Manchester, NH, will present "Journey to Jerusalem: The Theo-Drama of Holy Week". This is an engaging and insightful presentation based on the Scriptural account of Jesus' final days where attendees will dive deeper into holy week than they ever have before.

Join us and journey with us this Lent and encounter Christ's passion in a new way this year.

VIDEO & DISCUSSION

On Tuesday, March 12 at 9:15 am a repeat of the 12-minute video, Crux, that was shown on March 7th will be shown again with a discussion to follow for those who were unable to attend last Thursday evening. The topic concerns the mystery of life, and the transcendent moments when God makes himself known to us.

This Thursday, March 14th at 7:15 in the Church Hall we will watch a 12 minute video from "Formed" entitled Kenosis. The video will be followed with a discussion on how we can invite Jesus into our hearts and lives in a deeper way, and choose Jesus to be Lord of our lives. The challenge of the evening: how can we follow Jesus' example and make a gift of ourselves to God and others?

Ladies Guild Meeting

We will be having our next monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 19th at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall. All ladies of the parish are welcome. If you are new to the parish and would like to learn more about our ministry, please join us or contact Irene Jenness at 424-2362.

SAVE THE DATE:

**St. Patrick's Day Parish Party
Saturday, March 16th**

Tickets are on sale after Mass this weekend for the St Patrick's Day Parish Party on Saturday, March 16th after the 4:30 Mass.



The show will feature the *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* and an Irish sing-along featuring pianist Jim Otis. Skellig will perform traditional rigs and reels during mealtime. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for ages 16 through adults; \$5.00 for ages 10-15 and no charge for anyone age 9 and under.

Refreshments include soups, sandwiches, beverages and desserts. This parish event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

**PARISH BREAKFAST AND
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**

Join the Knights of Columbus as they serve another great breakfast on March 17th after the 8:30am and 10:30 am masses. There will also be a Blood Pressure Clinic held by our parish nurses at the same time. Please join us.

Merci, Thank You, Mesi Anpil!

The Sisters of Holy Cross and the Claire Daneau Legacy Fund Committee thank you for your continued support for the children of Mary Gate of Heaven Orphanage in Haiti. Your generous gift of \$2217.00 is a true testament of your love for those less fortunate. Sr. Claire would be so comforted to know that her children have not been forgotten and will receive a good education.

Easter blessings to you and your families!

On Wednesday, March 13 at 7 PM in the Parish Center we will break open the scriptures for the Second Sunday in Lent. We will explore the Transfiguration and consider how through the darkness of our lives we are able to come into God's glory. The promise of the New Covenant is that if we believe in Jesus, His love will transform our hearts and we will one day share Jesus'

Home Health & Hospice Foot Clinic

On Thursday, March 28th 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.

120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #5: Carol Nichols & Patricia Madden

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

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Bulletin for March 10, 2019

Kathy