



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 30th
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

4:30PM: Antonia & Alfred Bernier req by their family
and for all parishioners

**SUNDAY, March 31st
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8:30AM: Ruth Watkins (5th anniv) req by Rachel
Watkins & family and by Diane Boissy

10:30AM: Ron Matviya req by Marsha Kelly and his
friends

Monday, April 1st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Kathleen Warguska req by Tom &
Adrianne Warguska

**Tuesday, April 2nd
St Francis of Paola, Hermit**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Joyce Chartier req by Muriel Gelinas

Wednesday, April 3rd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Christopher Davis req by Diane Schultz

**Thursday, April 4th
St Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: For all parishioners

**Friday, April 5th
St Vincent Ferrer, Priest**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30 AM: Francis Silvia req by Bob & Karen Correia

**Saturday, April 6th
Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent**

4:30PM: Dick Foulks req by his family

**Sunday, April 7th
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8:30AM: For all parishioners

10:30AM: Clarina Hudon req by the Harwood family

Arm the Photon Torpedoes

Usually the first reading is picked to go with the Gospel. This week the connection appears to be a feast. The book of Joshua tells of the Israelites coming into the Promised Land, where they no longer needed to be fed with manna as in the desert. They had been wandering much longer than expected because of their unfaithfulness. But now they are forgiven, and so celebrate the Passover with food from the land. Then we hear the Gospel parable about another feast. This one is also a celebration of forgiveness, for the prodigal son has returned to his father, and the father's forgiveness shows us how willing God is to forgive us. That's where we end the parable, right? Wrong. The parable continues with the older son's complaint about a feast for his brother. Did you notice the words of the father that "everything I have is yours" (Luke 15:31)? He's not just being sentimental because they are family. The younger brother had already taken his inheritance, so whatever was left will one day go to the older one. That son cannot forgive his brother and is angry at the father for welcoming the prodigal back. This is where we come in. Most of us have no trouble asking God's forgiveness. But we may have trouble forgiving others. We are so used to thinking in terms of justice that we are not satisfied with forgiveness. When I have been hurt, I feel like hitting back. When you see an action movie, you don't want the bad guy to give up and say he's sorry--you expect him to be destroyed by the good guy, hopefully in a big fight or a spectacular explosion. (Superheroes, however, almost never kill the bad guy.)

So we have to ask ourselves whose idea of justice we live by. Is it the human expectation of an eye for an eye? Or is it God's justice, which is mercy and forgiveness? When someone cuts you off in traffic, do you feel like firing the photon torpedoes, or offering forgiveness? The Golden Rule could be "Forgive others as you would be forgiven." Jesus gave his life for the sins of the world. Do we have the right to ask for more?

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

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.**

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

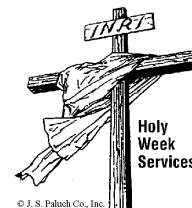
Correction from last week: **Weekend 3/17:** \$6122.00

Lenten Almsgiving: \$2120.00

Weekend of 3/24: \$5270.00

Lenten almsgiving: \$2546.00

Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum



Don't miss the best part! Don't miss the celebrations of Holy week. The Liturgical services on Passion Sunday and the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) are among the very best things we do in the Church. Holy Week is the week before Easter. During this week, the celebrations have the special purpose of helping us to prepare for the most holy day of our Church year, Easter.

SUNDAY—April 14th: PALM SUNDAY—On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the "paschal mystery". We enter into Jerusalem with Christ; we enter into our holiest week; we enter into our final preparation for the Easter feast. During this mass, we enter into Christ's entrance into Jerusalem.

MONDAY—April 15th : SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 11:00 am to 1:00 PM; 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM in the Church

WEDNESDAY-April 17th : CELEBRATION OF TENEBRAE —at 7:00 pm we will celebrate a Tenebrae Service. Tenebrae (meaning shadows) is distinctive for its gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms are prayed. During the service the Passion of Christ is retold, and after each psalm a candle is extinguished. At the end the book of Gospels is slammed shut, symbolizing the earthquake that followed Christ's death. When the service is complete, all rise and leave in silence and darkness.

THURSDAY, April 18th @ 7:00 pm: First Day of the Triduum-The day Christ gave himself up to death: Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday evening is the beginning of the Holy Triduum. The Church celebrates Christ sharing His Last Supper with the disciples and Jesus' institution of the Eucharist. We pray that God sends the Holy Spirit upon the community gathered so that all of us who are gathered and are nourished by the Eucharist will become one body in Christ. The priest follows Christ's example of humility when he washes the feet of the parishioners.



FRIDAY, April 19th @ 3:00 PM—Stations of the Cross which will take place at Last Rest Cemetery weather permitting.

@ 7:00 pm: Second Day of the Triduum-Jesus Dies on the Cross: Good Friday

Good Friday commemorates the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a sober celebration. We simply come together to pray the paradox of the cross. Through Christ's suffering on the cross, Christ is gloriously raised to life and we receive salvation. It is truly impossible to explain the mystery of the cross in a few words, but we can experience it on Good Friday. We pray with Jesus on the cross and venerate the cross. It is with eyes of faith that we see and understand the glory of the cross.

SATURDAY, April 20th @ 7:30 pm :Third Day of the Triduum-Jesus is raised from the dead: Easter

The celebration of Easter begins with the Easter Vigil, a time of purposeful waiting and watching. We are not waiting alone, but with generations of those before us who waited for Christ to come from the Tomb. During the Easter Vigil, we tell our story of salvation and listen to the gospel proclaim the resurrection. Christ is Risen!! On Easter Day, Christians everywhere celebrate that Christ rose from the dead. Alleluia is sung throughout the day, proclaiming that Christ is risen!!



SUNDAY, April 21st: Easter Sunday Masses at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of March 30th through April 5th is lit in memory of **Maureen Murray**.

If you would like to have the sanctuary lamp lit for a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please call the parish office at 424-3757.

THANK YOU... to all those who made our Confirmation celebration such a special evening. Eighty students were confirmed by Bishop Christian. The Eucharistic Ministers, Lector, Altar servers and Youth Team members were instrumental in making this a wonderful celebration for everyone. Thank you all for your dedication and devotion to our parish.

Journey to Jerusalem - Conclusion of Our Lenten Retreat



In the ninth chapter of the Luke's gospel we read, " When the days for His being taken up were fulfilled, Jesus resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and He sent messengers ahead of Him." In Jerusalem, the City of Destiny, is where His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension is to take place and salvation is to be accomplished. From Jerusalem the proclamation of God's saving word will go forth. From this point in the ninth chapter of Luke's gospel, Jesus prepares His chosen ones for the role they will play after His ascension: they are to be His witnesses to the people. These teachings are important.

Our retreat will conclude on **Tuesday, April 2nd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** - Mark Gillis will present: the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH AND BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC



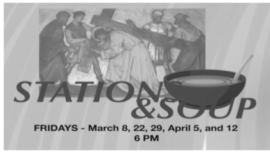
Join us on Palm Sunday, April 14th for another great parish breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Breakfast will be served after the 8:30 am and 10:30 am masses. Come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship. If you have attended before, you know how good it is. If you have never attended —it's the best deal in town.

A Blood Pressure Clinic sponsored by our parish nurses will also take place at the same time. Hope you can join us downstairs in the church hall.

VIDEOS & DISCUSSIONS DURING LENT

On Tuesday, April 2 at 9:15 am in the church hall we will watch Part I of a short video on the Mystery of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Among other things we will discuss how the Cross brings about our salvation, and how Jesus liberates us from sin by his death.

On Thursday, April 4 at 7:15 pm in the church hall we will watch Part II of a short video on the Mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Among other things we will discuss how our crosses lead us to discover sacrificial love, which is the greatest way to love another person, and leads us to Christ and eternal happiness. This will be repeated on Tuesday, April 9th at 9:15 am.



Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening of Lent (April 5th and April 12th) at 6:00 pm in Church.

Immediately after the Friday evening stations, please join us down in the Church Hall to gather with friends for some homemade soup and conversation.

April 19th : Good Friday Stations of the Cross will take place at 3:00 pm at Last Rest Cemetery weather permitting. In case of bad weather, stations will take place in the Church.

A gift for the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

Check it out! There is no charge!

Go to **OLMNH.formed.org** and log in: choose your password. Once you are on the formed site, at the top of the page click on "On Demand" then click on Season of Lent. There you will find:

- Lenten Reflection, A Lent to Remember
- Lectio – prayer, Into the Desert – a Lenten study on prayer
- Forgiven – the transforming power of confession
- Lenten Reflections – experience the Catholic faith in a whole new way
- A Lent to Remember – a Lenten encounter with mercy

Try any of these! You will find something of worth!

MEN OF ST JOSEPH

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 6th-7:00 to 8:15 am

Men of St Joseph is a Catholic Association dedicated to uniting men through vital relationships, encouraging their transformations as individuals, brothers, fathers, and parishioners by living according to God's Word. Come and join us!

Wednesday People

On Wednesday, April 3 at 6 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room we will discuss very important scripture....we will explore the need for forgiveness among those of us who sin.

120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #8: Ginny Prive & Robert & Yvette Pelletier

Congratulations!!

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

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Bulletin for March 31, 2019

Kathy