



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

Michael Coughlin, Dir of Faith Formation

Email: MCoughlin@OLMNH.org

Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister

Email: CCoughlin@OLMNH.org

Kathleen Rush, Administrative Assistant
for Religious Education

Email: KJRush1@OLMNH.org

Karen Correia, Receptionist/Secretary

Email: KCorreia@OLMNH.org

Nancy King, Director of Music

Email: NKing@OLMNH.org

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.

Reconciliation

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

Outreach and Home Ministry

Please contact the office with your needs.

Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757 Faith Formation Office: 424-4477

Website: www.olmnh.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 8th

Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Timothy Dwyer req by Phil & Jane Dwyer
& family and for all parishioners

Sunday, February 9th

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Roger O'Connor (5th Anniv) req by his wife
& family

10:30AM: Joyce & Dick Foulks req by their family

Monday, February 10th

St Scholastica, Virgin

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Carole Brown req by her family

Tuesday, February 11th

Our Lady of Lourdes

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Joyce & Dick Foulks req by their family

Wednesday, February 12th

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Raffaele Vivolo req by the family

Thursday, February 13th

NO MASS

Friday, February 14th

Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Donna Brown req by the Hospitality
Ministry

Saturday, February 15th

Vigil: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Skip Watkins req by his loving family &
friends

Sunday, February 16th

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Garrett Gregoire req by his family

10:30AM: Kathryn Loretta Fleming req by Ray &
Kathy Turk

A Low-Salt Faith

Jesus uses two different examples of a good disciple--salt of the earth and light of the world. While these images seem to have little in common, there are similarities, the most obvious being that a little of either goes a long way. Just a pinch of salt can change the taste of food. Similarly, when we wake up in a dark room, one light bulb can be blinding. So also, a little faith can make a big difference. The faith of little children can bring their parents back to the Church. The way we live our faith can speak even louder.

Isaiah gives us some hints in the first reading when he writes about feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless and clothes to the poor. When someone has so much faith that it shows in their actions, as Isaiah puts it, "Your light shall break forth like the dawn." But we sometimes get things backwards. If we do the things Isaiah tells the people to do, we might think that the deeds will give us faith. But faith is the source of those actions, not the result. If we truly believe in God's love for us, and we believe that God lives in the people around us, especially the poor, then we will want to show our love by caring for each other.

When we do have faith, we don't have to worry about how people react to us. Like St. Paul in the second reading, we don't need to be dramatic or full of worldly wisdom. As he preached the wisdom of Christ who died on the cross and was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit, he let people see that power in the lives of other believers as well as his own life.

But if we don't have faith, then we are like the salt that has lost its flavor. A low-salt diet may be good for us; but a low-salt faith, instead of making things better, would make them worse. Without faith in God's love for us, we would not respond with love of our own. We could still be a good person, but we would not be a very good disciple. We could not spread the faith if we didn't have it ourselves.

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

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.



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, if Merrimack schools are closed or if there is a delayed opening, morning Mass is cancelled. We will call to reschedule the Mass intention for that day.

Electronic Giving Bulletin Announcement

Thank you for your generous support of our parish during our *God's House, Our Home* Program! We are beginning to see signs that our Sunday offertory collections are growing through the generosity of many, many parishioners. Thank you so very much to all who have chosen to participate in this very important program.

If you currently use electronic giving, please make sure you go into the application and update your giving to reflect your new commitment. If you do not remember what you have committed to or if you need help logging in to the electronic giving application, please contact the parish office. Your generosity shows your willingness, as a faithful steward, to be a part of the ongoing mission of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

God's House, Our Home Program Summary

Our results from the God's House, Our Home Program were encouraging. Almost 56% of the parishioners who gave to the Sunday offertory in the last year made a commitment for the next year. We also had 34 families newly identify themselves as active supporters of our church. Overall, the commitments reflect a 66% increase in the offertory over previous donations from those that responded with a commitment card. Please—it is important that parishioners maintain these commitments throughout the year, so that our church is able to continue its mission.

120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #1: Bob Bergin & Pat Miller

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of February 8 through February 14th is lit in memory of **Alvin Popovsky**.



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.

WANT TO GET READY FOR SUNDAY—COME TALK ABOUT THE UPCOMING READINGS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH @ 7:00 PM IN THE PARISH CENTER.

Deacon John says THANKS!!

We began our meatball sub fundraisers about 3 years ago. It started small, raising about \$1200.00 each time. Our most recent meatball sub fundraiser (Super Bowl Sunday) raised more than \$2200.00 over the weekend.



The proceeds have funded youth ministry activities and other parish needs. I want to thank you for your enthusiastic support. There are no administrative costs so every dollar raised goes directly to the parish. Also a special thank you to the many people who contribute by helping get the subs out. Blessings to all!

Lenten Series:

An Overview of Church History

Take some time this Lent to explore the fascinating history of the Catholic Church, from Jesus and the Apostles to the present day. This adventure will be offered over 6 sessions, with each session offered twice a week, Tuesdays at 9:15 am and Thursdays at 7:15 pm, in the church hall. Begins Tuesday, 2/25, and Thursday, 2/27. Led by Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation. You may contact Michael (mcoughlin@olmnh.org) with any questions.

Parish Stewardship

Online Giving for January: \$13,197.00

Week of February 2, 2020: \$8208.00

Catholic School Collection: \$1414.00

**PARISH BREAKFAST AND BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**

Bring your appetite and enjoy a relaxing breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, February 16th in the Church hall.

Breakfast will be served after the 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses. A Blood Pressure Clinic will be held at the same time in the Church Hall by our parish nurses.

BLOOD DRIVE
February 20, 2020

Our Lady of Mercy will be hosting a **Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, February 20th from 2:00pm to 7:00 pm in the Church Hall.**

THE NEED IS GREAT!! Did you know that cancer patients are among the most common recipients of blood transfusions. Donations are also used daily for surgery patients, accident victims, organ transplant recipients and burn patients. Please consider donating.

Call the American Red Cross at **1-800-733-2767** to schedule an appointment. Walk ins are always welcome.

**SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS
FUNDRAISER**



The fundraiser for Mary Gate of Heaven orphanage in Haiti, founded by Sr. Claire Daneau, an American Sister of Holy Cross, is the weekend of **February 15 and 16 here** at the parish. Representatives of the Sisters will have raffle calendars available after each Mass. By purchasing a raffle calendar at the cost of \$10.00 each or six for \$50.00, you are providing for the educational needs of 52 children. From April 1 through April 30, a total of \$2500.00 will be given away. Thank you for supporting "Sister Claire's Kids".

LADIES GUILD MEETING

The Ladies Guild will be having their next monthly meeting on **February 18th at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall.** All ladies of the parish are welcome. If you are new to the parish or would like to learn more about our ministry, please join us or contact Pat Miller at 440-3370.

DID YOU KNOW...

We live in one of the most abortion-friendly states in the country? For example: The NH House of Representatives is currently considering an amendment to the state constitution (CACR14) that would forever make unconstitutional any conditions at all on abortions in this state (disguised under the words "personal reproductive medical decisions"). Should this be forever etched into the NH Constitution? Once in the state constitution, it would remain in effect, even if Roe V Wade is someday overturned. Is this something we should be proud of? Please let your representatives know your thoughts before they vote?

Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Peter Libasci invites all couples celebrating an anniversary in 2020 of 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55+ years, to attend the Spring Wedding Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester.



To register, please contact your parish office by March 20th. The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration.

Couples celebrating anniversaries of 5, 25 or 50 years will be asked to register later for a fall celebration. To all other married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this spring's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

FAST FOR SOCIAL ACTION FOOD DRIVE

**Drop off items on the weekends of February 29/
March 1 or March 7th/ 8th at all entrances
of the church.**

What if Fast for Social Action?

This is an activity for Catholic teens who learn about hunger by fasting for 40 hours, collecting food donations and studying about the causes of poverty and hunger in the world. This Fast for Social Action is held at St. John Neumann Parish the weekend of March 27th and 28th.

By participating in the food drive you....

- Help feed those in need in our community
- Help stock the Food Pantry

Suggested food items:

peanut butter or other nut butters, jelly, pasta and sauce, canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, canned meats (stews, chicken, tuna, etc) canned or dry beans, rolled oats, low sodium soups, rice, cereal, snacks for kids (popcorn, nuts, granola bars, fruit cups, canned fruit, or dry fruit, etc), boxed mixes (cookies, brownies, muffins, etc).

Keep our military personnel both here and abroad in your daily prayers. We ask that God hold them in his loving hand and that He protects them as they continue to protect us.

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
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Merrimack, NH 03054

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Bulletin for February 9, 2020

Kathy