



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 22nd

Vigil: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Jean Boyer Stow req by her mother Barbara

Sunday, February 23rd

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Deceased parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM: Jeanne Kimball req by her loving family

Monday, February 24th

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Rita Cloutier req by her nieces & nephews

Tuesday, February 25th

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Beata Truty req by the Lamb family

Wednesday, February 26th

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:30AM: Frank Silvia req by his family

7:00 PM: Chip Dancy req by his family

Thursday, February 27th

6:10 PM: Evening Prayer

6:30 PM: For the Coughlin & Enriquez families

Friday, February 28th

8:15AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Linda Beaulieu req by Ann Vey

Saturday, February 29th

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Marty Kelley req by Phil & Jane Dwyer

Sunday, March 1st

First Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Gobnait O'Leary req by the Fleming family

10:30AM: Mary Federici req by Diane Schultz and for all parishioners

Passive Aggression or Active Love?

I wonder how many people read today's Gospel and said, "You expect me to do that?" Aren't we supposed to resist evil? Yes, we are; but Jesus makes an important distinction between evil acts and the person who commits them. Why? Because God does just that. As Jesus says, God sends sunshine and rain on both good and bad people. So how do we resist evil? We do as Jesus did--we conquer it with love.

When Jesus died on the cross, this was the victory over sin and death because he gave his life for us out of love. This love was for everyone, especially those sinners who need it. You might say he loves sinners most of all. Why? Because they need his love the most. All he asks of us is to show love to everyone, even our enemies.

Now when we read the examples in the Gospel (Matthew 5:39-42), we may be tempted to say that they just encourage people to be bad, that the way to stop evil is to make people suffer for doing evil. But Jesus didn't say to let people run over you. Instead of a weak passivism, we actively offer the other cheek, hand over the cloak, or go the extra mile. And that's just for the ones who occasionally annoy us. Later in the same Gospel, Jesus tells us to love and pray for our enemies--those who hate us and continually try to harm us.

But notice what he doesn't say. He never promises that we will change these people, that our actions will eventually cause them to repent or become our friends. No, he only asks his disciples to change, to become "perfect" as the Father is perfect. Of course, we can never be infinitely good, all-knowing, and all-powerful like God. But Jesus calls us not to perfectionism but to holiness. That kind of holiness comes only from God, just as changing evil-doers or enemies is up to God. God can work through us to change the hearts of others, but God always respects their freedom. Perhaps the love we show to our enemies will at least open their hearts to the possibility of receiving the love of God, who can help them to become holy, too.

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RCIA—Are you interested in finding out more about how to become a Catholic. Are you interested in becoming Baptized, Confirmed or receive Eucharist? You are welcomed to come on Monday morning at 11am or Wednesday evening at 5:45pm to begin the process. Please call the parish office at 424-3757 and speak with Marie Dancy for more information.



*From Death
to New Life*

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Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls **Barbara Devaney & David Dah Bang Woo.**

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of Barbara & David. We pray that the God of compassion be with you during this time of sorrow and that He welcomes Barbara & David into His eternal kingdom of peace.

Lent - A Journey in Mercy



In the play, the Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare wrote...

The quality of mercy is not strained (forced); it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes...

Mercy is an essential part of who we are—or of whom we are challenged to be. To be of mercy is to forgive others, and to help meet the needs of others as if they were our own. The model is Jesus, who shows mercy to all through his sacrificial redemption of the world on the cross.

During Lent we will examine mercy and nurture it on our personal lives and in our community. The homilies will challenge us to walk more closely on a path of mercy.

THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Tuesday, February 25th—9:15 am in the Church Hall (getting the jump on Lent) The History of the Church

Ash Wednesday, February 26th—Mass with the distribution of ashes—8:30 am and 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 27th—Confession @ 5:30 pm; Evening Prayer @ 6:10 PM; Mass @ 6:30 pm
Church History @ 7:15 pm in Church Hall

Friday, February 28th—Stations of the Cross and Soup @ 6:30 pm

Weekend Masses—4:30 pm Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 am on Sunday

Monday, March 2nd—Prayer Group 4:00—5:30 pm in Church; Theme during Lent is, “Immerse Yourself in the Merciful Heart of Jesus”. One half hour of silent Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, followed by prayer and reflection on the Sorrowful Mysteries, and closing with an adoration hymn.

Tuesday, March 3—Church History at 9:15 am in the Church Hall
Wild Goose (last class) 6:30 pm in the Church Hall

Wednesday, March 4th: A Lent to Remember video & discussion 9:15 am in Church hall
Wednesday People @ 7:00 pm in Parish Center; Exploring scripture for the following Sunday

Thursday, March 5th; Confessions at 5:30 pm; Evening Prayer @ 6:10 pm; Mass @ 6:30 pm
Church History @ 7:15 pm in Church Hall

Friday, March 6th: Stations of the Cross and Soup @ 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 7th: Men of St Joseph @ 7:00 pm Church Hall
Rosary Cenacle @ 8:00 am in Church
Edge Retreat @ 10:00 am for middle school & high school students

Regulations on Fast and Abstinence

Fasting is observed by all who are 18 to 59 years of age. On a day of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two lighter meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs. Nothing should be eaten between meals, but liquids such as water, milk and juices are allowed. Abstinence is observed by all who are 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed unless health or ability to work would be seriously affected. Ash Wednesday, February 26th and Good Friday, April 10th are both days of Fast and Abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of Abstinence.



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.

Electronic Giving Bulletin Announcement

Thank you for your support during our *God's House, Our Home* Program! We are beginning to see signs that our offertory collections are growing through the generosity of 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.

FOOT CLINIC—On February 27th from 8:30am to 1:00 pm, we will be hosting a foot care clinic operated by the nurses of Home Health and Hospice Care. The cost is \$34.00 and is payable by cash or check at the time of the appointment. For more information or to schedule your appointment, please call Home Health & Hospice Care at 689-2931.

St. Patrick's Day Parish Party

Our St. Patrick's Day Party will be held on Saturday, March 14th, after the 4:30 pm Mass. The party 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 the mealtime. Tickets will be on sale after the Masses next weekend, February 29 & March 1 and again on March 7 & 8.

Ticket prices : \$10.00 for age 16 through adults; \$5.00 for ages 10 through 15 and no charge for age 9 and under. Dinner is corned beef, ham, cabbage, potatoes and carrots. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

40 Days For Life

Life Matters: From February 26th through April 5th you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life-40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right of way outside Planned Parenthood, Manchester. You can sign up for a specific time slot on the 40 Days website or show up whenever you can. The kickoff is Sunday February 23rd at 2:00 pm at St Marie's parish hall featuring keynote speaker Jasmine Grace with a personal witness to the effects of abortion and human trafficking on women. For more information or to volunteer please visit 40daysforlife.com/Manchester.

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.**

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).



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of February 22nd through February 28th is **lit for a special intention.**

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

Parish Stewardship

Week of February 16, 2020: \$5477.00



120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #3: Mary Bathey & Greg Durbin

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
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Merrimack, NH 03054

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Bulletin for February 23, 2020

Kathy