

THE JUDEAN
DESERT
WESTERN ISRAEL

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.

MATTHEW 4:1

MARCH 1
2020

firstsunday
OF Lent

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*Our Lady of Mercy Parish
Merrimack, NH*

Pastor: Rev Paul Bouchard

Phone# 603-424-3757

Deacon: John Castelot

Website: www.olmnh.org

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, March 2nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday, March 3rd

St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Intentions of the Celebrant

Wednesday, March 4th

St Casimir

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Clark Swinehart req by Chris & Sharon Nagy

Thursday, March 5th

6:10 PM: Evening Prayer

6:30 PM: Carol Sylvia req by Bob & Karen Correia

Friday, March 6th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Deceased family & friends of Stephen & Debra Steffieri

Saturday, March 7th

Vigil: Second Sunday in Lent

4:30PM: Richard Senick req by his daughter Andrea

Sunday, March 8th

Second Sunday in Lent

8:30AM: All Parishioners

10:30AM: Pauline Cloutier req by Lanie Blazonis

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—4:30 PM

Sunday — 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri — 8:30 AM

Holy Days—8:30 AM with an anticipated vigil—7:00 PM

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor

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Nancy King—Director of Music

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EASTER VIGIL CHOIR

Hard to believe but Easter will be here before we know it. We are looking for parishioners who would be interested in singing with our Easter Vigil Choir. Rehearsals will take place on March 8th, 15, 22 and 29th at 6:00 pm in Church. All are welcome to join in this choir, so grab a friend and bring them along with you. We'd love to have you join us as we sing at this Easter Vigil liturgy.

Email Nancy King at nking@olmnh.org, music director with any questions.



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 **Lorraine Desmarais & Joyce Ledoux.**

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

Lent - A Journey in Mercy

First Sunday of Lent



Monday, March 2nd: Prayer Group 4:00—5:30 pm in Church; “Immerse Yourself in the Merciful Heart of Jesus” — Adoration, Prayer, and song

Tuesday, March 3rd: 9:15 AM in Church Hall—Church History Talk

Wednesday, March 4th: 9:15 AM in Church Hall— “A Lent to Remember” An Encounter with Mercy video and discussion

Wednesday People—7:00 PM—Parish Center: Scripture study of the weekly readings

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

Friday, March 6th: 6: 30 PM —Stations of the Cross: Mary’s Way of the Cross followed by soup and fellowship in the Church Hall

Saturday, March 7th: 7:00 PM—Men of St Joseph in Church Hall
8:00 AM—Rosary Cenacle in Church

This Lent at Our Lady of Mercy we will be exploring what it means to live a merciful life, as a nation, as a community, and as a family. Like many virtues, mercy begins at the individual level, with our thoughts, words and deeds. It seems self-evident how mercy can help others, but how can being merciful to others benefit us as individuals?

Sometimes it is OK to do the things we enjoy, the healthy recreations that bring us bodily and mental refreshments. Jesus himself often went to a “quiet place” to re-energize. These activities, however, should never be preferred over some duty God calls us to attend to, whether it be toward our family or for others. This is how we grow spiritually; this is how we love God; this is how our hearts enlarge to encompass all humanity. It is the will of God. It is not just giving money; it is more about personal service and communication of God’s word through this service. It is active love of God expressed in good works—little things as well as great. In fact, it is often the little things that have the greatest impact on other people’s lives in the long run, like ripples from a pebble tossed into the water that become giant tsunamis in time!

So, this Lent, go ahead—throw the pebble! You may never see the end result, but the inner effect upon your heart and soul will change your life. After all, the mountain always looks different after an avalanche of pebbles!

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 persons 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. Led by Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation.

You may contact Michael (mcoughlin@olmnh.org) with any questions.

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.

St. Patrick's Day Parish Party



Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend (Feb 29/Mar 1) and next weekend (Mar 7/8) for the St. Patrick's Day Parish Party which takes place on Saturday, March 14th after the 4:30pm 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 mealtime. Ticket prices: \$10.00 for age 16 thru adults; \$5.00 for ages 10-15; no charge for children age 9 and under. Dinner will consist of corn beef, ham, cabbage, potatoes and carrots. This parish event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

20 Poems to Pray

**Saturday, March 21st—Church Hall
10:30 am to 12:00 pm**

Women at the Well cordially invites you as we welcome Dr. Gary Bouchard, English Professor and head of the Grappone Institute for Humanities at St Anselm College in Manchester to Our Lady of Mercy.

Dr. Bouchard will be discussing his latest book, **20 Poems to Pray**, in which he has collected 20 of his popular columns on poetry and prayer from our Diocesan magazine Parable. He will talk to us on the qualities that make poems speak to us as prayer, from Shakespeare to St. John Paul II.

A questions and answer session, book signing and refreshments will follow the discussion. Copies of Dr. Bouchard's book will be available for purchase.

120 CLUB WINNERS

Week #3: Teresa Earl & Sally Candelieri

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 Feb 29/ Mar 1
or Mar 7th/ 8th at all entrances**

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

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.

Wednesday People - During Lent we are invited to journey toward God, to spend time thinking about God and the way of life to which God calls us.

This is what we will explore on Wednesday in the Parish Center at 7 PM .

Parish Stewardship

Week of February 23, 2020: \$5639.00



LIFE MATTERS MINISTRY

The next Life Matters Ministry meeting will be **Sunday, March 8th** after the 8:30 am Mass in the Church hall. Please come if you would like to join us.

Information Page

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Bulletin for March 1, 2020

Kathy