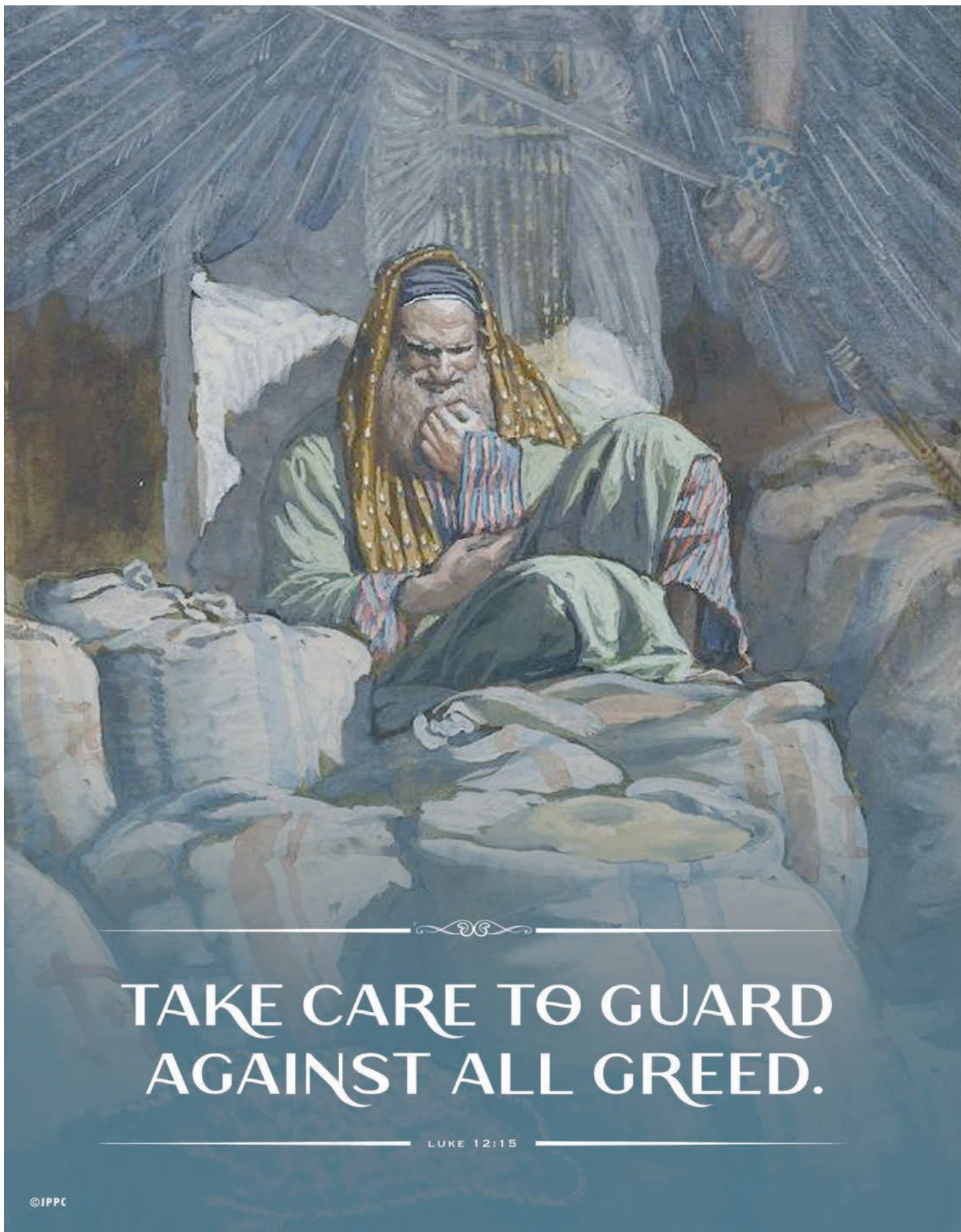




TAKE CARE TO GUARD
AGAINST ALL GREED.

LUKE 12:15

©JPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish July 31, 2022



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
603-424-3757
www.olmnh.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:30PM
Sunday 8:30AM & 10:30AM
Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri 8:30AM
Holy Days 8:30AM and anticipated vigil 7:00PM

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-3:45PM
By appointment: please call the office to schedule with Fr. Paul.

Baptism

Please call the office for an appointment. Baptisms are usually planned for the last weekend of the month.

Marriage

Please contact the office to schedule marriage preparation with Fr. Paul.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is a process for those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of themselves becoming a Catholic.

Funerals

The contact person for the deceased (or the funeral home) should connect with the office to schedule.

Planning ahead for funeral Mass celebrations is also available to all parishioners.

Faith Formation

We offer Faith Formation for all ages. Please see the website for current dates and programs.

Parish Staff

Rev Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor
FrPaul@olmnh.org
John Castelot, Deacon
DeaconJohn@olmnh.org
Sharon Nagy, Business Manager
SNagy@olmnh.org
Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation
MCoughlin@olmnh.org
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister
CCoughlin@olmnh.org
Christian Copeley, Director of Music
CCopeley@olmnh.org
Katie Corsetti, Faith Formation Admin Assistant
KCorsetti@olmnh.org
Tony Ste. Marie, Building & Grounds Facilitator

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Church Hours

The church will be locked for safety. You are welcome to spend time in the church for prayer during office hours! Please come into the office and someone will be happy to let you into the church.

Livestreaming available at olmnh.org

The 4:30 vigil Mass is live streamed each week to be watched live or at a later time and available on the website at www.olmnh.org.

Sanctuary Candle

Please contact the office to have the sanctuary candle lit in memory of, or for the intentions of, a loved one.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 30th

Vigil: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Joseph Griffin req by his wife, Maureen

Sunday, July 31st

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Rachel Blais Juneau req by the Brewsters

10:30AM: Maura Scollin req by a friend
For all parishioners

Saturday, August 6th

Vigil: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Antoinette Fogarty requested by Ron &
Katie Corsetti
For all parishioners

Sunday, August 7th

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Charlene Leduc requested by Dick Gagnon

10:30AM: Louis Joseph Comeau requested by Muriel,
Rachel, Ursula, & Pat

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns
July 30th - August 5th
in memory of
Fr. Brian Escobedo.



Readings for the Week: July 31, 2022

Monday: Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102;
Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-18,
19-21, 29 and 22-23; Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13;
Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19;
Mt 16:13-23

Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab,
39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2
Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36

Sunday: Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22; Heb
11:1-2, 8-19 or Heb 11:1-2, 8-12; Lk 12:32-48 or
Lk 12:35-40

3 Ways to Make Hope Real

Our world needs to hear the message of Christian hope. This hope is not mere optimism; rather Christian hope finds its source in the person, Jesus of Nazareth. St. Thomas Aquinas said hope is, “infused in us by God alone.” The universal call of the Church is to be a missionary disciple; to live as one who understands that we are sent forth to make hope real in our world today by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through our words and actions. We are called to notice the needs of others and the needs of our world and to serve as messengers of hope.

How can we be messengers of Christian hope?

First, we notice those who need to hear the message of hope. Who does God draw our attention toward? Who in our lives needs to be reminded that we are never alone, we are loved, and that God’s mercy is infinite? These promises of God infuse us with hope.

Second, we can bring these needs to God through prayer. We turn to God and not only speak to God about what we notice and offer our prayers for those in need, but we also ask God to guide our response. We ask God: *What should we do?* God uses what we notice, the gifts given to us, and the desires of our heart to show us how to respond.

Third, when the path forward is clear about how God is inviting us to respond, we act. God raises comforters by giving us the gifts, the desires of the heart, and eventually the means and opportunities to put our gifts and desires into action.

As messengers of hope, we are called to make hope real. Through prayer, we notice where hope is needed and how to respond to that need through concrete action. Maybe God places the idea of checking in on a lonely family member or friend. Maybe God calls us to visit a sick relative or help those without food, drink, clothing, or shelter. Prayer inspires us to perform the spiritual works of mercy and comfort the afflicted, forgive others, pray for someone who is struggling, or encourage the doubtful.

Pope Francis invites each of us to make hope real by comforting those who need comforting: “God the Father comforts by raising comforters, whom He asks to encourage the people, His children” (*On Hope*, 3). We bring the Good News to others by being visible signs of hope in the world.



-edited from
IgnatianSpirituality.com



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Registration Open for 2022-23!

Grades 1-5

•**In-Person:** class sessions offered Wednesdays at 4:30 OR 5:45 at the parish; grades 1 & 2 are combined together; grade 3 meets as a single grade; grade 4 & 5 are combined

•**At-Home:** after attending an initial parent meeting, parents work through the course book with their child at home throughout the year

In addition to regular lessons, students and families enrolled in the In-Person, At-Home, and Catholic school are invited to participate in four family sessions.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Edge: is offered in-person as a combined group; it meets 1-2 Sunday evenings a month from 6:15-7:45 pm.

All students in grades 6-8 are welcome, even if you were not registered last year!

High School (Grades 9-12)

Life Teen: is offered in-person as a combined group; it meets 1-2 Sunday evenings a month from 6:15-7:45 pm.

All students in grades 9-12 are welcome, even if you were not registered last year!

Please see the website (olmnh.org) under the Faith Formation tab for more information including program calendars. Register online, in the office, or print out a registration form from the website and bring or mail it to the office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

Sacramental programs for children

First Reconciliation: Typically children prepare to receive First Reconciliation in the 2nd grade. Any students who are older than 2nd and have not received First Reconciliation are welcome to participate and should plan to prepare. It is an important step in receiving God's grace and forgiveness and also for preparation for Confirmation and First Communion.

Confirmation & First Communion: Typically children in 3rd grade prepare for and receive these Sacraments of Initiation together. Students older than 3rd grade who have not received these sacraments are invited to prepare to receive them.

Please see the website (olmnh.org) under the Faith Formation tab then Sacramental Formation for more info.

A Person's Life is not About Possessions

Luke 12:13-21

In Chapter 12 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus instructs His disciples and the crowd on how to be ready for the coming judgment. A crowd of many thousands has gathered to hear Jesus. At first Jesus speaks only to the disciples, reminding them that it is not persecution they should fear, but the judgment that is coming for all who do not acknowledge the Son of Man. Suddenly a man in the crowd shouts out to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." He seems to have grown tired of Jesus speaking only to the disciples. Jesus uses the question, in light of the coming judgment, to teach about what life really is meant to be.

Jesus tells the crowd a parable. A rich man's lands have yielded more crops than expected. His response is not to consider how he might share all the extra food with others, but to wonder how he can possibly store it all. He has what he thinks is a brilliant idea: to tear down his present barns and build larger ones. Then he will have many things stored up for years of eating, drinking, and making merry.

"You fool" is God's response to this man because that very night his life will be taken away. The rich man's world is small; just him and his possessions. Now he learns that he is to lose his life. What good are his possessions at this point? Jesus states the moral of the story: this is how it will be for everyone who stores up treasure, but is not rich in what matters to God.

Centuries later St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor, we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not just performing works of mercy; we are paying a debt of justice. Life does not consist of possessions, but in sharing what we possess with others. The goods of the earth have been given to everyone.

-edited from Loyolapress.com



Caring Rides for Homebound Seniors: Volunteers Needed

CareGivers, a program of Catholic Charities NH, is seeking volunteers to meet the growing demand for its Caring Rides program, which serves local homebound seniors.

Volunteers drive seniors to medical appointments, dental visits, the pharmacy, and other vital appointments. You may choose where and how often you volunteer; whether once a month or every week. To learn how you can make a life-changing impact for seniors facing isolations, visit caringrides.org or call 603-622-4948.



Parish Stewardship

July 23 & 24: \$3,638

COAR Appeal: \$2,514

Thank you for your generosity!

Reminder: Doors Locked for Safety

At the beginning of Mass, side doors will be locked. Then, 15 minutes after the start of Mass the main entrance door will be locked. If you need to leave the building and want to return, please let a Greeter know so he or she can let you in through the main entrance. Thank you for your understanding!

Host Family Needed

A female high school exchange student from Spain is looking for a host family for the upcoming school year. Bianca is an 18 year old active Catholic who's excited to share her Spanish traditions with her host family and school, as well as to experience the American way of life. Bianca has taken 9 years of English and is described by her teachers as a kind, warm-hearted person. She is also looking for a family who will go to Mass regularly with her.



If you are interested, please contact the OLM office. For more information about hosting an exchange student, please see www.stsfoundation.org.

workcampNE Sponsorships Available

Work Camp begins today: Sunday, July 31! We are pleased to be sending 13 local youth to participate in a week of WorkcampNE. In true "camp style," this year participants will be staying over night at Trinity High School in Manchester. During the day they will work in teams to support home repairs for local residents. In the evening they will return to the "campsite" for inspiration through faith sharing, fellowship, and fun.

The cost to support each participant and the home projects is \$425 per youth. **You are invited** to sponsor a participant or to make a donation to the cause. Please see Deacon John or drop donations in the collection basket (checks made out to WorkcampNE) in an envelope marked "Work Camp." Thank you!

Please keep our campers in your prayers!

Dear Lord,

Please bless our youth, and all those involved in work camp, as they gather in service to others.

Help them to be courageous to try new things, to be charitable and share with others, and to be cooperative in their work together.

Let them meet others with kindness
and an open heart.

Please keep them safe as they learn, grow, and
serve Your people.

Bless them in their faith; that in all things
they may grow closer to YOU.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

120 Club Winners

Andrea Dickson

Regina Bowser

Congratulations!

Thank you for your continued support!

No daily Mass Aug 1-12

While Fr. Paul is on vacation, there will be no daily Mass August 1st through August 12.

Daily Mass will resume on August 15.

May God bless Fr. Paul during his time away. May he be renewed and refreshed!

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