

Where is the newborn
KING
of the
JEW S?

MATTHEW 2:2



©IPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish January 8, 2023



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.

Live streaming available at olmnh.org

The 4:30pm vigil Mass is live streamed. View by going to 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, January 7th
Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:30PM: Carolyn Caprioglio req by the Ladies Guild

Sunday, January 8th
The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30AM: Lorraine Bourgeois, 1st anniversary,
requested by Diane, Al, & Jonathan Boissy

10:30AM: Phillip Valliere requested by Bill &
Phyllis McCarthy
For all parishioners

Monday, January 9th
Baptism of the Lord

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jesus Gonzalez

Tuesday, January 10th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Joanna Leyva

Wednesday, January 11th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Marissa Chavez

Thursday, January 12th

No Mass

Friday, January 13th
Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Javier Norvarro

Saturday, January 14th
Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Dorothy Lavallee requested by her family
For all parishioners

Sunday, January 15th
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: John Niggling requested by his family

10:30AM: Elizabeth Barry requested by her family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
January 7th - 13th in memory of
Rose Tedeschi.



Please pray for our recently deceased

James Harwood, December 24

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and
the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

An Epiphany Home Blessing

From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem
to adore the Lord. Opening their treasures
they offered precious gifts: gold for the King,
incense for the true God, and myrrh in sym-
bol of His burial.

O God, who by the guidance of a star did
manifest Your only-begotten Son, mercifully
grant that we who know You by faith may
attain the vision of Your glorious majesty.

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that
in it there may be health, purity, humility,
goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Your
law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and
to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. May this
blessing remain upon this home and all who
dwell here. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Readings for the Week: January 8, 2023

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-2,
3-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9;
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9;
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11;
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

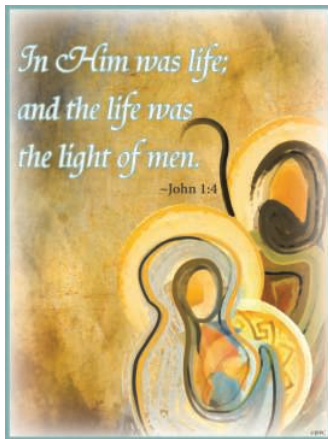
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10;
1Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Life Teen:** Sunday, January 8 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Edge:** Sunday, January 22 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Grades 1-5 Wednesdays:** Wednesday, January 11 at 4:30pm OR 5:45pm, in the parish office building
- Confirmation & First Communication Prep:** Parent/child session: Saturday, March 25 at 9:30am, church hall; preparation books are due at class
- Adult Faith Formation:** The next session on the Vatican II series will be Tuesday, January 17 at 9:15am OR 6:30pm, church hall. This session: What Happened after Vatican II? The Post-Conciliar Period



How Long is the Christmas Season?

December 25 – The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Roman Catholics mark the end of the liturgical Christmas season with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany (usually the second Sunday of January). Ordinary Time begins the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Fun fact: Centuries ago, the baptism of Christ was the primary event celebrated as part of the feast of the Epiphany, along with the visit of the Magi and other events from the childhood of Jesus. *Epiphany* means “manifestation.” So while the baptism of Christ marks the beginning of His public ministry, it is also part of His “manifestation,” one of the events signaling that God has broken into human history in a unique way.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

The Magi Seek out Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’s birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . .” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in the Gospel of Matthew.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel however, does not specifically say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentiles’ search for a savior. In this way, because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts the Magi bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’s role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’s kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’s death.

The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His baptism by John, and His first miracle at Cana.

-edited from Loyolapress.com



Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, January 8, church hall

RCIA: Sunday, January 8 at 11:30am, parish office

Life Teen: Sunday, January 8 at 6:15pm, church hall

Prayer Group: Monday, January 9 from 4:00-5:30pm, church; All welcome

K of C Prayer Group: Monday, January 9 from 6:30 to 7:00pm, church; All welcome

Grades 1-5 Faith Formation classes: Wednesday, January 11 at 4:30pm OR 5:45, parish office building

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, January 12 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office building

Men of St. Joseph: Saturday, January 14 at 7:00am, church hall

K of C Breakfast: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, January 15, church hall

Life Matters: Sunday, January 15 at 9:30am, church hall

Parish Stewardship

Christmas: \$11,178

Weekend: Dec 31 & Jan 1: \$4,612

Thank you for your generosity!

Winter Weather Cancellations

Daily morning Mass may be canceled due to winter storms. If Merrimack schools are delayed or closed due to weather, then daily Mass is canceled. Cancellations will also be posted on our website at www.olmnh.org and in the WMUR scrolling announcements.



Weekend Masses will follow the normal schedule. Please use caution when deciding to travel in inclement weather.

Examen for the New Year

The Examen is a simple, prayerful reflection usually done daily, but the new year brings an opportunity to review the year past and look forward to the year ahead.

Step 1: Become aware of God's presence. One way is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you review the year with a holy perspective; with wisdom, grace, and faith. Ask for the grace to see your life more as God sees it. Of course you will see failings, but God sees you as a beloved daughter or son who has a future and a hope. Of course you will see your accomplishments, but God sees your deeper self, the person behind all the activity; a person made in God's image.

Step 2: Review the year with gratitude. As you use this holy perspective to review the year, pay attention to the good gifts from 2022. Name those that come to memory, and thank God for them.

Step 3: Pay attention to your emotions. Think over the year again, and notice your emotional reactions. What memories speak to you? What events, conversations, relationships, or activities bring up the most emotion? Ask God to help you linger with these emotions, whether they are pleasant or difficult. Ask God for help in understanding them.

Step 4: Choose one feature of the year and pray from it. Perhaps it is an event, or maybe a pattern of your behavior that comes to mind. Whatever emerges, allow it to fuel your prayer.

Step 5: Look forward to the new year. Imagine what challenges and blessings await. Think of your important relationships, decisions to be made, skills to learn, habits to build, healing to seek, good work to accomplish. Make a simple list of highlights—matters that you expect to take prominence in your life this year. Bring them to God, and ask for the graces you will need. End your prayer, thanking God for love and life and holy possibilities.

-edited from ignatianspirituality.com

Life Matters Toothbrush Drive

Throughout the month of January, the Life Matters ministry will again be collecting new unused toothbrushes for Project Eden-Hope for Honduras. The medical mission team from St. Rose of Lima in Littleton, NH is preparing for a trip to Honduras from February 27 to March 6. During their four days of clinics they typically treat 800 to 900 people. Honduras is a poor country with an unstable government. Corruption and instability have resulted in widespread poverty. Access to healthcare is limited.

If you would like to help, please bring **a new unused manual toothbrush adult or child size** to the red bin located at the main entrance of the church. For more information see projectedenhonduras.org.

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