



Our Lady of Mercy Parish February 19, 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, February 18th
Vigil: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: The deceased members of the Boucher & Mayo families

Sunday, February 19th
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: David Hebert, 7th anniversary, requested by the Hebert family

10:30AM: Durean & Frank Caron & Michael Perrault requested by the family
For all parishioners

Monday, February 20th
No Mass

Tuesday, February 21st
Saint Peter Damian,
Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Nelson McCarthy req by the Neary family

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jean Lantienne Stow req by Barbara Lantienne

4:30PM: Children's service

7:00PM: Rose & Robert Tedeschi

Thursday, February 23rd

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Reed & Joan Snyder

Friday, February 24th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Ed Begin requested by his wife, Pauline

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 25th
Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Brian McKenna
For all parishioners

Sunday, February 26th
First Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Carmelle Murch requested by her husband

10:30AM: Gobnait O'Leary req by the Fleming family

Please pray for our recently deceased

Rosanna "Irene" Caron, February 6

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



SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
February 18th - 24th
in memory of
David Hebert.

40 Days For Life Spring 2023

From February 22 through April 2, you're invited to join Christians in more than 60 countries and 600 cities around the world for 40 Days for Life - seeking an end to abortion through prayer, fasting, and outreach to offer hope and options to anyone dealing with an unplanned pregnancy.

For more information, visit our website at 40daysforlife.com/manchester. You may sign up for vigil hours by creating an account or contact OLM parishioner and Manchester Leader Norm Thibault at 603-289-0574 and he'll do the sign-up steps for you.

You're invited to our kickoff at **2:00pm Sunday, February 19** at Holy Family school cafeteria of Ste. Marie's Parish, 378 Notre Dame Ave, Manchester.

Readings for the Week: February 19, 2023

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Life Teen:** Sunday, March 12 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Edge:** Sunday, March 19 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Grades 1-5 Wednesdays:** Feb. 22 at 4:30pm ONLY for children's Ash Wednesday service in the church
- Grades 1-5 Family Lenten Session:** Parents and their grades 1-5 children (other siblings welcome too!) are invited to a Lenten reflection. Saturday, March 18 at 3:00pm in the church hall.
- Confirmation & First Communication Prep:** Parent/child session: Saturday, March 25 at 9:30am, church hall; preparation books are due at class
- Adult Faith Formation:** Save the date! We will host a **Lenten evening** with Fr. Pignato Saturday, March 4 after the 4:30 Mass. More info to come.

Lent 2023

Ash Wednesday February 22:

Mass with the distribution of Ashes at 8:30am and 7:00pm

Thursdays throughout Lent:

Confession available at 5:30pm
Evening Prayer at 6:10pm
Mass at 6:30pm



Fridays throughout Lent:

Station of the Cross at 6:30pm

Adult Faith Formation Opportunity:

Saturday, March 4 after the 4:30pm Mass - An evening reflection with Fr. Pignato - The Mystery of Redemption: A Love Greater Than Sin

Grades 1-5 Faith Formation:

Saturday, March 18 at 3:00pm - A family reflection

Word Among Us: Pick up this daily Scripture and reflection booklet at the church entrances

Not by Bread Alone: Pick up this daily Scripture and reflection booklet at the church entrances

Daily email reflections: Sign up at WordOnFire.org or DynamicCatholic.com, MyDailyVisitor.com/lent to name some

Formed.org: daily reflections and videos

Love Your Enemies; Pray for Your Persecutors *Matthew 5:38-48*

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks His followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?



The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly; that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

K of C Breakfast: Sunday, February 19 after the Masses, church hall

Presidents Day: Monday, Feb. 20 office closed

Grades 1-5 Faith Formation classes: Wednesday, February 22 at 4:30pm ONLY for a children's Ash Wednesday service in the church

Foot Clinic: Thursday, Feb. 23 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, February 23 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office building

Stations of the Cross: Fri., Feb. 24 at 6:30pm, church

Women at the Well: Saturday, February 25 at 9:30am, parish office building

Coffee & Donuts: sponsored by our Knights after the Masses on Sunday, February 26, church hall

St. Patrick's Party

Please join us for a St. Patrick's party on **Saturday, March 11** after the 4:30pm Mass. Enjoy performances by the *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* and an Irish sing-along featuring pianist **Jim Otis**.

Tickets will be on sale after the Masses starting next weekend (February 25 & 26).

Ticket prices:

\$10 for ages 16 - adults

\$5 for ages 10-15

free for children 9 and under.

Soup, sandwiches, dessert, beverages will be provided. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



Parish Stewardship

Weekend February 11 & 12: \$5,264

Thank you for your generosity!

Volunteer Tutors Needed

The Nashua Adult Learning Center is seeking volunteer 1-on-1 tutors for our ESL (English as a second language) and ABE (adult basic education) programs. We match you with a student who fits your strengths, interests, and schedule. Tutoring can be done in-person or via Zoom. We provide training and materials.

Are you a patient, kind individual who can make a 9-month commitment to tutoring at least once per week? Contact MT Huard at 603-716-7017 or email mhuard@nashuaalc.org. We'd love to connect you with a student who can benefit from your gifts!

New OLM Ministry: Sacristan Team

We will be forming a **Sacristan Team** to help prepare that Altar for Mass. This will include weekend and daily Mass as well as funerals. Forming a team will allow flexibility in scheduling. You are invited to give prayerful consideration to joining this ministry.

No experience is necessary! There will be a training for members. Contact the office if you are interested. Are you being called to serve in this special way?

Saint Christopher Academy Upper Campus

Families looking for a focused middle school (grades 6 through 8) that emphasizes faith, academics, and strong moral values are invited to learn more about Saint Christopher Academy, located in North Nashua! Advanced academic programs and a broad range of extracurricular and athletic opportunities support your child's growth into a well-rounded learner and leader ready to embrace high school and beyond. Visit SaintChrisAcademy.org or contact Enrollment Coordinator Lorraine Bedard at 603-882-7442, ext. 310.

Life Matters Ministry Toothbrush Drive

Thank you for your generosity! We delivered 511 adult toothbrushes 35 child toothbrushes, along with 27 tubes of toothpaste and 35 dental floss to Project Eden-Hope for Honduras leader Evelyn Hagen. Please keep Evelyn and her medical team in your prayers during their upcoming mission to Honduras on February 27-March 7.

A Lenten/Easter Journey to the Well!

Women at the Well would like to invite all women to join us on **Saturday, February 25 at 9:30am** in the parish office as we explore the meaning and significance of the Beatitudes, in the life of Jesus and in our own lives. Bishop Fulton Sheen beautifully connects the Sermon on the Mount with the Last Words of Christ on the Cross, and over the course of the next few months we will walk that journey with him and Fr. Jacques Philippe, who is also featured in this month's *Word Among Us*. We will be using the books: *The Cross and the Beatitudes* by Bishop Sheen and *The Eight Doors of the Kingdom* by Fr. Philippe. Both are available on Amazon in book and Kindle format, or you can just come and take part in our discussion!

Please consider joining us this Lent and Easter season, and learn how you, too, can participate in the life of Christ through living the Beatitudes!

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