



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

March 26, 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, March 25th
Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: Martha Corsini requested by her family

Sunday, March 26th
Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Rosanna Irene Caron requested by Claude
& Sandy Mayo
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Rose Poraczky req by her daughter, Patricia

Monday, March 27th

No Mass

Tuesday, March 28th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Carmelle Murch requested by her husband

Wednesday, March 29th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Helen Prince requested by Kathy Demers &
Evelyn Brundidge

Thursday, March 30th

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Donald W. Lamere requested by the Knights

Friday, March 31st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Leslie Sheehan requested by Diane Schultz

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 1st

Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:30PM: Helen Prince req by Steve & Betty Carrier

Sunday, April 2nd
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30AM: John Clark req by the Nagy & Durkin family

10:30AM: John Hamilton req by Ray & Rose Graham
For all parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
March 25 – 31st in memory of
Charles Watters.



Making Lent Meaningful

Why Do We Give Alms?

Charitable giving is an ancient practice, begun long before the time of Jesus. The Lenten call to almsgiving makes the needs of others our own. A central lesson of the Cross is compassion; the heavy burdens we carry help us to appreciate the suffering of others. Sharing our material goods is often just the beginning of real Christian giving. We are also called to share our time, tending to people in need.

Some Sharing our Time Ideas:

- Tutor a child
- Mentor a colleague or new grad
- Help a neighbor
- Volunteer at a local school, library, shelter, adult learning center, or pregnancy center



Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The sacrificial practices of Lent prepare and purify us in body, mind, and spirit for the passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday

If you would like to be one of the Twelve who has his or her feet washed during the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, please contact the office. Mass will be at 7:00pm on April 6.

Parish Stewardship

Weekend March 18 & 19: \$11,257

Catholic Relief Services & Home Missions: \$603

Thank you for your generosity!

Readings for the Week: March 26, 2023

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or

Dn 13:41c-62; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21;
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7;
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13;
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7;
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11;
Mt 26:14 - 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Life Teen:** Sunday, March 26 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Edge:** Sunday, April 2 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Grades 1-5 Faith Formation classes:** Wednesday, April 12 at 4:30pm OR 5:45, parish office building
- Confirmation & First Communion:** The bishop set the date for May 15 at 6:00pm. All are welcome! Please pray for our candidates and First Communicants!



Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
John 11:1-45

Our Gospel is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel: the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, participating in the feast of the Dedication, which we know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing Him to declare plainly whether He is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to His works, which testify to His coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus and some try to stone Him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that His friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but He delays His journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus's obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that He will journey to Bethany, His disciples fear for His life. Thomas declares that the disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. A weeping Martha meets Jesus saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where He prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus's death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus's impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus's own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows His power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in Him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus's tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in Him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

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

RCIA: Sunday, March 26 at 11:30am, parish office

Life Teen: Sunday, March 26 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall

Prayer Group: Monday, March 27 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

Simon Ministry: Tuesday, March 28 from 6:30-8:00pm, church hall

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, March 30 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office building

Stations of the Cross & Soup: Friday, March 31 at 6:30pm, church

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, April 1 at 8:30am, church

K of C Breakfast: Sunday, April 2 after the Sunday Masses sponsored by our Knights, church hall

Edge: Sunday, April 2 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall

OLM Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Confession Monday, April 3: Fr. Paul will be available from 11:00am-1:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm to hear individual confessions

Tenebrae (means “darkness” or “shadows” leading up to Easter) Wednesday, April 5: 7:00pm

Holy Thursday, April 6: morning prayer at 8:30am; Mass of the Last Supper at 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 7: morning prayer at 8:30am; Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm in the church; Veneration of the Cross at 7:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 8: morning prayer at 8:30am; Easter Vigil at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 9: Mass at 8:30am and 10:30am

Laura's World Fund

Please join us at Buckley's Great Steaks on **Sunday, March 26 from 4:30-7:30pm**. Fifty percent of your food purchase will go to Laura's World Fund! The Fund supports educational, health, and recreational opportunities for children in NH and Ethiopia.

You are also welcome to donate by sending a check to Laura's World Fund, PO Box 42, Merrimack, NH 03054 or online at Laurasworldfund.org. For more information contact Rob Wolf at 603-913-3144. One hundred % of contributions go to children in need.

Chrism Mass

Bishop Libasci is pleased to announce the celebration of the annual Chrism Mass on **Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00pm** at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. This invitation is extended to all clergy and parishioners. **Register to attend at www.CatholicNH.org.**

At the Chrism Mass the priests renew the promises they made at ordination. The Mass takes its name from the most eminent of the three holy oils which the bishop commissions for his local churches to use over the following year.

While the Oil of the Sick, used for those who seek anointing; and the Oil of the Catechumens, which is imposed on those preparing for baptism are “blessed,” the Sacred Chrism is “consecrated.” All the priests present participate in the consecration by extending their hands toward the vessel containing the oil as the bishop says the prayer of consecration.

The Chrism is used at the ordination of priests and bishops, baptisms, confirmations, the consecration of altars and the blessing of churches, where the walls are smeared with it in the sign of the cross. As part of the consecration of the Chrism, balsam is poured into the oil, which gives it a sweet smell.

Merrimack Faith Communities News

Easter Sunrise Service: April 9 at 5:45am in Watson Park Merrimack, NH. All are welcome!

Donations needed: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 110 Concord Street in Nashua, is collecting the following through April 9 in support of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster for refugees:

- 32oz cans of Baby Formula
- 14.1oz cans of PediaSure
- Baby Bottles and Bottle Brushes
- Car Seats -Must be NEW - not used

120 Club Winners

Week 3

Nancy Nicolo

Kathleen Swanson

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Schola

The Schola will sing at the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 31 at 6:30pm, Palm Sunday at the 10:30 Mass, and on Easter Sunday at the 10:30 Mass.

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