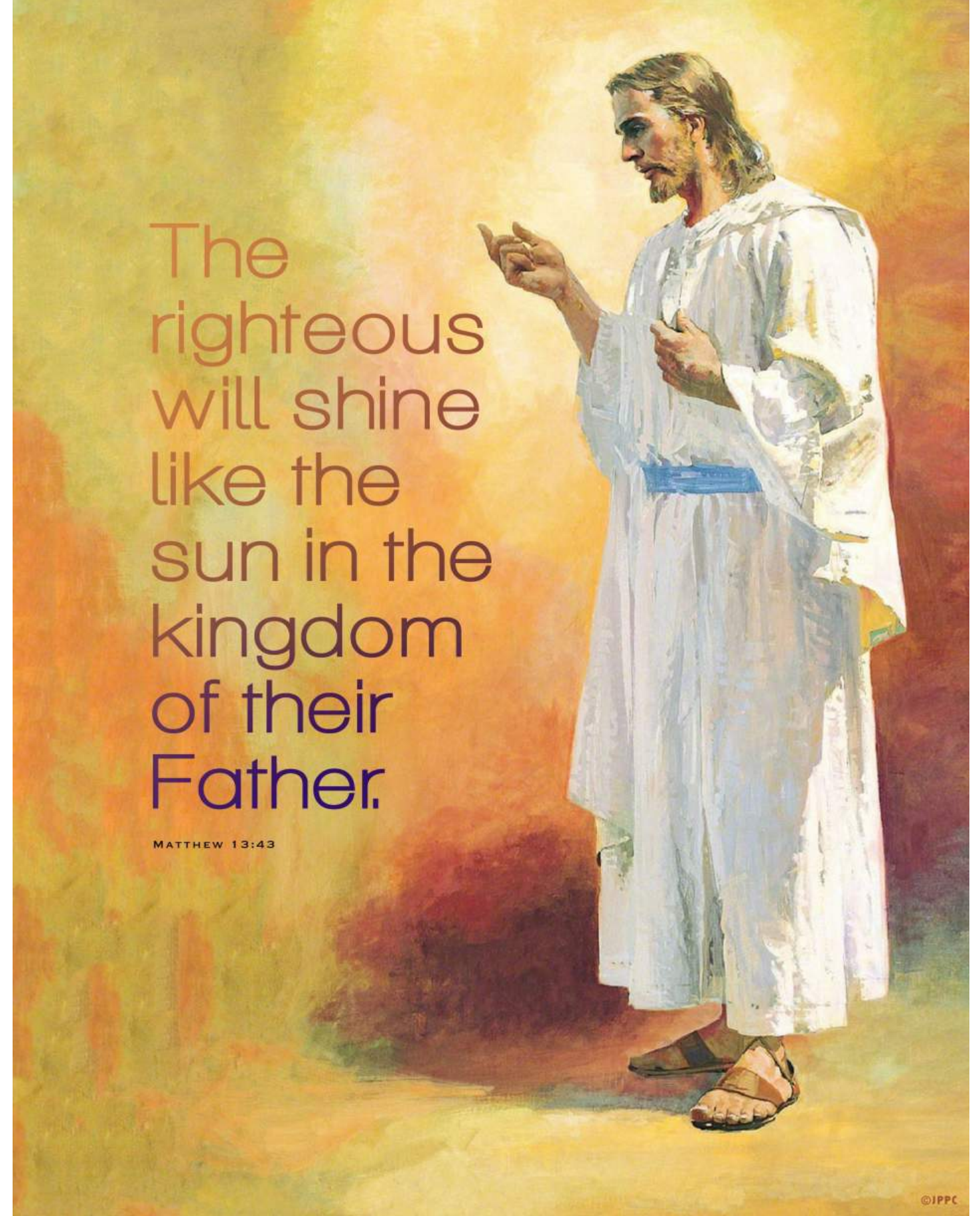




The
righteous
will shine
like the
sun in the
kingdom
of their
Father.

MATTHEW 13:43

©JPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish July 23, 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, July 22nd

Vigil: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: Liz Lochman req by Claude & Sandy Mayo
For all parishioners

Sunday, July 23rd

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Garrett Gregoire

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

Monday, July 24th

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Claire & John Murphy req by Ruth Murphy

Tuesday, July 25th

Saint James, Apostle

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: John Sadlier requested by a friend

Wednesday, July 26th

Saints Joachim & Anne,
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Pamela Jean Brown requested by Bruce &
Janet Angus

Thursday, July 27th

No Mass

Friday, July 28th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Carmelle Murch requested by her husband

Saturday, July 29th

Vigil: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

4:30PM: Chris Guay req by his mom & dad & family

Sunday, July 30th

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30AM: Donald & Arlene Olson req by the family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Pauline Mercier req by the Vegliante family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
July 22nd – 28th in memory of
Linda Bradish.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Sandra Debus, July 16

*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.*

Keeping Summer Faith-Filled

Perhaps it is because Jesus is the Light of the World, but there is no doubt we love light. Summer is a great time to consider what Jesus told us about living in the light of God's love: open our hearts, love others, and do what is right. While we savor the sunshine, try to focus on more SON-shine. Make sunny days faith-filled as well as fun-filled.

Enjoy the Word

As a family, read Ephesians 5:8-9: "For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." Talk about what being "children of light" means. Make goodness and truth concrete daily goals. In Scripture light symbolizes God's presence and holiness. Look for God's presence each day and talk about it each night.

Enjoy the Water

Get out family baptismal candles (or another candle) to light. Talk about the importance of baptism and the
(continued on announcements page...)

Readings for the Week: July 23, 2023

Monday: Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6;
Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6;
Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24,
25-26, 27-28; Mt 13:1-9

Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56; Mt 13:10-17

Friday: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15;
Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-
128, 129-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 or
Mt 13:44-46



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-5 Faith Formation

Exciting changes are coming to Grades 1-5 Faith Formation and its families! Faith Formation will have two components: A monthly parent/child session and a grade level book to be completed at home. The best from our past programs merge into one strong initiative with a focus on the family.

Research shows that parents are the first and best teachers of their children. Parents set family priorities and are powerful examples for their children. That remains true with Faith Formation. Parents engaged with the Faith help to form children who grow in their faith and remain engaged in the Faith as well.

Goal: to plant seeds in the hearts of children that develop into a lifelong relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son through the Holy Spirit.

The new OLM Grades 1-5 program:

Keeping with our Wednesday tradition, all parent/child sessions will take place once a month (September through April) at 4:30-5:30 pm OR 5:45-6:45 pm. Sessions will be held in the church and will include teaching and activities for both parents and children along with time for fellowship and fun.

Children will receive a grade level book at the first parent/child session. Those books will be completed at home under the guidance of parents, grandparents, neighbor groups, etc. It is our hope to engage families in learning about and living out the Faith.

Get started!

- Register your child(ren) for Faith Formation.
 - online at www.olmnh.org
 - in person at the office or through the mail
- Join us for our first parent/child session on September 20 in the church.
- Mark your calendar for all parent/child sessions. Spend time going through the book chapters with your child(ren) at home.
- Stay connected! Please let us know if you have questions along the way. We are here to support you in guiding your child in Faith!

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Edge: is offered in-person as a combined group. Meetings are 1-2 Sundays a month from 6:15-7:45 pm.

Jesus Teaches About the Kingdom of Heaven *Matthew 13:24-43*

Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why He speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus's discourse that we began last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus's explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that results from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring His Kingdom to full bloom. A small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will expand His Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.



These parables contain words of caution and consolation. In the sower parable we are warned against judging. To judge and uproot "weeds" prematurely harms the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the seed and yeast parables, we are consoled by the message that God works wonders and produces abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

High School (Grades 9-12)

Life Teen: is offered in-person as a combined group. Meetings are 1-2 Sundays a month from 6:15-7:45 pm.

All students in grades 1-12 are welcome, even if you were not registered previously!

Keeping Summer Faith-Filled

(continued from Mass Intentions page...)

waters of new life and the light of Christ received at baptism. Go swimming, do water activities, or have rainy-day fun to make the connection to Christ as the “living water” who saves us. God refreshes our souls. Discuss God’s creation gift of water.

Enjoy the Time

Summer usually means more outdoor time. Plan a once-a-week outdoor meal without technology. Spend time talking about life, faith, and family. Begin with a prayer and remember that God is also a member of your family!

Enjoy the Travel

As you take day trips or vacations, plan to stop at a church, a shrine, outdoor Stations of the Cross, or a museum with religious art. Or take a “Light of God” walk and look for all the things that remind you of God’s love and creation.

Enjoy the Events

Summer is a time of special events like reunions, parades, fairs, ballgames, and concerts. Each time you attend an event, give thanks to God for the blessings you received. Say a short prayer for the success of the event before you go.



Make this the summer you remember Jesus told us He is the “light of the world” (Jn 8:12) and that by following Him we will have the light of life!

-edited from TeachingCatholicKids.com

Can You Help?

There is a local need for a home refrigerator. If you have one you are able to donate, please contact the office. Thank you!

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections June 10 - July 16, 2023

Offertory/Miscellaneous

Budget: \$9,231

Actual: \$8,981

Variance: (\$250)

Thank you for your generosity!

Widows & Widowers Support

The Widow/Widowers group meets the second Saturday of the month at 9:30am at St. John Neumann in room 3, off the church hall.

For more information or questions, please contact Tricia Mroz at 603-494-2517.

Next meeting: Saturday, August 12 at 9:30am.

His Hands and Feet

Mission 2023

Sunday, August 6 - Wednesday, August 9

His Hands and Feet (HHF) provides local service opportunities for youth (grade 7 and up) and adults. Put your faith into action! **Registration is open!** Contact the office to learn more.

Dementia Support Group

Are you caring for a family member or friend with memory loss? You don’t have to face it alone. Join Catholic Charities NH for a five-week online support group, “Caring for Loved Ones with Dementia,” **starting Wednesday, July 26.**

You will discover a deeper understanding of dementia and practical resources to support your loved-one’s well being. To register please visit cc-nh.org/dementia.

There is no cost. For more information contact Louise at 603-752-1325 ext 4573 or email her at lmorneau@cc-nh.org.

Foot Clinic

There is a Foot Clinic on Thursday, July 27 from 9:00am to noon in the church hall. Please call 603-689-2899 for an appointment.

Many Thanks!

Thank you for allowing St. Gianna’s Place to hold a baby bottle fundraiser recently at your parish. The generosity of the parishioners allowed us to collect \$2,335. The financial support you offer to St. Gianna’s allows for programming and everyday necessities to be provided to our mothers and babies. Because of this generous support, mothers have a true choice at giving life to their unborn babies. God bless,

Liz Neville
Co-founder



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