

THE
Kingdom of God
IS AT HAND.

MARK 1:15



Our Lady of Mercy Parish February 18, 2024



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. 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

Christian Copeley, Director of Music
CCopeley@olmnh.org

Mary-Elizabeth Hauver, Youth Minister
MHauver@olmnh.org

Katie Corsetti, Director of Faith Formation
KCorsetti@olmnh.org

Linda Durbin, Admin Assistant
LDurbin@olmnh.org

Karen Correia, Admin Assistant
KCorreia@olmnh.org

Parish Office Hours

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

Church Hours

The church will be locked for safety. You are welcome to spend prayer time in church 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 17th
Vigil: First Sunday of Lent
Thirty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Carmelle Murch req by her loving husband
For all parishioners

Sunday, February 18th
First Sunday of Lent
Thirty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: David Hebert, 8th anniversary, req by family

10:30AM: Frank Caron

Monday, February 19th
No Mass

Tuesday, February 20th
8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: Jean Lantiegne Stow req by Barbara Lantiegne

Wednesday, February 21st
**Saint Peter Damian, Bishop &
Doctor of the Church**
8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: James & Grace req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Thursday, February 22nd
The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
5:30PM: Confession
6:10PM: Evening Prayer
6:30PM: Scott Brody

Friday, February 23rd
Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
8:10AM: Morning Prayer
8:30AM: Ellen "Fran" Cogavin requested by Regina
& Michael Bowser
6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24th
Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent
Thirty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
4:30PM: Susan Burdett

Sunday, February 25th
Second Sunday of Lent
Thirty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30AM: Gobnait O'Leary req by the Fleming family
For all parishioners
10:30AM: JoAnn Connolly and Shaun Lindmark
requested by Kim Bowse

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
from February 16th to 23rd
in memory of
Frank Caron.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Donna LaValley, February 2
Scott Brody, February 3

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

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations



If Merrimack schools are canceled or
delayed due to weather then daily Mass will
be canceled.

Weekend Masses will follow the normal
schedule, but please use caution when
deciding about travel in bad weather.

Readings for the Week: February 18, 2024

Monday Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 and
Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 and
Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 and
Lk 11:29-32
Thursday 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 and
Mt 16:13-19
Friday Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 and
Mt 5:20-26
Saturday Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 and
Mt 5:43-48
Sunday Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19 Rom 8:31b-34 and Mk 9:2-10



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session Wednesday, February 21 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church
- Youth Ministry:** Sunday, March 10 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Confirmation & First Communion:** Parent & child session Saturday, March 9 at 9:30am, church hall

Tips for Lenten Prayer



Make your abstinence a prayer-in-action

Giving up something for Lent is a way to unite our sacrifice with Christ. Chocolate, coffee, one less hour of video games or TV - whatever it is - you can make what you're giving up for Lent a prayer-in-action. Whenever you encounter the thing you are abstaining from or the time of day that you would enjoy it, take a moment to say a prayer in recognition of your wholeness in God even without the thing you have given up. Thank God for the freedom to be you. Thank God for His blessings in your life.

Renew yourself through personal reflective prayer

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. One step toward renewal is a focus on personal prayer. Try spending more time in prayer, try a different way to pray, or try incorporating prayer throughout your day. Free websites, apps, or daily devotionals may jump-start or reinvigorate your prayer life.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

This popular Lenten tradition is a prayer that helps us reflect on and engage with the Passion and Death of Christ in preparation for the sacrifice of Good Friday and the Easter celebration. Praying Stations can be like walking with Jesus during this most important time.



Meditate on Holy Scripture with Lectio Divina

This method of prayer is the slow reading and consideration of Scripture, with repetition and meditation on key words or phrases. Lectio Divina is rooted in the belief that the scriptural word speaks to our heart as the word of God.

See "Lenten Opportunities" for specific prayer ideas.

Jesus is Tempted in the Desert

Mark 1:12-15

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel is always about Jesus's temptation in the desert. This is reported in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, but not in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. Today Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days Satan tempted Jesus. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert; that Satan tempted Jesus; and that Jesus refused each temptation, quoting Scripture. Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of His time in the desert.

In each Gospel, the temptation of Jesus follows His baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus went to the desert immediately after His baptism. Jesus's public ministry in Galilee begins after the temptations in the desert. Mark's Gospel connects the arrest of John the Baptist and Jesus's ministry. Jesus's preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with that of John the Baptist, yet it is different. Jesus announces the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

Jesus spending 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks the beginning of Jesus's battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in His final hours on the cross. Similarly, our Lenten observances are only a beginning; a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist temptations. During Lent we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism when we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God supports us. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in His saving death on the cross.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

K of C Breakfast: Sunday, February 18 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

Office Closed: Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents Day

Grades 1-5 Parent/Child Session: Wednesday, February 21 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church

Wednesday People: Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30pm, downstairs in the parish office building

Foot Clinic: Thursday, Feb. 22 from 9:00am-noon, church hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, February 22 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Confession, Evening Prayer & Mass: Thursday, February 22; confession at 5:30pm, evening prayer at 6:10pm and Mass at 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross & Soup: Friday, February 23 at 6:30pm, church; prior to Stations, soup served starting at 5:30pm, church hall

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, February 25 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

RCIA: Sunday, February 25 at 11:30, parish office

St. Patrick's Party

Our St. Patrick's Party will be held on **March 16** after the 4:30pm Mass. The *In the Field Irish Step Dancers* will be featured and there will be a variety of Irish songs and instrumentals performed. Tickets will be on sale after the weekend Masses starting March 2 & 3. Ticket prices: \$10 for ages 16 through adults; \$5 for ages 10-15; no charge for age 9 and under. A light meal with dessert and beverages will be provided. Sponsored by our Knights.



120 Club

Week 18

Bob L'Heureux

Richard Desmond

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Lenten Nails: A Reminder

You are invited to carry a nail with you throughout Lent as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for our salvation. Nails are located at all church entrances.

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Collections Feb 5 - 11, 2024

Budget: \$9,231

Actual: \$9,835

Variance: (\$604)

Thank you for your generosity!

THANK YOU for Supporting Project Eden!



We collected: 658 adult toothbrushes, 35 child toothbrushes, 38 floss, two packages of floss picks, 31 toothpaste tubes, and eight toothbrush covers.

Lenten Opportunities



Lent is an invitation to connect deeply with Jesus Christ and all He's done for us.

Evening Mass on Thursdays in Lent at 6:30pm; evening prayer begins at 6:10pm

Confession available on Thursdays in Lent from 5:30-6:00pm

Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent at 6:30pm; soup served starting at 5:30pm

Lenten Retreat *Opening our Hearts Wide to God* led by Fr. John Fortin, OSV, offered March 11 through 13 after morning Mass and repeated at 6:30pm

Formed.org for reflections and inspiration for all ages

Best Lent Ever sign up at DynamicCatholic.com

Hallow app for daily reflections and more

The Word Among Us located at the church entrances for daily devotional reflections

Not by Bread Alone located at the church entrances for daily devotional reflections

OLMnh.org our parish website for reflections and info

Lenten Nails carry a nail (located at all church entrances) through Lent as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for our sake

How to Join Hallow

Sign up to use the Hallow prayer app 3 ways:

- download the app to your smartphone;
- go to Hallow.com on your computer;
- use your smartphone with the QR code on the Hallow cards at the church entrances.

To use the QR code, hold your smartphone camera over the code as if to take a picture. Don't take a picture, but click on the link that appears and it will take you to the Hallow sign up. With all methods, sign up for 3 months free. No payment info is required.



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