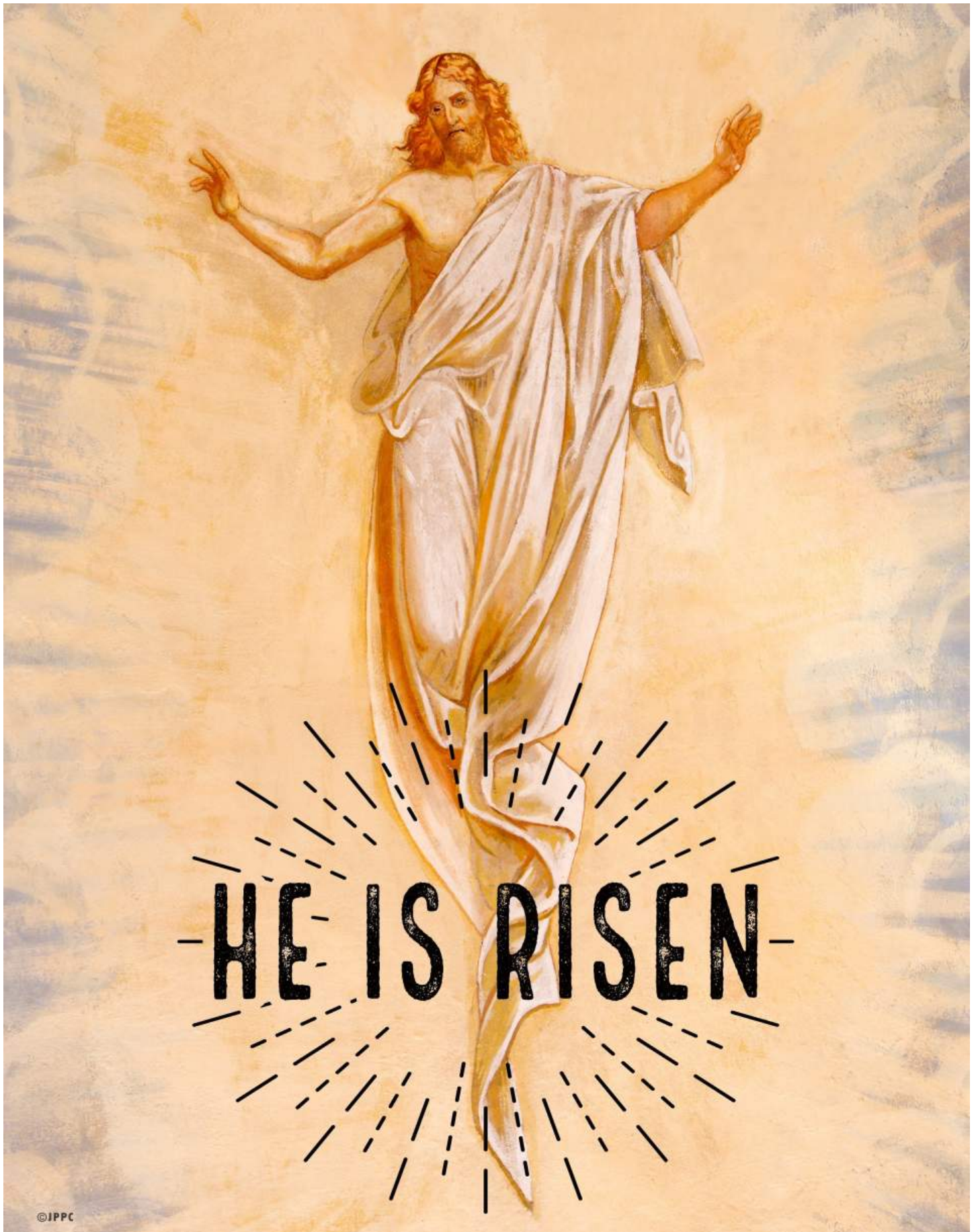




Our Lady of Mercy Parish March 31, 2024



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

Holy Saturday, March 30th
Easter Vigil
Forty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

7:30PM: Dan and Ann O'Brien requested by family
For all parishioners

Easter Sunday, March 31st
The Resurrection of the Lord
Forty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: Robert & Eileen McGuirk

10:30AM: Francis & Sally Silvia

Monday, April 1st

No Mass

Tuesday, April 2nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Tommie Connell requested by OLM friends

Wednesday, April 3rd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Tom Hanlon requested by the family

Thursday, April 4th

No Mass

Friday, April 5th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Marguerite & Carmine Nicolo requested by
the family

Adoration

Saturday, April 6th
Vigil: Divine Mercy Sunday
Forty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

4:30PM: Dick Foulks requested by his family

Sunday, April 7th
Divine Mercy Sunday
Forty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30AM: Paul Franklin requested by family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Robert Nichols requested by Diane Schultz
Adoration

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns
from March 30th to April 5th
in memory of
Ruth Watkins.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Larry Carpenter, March 22

*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 Easter Prayer

On this day loving and gracious God,
we once again sing Alleluia!

We praise You and bless You for raising Jesus from
the dead and we praise You and bless You for all the
times You have raised us up through Your grace.

In this Easter season and always,
when we may struggle to make good decisions;
when we are stubborn and refuse to forgive;
when we are afraid or discouraged and forget that
You strengthen us;
when we are too selfish or weary to follow Jesus
as we should;
raise us up loving God.

Thank you for giving us new life in Jesus and for His
presence among us this Easter and always. Amen!

Readings for the Week: March 31, 2024

Monday Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10,
11 and Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 and
Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 and
Lk 24:13-35

Thursday Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 and
Lk 24:35-48

Friday Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a and
Jn 21:1-14

Saturday Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18,
19-21 and Mk 16:9-15

Sunday Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Jn 5:1-6 and Jn 20:19-31



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates

- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session Wednesday, April 17 at 4:30 OR 5:45, church
- Youth Ministry:** Sunday, April 7 from 6:15-7:45pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- Confirmation & First Communion:** rehearsal on Monday, May 13 at 6:00pm, church; the Celebration is Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00pm

The Stone has been Rolled Back

Mark 16:1-7

All four Gospels report that the women who were followers of Jesus in Galilee discovered the empty tomb after His death. In this Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark is read at the Easter Vigil. It is the most succinct of all accounts of Jesus's Resurrection.

Mark's Gospel reports the three women going to the tomb to anoint Jesus's body are Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James. According to Mark, these women watched Jesus's Crucifixion from a distance. Mark also writes that Mary Magdalene and Mary observed where Jesus's body was laid.

Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James go to the tomb to anoint Jesus's body. When they arrive, they find the stone has been rolled back. Upon entering the tomb they meet an angel who tells them that Jesus has been raised from the dead. The angel reminds them that Jesus told His disciples that He would see them again in Galilee. Perhaps if the women heeded Jesus's words, they would not have been surprised to find the tomb empty. This highlights a theme of Mark's Gospel: the disciples often do not understand the true identity of Jesus.

Nonetheless, there is hope for the disciples, just as there is hope for us when we find ourselves unsure about Jesus. The disciples in today's Gospel were faithful followers of Jesus and remained present through Jesus's death on the cross. They came to the tomb that morning expecting to minister to Jesus once again. Instead, they were sent to minister in a different way, as apostles to Peter and the other disciples. They honored Jesus by accepting this mission.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Jesus is not in the Tomb

John 20:1-9

Today begins the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. The Gospel from John proclaimed on Easter Sunday tells of the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by reporting that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and His Resurrection.



Each of the four Gospels reports Jesus's empty tomb was discovered by women. In first-century Jewish society, women could not serve as legal witnesses. In John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is said to have observed that the stone that sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. She assumes that Jesus's body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence that Jesus's body had not been stolen because it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths with the body.

The Gospel passage concludes however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes Him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings will show how the disciples came to believe in Jesus's Resurrection through His appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus in His appearances and in His gift of the Holy Spirit.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, March 31 after the Masses, sponsored by our Knights, church hall

Office closed: Monday, April 1

Wednesday People: Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30pm, downstairs in the parish office

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, April 4 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, April 6 at 8:30am, church

RCIA: Sunday, April 7 at 11:30am, parish office

Divine Mercy: Sunday, April 7 at 2:00pm, church

Youth Ministry: Sunday, April 7 at 6:15pm, hall

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Libasci invites couples celebrating 5, 10, 25, 50, and 60+ years of marriage in 2024 to attend a Mass in celebration on **Sunday, May 5 at 2:00pm** at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester.

To register, please contact the OLM parish office by April 12, 2024. Once registration has been completed through the parish office, couples will receive a mailed invitation. To those celebrating the indicated anniversary years, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at the Cathedral this spring!

Eucharistic Adoration Next Weekend

- Friday, April 5 after the 8:30am Mass
- Sunday, April 7 after the 10:30am Mass and at the 2:00pm during Divine Mercy service

Spend some time in the Real Presence of



Divine Mercy: April 7

The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. You are invited to a Divine Mercy prayer service from 2:00 to 3:00pm on Sunday, April 7 in the church. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All are welcome!



I am the *Resurrection*
and the *Life*

Welcome

Our parish welcomes you and your family.

If you have moved to the area, please register in the parish office.

We would love the opportunity to introduce ourselves.

YOUR parish welcomes you! ©JPPC

Schola Easter Hymn

Following is the translation for the Easter Sunday Communion Meditation hymn the Schola will sing on Easter Sunday.

Maria Magdalene, *Andrea Gabrieli*: “Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb early [in the morning]. [An angel appeared to them and said:] Jesus whom you seek is not here: God has raised Him to life, just as Jesus said He would. He will go before you into Galilee. Alleluia.”

Thank you Fr. John Fortin!

Thank you to Fr. John for leading us in our Lenten retreat. We are grateful that you shared your time and talents to help us on our Lenten journey!

Loaves & Fishes Ministry

Our Loaves & Fishes Ministry is for those who need temporary help with meals such as after the death of a loved one, after a hospital stay, while recovering from an injury, or when bringing a newborn home to name a few examples. If you would like to help provide these meals please contact the office to be part of this ministry.

If you are in need of meal help, please contact the office and we'll get a meal sign up started.



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