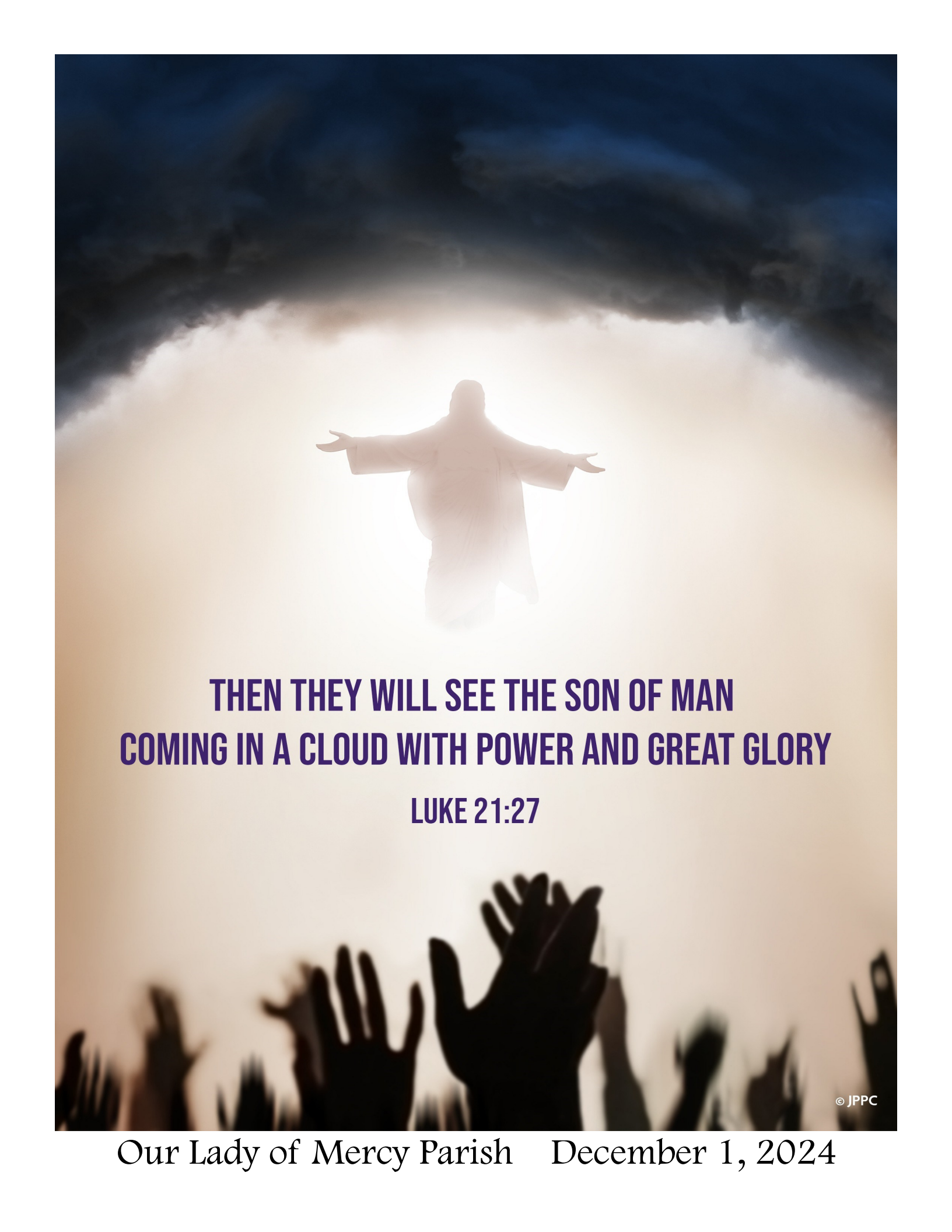




**THEN THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN
COMING IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY**

LUKE 21:27

© JPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish December 1, 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

Call the office for preparation and scheduling.

Marriage

Contact the office to schedule marriage preparation.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA, formerly RCIA)

OCIA 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 contact 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
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, November 30th
Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

4:30PM: Dorothy Collins-Larson req by the family

Sunday, December 1st
First Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: Don & Arlene Olson requested by the
Murphy family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Deceased members of the Dwyer & Wood
families requested by the family
Children's Liturgy of the Word

Monday, December 2nd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: William Monsen requested by his parents

Tuesday, December 3rd
Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jennie Bretton requested by Marie Carbone

Wednesday, December 4th
Saint John Damascene,
Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Karen Trickett

Thursday, December 5th

No Mass

Friday, December 6th
Saint Nicholas, Bishop

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Gloria Corsetti, 1st anniversary
Adoration

Saturday, December 7th
Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

3:00PM: Adoration

4:30PM: Bette Tylock req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Sunday, December 8th
Second Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: Jake Durkin requested by the Nagy family

10:30AM: Billy Fleming requested by the family
For all parishioners

Adoration

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns from
November 30th - December 6th
in memory of
Joe & Karen Trickett.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Lucille "Lucy" Taschereau, November 11

*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.*

Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of
Scripture, song, and prayer. Nine Scripture lessons are
each followed by a carol or other music that reflects
the lesson's message then a brief prayer. Mark your
calendar for the first Sunday of Advent, December 1
at 6:30pm for this wonderful OLM Advent tradition!

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT HOPE



The first week of Advent focuses us
on **hope**. The coming of Jesus, the
Light of the World, is our hope who
defeats the darkness. Our hearts are hopeful this
week as we are reminded that God will fulfill His
promises through Jesus.

Readings for the Week December 1, 2024

Monday Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 and
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 and
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 and
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
and Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 and Mt 9:27-31

Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Phil 1:4-6,
8-11 and Lk 3:1-6



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates!

- Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Sunday, December 1 during the 10:30am Mass
- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session on Thursday, December 12 at 5:00pm, church
- Youth Ministry:** Sunday, December 1 at 6:00pm, church hall
- First Reconciliation:** Parent/child session on Saturday, January 11 at 9:30am (snow date is January 12 at 11:30am), church hall
- Confirmation & First Communion:** Parent/child session on Saturday, April 5 at 9:30am, church hall

The Season of Advent

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. People have always been fascinated by Jesus's promise to return. But scripture during Advent tells us not to waste time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not distracted by this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both seasons prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance to prepare, quiet, and discipline our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.



The final days of Advent, from December 17 to 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the Eighth Century. They use ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. You are encouraged to enter into the season intentionally with daily activity and prayer to prepare spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

-edited from USCCB.org

Be Vigilant

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which also begins the new liturgical year. Advent includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

The Gospel of Luke is the primary Gospel proclaimed this liturgical year (Lectionary Cycle C). Today we hear Jesus speak to His disciples about vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus's second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that His disciples are not to fear, but should stand tall. Even so, Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or trouble. He encourages His disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. As the faithful, we are witness to God's unfailing love in all circumstances.

Jesus's predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in His person and in His message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter circumstances that could lead to despair. Through prayer however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus's words and in His continuing presence with us to endure all things. We are present day witnesses to the action of God in our world.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Youth Ministry: Sunday, December 1 at 6:00pm, start in the church hall then move to Lessons & Carols

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 1 at 6:30pm, church; all are welcome!

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, December 2 from 4:00-5:30pm, church

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, December 5 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Adoration: Friday, December 6 after the 8:30am Mass

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, December 7 at 8:30am

Adoration: Saturday, December 7 at 3:00pm

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, December 8 after the Masses, church hall

Adoration: Sunday, December 8 after the 10:30 Mass

OCIA (formerly RCIA): Sunday, December 8 at 11:30am, parish office

Deanery Penance Service: Sunday, December 8 at 2:00pm, St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Nashua

OLM Councils: Pastoral and Finance

The Pastoral Council serves as an advisory group to help the pastor guide the parish towards its mission and spiritual well-being. The Finance Council helps the pastor steward parish monies and consults on the annual operating budget. Members of both councils should be registered members of Our Lady of Mercy. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to serve on one of these important councils.

Eucharistic Adoration

- Friday, December 6 after the 8:30am Mass
- Saturday, December 7 at 3:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 8 following the 10:30am Mass



You are invited to spend some quiet time in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Loving Master, we believe in YOU
who invite us to remain into eternal life by
partaking of YOUR own Body and Blood.

Give us devotion to YOUR Eucharistic Presence;
draw us close to YOU; and sustain us in every trial,
that we may remain close to YOUR Sacred Heart.

Nativity Set Available

Contact the office if you are interested in a recently donated, excellent condition Nativity set.

Penance: Part of Advent Preparation

As part of your Advent preparation for Jesus, you are invited to the Deanery Penance Service on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 8 at 2:00pm held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 777 West Hollis Street, Nashua. There will be the opportunity for individual confession. Fr. Paul will be present.

Giving Wreath

Giving Wreath gift card requests will be available starting this first weekend of Advent, November 30 and December 1. Thank you for your support!



Immaculate Conception December 9, 2024

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother is December 8 and a Holy Day of Obligation. This year the 8th falls on a Sunday so the Feast Day is moved to December 9. Mass will be celebrated at 8:30am and 7:00pm on Monday, December 9.

OLM Pledge Cards

Each November, Stewardship Sunday will provide the opportunity to consider contributions of time, talent, and treasure to the parish. Last Sunday pledge cards were made available for this reflection. You are invited to use them to prayerfully consider how you are able to share your time, talent, and treasure with the parish.

Completing pledge cards will help the Finance Council plan the parish's annual budget. Beyond financial donations, there are many other ways to give to the parish. You are encouraged to determine how you may be able to share your time and talents by serving in a parish ministry. See the pledge card for ideas. We welcome your questions about ministries, how you can serve, or where the need is greatest. Please contact the office.

Please return cards by December 1. Drop them at the office or in the Offertory basket during Mass. Thank you for supporting our parish family and beyond!

Staff Handyman Position Open

We're hiring! The parish is looking to fill a position for light handywork for up to 10 hours per week. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please call the office for more information or to apply.