

**HE WILL
BAPTIZE YOU
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT**



© JPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish December 15, 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, December 14th **Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent**

4:30PM: Roger Bonenfant, 10 year anniversary,
requested by his wife, Helen
For all parishioners

Sunday, December 15th **Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30AM: Phillip Russell Dwyer requested by the family

10:30AM: Carmen Canton requested by Diane Schultz
Children's Liturgy of the Word

Monday, December 16th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Robert Dwyer requested by the family

Tuesday, December 17th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Ann Beaupre, 8th anniversary

Wednesday, December 18th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Alice & Albion Pendergrace requested by
Bruce & Janet Angus

Thursday, December 19th

No Mass

Friday, December 20th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jean Gelinas requested by the family

Saturday, December 21st **Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

4:30PM: Teresa Longinotti & Gloria Hill requested by
Agnese Gilbert and family

Sunday, December 22nd **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:30AM: Herbert Hancock requested by the family
For all parishioners

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

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns from
December 14th - 20th
in memory of
Ann Beaupre.



Pastoral & Finance Councils

The Pastoral Council serves as an advisory group to help the pastor guide the parish towards its mission and spiritual well-being.

Our Lady of Mercy Pastoral Council Members:

Keith Coppinger, chair	Mackenzie Murphy
Deacon John Castelot	John Murphy
Bruce Angus	Dee Sullivan
Mark Guman	

The Finance Council helps the pastor steward parish monies and consults on the annual operating budget.

Our Lady of Mercy Finance Council Members:

Paul Hebert, chair	Louise LeDuc
Deacon John Castelot	Sharon Nagy
Al Banning	Jim Purcell

Thank you all for serving our parish!



Readings for the Week December 15, 2024

Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 and Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 and Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 and Mt 1:18-25

Thursday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 and Lk 1:5-25

Friday Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 and Lk 1:26-38
Saturday Sgs 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 and Lk 1:39-45

Sunday Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 and Lk 1:39-45



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates!

- Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Sunday, December 15 during the 10:30am Mass
- Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session on Thursday, January 9 at 5:00pm, church
- Youth Ministry:** Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- 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

Third Week of Advent: JOY

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for *rejoicing*. The lighting of the rose colored candle this week acknowledges that we are waiting in joyful anticipation of Jesus's birth. We are getting close! Joy is a real and deep happiness that comes from faith and trust. The shepherds experienced this joy upon the message of Jesus's birth.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

-Luke 2:20

Advent Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Help us to focus on You
this busy season.
May we stay aware of the joy
You bring into our lives.
We want to find You
in the everyday moments
and come with
hearts of gratitude to
Your manger on Christmas.
Amen!



John the Baptist: Christ is Coming *Luke 3:10-18*

Today's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Last week described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would hear John the Baptist challenging the crowds and calling them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites. Repentance rather, must be observable in one's actions. Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's reading, John the Baptist is asked specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that it is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his role in God's plan for salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching

suggests that each has a role in God's plan. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in His divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means *rejoice*. This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is echoed in the second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. On the Advent wreath, the rose candle is lit today. It reminds us that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

-edited from Loyolapress.com



I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.

Luke 3:16

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

K of C Breakfast: Sunday, December 15 after the Masses, church hall

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sunday, December 15 during the 10:30 Mass

Youth Ministry: Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm, church hall; friends welcome!

Foot Clinic: Thursday, December 19 from 9:00am to noon, hall; call 603-689-2899 for an appointment

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, December 19 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, December 22 after the Masses, church hall

Baptism Prep: Sunday, December 22 at 11:30am, church

OCIA: Sunday, December 22 at 11:30am, parish office building

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve:

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00pm and 7:00pm

Christmas Midnight:

Wednesday, December 25 at 12:00am

Christmas Morning:

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:30am



The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Mass Schedule

Vigil: Tuesday, December 31 at 4:00pm

Feast Day: Wednesday, January 1 at 10:30am

Peace Light from Bethlehem

Each year light from a candle at the grotto where Jesus was born in Bethlehem is spread throughout the world. Carrying on the tradition of bringing the light to OLM by parishioner Anita Creager before she passed away, the Peace Light will be here! Bring your own candle when you come to Mass the next two weeks to take some of this Peace Light home.



Weather Mass Cancellations

If Merrimack schools are canceled or delayed due to weather then daily Mass is canceled. Weekend Masses will follow the normal schedule, but use caution when deciding about travel in bad weather.

Giving Wreath



Giving Wreath gift card requests are available. Please return your donations by December 28 as most will be distributed in the new year. Please return them to the collection bin near the wreath, or drop them at the office.

Recipients of our donations:

Parish Member Families
OLM Mercy Meals
OLM Knitting Ministry
St. John Neumann Food Pantry
St. James Food Pantry
Nashua Soup Kitchen
Nashua Community College
Marguerites Place (Nashua)
Adult Learning Center (Nashua)

Thank you for your support!

Nativity Set Available

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

Is Food a Problem for You?

Do you eat when you're not hungry? Do you go on eating binges for no apparent reason? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life?

Overeaters Anonymous

No dues, no fees,
no weigh-ins, no diets

Meetings on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00am at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 190 Meetinghouse Road in Bedford. You will gain some new friends and lose weight at the same time! Contact Pat at 603-289-8476 or Jane at 603-674-6540 with questions.

End of Mass Protocol

As a gentle reminder, the time after Holy Communion and concluding rites of the Mass are important parts of the liturgy. Although there may be times when circumstances necessitate the need to leave early, it is best and most appropriate to remain in your pew at least until the celebrant - who represents Christ - has recessed from the sanctuary. Ideally, waiting until the closing hymn is finished is most respectful. Please allow the Greeters to be your guide, as it is their practice to open the interior doors in preparation for dismissal. Thank you!