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Our Lady of Mercy Parish December 29, 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 28th

Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:30PM: Bob Desroche, 25th anniversary, requested by family

Sunday, December 29th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30AM: Frank Farris requested by friends

10:30AM: Nicole Ayotte requested by her family
For all parishioners

Monday, December 30th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Michael Bowser requested by Bill & Phyllis McCarthy

Tuesday, December 31st

Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00PM: Brian McKenna requested by the family

Wednesday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:30AM: Antonio Jette requested by his daughter, Jeannette

Thursday, January 2nd

No Mass

Friday, January 3rd

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

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

Adoration

Saturday, January 4th

Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord

3:00PM: Adoration

4:30PM: Michael Bowser requested by Bill & Phyllis McCarthy
For all parishioners

Sunday, January 5th

Epiphany of the Lord

8:30AM: Steve Rogers requested by Christine Yule, Helen Godfrey & family

10:30AM: Irene Sullivan requested by Rachel Watkins
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Adoration

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns from
December 28th - January 3rd
in memory of
Lorraine Bourgeois.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Ralph Stevens, December 16

Alan Burns, December 18

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May their souls and the souls of
all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith
you have given us in your son,
Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless
cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure
expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace
of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Readings for the Week December 29, 2024

Monday 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 and Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 and Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 and Lk 2:16-21

Thursday 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 and Jn 1:19-28

Friday 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 and Jn 1:29-34

Saturday 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 and Jn 1:35-42

Sunday Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 and Mt 2:1-12



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates!

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

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025:

“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...”

After the pandemic that sowed grief, fear, doubt, and disorientation, the Church is inviting all to participate in rebuilding confidence and hope. The Jubilee Year offers opportunities to participate in various events at the Vatican and within local dioceses. The tradition of opening the Holy Door began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. Bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

Check www.CatholicNH.org for details from Bishop Libasci.

For additional information on the Jubilee 2025 visit www.jubilaeum2025.va/en.html.



A Young Jesus is Found in the Temple

Luke 2:41-52

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes Him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although He is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about His Jewish tradition. In His dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with His insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.



The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship with Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that He was never lost; He was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and He is in His Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus's public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus's mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus's disciples after His Resurrection at Pentecost.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, December 29 after the Masses, church hall

Office Open: Monday, December 30 & Tuesday, December 31 from 9:00am to noon

Office Closed: Wednesday, January 1 & 2; Happy New Year 2025!

Adoration: Friday, January 3 after the 8:30am Mass

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, Jan. 4 at 8:30am, church

Adoration: Saturday, January 4 at 3:00pm

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, January 5 after the Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sunday, January 5 during the 10:30 Mass

Adoration: Sunday, January 5 after the 10:30am Mass

Youth Ministry: Sunday, January 5 at 6:00pm, hall

Mark Your Calendar for the Ministry Fair!

OLM will host a ministry fair the weekend of January of 11 and 12 in the church hall. Start the new year off right by learning about different ways to grow in faith and share the light of Christ. See you there!

Merrimack Music Academy

In the spirit of the holiday season, Merrimack Music Academy is offering a no obligation, one free lesson for guitar, piano, voice or bass guitar. If interested you are welcome to take a gift bag from the table across from the giving wreath and call the Academy to set up an appointment.

Offertory Envelopes

If you make your offertory donations by way of offertory envelopes, please be sure to pick up your set for 2025. Envelopes are set out in alphabetical order by last name in the vestibule near the quiet room. Thank you for your continued support!

Parish Stewardship

Weekly collections week December 9 - 15, 2024

Budget	\$10,340
Actual	\$9,167
Variance	(\$1,173)

Thank you for your generosity!

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

March for Life in Concord

The annual NH Right To Life March for Life in Concord is scheduled for Saturday, January 11. This year's theme is "Empowering Pregnant Women to Choose Life."

All are welcome to attend any or all events:

9:00am - Service at Concord Landfill

10:00am - Mass at Christ the King on South Main Street, Concord

12:00pm - Rally at the NH Statehouse

12:30pm - March down Main Street back to Christ the King church

1:00pm - Light lunch and speakers at church hall

For more information, contact Norm Thibault at 603-289-0574 or norm8thibault@yahoo.com.

January Rosary for Life Prayer Intentions



January 1 - **Mother of Jesus:** Inspire families to grow in faith & values.

2 - **Our Lady of Fatima:** Comfort children who are abused or neglected.

3 - **Queen of Heaven:** Stand by our seminarians preparing for priesthood.

4 - **Immaculate Mary:** Guide Bishop Libasci in leading our diocese.



Mass Weather 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.



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