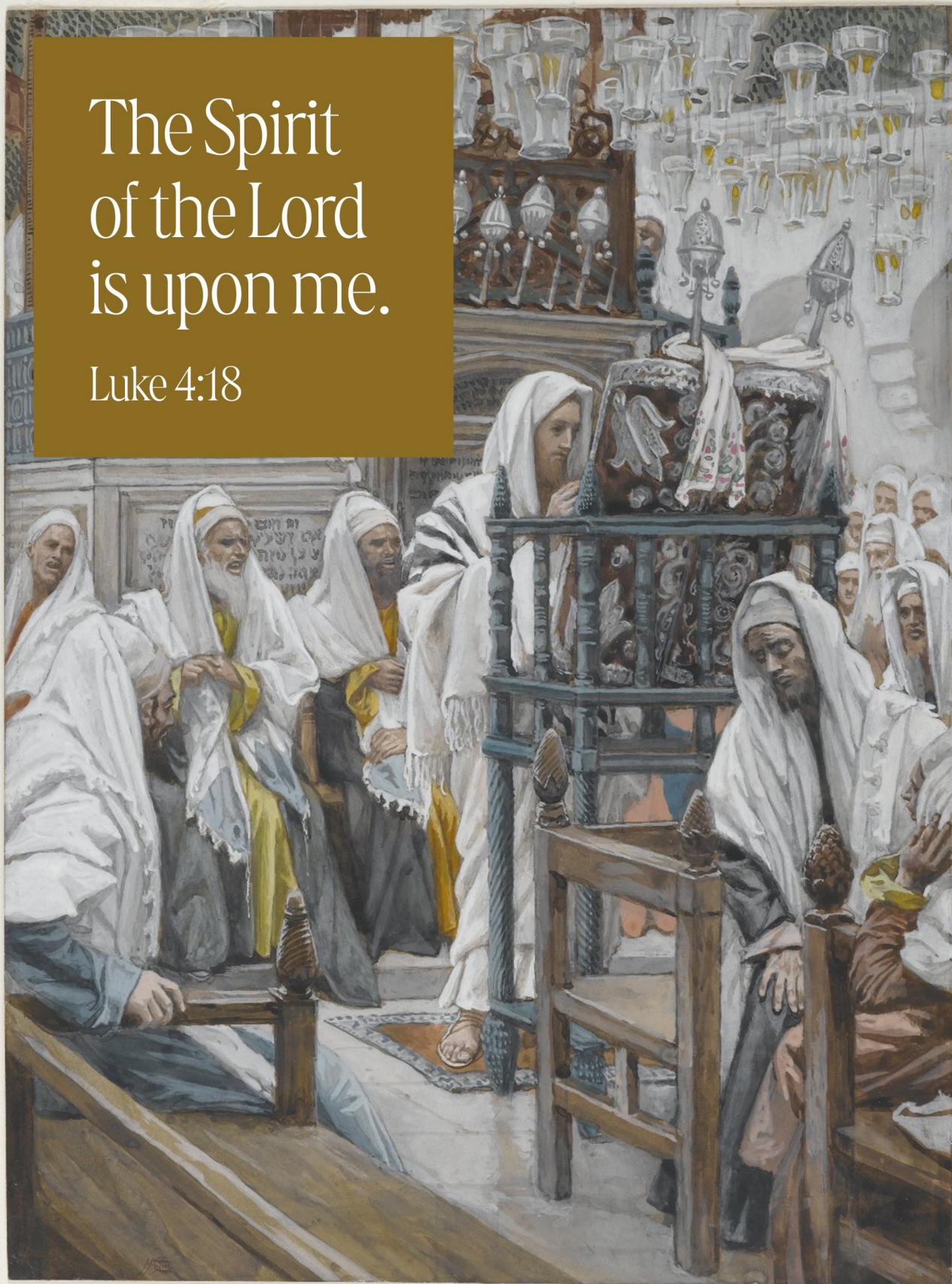


The Spirit
of the Lord
is upon me.

Luke 4:18



© JPPC

Our Lady of Mercy Parish January 26, 2025



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
Barry Miller, Facilities and IT
BMiller@olmnh.org

Council Chairs

Pastoral Council: Keith Coppinger
Finance Council: Paul Hebert

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Church Hours

The church is locked for safety during the day, but you are welcome to spend prayer time in church during office hours! 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 on 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

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Saturday, January 25th

Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Theresa Dowling requested by her daughter,
Terry Williams
For all parishioners

Sunday, January 26th

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Michael Francis Murphy req by Pat Lyons

10:30AM: Judy Sterling req by Tom & Elaine Lamb

Monday, January 27th

Saint Angela Merici, Virgin & Religious Founder

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Michael J. Perrault requested by the family

Tuesday, January 28th

**Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest &
Doctor of the Church**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Don Osborn req by Bruce & Janet Angus

Wednesday, January 29th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Michael Peter Carlos req by Joanne Bonke

Thursday, January 30th

No Mass

Friday, January 31st

Saint John Bosco, Priest

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Connie Weaver req by Bruce & Janet Angus
For all parishioners

Saturday, February 1st

Vigil: The Presentation of the Lord

4:30PM: Marie-Helene deLaire requested by the OLM
Prayer Group

Sunday, February 2nd

The Presentation of the Lord

8:30AM: Amanda Davies req by Stephen Schofield

10:30AM: Gary Iannacone requested by Claude &
Sandy Mayo

Children's Liturgy of the Word

SANCTUARY CANDLE

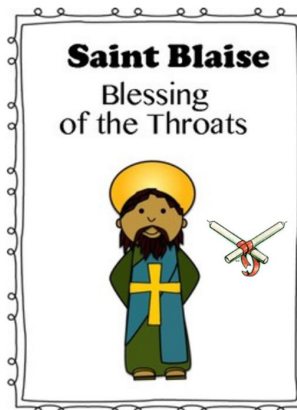
The sanctuary candle burns from
January 25th - 31st
in memory of
Peter F. & Bridget Kenny.



February 3: the Feast day of St. Blaise

St. Blaise facts:

- Before becoming a fourth-century bishop in Armenia, St. Blaise was a physician.
- St. Blaise and other Christians were persecuted by the Roman emperor Licinius and fled into the wilderness. According to legend, St. Blaise was found in a cave surrounded by animals, many of which were sick.
- According to legend, St. Blaise cured the animals of their illnesses.
- St. Blaise saved the life of a boy who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. That is how the tradition of St. Blaise throat blessings began.
- St. Blaise was commanded by government officials to worship pagan idols. He refused and was martyred.



- St. Blaise is the patron saint of animals and those with throat ailments.

In the tradition of the Feast of Saint Blaise, **the blessing of the throats will take place on Monday, February 3** at the 8:30am Mass.

Readings for the Week January 26, 2025

Monday Heb 9:15, 24-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 and Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday Heb 10:1-10 Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11 and Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 and Mk 4:1-20

Thursday Heb 10:19-25 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 and Mk 4:21-25

Friday Heb 10:32-39 Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 and Mk 4:26-34

Saturday Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 and Mk 4:35-41

Sunday Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Heb 2:14-18 and Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates!

- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Sunday, February 2 during the 10:30am Mass
- **Grades 1-5:** Parent/Child session on Thursday, February 13 at 5:00pm, church
- **Youth Ministry:** Sunday, February 2 at 6:00pm, church hall; friends welcome!
- **Confirmation & First Communion:** Parent/child session on Saturday, April 5 at 9:30am, church hall

The Scripture is now Fulfilled

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Today's Gospel combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. We learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

Then our Gospel skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus's baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus's public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in His hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be His custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

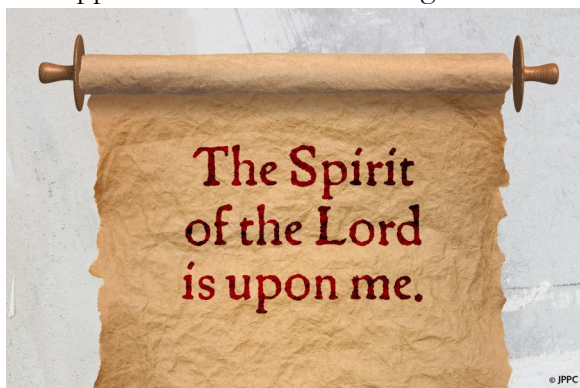
As Jesus stands in the synagogue, He reads from the scroll handed to Him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in His ministry, Jesus announces His mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus's ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus's ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, He brings this salvation about in His person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in His life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus's gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did - bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed - we serve the Kingdom of God.

-edited from Loyolapress.com



Blessing of Candles

The blessing of candles at the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a tradition that symbolizes Jesus as the "Light of the world." Next **Saturday, February 1 at the 4:30** vigil Mass for the Presentation of the Lord, you are invited to bring candles from home to be blessed along with the blessing of the candles used during our Liturgy. Please note, this will be at the 4:30 Mass on February 1 only.

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, January 26 after the Masses, church hall

Baptism Prep: Sunday, January 26 at 11:30, church

OCIA (formerly RCIA): Sunday, January 26 at 11:30am, parish office

Finance Council: Sunday, January 26 at 11:45am, parish office

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, January 27 at 4:00pm, church

Pastoral Council: Monday, January 27 at 6:30pm, parish office

Folk Group: Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00pm, church

Cantor Rehearsal: Wed., Jan. 29 at 6:00pm, church

Schola Rehearsal: Wed., Jan. 29 at 7:00pm, church

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, January 30 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, February 1 at 8:30am, church; All are welcome!

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, February 2 after the Masses, church hall

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sunday, February 2 during the 10:30am Mass

Youth Ministry: Sunday, February 2 at 6:00pm, church hall; Friends welcome!



Save the Date: St. Patrick's Party

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 15 following the 4:30pm Mass for our St. Patrick's Party. Enjoy Irish dancers, music, food, and good friends!

120 Club

Week 4 (January 19)

Lainie Blazonis

Nancy Nicolo

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Offertory Envelopes may be picked up at the parish office (Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm). Thank you for your continued support!

Weather Cancellations: If Merrimack schools are canceled or delayed due to weather then daily Mass is canceled. Weekend Masses will follow the normal schedule. Use caution when deciding to travel.

January Rosary for Life Prayer Intentions

January 25 - **Our Lady of Hope:** Shelter the homeless.



January 26 - **Queen of Confessors:** Uphold all who live & teach the Gospel of Life.

27 - **Mother of Wisdom:** Sustain those who are single in periods of loneliness.

28 - **Mother of Comfort:** Hear the cry of those who live with chronic pain.

29 - **Blessed Mother:** Cradle the unborn & bring them into being.

30 - **Blessed Mary:** Motivate all medical professionals with respect for life.

31 - **Mother of Comfort:** Comfort those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church." The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."



The USCCB web page (www.usccb.org/jubilee2025) offers some resources and ideas for celebrating the 2025 Jubilee locally or by making a special pilgrimage to Rome.

Catholic School Teacher Openings:

St. Francis School is seeking teachers for the 2025-26 school year. We are a growing PK-3 to Grade 6 school located in Litchfield. Contributing to our Franciscan ethos is a 15-acre campus complete with hiking trails and a small farm. Students receive a joy-filled spiritual life and formation in virtue as they grow in love for God and one another. Experience is not a requirement. Please call or email Principal Mark at 603-424-3312 or schwerdtm@StFrancisSchoolNH.org.

