

He was lost and has been found.

Luke 15:32



Our Lady of Mercy Parish March 30, 2025



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
603-424-3757
www.olmnh.org

Parish Staff

Rev Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor
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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 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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the month after the 8:30am Mass;
Saturday following the first Friday at 3:00pm; Sunday
following the first Friday after the 10:30am Mass

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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 29th
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:30PM: David Hebert requested by family
For all parishioners

Sunday, March 30th
Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Bob & Carole Nichols requested by the
Nichols family

10:30AM: Dorothy Guman requested by Paula &
Rich Tallarico

Monday, March 31st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Dennis Bernier requested by the Nagy
family and his sister, Jean

Tuesday, April 1st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Patricia Lawrence

Wednesday, April 2nd
Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Janet Riding

Thursday, April 3rd

5:30PM: Confession

6:10PM: Evening Prayer

6:30PM: Janet & Alan Riding

Friday, April 4th
Saint Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Tom Hanlon requested by his wife, Anna
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30PM: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 5th
Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

3:00PM: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

4:30PM: Frank Silvia req by Karen & Bob Correia
Lenten Retreat

Sunday, April 6th
Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30AM: Dick Foulks requested by the family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Hunter Burke requested by his family
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Lenten Retreat

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle burns from
March 29th - April 4th
in loving memory of
Bob & Carole Nichols.



Please pray for our recently deceased

Janet (Jan) Kurylak
Salvatore Scali

*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.*

NH Food Bank Needs Help

The NH Food Bank needs help in order to continue to provide meals to our neighbors in need throughout NH, including running its mobile food pantry. To see how you can help as a volunteer or to make a donation, please go to:

www.nhfoodbank.org/get-involved/donate.

If you prefer, call 603-669-9725. Or send a donation check payable to NH Food Bank and mail to NH Food Bank, 700 East Industrial Park Dr, Manchester, NH 03109. Thank you!

*Lord, help us to be instruments of Your love,
providing food and comfort to those in need,
so that all may find nourishment and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!*

Readings for the Week March 30, 2025

Monday Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b and Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 and Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 and Jn 5:17-30

Thursday Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 and Jn 5:31-47

Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 and Jn 7:40-53

Sunday Is 43:16-21 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6. Phil 3:8-14 and Jn 8:1-11



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-12 Upcoming Dates!

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

Jesus Heals

*John 9:1-41**Cycle A 8:30 Mass for the Second Scrutiny*

For the Second Scrutiny we hear from the Gospel of John. The healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of the Gospel, Jesus responds to a prevalent belief: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. When asked about this man's - or perhaps his parents' sin - Jesus implies that through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees understood the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man and reveals Himself as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

Through the man born blind's encounter with Jesus, he is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be His disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain "blind."

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Jesus Teaches Forgiveness

*Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**Cycle C 4:30 and 10:30 Masses*

Today's Gospel parable is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds on His journey to Jerusalem. The Pharisees and scribes challenge Jesus because He welcomes sinners at His table.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. Observant Jews believed if they shared table fellowship with sinners they would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees however, required that sinners first become ritually clean before sharing table fellowship. Jesus reaches out to sinners inviting them to conversion through fellowship with Him. Jesus is God acting among us; inviting us into relationship.

Today's parable is important to help comprehend the depth of the love of God the Father. It is understandable to think of the request as selfish and even ridiculous. Yet the father honors the request and divides his property among his two sons. To us this might seem foolish on the father's part, but it is also shows his faith and trust. Without property now, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, providing for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends time watching for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his son returning, the father not only welcomes him but runs to greet him, then honors him with a party. This father is loving and forgiving. His example only scratches the surface of the love and mercy shown by this father.

Not surprisingly the older son is angry. The father explains that they should celebrate because the lost son returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is not diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. The older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

-edited from Loyola press.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, March 30 after the Masses, church hall; sponsored by the Knights

Prayer Group with Guided Adoration: Monday, March 31 at 4:00pm, church

Folk Group: Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00pm, church

Cantor Rehearsal: Wednesday, April 2 at 6:00pm

Schola Rehearsal: Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00pm

Knitting Ministry: Thursday, April 3 from noon to 2:00pm, parish office

Confession: Thursday, April 3 at 5:30pm

Evening Prayer: Thursday, April 3 at 6:10pm

Mass: Thursday, April 3 at 6:30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, April 4 following the 8:30am Mass

Stations of the Cross: Friday, April 4 at 6:30pm

Rosary Cenacle: Saturday, April 5 at 8:30am, church

Confirmation & First Communion Parent/Child Session: Saturday, April 5 at 9:30am, church hall

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday, April 5 at 3:00pm

Lenten Retreat led by Mae Edwards part 1: Saturday, April 5 following the 4:30 Mass

Lenten Retreat led by Mae Edwards part 2: Sunday, April 6 following the 4:30 Mass

Parish Stewardship

Weekly collections week March 17 - 23, 2025

Budget	\$10,340
Actual	\$8,658
Variance	(\$1,682)

Thank you for your generosity!

The Balm of Lent: Healing for a Hurting World Lenten Retreat

Presented by Mae Edwards,
author of *You are Here for a Reason*

Join us for this 2-part retreat!

Saturday, April 5 following the 4:30 Mass, dinner included and Sunday, April 6 following the 10:30 Mass, brunch included.

You are encouraged to come to both sessions if you are able!!

Washing the Disciples' Feet at the Last Supper

It is our tradition during the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday that 12 parishioners - representing the Twelve disciples of Jesus - have their feet washed.

If you are interested in being one of our 12 to have his or her feet washed at Mass on Holy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00pm please contact to the office.

120 Club

Week 14

Keith Coppinger

Tom Lamb

Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Doors Remain UNlocked During Mass

Updated Diocesan safety protocols include keeping doors unlocked during Mass. Please know that this change has been implemented and doors will no longer be locked during Mass.

The Scrutinies

The Scrutinies are a series of rites for the elect: adults who wish to be baptized into the Catholic Church. They are celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. This time for the elect is a time of purification and enlightenment. The overall prayers and laying on of hands are to help the elect wholeheartedly receive by the Word and Grace of God.

The basic Scrutiny structure takes place after the homily:

- The elect (with sponsors) are invited forward
- Invitation for parishioners to silently join in prayer
- Intercessions for the elect
- Prayer of exorcism
- Laying on of hands
- Prayer over the elect
- Dismissal of the elect



For our elect, the First Scrutiny was at the vigil Mass on Saturday, March 22 at 4:30. The Second Scrutiny is this Sunday, March 30 at the 8:30 Mass. The Third Scrutiny will be next weekend at the 10:30 Mass on April 6.

Please keep our catechumens and candidate in prayer!

Adoration Schedule Next Weekend

- Friday, April 4 following 8:30am Mass
- Saturday, April 5 at 3:00pm

Come and spend time with our Lord!

*Please note there will not be Adoration following Sunday Mass due to the Lenten retreat schedule.





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