



THE CHURCH OF

Our Lady of Mercy



Phone.....401-884-4968 Fax.....401-884-1415

Parish Email.....parish@olmparish.org

Parish Website.....www.olmparish.org

Sixty-Five Third Street ✕ East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation.....4:00 PM

Sunday Mass.....7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM &
5:00 PM (Sept—May)

Daily

Monday - Friday.....7:30 AM

Saturdays & Legal Holidays.....8:30 AM

Holy Day

Vigil Mass.....5:00 PM

Holiday Masses.....7:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Mercy School

Mr. Scott W. Fuller

School Principal

55 Fourth Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone401-884-1618

Email.....olmoffice@olmschool.org

Web.....www.olmschool.org

The First Sunday of Advent ✕ December 3, 2017

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Mondays at 6:00 PM or by appointment.

Saturdays at 3:00 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Second Sunday of the month. Preparation Class is required. Please contact the parish Deacon prior to birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact one of the parish priests one year prior to the proposed date of your wedding.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact one of the parish priests if you are shut-in, sick, homebound or hospitalized and before surgery.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Please contact one of the parish priests or the Office of the Director of Vocations at 401-331-1316 or www.catholicpriest.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday.....8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, Parish Secretary

Email: parish@olmparish.org Phone: 401-884-4968

The Very Reverend Bernard A. Healey, S.T.L., J.C.L., Pastor

The Reverend Joshua A. Barrow, S.T.L., Associate Pastor

Deacon John W. Dowd, Parish Deacon

Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.

William K. Wray

Parish Trustees

Parish Founded 1853



Parish Incorporated 1867



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor*.....884-4968
 pastor@olmparish.org
 Twitter: twitter.com/FatherHealey

Father Joshua A. Barrow, *Associate Pastor*.....884-4968
 associate@olmparish.org

Deacon John W. Dowd, *Deacon Assistant*.....884-4968
 deacon@olmparish.org

Mr. David E. Cote, *Business Manager*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, *Admin. Assistant*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

St. Patrick's Cemetery Office.....886-5296
 parish@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Michele St. Jean (*Grades 1-5*).....884-1061
 reled@olmparish.org

Mr. Douglas E. Green (*Grades 6-8*).....884-4410
 confirmation@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF OUTREACH

Mr. Douglas E. Green, *Director*.....884-4410
 outreach@olmparish.org

MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS

Mr. Henri M. St. Louis, *Music Director*.....884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org

Mrs. Deirdre A. Donovan, *Soloist*.....884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org

OLM SCHOOL

Main Office.....884-1618
 olmoffice@olmschool.org

Mrs. Carolyn C. MacCrae, *School Bookkeeper*..558-0051
 cmaccrae@olmschool.org

Little Saints & Scholars Program.....886-0742



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Mass of Anticipation for the First Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Armando & Katherine DeAngelis &
 Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

The First Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Bernard S. O'Malley—Memorial
 10:30AM Emily Devlin—60th Anniversary
 5:00PM Roland Neeson—Memorial

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday; St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM John F. McGlinn, Jr.—1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Fr. Stanley T. Nakowicz—6th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday; St. Nicholas, Bishop

7:30AM Salvatore DiStefano—27th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of BVM

5:00PM Madeline A. Reilly—Month's Mind

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

7:30AM Special Intention

9:00AM Kennedy Rose Anderson—Memorial

7:00PM Shirley Berlanga—Memorial

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Advent Weekday/ St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8:30AM Hak Jin Pyun—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Michael Alix—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

The Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Special Intention
 10:30AM Margaret B. Devlin—42nd Anniversary
 5:00PM Thomas & Rita Huban—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Advent is here! "Be watchful! Be alert!" as we are reminded in the Gospel this week. Advent is the season when we hear that wake-up call repeatedly. The master of the house, Jesus said, could come at any moment. Later, the first Christians expected the Second Coming of Jesus in their own lifetime, but as time passed they had to get used to a longer perspective.

The great mystic of the 14th Century, Julian of Norwich, prayed to God for a deeper longing for God. She longed to long more for God. She called it a wound, "the wound of longing."

Our world no longer struggles with this idea. On the contrary we look for complete fulfilment through our own work and pleasure. We expect nothing to happen. Many now expect nothing really from their religion, and some even see it as an obstacle to life.

Of course, the myth of the secular mind is to think that pleasing only oneself doesn't close the mind. Yet we know that nothing closes it more effectively. Let us pray we may feel some opening of the "wound of longing" in this Advent season.

We need to be reminded again to look up from our frenzied lives, to wake up from our slumber, and to awaken our spirit to the Master, who can come at any moment. Let us truly prepare the way of the Messiah this Advent with more intense prayer, a renewed relationship with the Lord, our faithful attendance at Mass and frequent Sacramental Confession

of our sins. Let us truly long for the Divine Messiah to come and make room for Him in our lives!

I recently received some great news. You may remember a couple of years ago that Father Mark Spalding of Louisville led our parish on the Annual Lenten Mission. On November 21st, the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis named Father Spalding as the 12th Bishop of Nashville, Tennessee.

He and I studied together for the priesthood at the American College in Belgium and have remained good friends these many years. He is to be ordained a Bishop on February 2, 2018, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Please pray for Bishop-elect Spalding.

I also heard good news from Fr. Connors last week. He is coming home for Christmas on December 15th. It will be good to have him back with us at OLM through the holidays. He is working hard on his doctoral dissertation and expects to defend it in early June 2018. So be sure to welcome him home when you see him around the parish.

On this Friday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics and so there will be four Masses celebrated. A 5pm Vigil Mass on Thursday and 3 Masses on Friday at 7:30am, 9:00am and 7:00pm. There are certainly ample opportunities for us to fulfill our obligation and attend Mass on the Holy Day.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX

solemnly proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the declaration of this dogma he stated: "*The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.*"

It took many years for this important doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life.

The teaching indicates that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In the Virgin Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

I am away this week attending the annual meeting of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors in Washington, DC and I return Sunday night. See you at Mass on the Holy Day! Our Lady is the patroness of our parish and our nation, so come celebrate her special feast!

Advent is here! Prepare the way for the Messiah! Do good. Be well. God Bless! Go Pats!!!



What is the symbolism surrounding Advent?

Last weekend we celebrated the solemnity of Christ the King of the universe. It marked the end of the liturgical year. We journeyed with Our Lord from his birth through his ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and into the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel to all the nations. Now we enter the season of Advent with all its many symbols and meanings.

I am sure that everywhere we go we see and hear Christmas greetings, themes and music. These are wonderful things but poorly timed (and we miss out on the many beautiful and meaningful Advent hymns such as Lo, How a Rose, Creator of the Stars of Night, etc.). Unfortunately the culture does not understand the importance of the season of Advent and so when Christmas arrives we do not experience it properly. Many people have said to me that they enjoy Thanksgiving more than Christmas. This tells me that there is something fundamentally wrong about how we go about preparing for Christmas today. *Lex orandi, lex credendi*; how we pray is what we believe; how we spend the month of December will affect how we celebrate Christmas day.

The essential meaning of the season may be encapsulated by the terms anticipation or waiting. We anticipate the coming of the Messiah, the Lord, the return of the King. The term “advent” means “coming” and involves four weeks of preparation. We await two comings of Christ: (1) His Second Coming when he will judge the living and the dead at the end of time, (2) and we relive the period before Christ coming in the flesh in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Before Christ the world was in darkness, enslaved to the forces of sin and death.

The color of the season is purple like the season of Lent, albeit the purple of Advent is darker and has more of a blueish hue to it. St. John the Baptist gives us a reason for the color purple when he quotes Isaiah: “A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” Our paths are prepared and made straight by acts of repentance and conversion. Hence, similar to Lent, the season of Advent is meant to be a season of repentance and conversion to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Living in the northern hemisphere the days get shorter while the darkness gets longer. The Advent wreath helps us to symbolically experience the darkness of the world without Christ. As we light the individual candle with each passing Sunday the darkness retreats because the light of the world is coming.

If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at associate@olmparish.org

Weekly Collection

November 19, 2017

Weekly.....	\$12,907.00
EFT.....	\$2,092.00
	Total=\$14,999.00
Outreach	\$444.00
CCHD.....	\$4,375.50

November 26, 2017

Weekly.....	\$10,906.00
EFT.....	\$2,077.00
	Total=\$12,983.00
Outreach.....	\$422.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$109,589.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank you for your generous support!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



Second Collections
This Week: Building & Grounds
Next Week: Retired Religious Collection

This week the flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of Kevin Durnin. In your charity please remember him in your prayers.

The Lord never tires of forgiving, it is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.

Pope Francis



Confessions at OLM
Mondays: 6:00pm—6:45pm
Saturdays: 3:00pm—3:45pm



Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Wednesday, December 6:** No Little Saints & Scholars afterschool.
- **Friday, December 8th:** Holy Day of Immaculate Conception Mass at 9:00AM. All parishioners are invited to attend.
- **Monday, December 11th:** School Advent Confessions at 1:00PM

Discover the OLM Difference!

www.olmschool.org



- **All RE Classes meet this Sunday, December 3, 2017**
- **Next Sunday, December 10th:** 10:00am—11:00am **ONLY RE Grades 1 and 2 to meet.**
- **Next Sunday, December 10th:** RE Grades 3—5 should attend Sunday, 5:00pm Mass and Advent Confessions to follow at 6:00PM.



● **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items especially during the holiday season. Please leave items in Food Box in vestibule. Thank you for your support.

● **Helping Refugee Families for Christmas:** The Diocese Providence's Office of Refugee Resettlement and Migration Services has several refugee families in need of basic, warm clothing. If you would like to adopt a family for Christmas and supply much need clothing and gifts, please contact Doug Green for more information.

● **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Holy Day of Obligation for All Catholics



Thursday,
December 7, 2017
Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

Friday,
December 8, 2017
Holy Day Masses
at 7:30AM,
9:00AM & 7:00PM

“Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.”—Luke 1:28

1st Sunday of Advent



Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year.

Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century.

It is a four-week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.



First Sunday in Advent

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Saint Jude Prayer for Advent Preparation



Lord Jesus, your power is infinite, your glory, everlasting. Quietly you come, as a tiny baby. Ready my heart for the miracle of your birth.

Bring light to this dark world, waiting silently for your warmth in the coldness of the night. Waiting is itself your gift, animating my heart with anticipation.

Bless me with needed patience and faithful discipline to prayerfully prepare to welcome and greet you. St. Jude, eternal hope, let your holiness flow into me.

May Christmas joy and burning love take root in me and grow until they bloom on Christmas Day, to carry joy to the world and inspire hope to renew the face of the earth. Amen.

