

#### † 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 Holyday Masses.....7:30 AM & 7:00 PM

## Our Rady of Mercy School

Mr. Scott W. Fuller

School Principal

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone	401-884-1618
Email	olmoffice@olmschool.org
Weh	www.olmschool.org

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Parish Email......parish@olmparish.org
Parish Website.....www.olmparish.org

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#### 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

The Very Reverend Bernard A. Healey, S.T.L., J.C.L., Pastor
The Reverend Ryan W. Connors, S.T.L., Associate Pastor

Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr. William K. Wray Parish Trustees



#### **PARISH DIRECTORY**

PARISH OFFICE	
Father Bernard A. Healey, <i>Pastor</i> pastor@olmparish.org	884-4968
Father Ryan W. Connors, <i>Associate Pastor</i> associatepastor@olmparish.org	884-4968
Deacon John W. Dowd, <i>Deacon Assistant</i> deacon@olmparish.org	884-4968
Mr. David E. Cote, <i>Business Manager</i> parish@olmparish.org	884-4968
Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, <i>Admin. Assistant</i> parish@olmparish.org	884-4968
Mr. Paul E. Anderson, <i>Facilities Director</i> parish@olmparish.org	884-4968
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confirmation@olmparish.org	0011110
OFFICE OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES  Mr. Michael LaChimia, Coordinatormlachimia@olmschool.org	.884-4968
OFFICE OF OUTREACH	
Mr. Douglas E. Green, <i>Director</i> outreach@olmparish.org	884-4410
MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS	
Mr. Henri M. St. Louis, <i>Music Director</i>	884-4968
musicministry@olmparish.org  Mrs. Deirdre A. Donovan, <i>Soloist</i>	.884-4968
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Main Officeolmoffice@olmschool.org	884-1618
Mrs. Carolyn C. MacCrae, <i>School Bookkeeper</i> olmbookkeeper@cox.net	558-0051

Extended Day Program ...... 886-0742



#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**

The Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Advent 4:00PM Carolyn Lombardi—Birthday Remembrance

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Neil O'Donnell—10th Anniversary
9:00AM Kate Bedard—6th Anniversary
10:30AM Janet Fayle—7th Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

Late Advent Weekday/St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church 7:30 AM Antoinette Mulchay—Memorial

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Late Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Michael Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Advent Weekday/St. John Kanty, Priest

7:30AM Deceased of the Miller & Loeffler Families—Memorial

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM Alfred Perretta—10th Anniversary

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS

The Nativity of the Lord

12:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
7:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:30AM Jeannine Light—5th Anniversary

The Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family

4:00PM Fred Buoro—Memorial

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 AM Bernard Kenny—8th Anniversary 9:00 AM Albert Edward Hyde—Memorial 10:30AM Gene & Mary Verri—Memorial 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



## Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

Christmas is coming once again. Our Advent Season of prayerful preparation and joyful expectation is drawing to a close this week. Soon we are to rejoice at the Good News that a Savior has been born! Christmas arrives this Friday! Let every heart prepare Him room!

One of the best ways to make room for Christ's coming is to cleanse our hearts. Making a good Confession before Christmas is the greatest gift you might receive this year! So to help you "prepare Him room" we are adding an extra hour this week to our regular Monday Night Confession.

Monday, December 21st, from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. Fr. Connors and I are to be joined by visiting priests for Confessions. The recently begun Jubilee Year of Mercy calls us to seek out God's mercy. Pope Francis speaks of this mercy in his homily for the Year of Mercy Mass, he states: "Yes, dear brothers and sisters, this Holy Year is offered to us to experience in our lives the sweet and gentle touch of God's forgiveness."

This week before Christmas Day is traditionally a busy time for many people. They hurry to finish up the last minute things like writing cards, baking cookies, shopping for special gifts, preparing foods, cleaning houses and trimming the tree!

It is also a busy time at thank the Lord for having given the parish as we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of the Lord. The Church thank the Lord for having given Jesus to us, and with them let us raise from the depths of our hearts the praises of his fidelity:

is cleaned, sacred vessels are polished, linens are starched, plants and flowers arranged, the crèche set up and choirs and altar servers rehearse! Yes it is undoubtedly a busy week ahead of Christmas!

We have been preparing during Advent for the great feast of our faith, Christmas! So amidst the busyness and the frenzy of the final days before Christmas, let us stop, pause, pray and reflect.

Stop to remember the reason for the season: God gave us His Only Son on Christmas. Pause to ponder Christ's real presence here at Mass and in our daily lives. Pray to the Lord to come especially for those who suffer because war and terror, violence and poverty, those who struggle with addiction and isolation, loneliness and grief. And finally let us truly reflect in our lives and in our words and deeds, the great gift of God's love given to us on Christmas!

So before Christmas Day take some time to stop by Church to simply pause and pray, ponder and reflect. In a Christmas homily, Pope Francis reminds us:

"The shepherds were first to receive the news of Jesus' birth. They were the first because they were among the last, the outcast. Together with them, let us pause before the Child, let us pause in silence. Together with them, let us thank the Lord for having given Jesus to us, and with them let us raise from the depths of our hearts the praises of his fidelity:

God loves us, he so loves us that he gave us his Son to be our brother, to be light in our darkness."

We have five scheduled Masses for the Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. Our celebration of Christmas begins with the 4PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. Where we are joined by the angelic voices of our OLM Children's Choir. This is perhaps one of the most crowded Masses of the year at OLM. So to ensure yourself a seat you might consider attending one of the four other Mass times.

We celebrate the Solemn Mass of Christmas Night at 12:00AM along with the OLM Adult Choir and a Brass and Timpani Ensemble. Midnight Mass is preceded by a Concert of Christmas Carols at 11:30PM. The celebration of the Solemn Mass of Christmas Day is at 7:30AM, 9:00AM and 10:30AM.

On behalf of Fr. Connors, Deacon Dowd and the OLM Parish Staff, I wish you and your family, a truly Happy and Holy Christmas! You remain in our prayers as we humbly ask for yours. If you are traveling at Christmas or away from the parish, know of our prayers for your safe travel.

May the Son of God born on Christmas Day renew our hope, faith and love, and bring peace and joy to our world, our homes and our lives. Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Have a very Merry Christmas!

946 Our Lady of Mercy—3



Dear Fr. Connors: I am asked some version of this question often this time of year: What is your Christmas message? What is ultimately most important this time of year?

In the final analysis, Christmas means that in man's

millennia-long search for God, it turns out, it is God who has taken the longer part of the journey. On our own we could never reach Him. So He came down to us. Christmas means that God has come. He has entered our world in a definitive way. In Christ, God has come down from Heaven. He has walked among us. We are not alone.

The whole of human history, world literature and philosophy, and religious experience taken together represent man's search for God. It is our attempt to reach up to Him. In our own lives we know that we too, in our own way, try to reach up to God—to figure things out, to discover the meaning of it all.

We know too that we cannot do it on our own. We are not strong enough or clever enough to reach up to God all by ourselves.

So, on Christmas morning we are happy to report that God instead has come down to us. He has taken the longer part of the journey. As Pope Benedict XVI never tired of repeating, we have no need to fear Him for He has made Himself small.

The message is that God has come. It does not mean the end to suffering or immediate world peace—I am sorry to say. But it does mean—the one thing Christmas offers and can never be taken away—is that God has entered our world. He has come down from Heaven. We can have a relationship with Him—we can meet Him in His Church. *Merry Christmas!* 

If you have a question about the Catholic Church or Catholic Teaching, please email questions to:

associatepastor@olmparish.org

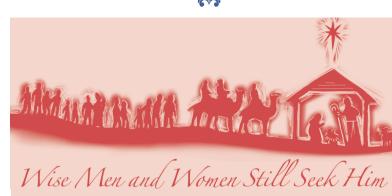


## Weekly Collection

Due to the holiday print deadline collection results for the week of December 13, 2015 are unavailable.

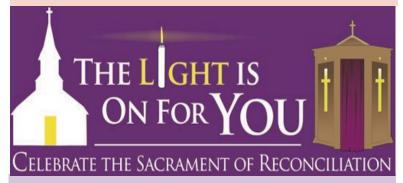
Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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



The OLM Parish Office closes on Christmas Eve,
Thursday, December 24th at Noon for Christmas
and reopens on Tuesday, December 29th at 8:00AM.
Please plan accordingly.

We wish the OLM Parish Staff and Parishioners a Happy and Holy Christmas!



#### **Regular Confession Times at OLM**

Mondays 6:00—6:45PM Saturdays 3:00—3:45PM

Christmas Confessions
Monday, December 21, 2015
6:00pm—8:00PM
Guests Confessors & Parish Clergy



•All RE Classes meet this weekend.

No RE Classes next weekend or weekend of January 3rd due to the Christmas Vacation!

We Wish A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to the OLM RE teachers, aides, students and families! Mickey St. Jean & Doug Green OLM Religious Education Directors



"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, and forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us."—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Homily for 4th Sunday of Advent, 12/18/05

With thanks and gratitude for your generous and joyful support of OLM Outreach Ministries! A Blessed Christmas to you and your families.

Doug Green



A Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to all our OLM School faculty, staff, students, and families!

Principal Scott Fuller

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#### Congratulations to our newly baptized:



Anthony Michael Lombardi,

and his parents, Christopher and Mallory.

Maxwell Luke Bianco,

and his parents, Brian and Caitlyn.

Luke Timothy Burgo,

and his parents, Julio and Emily.

**Hudson James Sheninger**,

and his parents, James and Sabrina.

"Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are."—The Rite of Baptism



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner **George P. King** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

May he rest in peace.



### "O Come Let Us Adore Him"



#### Christmas Schedule at Our Lady of Mercy Church

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

#### Monday, December 21, 2015

Confessions from 6:00pm – 8:00pm Guest Confessors and Parish Clergy

The Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord

#### Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2015

Vigil Mass at 4:00pm with the OLM Children's Choir

Concert of Christmas Music beginning at 11:30pm OLM Adult Choir with Brass & Timpani Orchestra

#### Christmas, Friday, December 25, 2015

Mass during the Night at 12Midnight

Mass during the Day at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am *No 5PM Evening Mass on Christmas Day* 

#### The Celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

#### New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31, 2015

Vigil Mass at 4:00pm

#### New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016

Holyday Masses 7:30am & 10:30am No 9am or 5pm Mass on holyday

Please join us at Holy Mass this Christmas and New Year's and bring a friend, neighbor or family member who has been away from the Church!

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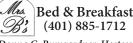
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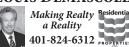
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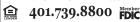
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