

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Weekend

Saturday Vigil Mass.	4:00 PM
Sunday Masses	.7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM
September—May	5:00 PM

Daily

Monday - Friday	.7:30	ΑM
Saturdays & Legal Holidays	.8:30	ΑM

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	884-1618
Email	. secretary@olmschool.org
Web	www.olmschool.org

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Parish Email		parisł	n@olmparish.org
Parish Webs	ite	ww	w.olmparish.org

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 one of the parish priests 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Please contact one of the parish priests or the Office of the Director of Vocations at 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



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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2014

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

The Mass of Anticipation for 4th Sunday of Advent 4:00PM Mellissa Burley—Birthday Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Pat & Marie Raimondo—Memorial

9:00 AM Bernard Kenney—Memorial

10:30AM Janet Fayle—6th Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

Late Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Antoinette Mulcahy—Memorial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Late Advent Weekday/St. John of Kanty, Priest

7:30 AM Deceased Members of Miller & Loffler Families—Mem.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Pat Franzone—12th Anniversary

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM Alfred Perretta—9th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS

The Nativity of the Lord

12:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

7:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

7:30AM Jeannine Light—4th Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30AM Frank Almonte—Memorial

The Vigil of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:00PM Fred Buoro—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00 AM Albert Edward Hyde—Memorial

10:30AM Stephen R. Famiglietti—1st Anniversary

5:00PM John Bucci—Birthday Memorial



Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

We did a lot of rejoicing last weekend on Gaudete Sunday! On Saturday our All Day Confessions had hundreds coming all day long to receive God's mercy and forgiveness. There were four priests at all times and a steady flow of people for the entire six hours.

We rejoice that so many received the grace of the Sacrament of Confession. It is the best Christmas gift that money cannot buy! I wish to thank Father Connors who organized the entire day and arranged all the priests and volunteers who helped to make the day a great success. We thank the many priests who heard Confessions for hours and the volunteers who helped people feel welcomed and made Confession easy. We hope have another Αll Confessions during the Season of Lent and also schedule another day next Advent.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception our Holy Father, Pope Francis, lit the Vatican Christmas Tree. During the ceremony he spoke about Confession. He said: If you have something dark in your soul, ask the Lord for forgiveness. Christmas is a great opportunity to cleanse the soul, eh! Do not fear, the priest is merciful, forgiving all in the name of God, because God forgives everything. let light be in your hearts, in your families, in your cities. And now, with this wish, turn on the light."

This Monday night we are adding an extra hour of

Confessions for those who have not yet made a good Confession before Christmas. Two priests are available from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. If you haven't yet, seize the opportunity to give yourself the best gift of Christmas, a clean soul!

We also rejoiced last Sunday with our twelve new Altar Servers. These fourth graders are all trained and were formally installed at the 10:30AM Mass last week. They begin their service at God's Holy Altar in January. Keep them in your prayers as they serve our parish in this very important ministry.

Monday night we On rejoiced with Bishop Evans on the fifth anniversary of his ordination as a Bishop. For these five years he has faithfully served our Church of Providence as our Auxiliary Bishop. I thank Bishop Evans for presiding at the Vespers on Monday night and Father Richard Valentine for his inspirational homily. Ad multos annos, Bishop Evans!

Advent is soon to end as Christmas arrives this Thursday! I pray and hope that you have been able to take some time to pray with God in silence and reflect on the true meaning of the great feast of the Nativity of the Lord we soon celebrate.

cul, Christmas invites us to pause before the manger and place our aspirations and needs before the Prince of Peace. Christmastime calls us to consider the Word which became flesh, dwelt among us, and freed us of from sin. There never has been, is

not now, and never will be anyone not saved through the merits of Jesus Christ.

The Christmas Mass Schedule at Our Lady of Mercy is in the bulletin. I invite you to share it with your family, friends, and neighbors, who may not come to Mass or have slipped away from the practice of the faith. Invite them to come to God's House this Christmas to experience the joy and peace of the Christ Child. The more the merrier but remember that the 4:00PM Vigil is usually standing room only. You might consider the Midnight Mass or attending a Mass on Christmas Day where there is more seating available.

If you are traveling and are to be away from OLM at Christmas, please know that Fr. Connors, Deacon Dowd and I will keep you in our prayers. I ask you to please pray for the sick and shut-ins of our parish during this Christmas Season. And also for those who find the holiday a time of grief and sorrow.

On Christmas, kindness and truth, justice, and peace thev become meet; have incarnate in the child born of Mary in Bethlehem. That child is the Son of God; he is God appearing in history. His birth is a flowering of new life for all people. May every heart and home receive the kindness and truth, the justice and peace of A Happy and Holy Christmas to you and your loved tathe Healer ones!



Dear Fr. Connors: Why would God ever become a human being?

This gets to the heart of Christmas. There a few ways to answer it. First, the answer the Scriptures gives is simple. God became man in

order to save us. Through sin—the original sin of our first parents and all of our own actual sins—we were lost, away from God. God came to pay the debt of sin, to ransom those captive to sin, and to unite us once again to God.

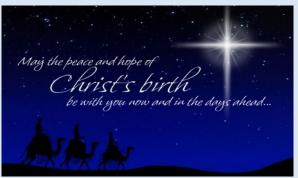
While He could have chosen another way to save us, the Incarnation, which led to the suffering on the Cross, was the most fitting way. The infinite debt of sin against God could only be repaid by God Himself. But, since it was a human debt—a human debt of sins against God and others—it makes most sense for it to be paid, offered, by a human. Thus, Jesus is the God-Man, human and divine.

The lines from Benedict XVI always stick with me. In man's search for God, 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. There is no longer any need to fear Him, for He made Himself small.

When God took on human flesh He united Himself to every person. He showed us how to live and how to love. He suffered for us. God, in His divinity could never suffer, for He lacks nothing. But He in taking on humanity He united Himself to those who suffer.

God became man to ask for our love, to make it possible for us to love fully. The story of Christmas is that God, who has no need of us, decided to become one of us to draw as near as possible to us. He is passionately and recklessly searching out for us in love. *Merry Christmas*.

If you have a question for Fr. Connors about the Catholic Faith or a matter of Church Teaching, please email him at associatepastor@olmparish.org





December 14, 2014

Weekly	\$14,518.00
EFT	\$2,761.00
Retired Religious	\$5,213.50
Immaculate Conception Holyday	\$2,476.00
Outreach	\$1,098.50
Annual (to date)	\$93,644.00

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 generosity!

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

The Clergy and Staff of Our Lady of Mercy Parish offer our prayerful best wishes for a Holy and Happy Christmas for the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church.



The Parish Office closes on Christmas Eve at Noon and reopens on Monday, December 29th at 8:00AM.

Congratulations to our newly baptized:



Hadley Jane Sousa,

and her parents, Nuno and Lauren.

"Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. She is now called a child of God, for so indeed she is."—The Rite of Baptism



We wish all our RE families, students and teachers Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Michele St. Jean & Doug Green

All RE Classes resume on January 4, 2015!

utreach Update

•Christmas Dinner items needed: Traditional items of cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, yams, soups, vegetables, puddings, Jell-O, pie filling, pie crust, etc. are needed as we prepare for Christmas baskets for the needy. For more information, contact Doug Green at the Outreach Office.

Thank you for your generous support.

Doug Green, OLM Outreach Director Phone: 884-4410 or via email: outreach@olmparish.org



We wish all our OLM School families, students, faculty and staff a truly Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Principal Scott Fuller

<u>December 23rd Half Day:</u> School will dismiss at 11:45 a.m. (PreK. and K. will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m.) There will be **no extended day**. School resumes on January 5, 2015!!

Blessing for the Christmas Crib



A Blessing prayer for Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, when the Christ Child is placed in the manger. The Crib may be sprinkled with Holy Water as the following blessing is offered:

O God of every nation:

From the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love.

When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice and truth, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thought to Him, who is our Emmanuel and Savior of all, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



Christmas Confessions at Our Lady of Mercy



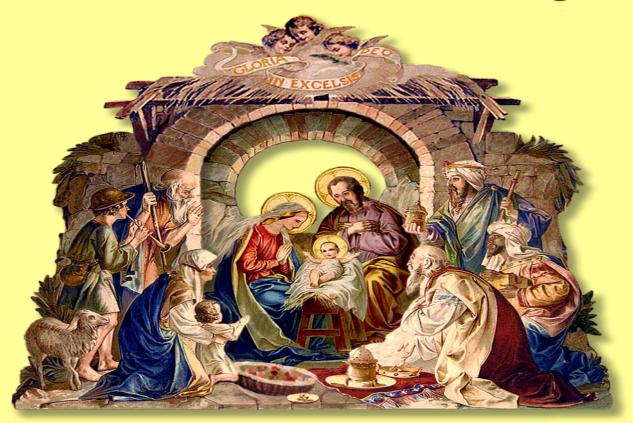
Monday, December 22nd 6:00PM — 8:00PM

Guests Priests in addition to Parish Priests.

"If you have something dark in your soul, ask the Lord for forgiveness. Christmas is a great opportunity to cleanse the soul, eh! Do not fear, the priest is merciful, forgiving all in the name of God, because

God forgives everything. let light be in your hearts, in your families, in your cities. And now, with this wish, turn on the light."—Pope Francis, December 8, 2014 at the Lighting of the Vatican Christmas Tree

Christmas Blessings



Our Lady of Mercy Christmas Schedule

Monday, December 22nd

Christmas Confessions 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Vigil Mass 4:00PM Christmas Music Concert 11:30PM

Christmas

Thursday, December 25th

Christmas Night Mass at 12:00AM Midnight Christmas Day Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 10:30AM No 5:00PM Mass on Christmas Day

"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." — Isaiah

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The world was a playground for Mickey, a naive Irish American kid bored with his life. His father served in World War II, his brother was a Marine in Vietnam; now it was his turn. His 365 days in Vietnam builds in torment until an attack on a bunker complex in Cambodia. Wounded, his friend captured, he becomes a tormented survivor knowing he is always just a heartbeat from death.

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