

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Weekend

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:00 PM
Sunday Masses7:30, 9:00	0 & 10:30 AM
September—June	5:00 PM

Daily

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

Holy Day

Vigil Mass	5:00 F	M
Holyday Masses	7:30 AM & 7:00 F	M

Our Rady of Mercy School

Sr. Jeanne Barry, R.S.M.

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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Our Rady of Mercy

65 THIRD STREET

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Phone401-884-4968	Fax 401-884-1415
Parish Email	parish@olmparish.org
Parish Website	www.olmparish.org

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ★ February 16, 2014

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 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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Father Ryan W. Connors, Associate Pastor associatepastor@olmparish.org	884-4968
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Extended Day Program	. 886-0742
New Discoveries Pre-School	. 885-0776



The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time February 16, 2014

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

 ${\it Mass of Anticipation for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time}$

4:00 PM Timothy Manion—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00 AM Stephen R. Famiglietti—Memorial 10:30AM Rose Farina—5th Anniversary

5:00PM Special Intention

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Weekday

7:30 AM Eileen Ranallo—Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Weekday

7:30 AM Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Weekday

7:30AM Dalia Pundys—2nd Anniversary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Weekday

7:30 AM Dr. Walter Schubert—Memorial

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Weekday/St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Mellissa Burley—35th Anniversary

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

8:30 AM George Ferruccio—Birthday Rembrance

Mass of Anticipation of the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time 4:00 PM Antoinette Mulcahy-4th Anniversary

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

The Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Francis Nasetta—Memorial

9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

5:00PM Anthony Reale—Birthday Rembrance



Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

In my work as the Diocesan Lobbyist at the RI Statehouse I often have some odd encounters. Recently while I was at the Statehouse a rather prominent special-interest lobbyist engaged in a short exchange with me. He thinks that the Church should not have taxexempt status. He's not a secular humanist but an active Catholic who regularly attends Mass.

He was responding to the call for School Choice in our state. As you may know School Choice involves allowing all parents, economically especially the disadvantaged, decide which school to send their children. However, for the poor the choice is limited because they cannot afford tuitions and often there are not enough seats in the Charter Schools. So School Choice calls for a tax-credit or voucher system that would enable all families a choice in their children's education.

This lobbyist felt that if the Catholic Church along with Jewish Schools of RI, Christian Schools and non-religious private schools wanted School Choice they should pay taxes. He was really directing his emphasis upon the Catholic Church. His argument for removal of exempting for religious groups is not new and seems to be picking up more supporters as our nation gets more secular.

I often hear this type of argument anytime I lobby on a particular issue or if a Catholic Bishops speaks out on a social issue like abortion, marriage, immigration, peace or poverty.

These calls for the federal revoke government to tax-exempt status of churches usually take place in election The vears! most common arguments made for taxing churches are that exemptions deny the government important sources of revenue. Also, many claim that churches often abuse their tax-exempt status by violating IRS guidelines that prohibit them from engaging in political activity. The IRS specifically defines "politics" as seeking to influence the election of candidates and "lobbying" as seeking to influence legislation.

Catholic The Church cannot and does not endorse candidates or political parties. However, the Church can educate their followers about the voting record of elected officials and the stance on issues of political This is part of the candidates. Church's mission of education not a political endorsement. Church can and does lobby on both local and national level elected officials about issues of concern.

None of this activity is illegal or prohibited by the IRS. In fact, many non-profit, tax exempt groups do the same thing and they are often non-religious. In fact, the IRS exempts many different types of organizations from paying taxes, including labor unions, chambers of commerce, social clubs, and "social welfare" organizations such as the National Organization

for Women (NOW) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Interestingly enough I just read an article about the National Football League (NFL) and its tax-exempt status. Some US Senators are now questioning why the NFL is tax exempt since the NFL Commissioner is paid \$30 million a year. By the way the NFL spent over \$5 million lobbying US Congress over the last few years.

For the record, all priests pay Federal and State income tax and property tax on their personal property like homes and cars. The Catholic Church is tax-exempt as an institution because She provides a public good. In fact, the Catholic Church is the second largest provider of social services and education after the government. Should we pay taxes? Would that curtail some of the good works we provide to all people, Catholic or not?

Perhaps we should begin to look at non-profits which don't provide as much to the common good of our nation before we go after Churches. My lobbyist friend works for an extremely large tax-exempt non-profit himself. When I brought this to his attention he began to waiver his position slightly.

You can hear more about the "Church in the Public Square" on Monday at 7:00PM. I hope you join us. Happy Presidents' Day. Have a great school vacation week. Be safe. God Bless.

Father Healey

Dear Fr. Connors: Should I continue to pray for the same things even though the prayer is not answered? For example, I pray for health for my father but he still struggles with disease. Do I continue praying for his health?



This question is very common. It also is quite challenging. But getting to the heart of it, gets to the heart of the truth about prayer.

Prayer is raising the mind and the heart to God. It is communicating with Him, talking to Him like a friend. For the Christian, prayer is entering into the eternal dialogue of the Father and the Son. It is to be taken up into the relationship of love among the persons of the Blessed Trinity. Intercessory prayer—praying for other people—is one type of prayer.

Just like God could feed the world without our help, but instead draws us into His work of helping people on a physical level, so too, God could give spiritual help—grace—without us. However, ordinarily He works by drawing us into His work through intercessory prayer. Our prayers really do have an effect; they really help.

However it is true, like the question says, sometimes God's will is not the physical healing of someone. Perhaps, His healing, forgiveness, comfort or strength happens on a spiritual level. Most important, of course, perhaps our prayers help a loved one onto Heaven.

We should pray for others because God commands us to do so. He also tells us our prayers have an effect, even if we don't see it right away. As one author says, if we were able to see the effect of our prayers, we would get on our knees and not get up for a long time.

If you have a question on the Church and Her teachings for Fr. Connors send it to associatepastor@olmparish.org



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners, **Georgette Denning** and **Bruce Hart** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last week.

May they rest in peace.



February 9, 2014

Weekly	\$11,449.50
EFT	
Outreach	

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.



Monday, February 17, 2014
Mass at 8:30AM.
The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.

Congratulations to our newly baptized:



Peter Dominic Formica, and her parents, Philip and Elizabeth.

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



The Altar Flowers at the Marian Shrine were donated this week for Eligio Moscatelli's 12th Anniversary.



OLM Religious Education Schedule 2013-14

RE Grades 1—5
Sundays 10:00AM—11:00AM
RE Grades 6—8
Sundays 6:00PM—7:00PM

No RE Classes meet this weekend (2/16) or next weekend (2/23) due to School Vacation. All RE Classes resume on March 2nd

Upcoming RE Events:

First Communion Parent Meeting Monday, March 3 at 7:00PM

RE First Reconciliation ServiceSaturday, March 15 at 1PM

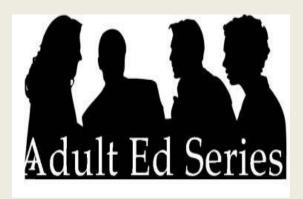
OLM School First Reconciliation Service Saturday, March 22 at 1PM

RE Teachers Training SessionMonday, March 10 at 7PM



The OLM Food Pantry is always in need of food. Please leave your food donations in the box in the vestibule of Church. Please place all food donations in the large Food Box located in the vestibule of Church. If you would like to volunteer to assist with our Food Pantry, please contact Doug Green at 884-4410.

Thank you for your generosity.



OLM Adult Education Series Monday nights at 7:-00PM

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction and a short talk.

Monday, February 17, 2014
"The Church in the Public Square"

Fr. Bernard Healey Pastor, Our Lady of Mercy

Monday, February 24, 2014 "Blessed Are the Poor"

Fr. James Ruggeri Pastor, St. Patrick's Church in Providence





Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain. The power of prayer is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629. If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 6:30-8:30PM

Welcoming all Young Adults, single or married, in their 20s or 30s!

Cancun Family Mexican Restaurant 175 Putnam Pike (RT 44), Johnston, RI

"Pope Francis: Everything Old is New Again"
Guest Speaker: Dr. Holly Taylor-Coolman
Providence College Professor of Theology

There is no fee for this event. A free-will donation will be collected. All are welcome to purchase food and beverages of their choice. Sponsored by the Diocese of Providence Young Adult Ministry. For more information about this event and other Theology on Tap programs please visit us on the web at discovercatholicfaith.org or please contact Michelle Donovan at mdonovan@dioceseofprovidence.org





REGISTRATIONS AND RENEWALS

Renewals and new registrations are coming in for next year. Several new Pre K and Kindergarten registrations have already come in. If you are considering either program you would be wise to go to www.olmschool.org for the links to the registration forms as soon as possible. There is limited availability in other grades. If you have any questions please call the School at 884-1618. Thank you.

Think Spring!

This year's Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at Omni Hotel in Providence and will include a silent and live auction as well as great food, dancing and a fun evening with fellow OLM parents and staff! There are many ways, big and small, that you can help us plan for this exciting event! Let us know if you by contacting can attend Rosa Ciunci rrciunci@gmail.com, or just stop by to see what Spring Fling is all about. We look forward to seeing you! Any parishioner or friend of OLM School who would like to offer a donation in support of the Spring Fling should contact the Parish Office at 884-4968.

Monsignor Thomas V. Cassidy Scholarship For Catholic High School Female Students



The RI State Circle Daughters of Isabella is once again offering a scholarship to memorialize the late Msgr. Thomas Cassidy who

served as our Chaplain for many years. One (1) \$3,000 is to be awarded to an eight grade girl entering a Catholic High School of her choice. *The scholarship is determined by scholastic merit and financial need*. Any girl interested should request an application in writing. All applications must be returned by March 15, 2014. Request application at: Msgr. Thomas Cassidy Scholarship Fund, c/o Nancy F. Sohigian, 45 Kinfield St, Providence, RI 02909.

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