



BEHOLD,
the Lamb of God

JOHN 1:36



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**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 JANUARY 17, 2021**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Ellen Simms—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 9:00AM John P. Ponte—30th Anniversary
 10:30AM Matthew Cawley—Memorial

MONDAY, JANUARY 18—MLK HOLIDAY

Weekday
 8:30AM John, David & Louise Kiernan—Memorial

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Weekday
 7:30AM Robert Germeroth—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

Weekday; St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr: St. Sebastian, Martyr
 7:30AM Fay Masterson—3rd Anniversary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
 7:30AM Jean M. Selwyn—25th Anniversary

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

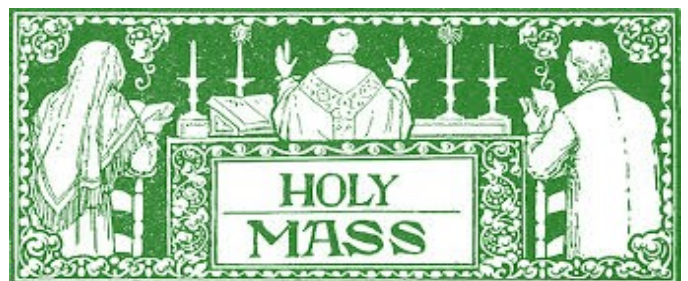
Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
 7:30AM All the Unborn

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Weekday; BVM; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
 8:30AM Msgr. Richard Soseman—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Michael Alix—4th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Fay Masterson—3rd Anniversary
 9:00AM Margaret M. Healey—33rd Anniversary
 10:30AM Antonio DeCardenas—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Act, proclaiming the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The next year, he declared the third Sunday in January as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The two are still connected today.

On Monday, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day and reflect upon his life and work. His efforts in fighting for racial justice and equality made significant progress in erasing the stain of racism and injustice against African Americans.

However, we know we still have work to do in ending the sin of racism. Continuing social unrest, growing tensions, and senseless violence in our communities remind us that we must continue to build the culture of love, respect, and peace to which the Gospel calls us.

The Church's teaching about the sin of racism is grounded in the scriptural understanding of all people's equal dignity, created in God's image and Christ's redemption of all. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: *"Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design."*

In accepting the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King stated, *"Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts."* So while we celebrate his legacy and work against racial injustice,

we must also reflect on the work that still needs to continue to establish a civilization of love.

Too often we have witnessed people turning to violence to voice their protest. The senseless violence and mayhem we've seen do nothing to advance the cause of justice or serve the common good. Sadly attacks on human life are all too common and acceptable in our nation.

Our Catholic Faith teaches that the injustice and harm racism causes are an attack on human life. The Church has spoken out consistently and vigorously against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other forms of violence that threaten human life. In the U.S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Racism, they state:

"It is not a secret that these attacks on human life have severely affected people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to healthcare, have the greatest numbers on death row, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives when facing serious illness. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue."

We mark a sad legacy of violence against women and children this week. Forty-eight years ago, this Friday, the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the United States. Friday is also a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

If we are to rid our society of the moral evil of racism and the violence of abortion, we must first begin with prayer. I invite you to join

us on Friday as we mark this tragic anniversary with all-day prayer and adoration for the legal protection of the unborn.

Just as we must continue to pray and work together to overcome the evil of racism, we must be more committed to promoting more profound respect for human life and dignity, especially for the unborn and the most vulnerable.

We hear many politicians and other leaders rightly condemning the violence all too present in our country. Sadly many of them have failed ever to condemn the violence of abortion. As Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta stated: *"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."*

On Monday, we celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy with its significant contribution to our nation for racial justice and equality for African Americans. However, on Friday, we mark the legalization of abortion, a tragic legacy of injustice and violence. More work for overcoming injustice, inequality, and violence is needed.

Let's begin with prayers for a culture of life and a civilization of love. Let us take up prayers for peace and love so needed in our world as we voice our petitions for the protection of unborn children. Stay safe. Be well. Do good. God Bless.

Father Healey



What is the Natural Law ?

When Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident..." he demonstrated our founding fathers' belief that the morality of certain principles, and actions, is knowable to all. We recognize that many people elsewhere in the world are not so fortunate, and many do not even recognize the same moral laws as us. But such differences do not point to a "moral relativism" in which nothing is really right or wrong in itself, but is only perceived as such by the people.

Instead, we as Christians hold that actions are definitively right or wrong based on whether they measure up with the will of God, who is consistent and unchanging as the fullness of all being, goodness, and truth. We assert that there is a divine moral law that all people must adhere to in order to live justly and well, and to make it back to God. This law is written into the workings of creation because God creates all beings and upholds the universe, designing and ordering all things such that they reflect His wisdom, and point back to Him. That the world itself, including our God-given minds and intellect, should lead us to believe in God, to know Him, and to know what is morally right and wrong suggests that anyone can come to know and follow the divine law.

It is written into nature and so we also call it "natural law". But we are also a fallen people and so our capacity for moral judgment can be easily clouded. Amid confusing circumstances we can easily see good things as bad or vice versa. Fortunately God helps us by revealing His will in the Ten Commandments, the teachings of Christ, and Church doctrine. We should follow these precepts and we can even use them to determine right and wrong in more ambiguous cases and in establishing civil laws.

In his Letter from Birmingham Jail Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. writes, "A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God...an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law. Any law that uplifts the human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust." By "personality" MLK here means the design of the human person envisioned and created by God. In our Declaration of Independence our founding fathers stated that we have a right to the pursuit of happiness by all lawful means. The writers of that document did not mean that a person has a right to pursue happiness by any means. When they write, "lawful means" the law they had in mind was not the changeable laws of congress or the Supreme Court, but the eternal and unchanging law of nature.

Weekly Collection

January 10, 2021

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly..... | \$10,116.00 |
| EFT..... | \$5,284.00 |
| | Total=\$15,400.00 |
| Outreach..... | \$539.00 |
| Annual Collection (to date)..... | \$128,528.00 |

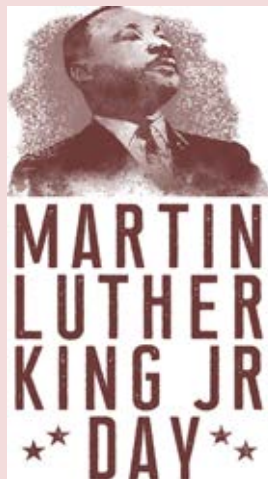
January 12, 2020

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Weekly..... | \$12,343.00 |
|-------------|-------------|

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



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



**Monday,
January 18, 2021**

Mass at 8:30AM

The OLM Parish Office is closed for the holiday.



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Roland Dumont, Peter P. Fornal and Robert Cressman, Sr.** who have died.

Budget Envelope Delay



If you have not yet received your monthly budget envelopes, **it is the result of delays within the U.S. Postal System.**

If you would like a “temporary” set of envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

The budget envelopes are printed and mailed out a month in advance by the envelope company, therefore duplicate sets cannot be sent out but only “temporary” sets. *We appreciate your patience and understanding and your continued generous support of Our Lady of Mercy Church.*

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Fist Communion & Confirmation Program **Family Mass & Class**

Sunday, January 17th: Confirmation Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: “*Gifts of the Sacraments*”. Mass & Class is open only to the members of the OLM Confirmation Class & their families.

Sunday, January 24th: First Communion Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: “*Sin and Confession*”. Mass & Class is open only to the members of the First Communion Class & their families.



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

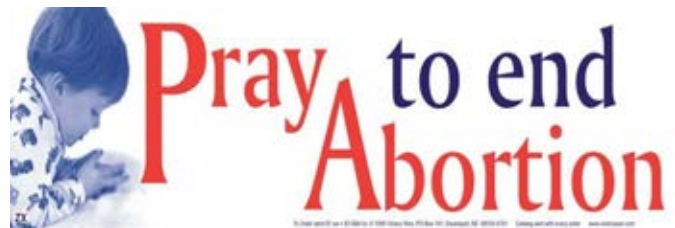
- **Monday, January 18:** No School in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
- **Tuesday, January 19:** OLM School Mass at 9:00am for Grade 8. (no livestream)

Save the Date!!

January 31-February 5
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Respect for Life Mass

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 9:00AM
Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul

The Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin
Bishop of Providence
Celebrant

Fr. Stephen J. Dandeneau
Chaplain of The Human Life Guild
Homilist

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

*“Any country that accepts abortion is
not teaching its people to love but to
use violence to get what they want.”
-St. Theresa of Calcutta*

48th Anniversary of Legalization of Abortion

**Friday, January 22, 2021
Exposition following 7:30 AM Mass
All-Day Adoration
Benediction at 6:00 PM**

*Join us in praying for the
protection of the unborn*

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#WHATSMYNAME

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Samantha Josephson**



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