



# PARISH DIRECTORY

## PARISH OFFICE

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

#### **OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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reled@olmparish.org	
Mr. Douglas E. Green (Grades 6-8)	884-4410
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#### **OFFICE OF OUTREACH**

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS**

Mrs. Shirley Medici, *Youth Choir Directress*....884-4968 musicministry@olmparish.org

#### **OLM SCHOOL**

Mr. Patrick H, McNabb, School	Principal
Main Office	
Mr. David Cote, Business Manager	
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office@olmschool.org	884-1618
Little Saints & Scholars Program	



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Mass of Anti	icipation for Third Sunday of Advent
4:00PM	Russell Ferrara—2nd Anniversary
SUNDAY, DE	ECEMBER 13
The Third Su	unday of Advent
7:30 AM	Robert F. Grausgruber—20th Anniversary
9:00AM	Joyce Honour—5th Anniversary
10:30AM	Kate Bedard—11th Anniversary
MONDAY, D	ECEMBER 14
-	e Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
7:30AM	Special Intention
<u>TUESDAY, D</u>	ECEMBER 15
Advent Week	
	Teresa M. Romano—-Memorial
WEDNESDA	Y, DECEMBER 16
Advent Wee	,
	Albert Edward Hyde—10th Anniversary
	DECEMBER 17
Late Advent	
7:30AM	Paul Soucy—Memorial
FRIDAY, DEC	
Late Advent	
	George C. Jamieson—Birthday Remembrance
	DECEMBER 19
Late Advent	Weekday
8:30AM	John & Lorraine Sedlock—Memorial
Mass of Anti	icipation for the 4th Sunday of Advent
4:00PM	Michael Alix—Birthday Remembrance
SUNDAY, DE	ECEMBER 20
The Fourth	Sunday of Advent
	Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
9:00AM	Patricia Sehl—2nd Anniversary
10:30AM	Janet M. Fayle—12th Anniversary
Т	hird Week of Advent

946 Our Lady of Mercy-2

Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

This Third Sunday of Advent is known as "*Gaudete Sunday*." Its name is from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: "*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*" This antiphon is from Philippians, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is "*Gaudete.*"

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday has been called "*Gaudete*" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself.

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "*The Lord is near*."

On *Gaudete* Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus is, "*The Lord is coming*." But beginning with *Gaudete* Sunday, it focuses upon, "*The Lord is near*." A heightened sense of joyous anticipation marks this shift.

Liturgically, the colors lighten, and the priest wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on *Gaudete* Sunday and *Laetare* Sunday during Lent. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored.

The word "*Gaudete*" is Latin for "*Rejoice*." When the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear and dread, but with tremendous faith and joy. As St. Paul reminds us:

"Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

So, why do we need a reminder to rejoice on the Third Sunday of Advent? Because the happiness that comes from holiday festivities, fun gatherings with friends, and a full belly, is not the same thing as Christian joy.

Pope Francis explains the difference between happiness and joy: "To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It's another thing, something which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing things: it is more profound. It is a gift. 'To be 'happy at all moments, at all cost,' can at the end turn into superficiality and This leaves us shallowness. without Christian wisdom, which makes us dumb, naïve, right? All is joy. No, joy is something else; it is a gift from the Lord."

If joy is a gift from the Lord, then the Lord Himself is our first and greatest gift and the only one that will never tarnish or break or fade. Gaudete Sunday reminds us that the gift has not yet arrived, but it's very near.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, Rejoice!" Gaudete Sunday is a moment to stop and reflect on the source of real joy. And if the Advent season has brought causes for stress and sorrow into our life, then lighting the rose candle is an opportunity to take heart and refocus with joy upon Christ.

As you've seen in the media, a COVID vaccine seems to be coming soon. This past week we received a letter from Bishop Tobin and guidance from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops about the vaccine. There questions were some and the vaccines confusion if developed Pfizer by and Moderna were morally permissible to use.

However, the USCCB states: "Neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccine involved the use of cell lines that originated in fetal tissue taken from the body of an aborted baby at any level of design, development, or production."

And while we welcome the vaccine, questions remain about the priority in determining who receives the vaccine. Also, questions remain about how it is to be distributed justly and equitably around the world, especially in poorer nations. I have posted the statement on the parish website if you wish to read it.

As we enter this Third Week of Advent and rejoice the "Lord is near," let's strive to pray with greater devotion, give more generously to the poor and needy, and truly prepare the way with a good Sacramental Confession before Christmas! If we do, then we can genuinely "Rejoice in the Lord!"

Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good. God Bless. Oremus pro invicem.

Father Healer

946 Our Lady of Mercy—3



#### Why is the Incarnation Important?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists several reasons why God became incarnate (457-460): The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." The Word became flesh to make us partakers of the divine nature. "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."

At Christmas time we focus particularly on the last of these reasons: that we might become sons and daughters of God. Remarkably God took to Himself our human nature. We can meditate on this reality from the point of view of God and from the point of view of humanity. From the standpoint of God our minds are filled with awe knowing that the omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipresent creator of the universe, who transcends time, squeezes himself in a manner of speaking, into a tiny, helpless baby. Similar thoughts can be had about the Mass and the transformation of the Eucharist.

From the standpoint of our humanity, St. Gregory Nazianzus, one of the great Fathers and Doctors of the Church, responding to the heresy that Jesus Christ had not assumed a rational mind, said the following: "What has not been assumed has not been healed." Other Church Fathers and theologians have spoken similarly. The correlation here is that whatever has been assumed has been healed and transformed. Hence, not just our rational mind, but every single inch of our humanity has been affected; even our past, present, and future. Our weaknesses and sins mask, deface, and hinder what lies below: the awesome potential of redeemed humanity. Of all the ways that God could have saved us and restored our relationship to him, he decided to take on our human nature. There is no greater gift than this!

Christmas is an exciting time precisely because we receive the greatest gift of all: the ability to become like Christ. May we inculcate that message into ourselves and everyone we meet.



#### December 13, 2020

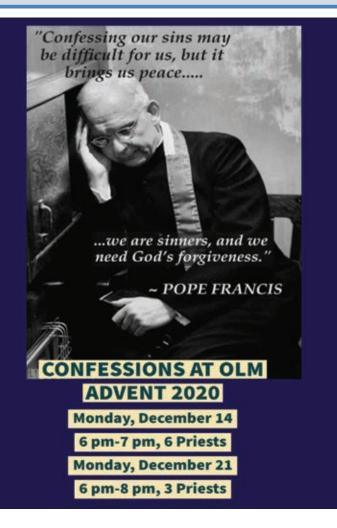
Weekly	\$7,741.00
EFT	<u>\$2,980.00</u>
	Total=\$10,721.00
Outreach	\$1,099.00
Annual Collection (to date)	\$108,328 .00

#### Weekly for December 15, 2019

Weekly\$13,706.00
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### Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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





•<u>OLM Food Pantry</u> is always in <u>need of food and</u> <u>paper goods</u> for the members of our local community. Please place all donated <u>non-perishable</u> foods and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House.

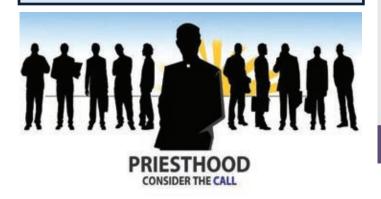
•<u>Christmas Outreach:</u> We are in need of Stop & Shop & Walmart Gift Cards <u>(small</u> <u>denominations only \$10, \$20 & \$25</u>). Please drop in safe in vestibule or mail to the parish office.

#### Thank you for your support!

•For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



•<u>Confirmation Class (2020-21</u>): Next Family Mass & Class on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00PM. *Only Confirmation students & families may attend Mass*, followed by brief Family Catechesis Class.





## Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

*Upcoming School Events* • <u>Monday, December 14:</u> School Confessions at 1:00pm

• Tuesday, December 15: School Mass for Grade 5

• <u>Friday, December 18:</u> Last Day of Classes before Christmas Vacation.

We are looking for substitute teachers for OLM School. If interested, please contact OLM School Principal, Mr. Patrick McNabb at 401-884-1618

Discover the OLM Advantage at www.olmschool.org

This year was a difficult time for so many in Rhode Island. It isn't too late for you to make a big difference in 2020!

## Year-end giving is a win-win!

SHARING OUR GIFTS

- ✓ Tax advantages
- ✓ Your charity receives much needed funding

Year-End Giving

✓ You support a program that you are passionate about

#### Tax Advantages:

- Cash: A new \$300 charitable deduction is available for individual non-itemizers, or \$600 per married couple.
- IRA: People who are age 70½ and older can give up to \$100,000 per year, tax-free, from their IRA to charity.
- Appreciated Stocks: If you have owned the stock for more than a year, you can deduct the value of the stock on the date you give it to your charity if you itemize. And even if you don't itemize, you can avoid having to pay long-term capital gains taxes on your profits.

For more information, contact Daryl Thomas in the Stewardship Office at 401-277-2121.

Your tax-deductible gift will make a huge difference for these worthy causes:



# 3rd Sunday of Advent



he traditional name for the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from Gaudete in Domino semper, Latin for "Rejoice in the Lord always," opening words of today's entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced by an opening hymn).

Because one of Advent's tasks is to prepare us for Christ's return at the end of time, this season once had a penitential quality similar to that of Lent. Gaudete Sunday with its rose vestments and relaxation of austerities softened the period and gave a glimpse of its fulfillment just as its counterpart, Laetare Sunday, did at the midpoint of Lent.

Viewed now as a season of devout and joyful expectation, Advent retains very little of its old penitential focus, but we still have the option of using the liturgical color of rose today as we rejoice that Christmas is near, and Christ's second coming is nearer than it was yesterday.



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.



## OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 Confessions from 6:00PM - 8:00PM with three priests

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord CHRISTMAS EVE **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24** Vigil Masses at 3:00PM & 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS NIGHT FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Night Mass at Midnight (livestream)

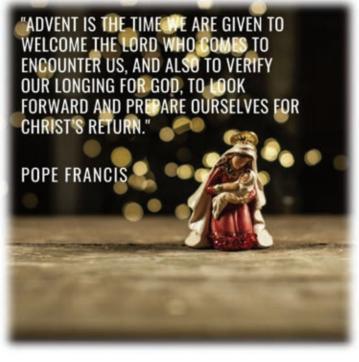
CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 10:30AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God NEW YEAR'S EVE, **DECEMBER 31, 2020** Vigil Mass at 4:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY. **JANUARY 1, 2021** Holyday Masses at 7:30AM & 10:30AM

### Happy and Holy Christmas!

THE VERY REVEREND BERNARD A. HEALEY, PASTOR, THE CLERGY, **Religious**, Parishioners, Faculty, Staff & Students OF OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH & SCHOOL





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