A classical painting depicting the Nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is seated in the center, holding the infant Jesus. She is surrounded by other figures, including Joseph, Mary Magdalene, and several angels. The scene is set in a stable with a thatched roof. In the background, a landscape with a river and hills is visible. The sky is filled with a group of cherubs flying in a circle. The text is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

**LET US ALL REJOICE IN THE LORD,  
FOR OUR SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN  
IN THE WORLD.  
TODAY TRUE PEACE HAS COME DOWN  
TO US FROM HEAVEN.**

# Mass Intentions for the Week

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY DECEMBER 26, 2021

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

#### *The Nativity of the Lord*

- 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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

#### *The Feast of the Holy Family*

- 7:30 AM Teresa Romano—Memorial
- 9:00AM Gene & Mary Verri—Memorial
- 10:30AM Barbara V. Primeau—Month's Mind
- 5:00PM Dolores Oberg—Birthday Remembrance

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

#### *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

- 7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

#### *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

- 7:30AM Bishop Robert E. Mulvee—3rd Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

#### *Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

- 7:30AM Carolyn Perretta—4th Anniversary

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

#### *Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

- 7:30AM Fr. George Allard—Memorial

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

#### *Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

- 7:30AM Mary M. Barrow—1st Anniversary

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022 NEW YEAR'S DAY

#### *The Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God*

- 8:30AM Joseph Zaino & Dec'd Members of Company B

#### *The Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany*

- 4:00PM Jack Donnelly—3rd Anniversary

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

#### *The Feast of the Epiphany*

- 7:30 AM Special Intention
- 9:00AM Mafalda Desiderio—Memorial
- 10:30AM The Souls in Purgatory
- 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



946 Our Lady of Mercy-2



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Dear Parishioners:

Merry Christmas! We joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! On Christmas, the Word of God became flesh with the incarnation of Jesus Christ. It reveals God's intimate connection to his children. It expresses God's love and compels us to love one another.

On Christmas day in 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the poem we now know as the Christmas carol, "*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.*" Happily the new bless system is installed and we are ringing the bells once again at OLM to announce the Good News that Christ is born!

On the first Christmas night, the angels announced glad tidings to the poor shepherds in the fields surrounding Bethlehem. They told it with the words: "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*"

The Christmas Season has become known as the time of peace. Because the Son of God came to earth, He shares His peace with all. But if Christ came to bring peace, why is our world still not experiencing this promised universal peace?

Only men of goodwill can receive this gift of peace. Peace begins with each individual interiorly and is only accepted by those who are open to it. And then that peace is spread.

Goodwill is: "*a kindly feeling of approval and support, a benevolent interest or concern.*" It is synonymous with compassion, goodness, kindness, charity, friendliness, decency, and thoughtfulness.

The spiritual writer, Father Jacques Philippe, writes: "*A necessary condition for interior peace, then, is what we might call goodwill. We could also call it purity of heart. It is the stable and constant disposition of a person who is determined more than anything to love God, who desires sincerely to prefer in all circumstances the will of God to his own; who does not wish to consciously refuse anything to God.*"

We cannot have peace without preparing our hearts with interior goodwill. We have to cooperate and be receptive to receive God's grace. Goodwill is the habit of saying "Yes" to God in both the little and big matters of life.

In his 1959 Message of Christmas, Saint Pope John XXII spoke of this peace and goodwill. He states: "*At Bethlehem all men must find their place. In the first rank should be Catholics. Today especially the Church wishes to see them pledged to an effort to make His message of peace a part of themselves. And the message is an invitation to orient every act in accordance with the dictates of divine law, which demands the unflinching adherence of all, despite sacrifice. Along with such a deepened understanding, must go action. It is utterly intolerable for Catholics to restrict themselves to the position of mere observers. They should feel clothed, as it were, with a mandate from on high.*"

Silently and without notice, Our Lord came to earth at Bethlehem. He came as the "Prince of Peace" bringing His

gift of peace. Peace on earth is a gift from God and not a matter of our merits. This peace is for all those who wish to unite their will to the holy will of God.

The Angel speaks of a kind of peace that transcends any earthly peace we seek. It is the peace of Christ within our very hearts and souls and the answer to the longing in our hearts that only Christ can give us. It only comes to the hearts and souls of those who know and seek the goodwill of Christ himself.

We are called to serve and also to will the good of others. We do this through love and sacrifice, just as Jesus did and does every day on the Altar at Holy Mass. Here at Mass is where we find true peace, the peace in our hearts that comes with being a person of goodwill.

So let us announce the Good News to the world with not only the joyful ringing of our new Church bells but with true peace and goodwill. In imitation of the shepherds on the First Christmas, let us go "glorifying and praising God" for all we've heard and seen this day. "*For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!*"

In the name of Fr. Mahoney, and Fr. Connors, we wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and Blessings for the New Year! Please know we will remember you at Christmas Mass and pray that the Peace of the Christ Child may be yours today and in the New Year!

*Father Healey*

*We Wish A Merry Christmas  
to All OLM Parishioners*



**The Parish Office is closed  
for Christmas  
from Friday, December 24  
until Tuesday, December 27**

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"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of consumerism, appearances, useless gifts, or excessive waste,

but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart"

POPE FRANCIS

**OLM New Year's Schedule**

**New Year's Day  
Saturday, January 1, 2022  
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Mass at 8:30am  
The Parish Office is closed on New Year  
Eve, Friday, December 31, 2021.**

# Weekly Collection

## December 12, 2021

Weekly.....	\$11,899.00
EFT.....	\$5,584.00
	<b>Total=\$17,483.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$1,938.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$141,185.00
Retired Religious .....	\$3,850.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$2,373.00

## December 13, 2020

Weekly.....	\$13,569.00
Annual 2020 Total.....	\$132,265.00

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**



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

## Second Collections

**Next Week: Building & Grounds Collection**

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER  
BY ST. POPE JOHN XXIII**

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.



Religious Education  
NEWS

*We wish all our RE Students and Families a Merry Christmas & Blessings for the New Year in 2022! May the Christ Child born on Christmas Day bring you peace & joy!*  
Mickey St. Jean & Doug Green  
OLM RE Directors



Outreach  
Update

Thank you to all the OLM Parishioners for your generous support of OLM Outreach all year especially during this Christmas Season. Your charity has helped many to have food, shelter and clothing! A Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Gratefully in Christ,  
Doug Green  
OLM Outreach Director



**Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!**

*We wish all our OLM students, faculty, staff, alumni, benefactors and families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy the season and the Christmas Break !*

*See you in 2022!*

Patrick McNabb  
Principal

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**Nativity Prayer of St. Bernard of Clairvaux**

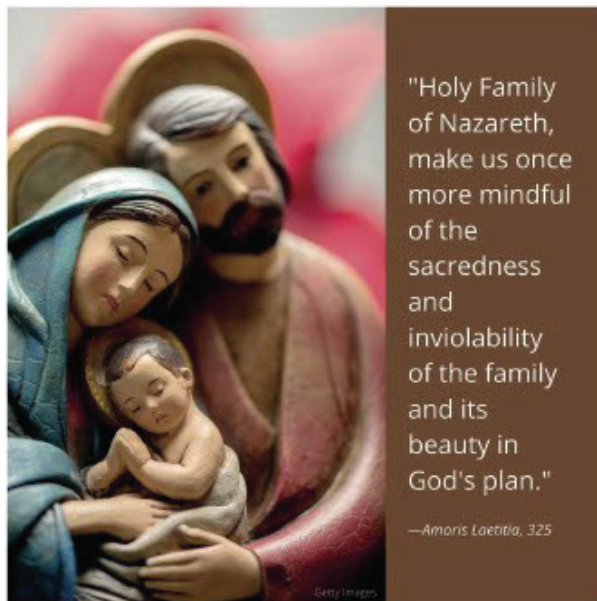


Let Your goodness Lord appear to us, that we made in your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate Your majesty, power, and wonder nor is it fitting for us to try. But Your mercy reaches from the heavens through the clouds to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with Your tiny hands, embrace us with Your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries. Amen.

Merry  
Christmas

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

DECEMBER 26, 2021



*We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.*

## Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children— share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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