

THE  
*Kingdom of God*  
IS AT HAND.

MARK 1:15





# Mass Intentions for the Week

©JPPC

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## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

*The Mass of Anticipation for the 1st Sunday of Lent*

4:00PM Carlo & Arlene Roberti—Memorial

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

*The First Sunday of Lent*

7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial

9:00AM Robert G. Armour—Memorial

10:30AM Dec'd Members of Stabile & Gemma Families

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

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19—PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30AM Madeline M. Montanaro—Memorial

12:05PM Diana M. Luchka-Ricci—Memorial

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

*Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM Deborah Sullivan—Memorial

12:05PM Catherine McPhee & Michael Dellorfanio—Mem.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

*Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM Dorothy Ianacone—5th Anniversary

12:05PM Vilma Patrucco—Memorial

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

*The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*

7:30AM Maureen Kerin—Memorial

12:05PM Nancy Chapman—Memorial

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

*Lenten Weekday; St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr*

7:30AM Michael A. Rocchio—Birthday Remembrance

12:05PM Jeanne Provencal—Memorial

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30AM All Souls in Purgatory

*The Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday of Lent*

4:00PM Michael Rocchio—Birthday Remembrance

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

*The Second Sunday of Lent*

7:30AM Arthur Cabral—Birthday Remembrance

9:00AM Daniel E Green—Memorial

10:30AM Margaret "Betty" Murray

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





Dear Parishioners:

Of the three pillars of Lent — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — almsgiving is often neglected. And yet, the only place in the Old Testament that brings all three together puts the emphasis firmly on the last: *"Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life"* (Tob 12:8-9).

Why is almsgiving better than prayer and fasting? Because it is prayer and involves fasting. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is "giving to God," not mere philanthropy. It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving — not just giving something, but giving up something until it hurts. For many, almsgiving means making a sacrificial gift to the Catholic Charity Appeal or another worthwhile charity like CRS Operation Rice Bowl or OLM Outreach.

Pope Benedict XVI said: *"Almsgiving is not mere philanthropy; rather it is a concrete expression of charity, a theological virtue that demands interior conversion to love of God and neighbor, in imitation of Jesus Christ, who, dying on the cross, gave his entire self for us."*

Lent allows us to cultivate a sacrificial spirit of generosity and charity. It allows us to share what we have and who we are with other people. It puts us in communion with others and helps us understand

that we are all members of the Body of Christ. Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, who himself said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

Charity does indeed begin at home, where we daily make the choice to give our time, our attention, our talent, and give generously. But charity does not stop there because, for Catholics, "home" is universal, and our family is as big as the world.

St. Pope John Paul II asked us to see and be seen by *"the human face of poverty."* We have a unique opportunity to see and be seen by *"the human face of poverty"* this weekend in supporting the Catholic Charity Appeal. This Annual Appeal supports numerous ministries and social programs of the Diocese of Providence, providing charitable, social, educational, and spiritual support to thousands of Rhode Islanders each year.

The Catholic Charity Appeal's funded services include social service ministries providing direct support to the poor, the hungry, and the homeless, immigration and refugee services, emergency rent, utilities, prescription, and medical aid and assistance.

In addition, our Church provides social service ministries that assist the sick and elderly, Chaplaincies at State Hospitals and Prisons, child care programs for low-income families, and financial and scholarship aid to students with financial need to attend Rhode Island Catholic schools.

We can be proud as Catholics in Rhode Island that we are the second largest

provider of social services after the state government. Our Catholic Charity Appeal funds this vast network of charitable works. We can also be proud as Our Lady of Mercy parishioners that we lead the state in donating to the Catholic Charity Appeal.

I am most grateful to Jerry and Kim O'Connell and Mike and Lee Mita, who once again have generously agreed to serve as the Chairpersons of the CCA here at OLM. I will preach at all Masses about the critical need for your spiritual and financial support of the CCA.

We ask every parish family to prayerfully consider a pledge of \$300 payable over the next year. That is \$25 per month to enable the good works of our Church to continue to serve the poorest and neediest among us. For those who can afford more, we ask you to please consider the Bishop's Partnership in Charity with a pledge of \$1,000 or more.

For those who have already pledged their gift, know of my sincere thanks and gratitude. With your prayers and support, I am confident we can once again surpass our CCA goal of \$190,000. Thank you for generous support and prayers for the success of the CCA! St. Mother Teresa said: *"Charity isn't about pity; it is about love."*

Pray, fast, and give alms. See you at Stations of the Cross on Friday. Get ready for the Lenten Mission next weekend. Be well. Do good. God Bless!



Capri Anthony Gelsomino,  
and her parents, Anthony and Tracy.

*“Dear brothers and sisters: this child has been reborn through Baptism, and is now called a child of God, for so indeed she is. Through Confirmation she will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, she will share at the table of Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church.” — The Rite of Baptism*



In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Ronald Verri and Richard Narcessian** who have died.

*Rest In Peace*

**PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MASSSES AT 8:30AM & 12:05PM  
CONFESSIONS 11:45AM - 12:00PM  
& 6:00PM WITH 2 PRIESTS  
THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

# Weekly Collection

**February 11, 2024**

Weekly.....	\$11,329.00
EFT.....	\$5,412.00
	<b>Total=\$16,741.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$3,710.00

**February 12, 2023**

Weekly.....\$14,309.00

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**



**Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.**

## Second Collections

Next Week: Lenten Mission Collection

**GRATITUDE**

Your Parish Community is

**GRATEFUL**

for your consistent contributions.

Is your vacation quickly approaching?  
Are you so ready to get outta town?  
Are all of your while-your-away plans in place?

**WAIT**

Did you sign up for online giving?

Please visit our parish website to sign up for online giving with Parish Giving™. Your consistent stewardship while you are on vacation is appreciated.

**THANK YOU.**





### First Communion Class Schedule

Sunday, March 3: Class

Saturday, March 9: First Confession: Last Names A-M:

Saturday, March 16: First Confession: Last Names N-Z:

### Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, March 11: Confessions at 6 pm after 5 pm Mass.

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of First Communion & Confirmation at 884-4968 or [faithformation@olmparish.org](mailto:faithformation@olmparish.org) or Miss Julia Anthon, Directress of Faith Formation, at 884-4968 or [faithformationdir@olmparish.org](mailto:faithformationdir@olmparish.org)



•**OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable. We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

•**OLM Bereavement Group**: Our next meeting is on **Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 4:00pm in Mercy House**. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.

•For more information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



## Annual Our Lady of Mercy Parish Lenten Mission February 24-28, 2024

*"The Seven Words of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Lessons on Discipleship"*



Father Francis McCarty, O.S.B.

MISSION PREACHER

Father McCarty will be preaching all weekend Masses on February 24 & 25.

Mission Talks each night Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:00 pm.  
Confessions at 6:00 pm with 4 priests available.

**Monday, February 26**

*The Blessed Mother and the Angel Gabriel –  
Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it*  
Mission Talk at 7:00pm • Confessions at 6pm with 4 priests

**Tuesday, February 27**

*The Blessed Mother and Saint Elizabeth –  
My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior*  
Mission Talk at 7:00pm • Confessions at 6pm with 4 Priests

**Wednesday, February 28**

*The Blessed Mother and Her Son Jesus – Do whatever He tells You*  
Mission Talk at 7:00pm with Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction  
Confessions at 6:00pm with 4 priests



Fr. Francis McCarty, O.S.B. is a Benedictine monk and priest of Saint Anselm Abbey in Manchester, New Hampshire. He is a native of Manville, Rhode Island. He graduated from Mount Saint Charles Academy where he also served as a faculty member after graduating from Saint Anselm College. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2022 following studies at Saint John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass. He currently serves Saint Anselm College as Assistant Director of Campus Ministry.

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## Stations of the Cross



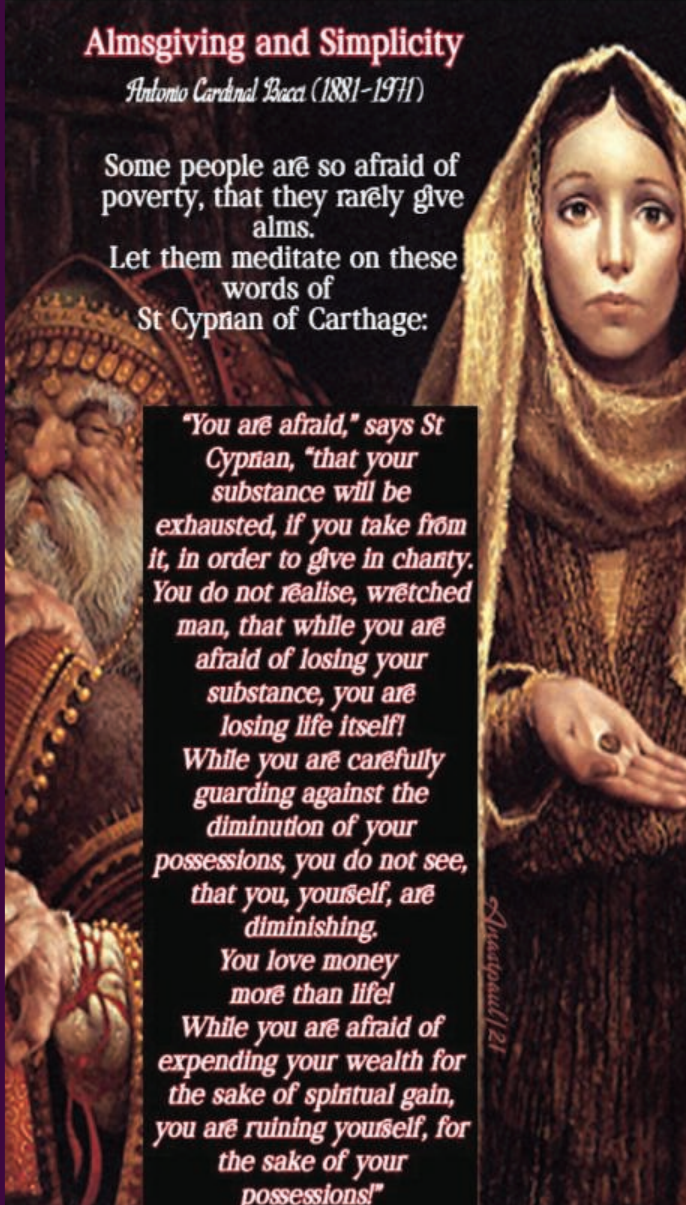
**Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm**



The 2024 Catholic Charity Appeal, "A State of Hope", has begun. The OLM parish CCA goal remains the same as last year, \$190,000, with an overall diocesan goal of \$7 million. Please prayerfully consider a gift or pledge to the appeal as we strive for 100% parish participation.

Visit [Dioceseofprovidence.org/CCA](https://Dioceseofprovidence.org/CCA) to make a difference today.

Visit [Dioceseofprovidence.org/CCA](https://Dioceseofprovidence.org/CCA) to make a difference today.



**Almsgiving and Simplicity**  
*Antonio Cardinal Bacci (1881-1971)*

Some people are so afraid of poverty, that they rarely give alms.  
 Let them meditate on these words of St Cyprian of Carthage:

*"You are afraid," says St Cyprian, "that your substance will be exhausted, if you take from it, in order to give in charity. You do not realise, wretched man, that while you are afraid of losing your substance, you are losing life itself! While you are carefully guarding against the diminution of your possessions, you do not see, that you, yourself, are diminishing. You love money more than life! While you are afraid of expending your wealth for the sake of spiritual gain, you are ruining yourself, for the sake of your possessions!"*


## OLM LENTEN SCHEDULE



**Daily Mass, Monday-Friday**  
 7:30am & 12:05pm  
**Daily Confession, Monday-Friday**  
 11:45 am -12:00 pm  
**Weekly Confession**  
 Mondays at 6:00 pm with 2 Priests  
 Saturdays at 3:00 pm

### Put Confession & Mass on Your Lenten Schedule!

*Join us in making Rosaries for the Missions!*



## OLM Rosary Makers Workshop

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**  
**1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**  
**OLM Cry Room**  
**Instruction & Materials provided**

*"The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary." - Saint Francis de Sales*

### McAuley Ministries Carry On Event

**Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 6-8 p.m.**  
**the Crowne Plaza in Warwick**

Please join us for this celebration of our mission and the mercy we share with the community. The Carry On Event is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather - donors, corporate sponsors, Sisters of Mercy, volunteers, staff and friends - and reaffirm our commitment to be living examples of Servant of God Mother Catherine McAuley's legacy in serving those in need. The celebration will begin with a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and a chance to mingle with fellow donors. And the evening will close with a presentation from McAuley Ministries accompanied by an assortment of delicious desserts. For more information go online to: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/McauleyCorporation/CarryOn2024.html>

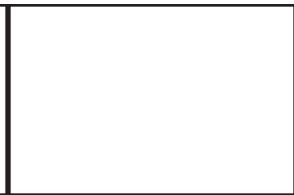
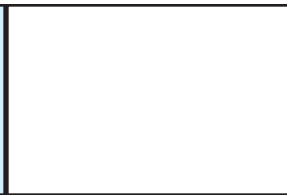


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