

“*He*
APPROACHED,
GRASPED HER
HAND, AND
HELPED
HER UP.”

MARK 1:31





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 pastor@olmparish.org
- Father Joshua A. Barrow, *Associate Pastor*.....884-4968
 associate@olmparish.org
- Mr. David E. Cote, *Business Manager*.....884-4968
 business@olmschool.org
- Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, *Admin. Assistant*.....884-4968
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- Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org
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 parish@olmparish.org

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 reled@olmparish.org
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 confirmation@olmparish.org

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 musicministry@olmparish.org
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 musicministry@olmparish.org

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- business@olmschool.org.....884-1618
- Mrs. Bethany Verret, *Office Manager & Admissions Coordinator*
- office@olmschool.org.....884-1618
- Little Saints & Scholars Program.....886-0742



**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Dr. George Cooper—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Hon. James P. McStay—Memorial
 9:00AM Bruce Hart—7th Anniversary
 10:30AM Gerald E. Celio—Memorial

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Weekday: St Jerome Emiliani, Priest; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
 7:30AM Deborah Sullivan & Bobby Anderson—Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Weekday
 7:30AM Thomas J. Brescia—Birthday Remembrance

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

St. Scholastica, Virgin
 7:30AM Dolores K. Vespia—6th Anniversary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11—WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Weekday; Our Lady of Lourdes
 7:30AM Barbara A. Sedlock—14th Anniversary

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Weekday
 7:30AM Dec'd of the Lee & Pyun Families—Memorial

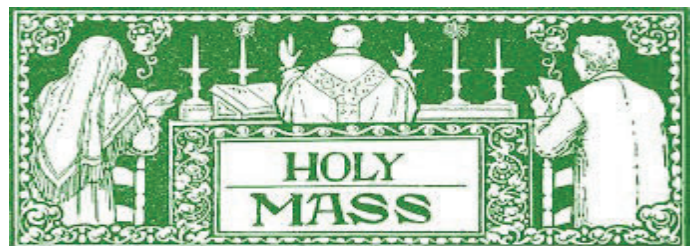
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Weekday; BVM
 8:30AM Special Intention

Mass of Anticipation for 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Frank DiChiara—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 9:00AM Ray Greene—Memorial
 10:30AM Anne M. Kelly—10th Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

As announced last week, Sister Soledad has joined our OLM family and is now working with Sisters Lourdes and Emma. Sister Soledad worked at Scalabrini Villa over the last few years with three other Franciscan Apostolic Sisters.

For decades the Scalabrini Fathers have owned and operated the Scalabrini Villa Nursing Home. They are turning the operation of the nursing facility over to a secular group.

Father Peter Polo, C.S., who has served as the Chaplain there, is leaving this week to take up new duties at Holy Rosary Church in Washington, DC. We wish him well and offer our thanks for his years of service.

Also, the F.A.S. Sisters have now left the Villa. Sister Soledad has come to OLM, and the three other Sisters have taken up residence at the Convent at St. Philip Church in Greenville. They will work there at the parish and school, and also provide pastoral care at Zambarano Hospital.

We commend and thank the good sisters for their many years of dedication to providing pastoral care to the Scalabrini Villa residents. Over the years, they have provided loving and prayerful support to the elderly, the ill, and the infirm especially accompanying the dying.

With their good work in mind, we celebrate the World Day of the Sick on Thursday, February 11th. It is also the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, so we turn to her for her powerful intercession. We join the Church across the globe in praying for the many sick of our world.

Saint John Paul II

instituted the World Day of the Sick in 1992 to recognize the dignity of the sick and suffering and for the Church to pray for them.

In his message for this year's World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis says: "*A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love.*"

This Thursday, let us all take the time to offer prayers for the sick and infirm, especially those suffering from COVID, those in hospitals and nursing homes. We also pray for the sick of our parish and our own families. In our prayers, we must remember doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers who provide care and comfort to the sick.

The State of R.I. announced last week that the COVID Vaccine would be made available to citizens over 75 years of age. Also, Kent Hospital informed the priests who serve as chaplains there, including Fr. Barrow and myself, that the vaccine would be made available. These are good signs in the battle against COVID and a hopeful sign for an end to the pandemic.

As the vaccinations roll out across the country, we should be mindful of what the U.S. Bishops teach about them. They state: "*Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common*

good."

There are some ethical concerns with certain vaccines, so I encourage you to read the flyer in this week's bulletin. It is entitled "*Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines*" and is an excellent resource and guide. It is also posted on the parish website.

Dominican Friar and P.C. Professor Father Nicanor Austricio, OP, recently wrote an article entitled "*A Priest-Scientist Responds to Concerns Raised by the Ramping Up of Vaccination Campaigns.*" It, too, is an excellent resource and guide. This article in the Church Life Journal is posted on the University of Notre Dame website.

Fr. Nicanor holds both a Ph.D. in Biology from M.I.T. and a Pontifical Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. His expertise in science and Moral Theology provide for a sound and helpful guide for Catholics.

On World Day of the Sick, we pray for the sick and the suffering. "*To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, let us entrust the sick, healthcare workers, and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes, may she sustain our faith and hope and help us care for one another with fraternal love and charity.*"

Stay safe. Be well. Do good. God Bless. .

Father Healey

Ask Father

What is the Effect of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

First, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is only efficacious if a person is sick. If a person is not sick or if the sickness is mild, then there is no sacrament, because there is no Christ-like suffering unto death. The matter of the sacrament is "proximity to death."

The main effect of the Sacrament is to radically conform the person to Jesus Christ. The person is consecrated to Jesus Christ, particularly in His suffering on the Cross. It is during times of sickness and closeness to death that despair and hopelessness could set in. It is at that moment that the anointing is efficacious; strengthening the person to bear the final trial of life with the same strength that Jesus borne the Passion.

First, if the person is unconscious and there would have been the desire for forgiveness, then the anointing also forgives sins and hence restores our relationship with God. If a person is conscious and aware of mortal sins, then Confession should precede the Anointing. Second the sacrament strengthens us through the virtues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit which increase charity. This makes our souls robust, curing our proneness or attachment to sin, which otherwise would take place in Purgatory. Confession forgives our sins, but our attachment to sin remains and so not only is image restoration needed, but also image perfection.

Today suffering is seen as antithetical to life; hence Euthanasia is gaining ground. Even the Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson erroneously said that suffering is not part of the Christian life. This is not correct, because as we know to be a Christian is to imitate Christ, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. Part of following Christ will involve suffering, but because of Christ, all our suffering can be transformed. Particularly through Anointing, our suffering becomes efficacious for our salvation and the salvation of others. In a state of grace we participate in Christ's salvific work. Part of this involves submitting to God's Providence: to accept the dying process, and to await Christ coming to bring us home. In our patient endurance and suffering we offer up sacrifice and worship acceptable to God the Father in imitation of Jesus Himself.

Please
PRAY
for the sick of our parish
and their caregivers

Weekly Collection

January 31, 2021

Weekly.....	\$7,955.00
EFT.....	\$3,610.00
	Total=\$11,565.00
Outreach.....	\$159.00
Saints & Scholars Collection.....	\$4,068.00

February 2, 2020

Weekly.....	\$13,447.00
Saints & Scholars.....	\$10,823.00

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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

2020 Financial Contribution Statements



Contributions made to OLM from January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020 have been mailed via the U.S. Postal System. If you have questions about your statement or did not receive one, please contact the OLM Parish Office at 884-4968 or directly by email to parish@olmparish.org. Please note that contributions made to the Parish outside the budget envelope system will not be reflected in these statements, nor will any Mass stipends, gifts or memorial contributions. Also, gifts and pledges to the Catholic Charity Appeal and the Grateful For God's Providence Capital Campaign are not recorded by the Parish; the Diocesan Office mails statements of contributions to donors. **We are grateful for your continued generosity and support of our parish especially during the COVID Crisis.**



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially **Frank DiChiara and Robert H. Bolton** who have died.



Religious Education NEWS

Frist Communion & Confirmation Program Family Mass & Class

Sunday, February 21st: Confirmation Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: *“Vice, Virtue & Conscience”*. Mass & Class is open only to the members of the OLM Confirmation Class & their families.

Sunday, February 28th: First Communion Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: *“How To Go To Confession”*. Mass & Class is only open to the members of the OLM First Communion Class & their families.

First Confession for First Communion Class

Saturday, March 6th at 1:00PM: Students A—L

Saturday, March 20th at 1:00PM: Students M—Z

*Guest Confessors will be available
for parents and family members.*



Outreach Update

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

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



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

- **Tuesday, February 9:** Weekly School Mass for Grades 3 & 4 (no live-stream)
- **Wednesday, February 10:** PTG Meeting at 6pm
- **February 15-19:** Winter break/February Vacation, No School

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*Congratulations
To
The
Newly Baptized*

Grayson James Arpin,
and his parents, David and Kelly.

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

Ash Wednesday 2021

How Will Ashes Be Distributed?

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments of the Holy See in Rome has issued the following COVID-19 protocol concerning the distribution of ashes on Ash

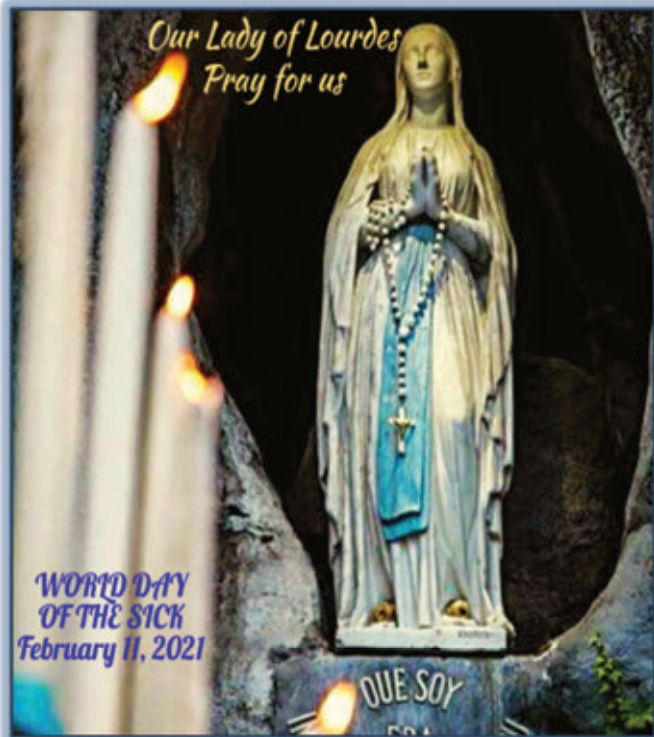
Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Blessed Ashes will be blessed and distributed as follows:



1. The priest says the prayer for the blessing of ashes from the ritual found in the Roman Missal and sprinkles the ashes with Holy Water

2. Then, the priest addresses the whole congregation and only once says the formula, applying it to all in general: *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return or Repent, and believe in the Gospel."*

3. The priest then sanitizes his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes the ashes by sprinkling them on top of the head of each one without saying anything. Without any physical contact between priest and recipient and without saying anything directly in front of each person, this method assures the health of both priest and parishioners.



PRAY for the SICK

Please pray for the sick & those that care for them



Lent 2021

at

Our Lady of Mercy Church

65 Third Street,
East Greenwich, RI

Ash Wednesday • February 17, 2021

Masses with the distribution of ashes

7:30AM, 12:05PM (*live streamed*) and 7:00PM

Confession: 11:45AM - 12:00PM & 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests

Daily Masses during Lent

Monday - Friday, 7:30AM & 12:05PM

Confessions during Lent

Monday - Friday 11:45AM - 12:00PM

Mondays 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests

Saturdays 3:00PM - 3:45PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00PM

Lenten Mission

Sunday, March 7 - Wednesday, March 10 (*live streamed*)

"Living for the Other Side"

Father James Mary Sullivan, O.P. & Father Justin Mary Bolger, O.P.

Dominican Friars of St. Pius V Church, Providence

Mission Preachers

Lenten Special Events at Our Lady of Mercy

SOLEMN SAINT PATRICK DAY MASS

Wednesday, March 17 • 12:05PM (*live streamed*)

The Most Reverend Robert J. McManus,
Bishop of Worcester, Celebrant & Homilist

Irish Music, Readings in the Irish Language,

Mass and Homily in English

SOLEMN SAINT JOSEPH DAY MASS

Friday, March 19 • 12:05PM (*live streamed*)

The Most Reverend Robert C. Evans,
Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, Celebrant
The Reverend Monsignor Anthony Mancini,
Rector of the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, Homilist

Mass celebrated in Italian with Italian Hymns • Homily in English.

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

Saturday, March, 27 • 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Four or More Priests Available for Confessions

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The **#WHATSMYNAME** Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

**In Remembrance of
Samantha Josephson**



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