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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 1, 2020

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Mass of Anticipation for The 1st Sunday of Lent 4:00PM George C. Ingalls—50th Anniversary SUNDAY, MARCH 1

The First Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial 9:00 AM Alfred & Jennie Cotham—Memorial

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

5:00PM Vivian Hanson Meehan—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 2

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Albert T. Collins, Jr. —Memorial 12:05PM Fr. Gerald W. Hussey—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Lenten Weekday: St Katherine Drexel, Virgin

7:30AM Dr. & Mrs. Samuel J. Ianacone-Wd. Ann. Rembrc.

12:05PM Fr. Jack F. Heaney—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Lenten Weekday; St. Casimir

7:30AM Special Intention

12:05PM Richard E. Curran—Memorial

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Special Intention

12:05PM Bishop Francis X. Roque—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM John Saillant—Memorial

12:05PM Special Intention

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Lenten Weekday; Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

8:30AM Julie Gill—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday of Lent

4:00PM Harold & Barbara Schock—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

The Second Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Joe & Margaret Foley—Memorial

9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church 10:30AM Albert Cantanio—Birthday Remembrance

5:00PM George E. Selwyn III—Memorial









Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

Lent has begun! We have been marked with the ashen cross and we now take up these forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. St. Benedict reminds us: "Renounce yourself in order to follow Christ; discipline your body; do not pamper yourself but love fasting."

Lent is a time for us to sacrifice and do penance. Often people give up some pleasure they enjoy like candy, dessert, alcohol, tobacco or these days technology (phone, computer, iPads)! It is a worthy practice and can help us focus more on our relationship with Christ. What did you give up for Lent?

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen once remarked about this practice. He said: "Lenten practice of giving up pleasures are good reminders that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain to perfect life, all truth, and undying ecstatic love which is the definition of God, in pursuing that goal we find happiness."

Also, part of our Lenten practice is taking on more prayer and devotion in our daily lives. We are blessed to have a parish with two priests and therefore we are able to schedule two daily Masses in Lent. We also have daily Confession and every Monday in Lent we invite a guest Confessor to join us.

We also have Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:00PM. From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his Passion, Death and Resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus had walked, taught, performed miracles as well as the holy sites of his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The stations, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites.

In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating "replicas" of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places on the way to Calvary. Eventually, these shrines became the set of 14 stations we know today and were placed in every Catholic Church in the world.

We pray the Stations of the Cross as a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' sacrifice for us and our sins upon the cross at Calvary. "Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven," said St. Rose of Lima. So please join us on Fridays for Stations as we walk with the Lord to Calvary.

We are truly blessed to have a Church that is open all day for prayer and devotion. So stop by during the day to spend time in prayer with the Lord truly present in the tabernacle. Perhaps make the Stations of the Cross privately. Such quiet time in prayer and reflection is part of our Lenten discipline.

This weekend we welcome Fr. Thomas Macdonald the OLM. Father is Vice-Rector St. John at Seminary in Brighton, MA, where Fr. Connors now teaches. He is a terrific young priest and an outstanding preacher. Father is here to lead our Annual Parish Lenten Mission and is preaching to us about "Taking Up the Battle of Lent: Persevering with Christ in the Desert."

Fr. Macdonald is preaching at all Masses this weekend and is preaching a Mission Talk on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 7:00PM. Each night of the Mission four priests are available for Confessions beginning at 6:00PM. So put the Mission in your calendar and add it to your schedule. Join us as we take up the "Battle of Lent"!

A Lenten Mission is a time to take a spiritual retreat from the normal routine of daily life. We spend time together in prayer as Father Macdonald leads us in reflection and renewal. It is a time of special grace for our parish and I hope you make every effort to come to the Mission this week.

How is your "Battle of Lent" going? Let us persevere in our prayer, fasting and almsgiving for these forty days. May this Season of Lent truly be a time to convert our lives more fully to Christ. St. Teresa of Calcutta teaches: "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst. He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

See you at the Mission! Pray, fast and give alms! Remember that Fridays are for fish and Stations of the Cross! Be well. Do Good! God Bless.

Father Healey



. What is fasting?

Fasting is a form of penance that imposes limits on the kind or quantity of food or drink. Truth to tell we fast throughout the entire year. Notice that Friday has never ceased to be a day of penance and self-denial throughout the year, because it was on a Friday that our Lord died for our sins. Likewise, we fast an hour before every Mass. Lent is a period when we increase our fasting or add additional practices. This comes from Jesus himself who went into the desert to fast and prepare for his public ministry, death and crucifixion. He is our model and he expects his disciples to do the same.

Until 1966 during Lent the Church prescribed taking only one full meal a day, along with some food for breakfast and a collation. Days of fast and abstinence for the universal Church were Ash Wednesday, the Fridays and Saturdays of Lent, Ember days, and the vigils of certain feasts. Special indults (or exemptions) affected different nations and were provided for by canon law (for instance, eating meat on St. Patrick 's Day).

With the constitution Paenitemini of Paul VI in 1966, the meaning of the law of fasting remained, but the extent of the obligation was changed. Thus "the law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, while observing approved local custom as far as quantity and quality of food are concerned." To the law of fast are bound those of the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year and up until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Prescribed days of fast and abstinence for the whole Church are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The document also recommends, however, that "we, as people of God, make of the entire Lenten season a period of special penitential observance... [and] for all other weekdays of Lent, we strongly recommend participation in daily Mass and a self-imposed observance of fasting."

Interesting fasting is becoming popular in non-religious circles as a way of purifying the body and limiting attachments to things in this world. Yet, we not only fast to become detached from this world, but also to become attached to Christ. The question for Lent is usually: What am I going to give up this Lent? But we should also ask: is what I am giving up going to bring me closer to God? When I was younger I would give up sweets, but that really did not bring me any closer to God. Giving up sweets is not a bad thing because it can increase the virtue of temperance. This is always a good thing and self-control helps in our relationship to God. Ultimately Lent is about saying "yes" to God with our whole selves. Ask for the grace to know oneself and find out what to do this Lent to be closer to Him.

Weekly Collection 6:0800

February 23, 2020

Weekly	\$9,427.00
EFT	
	Total=\$11,265.00
Outreach	\$198.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank You for Your Support! May God Bless Your Generosity!

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



Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000 Pledged To Date=\$1,597,525

Total Number of OLM Parishioners=2,120 Total Number of Pledges=359 Average Pledge=\$4,449



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



- •March 1: All RE Grades have class today!

 Please be aware that Lenten Rice Bowls will be sent home.
- •First Penance, Saturday, March 7th: First Penance for ALL Grade 2 First Communion students is Saturday, March 7th at 1:00pm in the church. Please check in at the front foyer starting at 12:45pm. Please pray for our First Communion Class.
- <u>Sunday, March 8</u>: <u>ALL Grade 8</u> Confirmation Candidates, public, parochial and private, are reminded that they have a <u>mandatory</u> lecture on Sunday, March 8th at 6:00pm.



- OLM Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food times especially during the winter season. Please drop your donations in the Food Box located in the vestibule of Church. Thank you for your support.
- •OLM Outreach Bereavement Group meets on Thursday, March 5 at 4:00PM in Mercy House. All those suffering a loss or grief are welcome to join us for prayer, support and discussion.
- For more information about OLM Outreach, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

Our Lady of Mercy Church

LENTEN MISSION

February 29-March 4



Taking up the Battle of Lent:
Persevering with Christ in the Desert
Father Thomas Macdonald, Mission Preacher

Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1
Father Macdonald will preach at all weekend Masses

Monday, March 2 at 7:00PM "Overcoming the World"

Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00PM "The Spirit and the Flesh"

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00PM "Resisting the One who Scatters"

Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration & Benediction will be offered during the Mission on Wednesday night.

Confession each night of the Mission beginning at 6:00PM with four priests.



Father Thomas Macdonald is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston and currently serves as Vice-Rector of St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA. He grew up in Westford, MA and is an alumnus of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. His preparation for the priesthood took place at St. John's Seminary and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Ordained a priest in 2013, Father Macdonald began his ministry at the parishes of St. Ann and St. Brendan in Dorchester. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Prior to his assignment to St. John's Seminary, he served as the administrator of St. Rose Parish in Topsfield and St. Agnes Parish in Middleton.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Friday, March 6, 2020

Exposition following 12:05PM Mass

Adoration All Afternoon

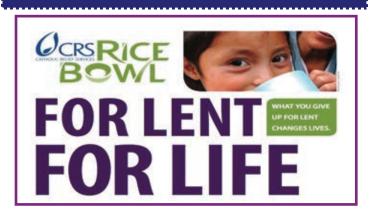
Benediction at 6:00PM



Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, March 4: Spring Picture day with Lifetouch Studio.
- Friday, March 7: OLM School Stations of the Cross at 8:30am. All are welcome to attend.

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GUIDELINES FOR

Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations

Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Also, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting: those <u>between the ages of 18 and 59</u> should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day. Serious health conditions excuse a person from these precepts. Parents are encouraged by the law of the Church to ensure that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated nonetheless in an authentic sense of penance.



Lent calls us to give alms! The OLM Outreach Ministry is hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner for the Needy at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the Hill on Monday, March 30th at 5:00pm. Volunteers are needed for set-up, serving meals and clean-up! If you would like to volunteer to help with this act of charity, please contact the OLM Outreach Office at 884-4410.



OLM Lenten Book Rack: There is a selection of spiritual, theological and informative books and pamphlets available for Lent on our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to stop and browse and take one home.

OLM Lenten Table: During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with an assortment of religious articles, both new and old. These items are free to take by anyone. They have been generously donated by OLM parishioners. Stop by and check them out!

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