

Happy St. Patrick's Day





Mass Intentions for the Week

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 17, 2024

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

The Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Mary Jo Duffy—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mary Falchini—Birthday Remembrance
 9:00AM Dec'd of McGinley & Kiernan Families—Mem.
 10:30AM Mary Gianardi—11th Anniversary
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—Memorial
 12:05PM Arthur J. McDonald, Jr.—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30AM Ruperto de Leon—5th Anniversary
 12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM William Knott—Birthday Remembrance
 12:05PM Senator Frank Lombardo III—Months' Mind

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Bernard St. Jean—Birthday Remembrance
 12:05PM Timothy Chant—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM William & Warren Manton—4th Anniversary
 12:05PM Elena Caccio—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:30AM Ada Pyun—Birthday Remembrance

The Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday

4:00PM Thomas C. Boyle—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30AM Michelino Paolino & Mafalda Desiderio—Mem.
 9:00AM Anne, John, & Michael Kelly—Memorial
 10:30AM Thomas Cavanagh—Birthday Remembrance
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish



Dear Parishioners:

We welcome Monsignor Séamus Horgan, a priest of the Diocese of Killaloe, Ireland, to OLM. He will celebrate and preach the St. Patrick's Day Mass at 10:30am. The Mass features readings and hymns in the Irish Language. It is followed by a reception of Irish Coffee and Irish Soda Bread.

Monsignor studied at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1994. Following six years of parish ministry, he pursued studies in Rome. He received his license degree in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He later earned a Doctorate Degree in Canon Law. He then studied at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome to prepare for the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See.

Monsignor has served in various diplomatic postings across the globe, including Kampala, Uganda, Berne, Switzerland, Manila, the Philippines, and Rome. He serves as the First Counselor at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC. We are honored to have him join us at OLM to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Welcome Monsignor Horgan!

On Tuesday, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph with Mass celebrated in Italian at 12:05pm. Bishop Robert J. McManus, a native son of Providence and now the Bishop of Worcester, is our celebrant and homilist. He is no stranger to OLM, having served as a Deacon here. He was ordained a priest in our Church in May 1978.

The Mass is followed by a reception with Italian Coffee and delicious zeppoles! So please join us for this special celebration! You don't have to be Irish or Italian to celebrate these two great saints of our Church, as we celebrate our Catholic Faith and the heritage of the Irish and Italians! Happy St. Patrick's Day! *Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Duit!* Happy St. Joseph's Day! *Buona Festa di San Giuseppe!*

On Friday, the students of OLM Middle School are performing the Living Stations of the Cross in Church at 1:00pm and 7:00pm. It is a prayerful and powerful recounting of the Way of the Cross. Join us as we prayerfully prepare for Holy Week with the Living Stations. .

Next weekend, we celebrate Palm Sunday with the Passion of our Lord as we begin Holy Week. Palm branches will be distributed and blessed at all Masses. There will be a Solemn Procession of Palm Branches from Mercy Park at the 10:30am Mass.

In a Palm Sunday homily, Pope Benedict XVI said: *"The procession of the Palms is primarily an expression of joy because we can recognize Jesus, because he allows us to be his friends and because he has given us the key to life. This joy, however, which is at the beginning, is also an expression of our 'yes' to Jesus and our willingness to go with him wherever he takes us. The expression 'following of Christ' describes the whole of Christian existence."*

On Palm Sunday, the Second Collection is for the Rice Bowl Collection. CRS Rice

Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All the monies collected in your Rice Bowls go directly to purchase and provide food for the hungry and starving of the world. I thank you in advance for your generous support.

Next Saturday, from 9:00am until 3:00pm, OLM is hosting All Day Confessions. Four priests will be available for the entire time. No lines, no waiting, merciful confessors, and plenty of volunteers to assist you. Come to Confession and bring a friend or family member.

There will be Eucharistic Adoration during the Confession hours. Please pray for the Confessors and those coming to Confession. Pope Francis reminds us: *"Don't be afraid to go to the Sacrament of Confession, where you will meet Jesus who forgives you."*

We have a busy couple of weeks as Lent ends and we prepare for Holy Week. The Holy Week Schedule is in the bulletin. We congratulate the OLM School Girls Grammar and Boys Junior teams who won the R.I. Catholic Athletic League Division 1 State Championship games last Sunday! They're off to New Hampshire for the New England Tournament next weekend. We wish them luck!

Be well. Do good. God Bless! Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy St. Joseph's Day!

Father Healey

ALL DAY

CONFESSIONS

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SATURDAY, MARCH 23
9:00 AM – 3:00PM

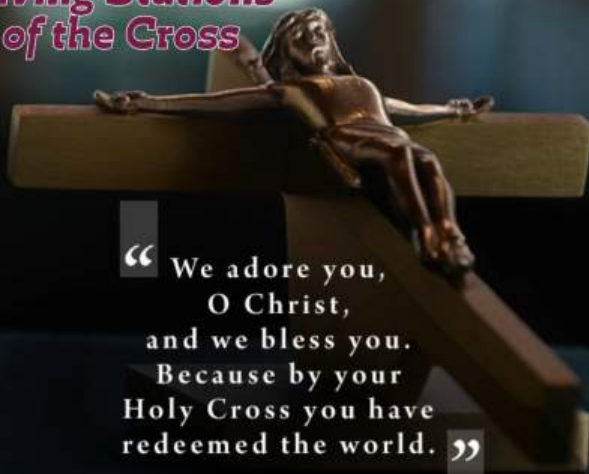
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-POPE FRANCIS-

Living Stations of the Cross



“ We adore you,
O Christ,
and we bless you.
Because by your
Holy Cross you have
redeemed the world. ”

Friday, March 22
1:00PM & 7:00pm

Weekly Collection

March 10, 2024

Weekly.....	\$14,625.00
EFT.....	\$6,472.00
	Total=\$21,097.00
Outreach.....	\$589.00

March 12, 2023

Weekly.....\$15,462.00

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Second Collections

Next Week: CRS Operation Rice Bowl



A STATE OF HOPE

2024 Catholic Charity Appeal

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000
Pledged to date=\$128,111
Number of pledges to date=226
Average gift=\$567

2023 Catholic Charity Appeal

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000
Total Raised=\$277,255
Total Number of Pledges=480
Average Gift=\$578

Solemnity of St. Joseph

LISTED IN the Church calendar as “the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,” St. Joseph has a feast day on March 19. Although it falls during Lent, this day always comes with some festivity, such as the singing of the Glory to God at Mass and popular devotions.

Mary was engaged to Joseph when she conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18). Encouraged by the Lord’s angel, Joseph wed Mary and helped through the pregnancy, birth, and early life of Jesus. The liturgy is careful to call Joseph “the spouse of Mary,” not “the father of Jesus.” He disappears from the gospels after the childhood of Jesus, leaving most commentators to assume that he died shortly afterward.

The choice of March 19 remains a mystery. Evidence for this date—or one near it—can be traced to the eighth and ninth centuries. The day was assigned to the universal calendar in the sixteenth century.

One tradition holds that Joseph died on March 19, although there is no evidence to prove it. One could speculate that the day was chosen because of its proximity to the first day of spring, when amorous interests abound and people need a model for chastity. The date may also relate to the feast of the Annunciation, which follows within a week. Mary and Joseph were already a couple when she conceived.

This solemnity falls during Lent, when normal celebrations are muted. This resonates with a tradition that kept Joseph at the margins in works of art, where his role in the birth of Jesus lies not at the center.

The Collect for the day prays that the Church “may constantly watch over . . . the mysteries of human salvation,” just as Joseph “watched over” the mysterious birth and early life of our Savior.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



SOLEMN ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS



**TUESDAY, MARCH 19,
MASS AT 12:05PM**

**Mass celebrated in Italian with
Readings & Hymns in Italian**

**The Most Reverend
Robert J. McManus, D.D., S.T.D**
*Bishop of Worcester
Celebrant & Homilist*

Reception to follow in Church Vestibule

Happy St. Joseph's Day



19
MARZO

San
Giuseppe

**PROTETTORE
DEI PAPÀ E
DELLA FAMIGLIA.**

*Si supplico aiuta
tutti i papà del mondo!*

Our Lady of Mercy Church

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
MASS AT 10:30AM

Mass with Readings & Music in Irish

The Reverend Monsignor Séamus Horgan
Diocese of Killaloe, Ireland
First Counsellor of the Apostolic Nunciature
of the Holy See to the U.S.
Celebrant & Homilist

Reception to follow in Church Vestibule



❖ St. Patrick

EVERYONE KNOWS when St. Patrick's Day is. But in the world of Catholic trivia, March 17 is often something else.

St. Patrick served as archbishop of Armagh in the fifth century. He brought Christianity to Ireland, where it continues to flourish. Today, Patrick has advanced far beyond most other saints, into the world of secular calendars, parades, greeting cards, table decorations, and parties. Not even the Twelve Apostles can boast such a festive following.

However, because of our quirky church calendar, many March 17s come and go without a mention of Patrick at Mass.

Our Church ranks saints' days by their importance. The principal days are called "solemnities." Christmas and Easter are the two most important. Next are the celebrations called "feasts." Here is where we find, among others, the apostles. Then there are "memorials," the saints of general interest on the universal calendar like Francis of Assisi, Therese the Little Flower, and some of our newest

saints like Maximilian Kolbe and Andrew Dung-Lac and companions. They show the multiculturalism of the communion of saints.

Then there are "optional memorials." These saints have limited or local interest, and your community may opt in or opt out of celebrating them. These include Nereus and Achilleus, Maria Goretti, Turibius de Mogrovejo, and believe it or not Patrick. Consequently, a parish could skip over Patrick every year and celebrate something like "Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent." When March 17 falls on a Sunday, Patrick drops out for a year. Sundays take precedence over optional memorials.

However, the principal patron of a diocese, parish or country takes the status of a solemnity. When March 17 falls on a Sunday in Lent, locales under Patrick's patronage may celebrate his day on March 18.

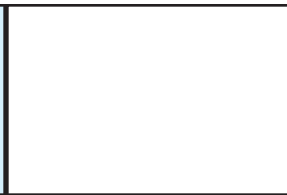
The liturgical color for Patrick is white, as for other saintly bishops who were spared a martyr's death. We reserve green vestments for ordinary time.

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