For where two or three are gathered together *in my name*, there am I in the midst of them.

MATTHEW 18:20



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THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

SATURDAY,	SEPTEMBER 9	
The Mass of	Anticipation for 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
5:00PM	Antone Miller—Birthday Remembrance	
SUNDAY, SE	PTEMBER 10	
The 23rd Su	nday in Ordinary Time	
7:30 AM	Teresa M. Romano—Birthday Remembrance	
9:00AM	Joseph Gianardi—19th Anniversary	
10:30AM	John P. Ponte & Mary Barletta—Memorial	
MONDAY, S	SEPTEMBER 11	
Weekday		
7:30AM	All Deceased First Responders of 9/11 Attack	
<u>TUESDAY, S</u>	EPTEMBER 12	
Weekday: T	he Most Holy Name of Mary	
7:30AM	Sean T. Healey—9th Anniversary	
<u>WEDNESDA</u>	Y, SEPTEMBER 13	
St. John Chry	ysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	
7:30AM	Deborah O'Connell—Birthday Remembrance	
THURSDAY,	SEPTEMBER 14	
The Exaltati	on of the Holy Cross	
7:30AM	Florence Woods—7th Anniversary	
FRIDAY, SEP	TEMBER 15	
Our Lady of	Sorrows	
7:30AM	Young-Ho Pyun—Birthday Remembrance	
SATURDAY,	SEPTEMBER 16	
St. Cornelius	s, Pope & St. Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	
8:30AM	Dec'd of Pundys & Dikinis Families-Memorial	
The Mass of Anticipation for 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
5:00PM	Deborah Passarelli—Birthday Remembrance	
SUNDAY, SE	PTEMBER 17	
The Twenty-	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
7:30 AM	Donna Marie Nerney-Marinelli—Memorial	
9:00AM	Alex, Diamond, & Joanne Tagliatella &	
	William & Renate Glumphy—Memorial	
10:30AM	Sean T. Healey—9th Anniversary	



946 Our Lady of Mercy-2

Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

The Peragallo Organ Company was here for three days last week. They installed the seven newly refurbished and restored reservoir bellows and winker bellows. The organ is fully operational, and its majestic sound lifts our worship of God. The total cost for this project was \$53,360.

Our school had a beautiful Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit last Friday. Coming together as a school family at Mass is the best way to start the school year. I thank Bishop Evans for celebrating the Mass and blessing the Stephen P. Lynch, Sr. Field.

OLM School has weekly Mass on Tuesday mornings and First Friday and Holy Day Masses throughout the year. It is a true blessing of a Catholic School that the Eucharistic Lord is the center of our day and week. The centrality of Holy Mass in the life of our school is the best way we can educate our young saints and scholars for eternity.

A recent Pew Forum survey revealed that 69% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. For most Catholics today, the Eucharist is merely a symbol of Christ, and the Mass is merely a group of like-minded individuals gathering together to remember his life.

This is a spiritual disaster, for the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The United States Bishops began the National Eucharistic Revival to renew the faith and revive the proper understanding of the Eucharist.

We are blessed to have

Daily Mass six days a week, four Sunday Masses weekly, Eucharistic Adoration monthly, and two priests at OLM. Many parishes do not enjoy such blessings due to the shortage of priests.

Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because he loves us. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become united to the person of Christ through his humanity. In being united to Christ's humanity, we are simultaneously united to his divinity.

The transformed bread and wine are truly the Body and Blood of Christ and are not merely symbols. When Christ said, "This is my body" and "This is my blood," the bread and wine are transubstantiated. Though the bread and wine appear the same to our human faculties, they are actually the real Body and blood of Jesus.

There is a line in Evelyn Waugh's great novel, Brideshead Revisited, which speaks to the very truth of who we must be as a parish. The Matriarch, Lady Marchmain, had just been laid to rest in the family cemetery, and the grand house was being closed.

The local parish priest took the Blessed Sacrament away from the house chapel to bring it to the parish church. Lady Marchmain's daughter, watching the Blessed Sacrament being taken from the small chapel, commented, "I stayed there till he was gone, and then, suddenly, there wasn't any chapel anymore, just an oddly decorated room."

No truer words

communicate that Christ, the Eucharistic Lord, is truly present in the Tabernacle. Thus, the Eucharistic Lord must be the center of our life as a parish. Without the worship of God at Holy Mass and the presence of Christ in the Tabernacle, the Church itself would indeed be an odd place.

Next weekend, we can express our gratitude and support for the many priests who served faithfully at OLM and other parishes across the Diocese. The Second Collection is for the Senior Priests Retirement Fund. Today, 89 of our retired priests receive a modest pension

Unlike Religious Order priests, who are provided for in every way by their Order, diocesan priests lose benefits such as room and board, car insurance, and salary. Many retired priests are busy, sometimes assisting at multiple parishes.

Our retired priests are an integral part of the ongoing work of our parishes in the Diocese, especially with the increasing shortage of priests. While many remain active by helping at two or more parishes, some priests in nursing homes and assisted living need even more support and assistance. In their name, thank you for supporting next week's Senior Priests' Retirement Fund Collection. Full disclosure: I am not eligible for the pension until 2040, and Fr. Mahoney until 2063!

Do good. Be well. God Bless. Go Pats!!!!!!

Father He

946 Our Lady of Mercy—3

Senior Priests Retirement Collection

September 16/17

ABOUT THE SECOND COLLECTION After decades of faithful



service, many retired priests continue to serve where they are needed, while others require assisted living, or nursing home care. Since priests are paid a very

modest wage, they cannot rely upon Social Security to make ends meet. No longer able to rely upon parishes for basic living needs, senior priests depend on support from this fund.

Your generositv make will а difference in the lives of many who have served faithfully for many years in ministry some of whom continue to serve well after their 'retirement.' At Masses on September 16-17, our parish will join others throughout the Diocese in a special second collection in support of the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. The collection is also our way of saying "thank vou" for that service. Please consider a generous donation in support of our senior priests. To learn how this fund benefits senior priests or to make an online donation, please visit www.srpriestri.com. Thank you for your support of this worthy endeavor.



Please help our senior priests meet their basic needs - such as food, housing, transportation, and medical care.



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in thanksgiving for a new granddaughter. *In your charity, please pray for her.*



September 3, 2023

Weekly	\$9,669.00
EFT	<u>\$3,958.00</u>
	Total=\$13,627.00
Outreach	\$1,511.00
Building & Grounds	\$2,148.00

<u>September 4, 2022</u>

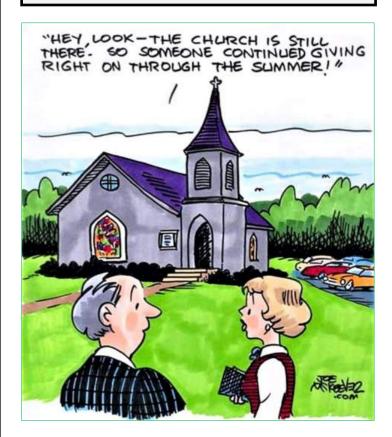
Weekl	y	\$14.085.00
	,	

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: Senior Priests Retirement Fund Collection





2023 Confirmation Class Schedule

Confirmation Retreat Saturday, September 9th from 12:00pm-6:00pm Confirmation Interviews September 18th, 4-7pm & 23rd, 10am-1pm Final Confirmation Class Sunday, October 1st at 5:00PM Mass & 6:00pm Class Confirmation Devotions & Confessions Monday, October 23 at 7:00pm Confirmation Mass Rehearsal Thursday, October 26 at 7:00pm Confirmation Mass Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 5:00pm The Most Reverend Robert C. Evans Confirming Prelate



•<u>OLM Food Pantry</u> 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. <u>All food items should be</u> <u>unexpired and non-perishable</u>. We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

• <u>OLM Bereavement Group</u>: Our next meeting is on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>September 21</u>, <u>2023 at 4:00pm</u> 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



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

Calendar

• Tuesday, September 12: Weekly School Mass at 8:15am

•<u>Wednesday, September 13</u>: Lifetouch Picture Day, Formal uniforms; Faculty Meeting 2:45-3:45pm in the Art Room

• <u>Wednesday, September 20:</u> Back to School Nights for All School Parents & Faculty at 5:30pm

Discover the OLM Advantage! www.olmschool.org

OLM Family Group Coffee and Donuts!



Following the 9:00am Mass

🗱 Exaltation of the Holy Cross

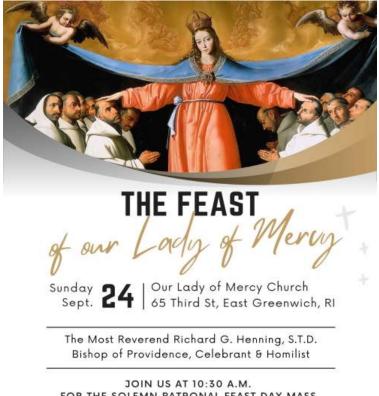
THE CROSS could have become a symbol of shame for Christians. It brought about the death of Jesus Christ. However, faith in the Resurrection made the Cross a symbol of pride. The worst weapon of Jesus' enemies could not overpower him. Through the Cross, Jesus triumphs over death.

Pride in the Cross soon turned to veneration of the Cross. Since no record from the time of the apostles indicates that the Cross of Christ was preserved, zealous Christians later searched for its remains. They had already honored the general location of Calvary and the Sepulcher, so new basilicas were built over those sites under the reign of Constantine in the early fourth century. Around this same time, people believed they had identified relics of the Cross of Christ, and these diffused throughout the Christian world. John Calvin sarcastically noted that if all the splinters of the Cross were gathered together, they would fill a ship— three hundred people could not carry the Cross which one person carried up to Calvary.

It is difficult to verify splinters of the true Cross of Christ. However, legend has it that in 322, Helena, the mother of Constantine, uncovered three Crosses in the excavations for the new basilicas in Jerusalem. She assumed them to be the Crosses of Jesus and the two wrongdoers. Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, brought in a dying woman and had her touch the Crosses. The third one cured her, and that Cross was proclaimed the Cross of Christ. It became an object of veneration in Jerusalem until it was stolen in the seventh century, but Heraclius of Constantinople captured and returned it in 629, bringing it into the city, where it was lifted up for all to venerate again. This "exaltation" of the Holy Cross gave us a feast day on September 14 every year.

In recent decades, our calendar changed its title from the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to the Triumph of the Cross and back to Exaltation again. It is still celebrated on September 14 to commemorate both the victory of Christ and the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 335. As a feast of Christ, when it falls on Sunday, it replaces the regular liturgy for Ordinary Time.

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JOIN US AT 10:30 A.M. FOR THE SOLEMN PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS & DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH DOORS LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN MERCY PARK





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