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THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 4, 2024

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

The Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:00PM George Murray—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Michael Romano—Memorial

9:00AM Michael Pietros—Birthday Remembrance 10:30AM Barbara A. Sedlock—17th Anniversary 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7:30AM Daniel Green—1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
7:30AM Margie Costello—2nd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Weekday

7:30AM Peter Pundys—1st Anniversary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Weekday; St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgen 7:30AM Edna Hart—26th Anniversary

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Weekday

7:30AM Thomas J. Brescia—Birthday Remembrance

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

St. Scholastica, Virgin

8:30AM Dec'd Members of Lee & Pyun Families—Mem. The Mass of Anticipation for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:00PM Special Intention

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30AM Fortuna Palermo—Memorial
9:00AM Bruce Hart—10th Anniversary
10:30AM Gerald E. Celio—7th Anniversary
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish



Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

We had a great celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Our student speakers at last weekend's Masses were outstanding. I commend them all on a job well done. They demonstrate the good work of OLM School every day in developing our future saints and scholars.

We had many people stop and visit the school during the Open House. We have 240 students presently enrolled for this year. Next year's enrollment looks strong as interest in our outstanding school grows. If you want to enroll your child or grandchild at OLM School, contact the school soon.

We thank all our students, faculty, parents, and principal who helped make Catholic Schools Week fun and faithfilled. We also thank all those who generously supported the Annual Saints and Scholars Fund for OLM School last weekend.

Pope Benedict XVI once said: "A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints." We do this daily at OLM School: provide a good education and strive to help all our students become saints! Pray for the OLM School faculty and students!

It's hard to believe, but the Season of Lenten will soon be here. It's time to prepare ourselves to once again take up the solemn fast of forty days. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the pillars of Lent. There is a complete Lenten Schedule in the bulletin this weekend.

Also, the bulletin lists

Catholic Charities that can use your almsgiving to aid the poor and needy in the world, the state, and our town. Please consider supporting the Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl, the Annual Catholic Charity Appeal, and OLM Outreach.

If you have any old blessed palm branches collecting dust in your home, bring them to Mass next weekend. We are collecting them, and baskets will be available in church. Drop your palm branches in the baskets, and we will burn them. The palm ashes are used on Ash Wednesday as we take up the Lenten call to "Repent and Believe in the Gospel!"

Ash Wednesday is February 14, and it is also Valentine's Day this year. However, it remains an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting is required for Catholics aged 18 until age 59.

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal and two smaller meals that are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. So remember it's Ash Wednesday when planning for your Valentine!

I am happy to announce that Mrs. Christiana Caprarelli will serve as our new Cantor at weekend Masses, funerals, and weddings. She has been the music director and Cantor at St. Ambrose Parish in Albion for the past eleven years and previously served as the Cantor at St. Martha's Church in East Providence.

Christiana holds degrees

in music and theater. She also directs the theatre program at Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School and teaches voice privately. She lives in Cranston with her husband and children. Christiana begins here at OLM on Ash Wednesday, so please give her a warm welcome.

I am also pleased to announce that Miss Julia Anthon will be our new Directress of Faith Formation. She is a native of Portsmouth, RI, and an honors graduate in Theology from Magdalen College. She has been working in the educational field for the last couple of years.

We look forward to Julia helping us strengthen and renew our Faith Formation Program at OLM. This includes the RCIA, Adult Education, Family and Youth Ministry, Spiritual Life Programs, and the Sacramental Preparation Programs for Marriage, Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation,

Julia will work closely with Fr. Mahoney, me, and Mr. Jeremey Long, who now directs our First Communion and Confirmation Program. She will also aid us in enhancing our parish communications and social media presence. Please give Julia a warm welcome.

Be sure to get your throat blessed this weekend, as it is cold and flu season. May St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, intercede for us and protect us from all ailments of the throat and every other disease. Be well. Do good. God Bless!

Father Healey

946 Our Lady of Mercy-3

St. Blase

ON ST. Blase's day, February 3, many Catholic communities offer a blessing of throats. The custom began in the sixteenth century, although Blase is thought to have died about the year 320.

Little is known with certainty about his life, but Blase lived in Armenia, where he is remembered as a bishop. To escape the persecution of Christians under the emperor Licinius, Blase hid in a cave. Wild animals thronged to him because he healed their sick, according to a legend.

Eventually, the legend continues, hunters discovered him and took him to civil authorities. On the way he rescued a poor woman's pig from the mouth of a hungry wolf. Unmoved, the anti-Christian authorities imprisoned Blase. The grateful pigowner brought him candles to brighten his cell. While in jail, Blase miraculously dislodged a fishbone from a boy's throat. The memory of these events—the use of candles and the healing of a throat—influenced later devotions. Blase was tortured with the iron combs used to card the wool of sheep. Then he was beheaded.

Blase is the patron of those with sore throats. On his day the faithful are blessed with this prayer: "Through the intercession of St. Blase, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from diseases of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The minister offering the prayer holds two unlit candles in the form of an X against the bare throat of the recipient. Anyone may invoke this blessing. If a priest or deacon gives it, he makes the sign of the cross over the faithful to conclude it.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Mary, the Saints, and Angels © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of Eraclio Iacobucci.

In your charity, please pray for him.

Ceekly Collection

January 28, 2024

Weekly	\$14,950.00
EFT	\$4,393.00
	Total=\$19,343.00
Outreach	\$111.00
Saints & Scholars Fund	\$8,732.00

January 22, 2023

Weekly.....\$13,299.00

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

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection





In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Dr. Murray H. Finley, Jr.** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

Rest In Peace



First Communion Class Schedule

Sunday, February 4: Class. Children & Parents to attend.
Sunday, March 2: Class

Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, February 11: 8th Grade Class

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of Faith Formation at 884-4968 or email at faithformation@olmparish.org



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



- •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.
- <u>OLM Bereavement Group</u>: Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 15, 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



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

School Weekly Calendar

- <u>Tuesday, February 8</u>: Weekly OLM School Mass at 8:15am
- <u>Friday, February 9</u>: Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm: Lip Sync Battle!
- <u>Saturday, February 10 :</u> Father-Daughter Dance 5:00-8:00 pm

www.olmschool.org

Now accepting applications for 2024-2025

Discover the OLM Advantage!



Grayson Michael Aptt, and his parents, Geoffrey and Jessica.

"Dear brothers and sisters: this child has been reborn through Baptism, and 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

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

Here are some suggested charities you may wish to support with your Lenten Almsgiving.

Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl

Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 120 different countries each year in feeding the hungry. Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$330 million.

Catholic Charity Appeal

The Catholic Charity Appeal funds the numerous ministries and programs of the Diocese of Providence, providing social, educational and spiritual support to thousands of Rhode Islanders each year. Your gift makes a real impact!

OLM OUTREACH

Financial donations and donations of food help support the efforts of the OLM Outreach Office is helping the poor and needy of our local community.

"For it is in giving that we receive."

— St. Francis of Assisi

OLM LENTEN BOOK RACK



A selection of seasonal books and pamphlets for spiritual reading during Lent are available in the vestibule. Feel free to take them. Free will offering only.

OLM Lenten Table

During Lent a table is available in the vestibule with donated new and used religious articles. They are free.

OLD PALM BRANCH COLLECTION



Baskets will be available next weekend to collect old blessed palm branches. Please deposit all branches in basket so they may be burnt for use as ashes on Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your help.



Lent 2024

at

Our Lady of Mercy Church

65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

Masses with Distribution of Ashes
7:30am, 9:00am School Mass, 12:05pm & 7:00pm
Confessions on Ash Wednesday 11:00am-12:00pm & 6:00pm-7:00pm

Daily Masses during Lent

Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm Monday-Friday • 8:30am on Saturdays

Confessions during Lent

Monday-Friday 11:45am-12:00pm Saturdays 3:00pm-3:45pm Mondays 6:00pm-6:45pm with Two Confessors

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00pm

SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS

ANNUAL PARISH LENTEN MISSION

February 24-28, 2024
The Reverend Francis McCarty, O.S.B.
Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, St. Anselm College
Mission Preacher

Mission Preacher to preach all weekend Masses
Mission Talks at 7:00pm
on Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, February 26-28
with Confessions beginning at 6:00pm

with Four Confessors each night

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 17, 2024 • 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

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 • 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

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 22, 2024 • 1:00pm & 7:00pm

ALL-DAY CONFESSIONS

Saturday, March 23, 2024 • 9:00am-3:00pm Four Confessors available All-Day

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