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OLM SCHOOL

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Extended Day Program 886-0742

New Discoveries Pre-School 885-0776



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

The Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Anthony Reale—2nd Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00 AM Dr. James Hagerty—8th Anniversary

10:30AM Katherine & Armando DeAngelis &
 Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial

5:00PM Paul Mahoney—6 Month Anniversary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

7:30 AM Souls in Purgatory

9:00AM Joseph Dowd—Memorial

7:00PM Mario D. Fiore—Memorial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Advent Weekday/St. Juan Diego

7:30 AM Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Hak Jin Pyun—Memorial

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Theresa Pearson—7th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:30AM Joseph J. Cunningham—Memorial

The Mass of Anticipation for 3rd Sunday in Advent

4:00PM Dorothy Mullen—1st Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Ann M. Murphy—6th Anniversary

9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM Kate Bedard—4th Anniversary

5:00PM William Maguire—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Advent is here! This great season of joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ is underway. Here at Our Lady of Mercy there are few things to note on the Advent Calendar. Confessions, prayers and musical festivities!

Next Saturday, December 13th we are having All Day Confessions from 9:00AM until 3:00PM. There are to be four priests hearing Confessions at all times so we don't expect lines and long waits. Priests from across the Diocese are volunteering an hour or two to hear Confessions throughout the day. I am grateful to Fr. Connors for organizing this great event for the parish.

I encourage you to spread the word with your family, friends and neighbors that the best way to truly prepare for Christmas and Christ's coming is by confessing our sins and cleansing our souls! Confession Guides are available, if anyone has not been in a while, and lots of merciful and loving priests in the Confessionals! So spread the word! If you are coming yourself, why not invite a friend, a neighbor or a family member to join you! God's forgiveness and mercy is a Christmas gift no money can buy!

On Monday, December 15th at 7:00PM we have scheduled a joyful and prayerful celebration of Advent Vespers. Bishop Evans is to preside at the prayer service and Fr. Richard Valentine from St. Michael's Church in Smithfield is to preach. Join us for a prayerful half hour of

song, prayer and reflection. A great way to prepare for Christ's coming!

This coming Friday night at 7:00PM the children from OLM School gather for the Annual Christmas Pageant. It is always a great night of festive songs and prayerful devotion of the Christmas Story of the Holy Family. If you have never seen it, join us on Friday, but arrive early to the church as it is usually very crowded!

On Monday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Under this title she serves as the Patroness of the United States, and it is a holy day of obligation for all Catholics.

This great feast celebrates that Mary was conceived without original sin or its stain—that's what "immaculate" means: without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

Hence, when greeting the Blessed Virgin Mary the angel Gabriel said, "*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*" (Luke 1:28). The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present.

This year there is no Vigil Mass for this holyday because it

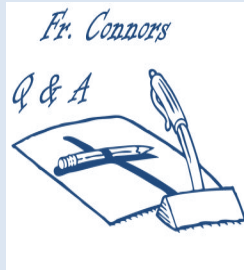
falls on a Monday. We have three Masses on the Monday holyday, December 8th, at 7:30AM, 9:00AM and 7:00PM. The 9:00AM Mass is scheduled to include the OLM School students, families and faculty. All parishioners are invited to attend and pray with the school.

In reflecting on Advent and the Blessed Mother Mary, Pope Francis has said: "*The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope... there is always a need to restart, to rise again, to recover a sense of the goal of one's own existence.*"

Mary serves as a model of this spiritual attitude, to this way of being and of journeying in life." Although she was just a simple girl she carried in her heart the hope of God. In her womb, the hope of God took flesh, became man, and made history: Jesus Christ. Let us be guided by her, she who is mother, she is a 'mama' and knows how to lead us. Let us be guided by her in this time of waiting and active vigilance."

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel!" Let's celebrate Advent with prayer and patience. Join us tomorrow as we honor our Advent Model, Mary, at Holyday Mass! I am away this week in Washington, DC at the Annual Winter Meeting of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors but return on Sunday night. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



Dear Fr. Connors: Who may receive Holy Communion at Mass?

This question is a good one because it raises a very important point. Simply being in attendance at a particular Mass is not a sufficient reason to receive Holy Communion. Each person must make a judgment about whether he or she is prepared to receive Holy Communion at that Mass.

First, non-Catholics do not receive Holy Communion. We honor the different beliefs of non-Catholics and so do not invite them to receive Holy Communion. This respects the difference that exists between Catholic and non-Catholic beliefs. Protestants, for example, do not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist especially as it is tied to the apostolic succession of bishops and priests through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Second, ordinarily anyone receiving Holy Communion should have fasted from food for one hour in preparation to receive Communion. This small fast prepares us spiritually for the nourishment that is to come in the Eucharist.

Third, only those in a state of grace, that is, not conscious of grave sin, should receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist does not create charity in a soul; it strengthens it. So, those who have committed a serious sin—for example refusing to worship God by failure to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation—should not receive Holy Communion until first receiving God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Penance. The Eucharist does not affect what it should in someone who has committed a serious sin.

Tied to this final point, if one is married (or more specifically, if engaging in conjugal relations) he or she must be married in a bond recognized by the Church. If not, they mustn’t receive Holy Communion until this situation is rectified. People should always ask their parish priest if they have a question regarding their personal situation.

If you have a question for Fr. Connors about the Catholic Faith or a matter of Church Teaching, please email him at associatepastor@olmparish.org

Weekly Collection

November 23, 2014

Weekly.....	\$14,522.00
EFT.....	\$924.50
CCHD.....	\$3,290.00
Outreach.....	\$259.00

November 30, 2014

Weekly.....	\$11,220.50
EFT.....	\$1,409.50
Outreach.....	\$269.50
Annual (to date).....	\$88,879.00

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 generosity!

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection
Next Week: Retired Religious Collection

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



The Sacrament of Confession at Our Lady of Mercy

Mondays at 6:00PM
Saturdays at 3:00PM



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners, **Edmond P. Magner and Michael McNulty**, whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last week.
May they rest in peace.

Religious Education NEWS

All RE Classes resume this weekend.

If you are not receiving emails from the RE Office please send an email request to reled@olmparish.org and/or confirmation@olmparish.org

Outreach Update

•**Christmas Dinner items needed:** Traditional items of cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, yams, soups, vegetables, puddings, Jell-O, pie filling, pie crust, etc. are needed as we prepare for Christmas baskets for the needy. For more information, contact Doug Green at the Outreach Office.

Thank you for your generous support.

Doug Green, OLM Outreach Director

Phone: 884-4410 or via email: outreach@olmparish.org

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Patronal Feast of the United States of America



*A Holy Day of
Obligation*

**Monday,
December 8, 2014**

Holyday Masses

**7:30AM, 9:00AM &
7:00PM**



Upcoming Events at OLM School

- Annual OLM School Christmas Pageant:** on Friday, December 12th at 7:00PM in OLM Church. All are invited to attend this wonderful celebration of seasonal song and music by the OLM School students.
- Group Piano Class for Pre-K to 2nd grade:** An after school piano class will commence on January 8, 2015. There will be three one-hour sessions from 2:45 – 3:45.
- OLM School Advent Confessions:** Monday, December 15th at 1:00PM.

Pray, Sing and Prepare the Way!

**Advent Vespers Service
Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00PM
Our Lady of Mercy Church**



**Bishop Robert C. Evans
President**

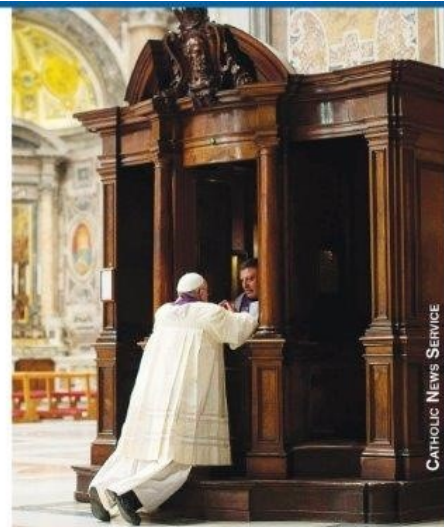
**Father Richard A. Valentine
Pastor of St. Michael's Church, Georgiaville, RI
Preacher**

Join us for a service of Advent prayer and music.

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI



Saturday, December 13, 2014
from 9:00am – 3:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration during the hours of Confession.
Four priests available at all times, no lines and no waiting.
For more information, call 884-4968 • www.olmparsh.org

“Be courageous! Go to Confession!”
-POPE FRANCIS-



The Knights of Columbus are selling religious themed Christmas cards again this year after Sunday Masses. The card sale ends the third weekend of Advent (12/13-14). All proceeds from the sales go to support the works of OLM Outreach.

The Knights of Columbus, Council 58, is a fraternal order of men, who perform charitable work in support of Our Lady of Mercy church. If you are interested in the Knights of Columbus, please contact Tom Mahoney at tom@tommyahoney.com.



Tax Savings & Gift Giving

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas traces its roots to the first Christmas when the Magi presented gifts to the infant, Jesus. Please remember to include Our Lady of Mercy Church on your Christmas gift list this year. Remember, gifts must normally be received by the parish by December 31 to qualify for tax savings in the current calendar year

Now is the season we give thanks to God for all He has done for us this past year and throughout our lives. It is also a good time to reflect on how we might return a portion of our blessings to Him through a special year-end gift of cash or other assets such as stock. You can designate your gift to Our Lady of Mercy School Scholarship Fund or Our Lady of Mercy Church unrestricted general fund. Remember, non-cash gifts like stocks should be donated in plenty of time to allow for the transfer of ownership before the end of December in order to qualify for any tax savings in the current calendar year. Speak with your financial advisor about the gift option that would work best for you. Or, contact OLM Business Manager Dave Cote at 401-884-4968