

LENT

Fifth Sunday



Jesus said to her,
“Did I not tell you
that if you believe
you will see the
glory of God?”

John 11:40



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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 2, 2017

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

The Mass of Anticipation for Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:00PM Deceased Members of the Matricciano Family

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

9:00 AM Frank & Eva Montaquila—Memorial

10:30AM Robert Petrucci—Memorial

5:00PM Assunta & Richard Manocchia—Memorial

MONDAY, APRIL 3

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Bernard & Mary Falchini—Memorial

12:05PM Special Intention

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Lenten Weekday/St. Isadore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM James Truslow III—Memorial

12:05PM Fr. Charles B. McDermott—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Lenten Weekday/ St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest

7:30AM Henri Mariani—Memorial

12:05PM Marilyn Mellon Haxton—Memorial

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

12:05PM Fr. Clyde J. Walsh—Memorial

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Lenten Weekday/St. John Baptist de LaSalle, Priest

7:30AM Mr. & Mrs. Attilio Filippi—Memorial

12:05PM Anne Vallely—Month's Mind

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Lenten Weekday

8:30AM Robert Anderson—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

The Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30 AM Richard J. Casey, Jr.—Memorial

9:00 AM Michael Alix—Memorial

10:30AM Lucille Witkowski—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church



Dear Parishioners:

With great gratitude we offer our thanks to Father Chris O'Connor who led us on Mission this past week. His witty and wise sermons provided much food for thought for all of us about what it means to be an authentic Catholic disciple. I hope you were able to get to some of the Mission Talks as Fr. O'Connor is a gifted preacher and was well worth the time.

In your name, I thank Fr. O'Connor for taking the time to be with us and offer such inspirational words. He is a busy priest who does great work at St. John's Seminary preparing future priests. I am so grateful to him for his kindness and generosity in leading our Parish Mission.

Please keep Fr. O'Connor in your prayers as he continues his important priestly ministry.

I also thank the visiting priests who joined us for Confessions during the Mission. They report that many people came forward to receive the Sacrament of Mercy and that is a great thing! Also, I thank the many people who turned out for the Mission each night, it was a wonderful time for our whole parish to come together and deepen our understanding of our Catholic Faith.

We had a small celebration this Saturday morning at the 8:30am Mass. Mrs. Claire Sharpe celebrated her 107th Birthday by coming to Mass! It was a great celebration for her, and her family, and we were so delighted she was able to come to Church for Mass. She is a woman of deep faith and love of Christ and His Church and truly an inspiration to us all. A very Happy Birthday to Claire and God's Blessings!

This is the last weekend of Lent as next Sunday we celebrate

Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week. Palm Branches will be distributed and blessed at all Masses. At the 10:30am Mass next Sunday, we will begin our Solemn Entrance from Mercy Park. Pray for spring weather!

Also, at all Masses next Sunday we solemnly proclaim the Passion of Our Lord according to the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Pope Emeritus Benedict teaches us: *"Palm Sunday is the great doorway leading into Holy Week, the week when the Lord Jesus makes his way towards the culmination of his earthly existence. May these days call forth two sentiments in particular: praise, after the example of those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with their "Hosanna!", and thanksgiving, because in this Holy Week the Lord Jesus will renew the greatest gift we could possibly imagine: he will give us his life, his body and his blood, his love."*

I hope and pray that the Holy Season of Lent continues to help prepare each us for the coming glory of Easter. Our prayer, fasting and alms-giving should help us to truly celebrate the great feasts of our faith with a sense of renewed faith. If you have not yet gone to Confession, I urge you to please do so before Easter. We have Confessions every Monday night at 6:00pm and Saturdays at 4:00pm.

Next weekend we also take up the annual Rice Bowl Collection for Catholic Relief Services. Those humble paper bowls that were given out on Ash Wednesday are hopefully now overflowing with your sacrificial donations for the hungry of the world.

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the U.S. Bishops to serve World War II

survivors in Europe. Since then, they have expanded in size to reach more than 100 million people in 101 countries on five continents.. For over 40 years, CRS Rice Bowl has provided material support to those who hunger for food throughout our world. All the monies collected for the Rice Bowl Collection go directly to CRS efforts to feed the hungry.

We are grateful for the tremendous support that OLM has shown over the years for this collection. Again this year the hungry of the world are counting on us to help them through our prayer, sacrifice, self-denial and charity. I ask that you please not return loose coins but either cash or a check as this makes it much easier for our Monday morning collection counters.

In the name of the poor and hungry who are aided by Catholic Relief Services, I thank you for your generous support of the Rice Bowl Collection and ask for your continued prayers for the good works of CRS. As Catholics we should take great pride in the incredible work of CRS in bringing Christ to the neediest of the world. It is such works that we support here at OLM!

Please remember that the Saturday 4:00pm Mass is now moved forward to 5:00pm and Confessions from 3:00pm to 4:00pm! I am away this weekend preaching the Lenten Mission at St. Theresa & St. Christopher in Tiverton. Fr. Shemek, our old OLM friend, invited me months ago and I couldn't say "No" to him! It is still Lent so don't forget to Pray, Fast and Give Alms! Be well. Do good. God Bless!

Father Healey



Why does the priest wear rose vestments on Gaudete and Laetare Sundays?

At the beginning of the Mass this Sunday a little boy came up to me and asked me: "why are you wearing pink?" Of course, it is hard to tell the difference, but the color is really rose. It is a good question considering that the color is only worn two times a year: in Advent on Gaudete Sunday and in Lent on Laetare Sunday. It shows the connection between the two seasons, which, among other things, are both seasons of anticipation and penance. Every color that is used in church vestments and artwork is symbolic. It is one thing see the event depicted by one of Michelangelo's paintings, but there is another level of meaning simply in the colors and fabrics that each character wears.

The color rose symbolizes joy amidst a season of penance. We wear it to remind ourselves that the season of Lent and preparation is coming to a close and we can look forward to the joy and celebration of Easter. In some ways rose can be seen as the mixture of the white of Easter and the violet of Lent. Laetare Sunday is the oasis in the desert of Lent midway between our start and our end. Catholicism is primarily a religion of joy. This can be a difficult trait to acquire.

As Pope Francis writes, "There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress."

If you have a question about the Catholic Faith, email your questions directly to Father Barrow at associate@olmparish.org



Please note that Father Barrow's email address is: associate@olmparish.org

Please do not use the old email address assigned to Father Connors which was associatepastor@olmparish.org as this email account has been deleted. Thank you.

Weekly Collection

March 26, 2017

Weekly.....	\$12,474.50
Electronic Giving.....	\$1,969.50
Total=	\$14,444.00

Outreach.....	\$300.50
Mission Collection.....	\$1,098.00

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 generous support!

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



Second Collections

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection
Next Week: Operation Rice Bowl



2017 Parish Goal = \$193,864
Pledged to date = \$115,497.50
Number of Donors = 251
% of Parish Goal = 59%
Average Gift = \$460
Total Raised in 2016 = \$268,928

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

OCRS RICE BOWL FOR LENT, FOR LIFE
What You Give Up For Lent Changes Lives



Religious Education NEWS

● **First Communion Parent & Child Retreat #2: Saturday, April 8 at 2:00pm** in the OLM School Cafeteria. All Those whose last names begins L—Z should attend. The Retreat ends with 5:00PM Mass.

● **Sunday, April 9: Last RE Class for** Grades 1,3, 4, 5, 6, & 7

● **All 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates** are asked to attend Holy Week Services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter. *Please bring blue attendance cards to services during Holy Week.*



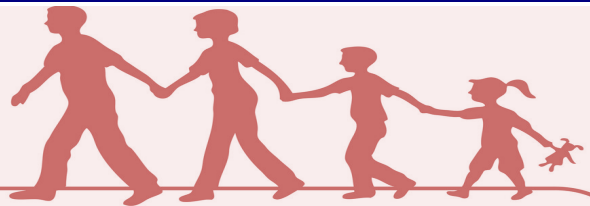
● Monday, April 3: OLM School Board Meeting at 7:00pm

● Thursday, April 6: OLM Band Fundraiser at the Pizzeria Uno

● Saturday, April 8, 9am—11am: Middle School Soccer Practice

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org



OLM YOUNG FAMILIES

OLM Young Families Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2017

5:30—7:00PM, OLM School Cafeteria

All young families are most welcome to come to join with us in fellowship and conversation about our Catholic faith. **The topic for this week is:**

Holy Week: the Week that Changed the World

Fr. Healey is our presenter.

Babysitting is available for your children and delicious Pizza served for dinner! For more information or just to learn more about our group contact Young Families Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com



OUR PARISH KEEPS LENT



Outreach Update

● **OLM Bereavement Group** meets this Thursday April 6 at 4pm at Mercy House. All those experiencing a loss or grief are welcome to join us.

● **For more information** please contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org





Holy Week

Schedule at Our Lady of Mercy Church

The Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Saturday, April 8, 2017

Confessions at 4:00pm & Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 5:00pm

Monday of Holy Week

April 10, 2017

Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Chrism Mass at Cathedral at 5:00pm
Confessions from 11:45am—12:00pm
Confessions with Two Priests at 6:00pm

Tuesday of Holy Week

April 11, 2017

Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confession at 11:45am—12:00pm

Spv Wednesday

April 12, 2017

Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confession at 11:45am—12:00pm

Holy Thursday

April 13, 2017

Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Mass of the Lords Supper at 7:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration from 8:00pm—12:00am

Good Friday

April 14, 2017

Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at 7:00pm

Holy Saturday

April 15, 2017

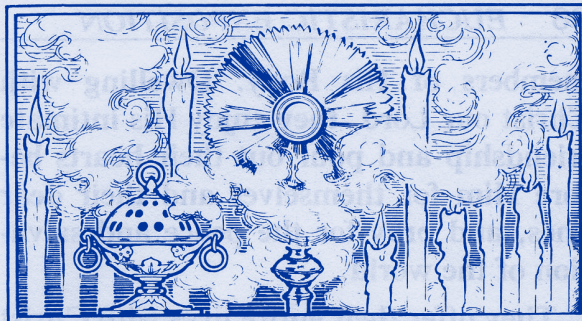
Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Easter Vigil at 8:00pm

Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

Solemn Masses of the Resurrection of the Lord
At 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am
There is no 5:00pm Sunday Mass on Easter Sunday

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration



Friday, April 7, 2017

Exposition of the Eucharist
following the 12:05pm Mass

Adoration All-Afternoon

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
with the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm

"Repent and Believe in the Gospel"

LENT 2017

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS **PRESENTED BY OLM MIDDLE SCHOOL**



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017
1:00PM & 6:00PM

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR
THIS MOVING AND PRAYERFUL PRESENTATION
OF THE STATIONS OF CROSS.