

Palm Sunday



...the very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road...

Matthew 21



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor*.....884-4968
 pastor@olmparish.org
 Twitter: twitter.com/FatherHealey

Father Joshua A. Barrow, *Associate Pastor*.....884-4968
 associate@olmparish.org

Deacon John W. Dowd, *Deacon Assistant*.....884-4968
 deacon@olmparish.org

Mr. David E. Cote, *Business Manager*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, *Admin. Assistant*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*.....884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

St. Patrick's Cemetery Office.....886-5296
 parish@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Michele St. Jean (*Grades 1-5*).....884-1061
 reled@olmparish.org

Mr. Douglas E. Green (*Grades 6-8*).....884-4410
 confirmation@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mr. Michael LaChimia, *Coordinator*.....884-4968
 mlachimia@olmschool.org

OFFICE OF OUTREACH

Mr. Douglas E. Green, *Director*.....884-4410
 outreach@olmparish.org

MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS

Mr. Henri M. St. Louis, *Music Director*.....884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org

Mrs. Deirdre A. Donovan, *Soloist*.....884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org

OLM SCHOOL

Main Office.....884-1618
 olmoffice@olmschool.org

Mrs. Carolyn C. MacCrae, *School Bookkeeper*..558-0051
 cmaccrae@olmschool.org

Little Saints & Scholars Program.....886-0742



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
APRIL 9, 2017

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

The Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

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

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Monday of Holy Week
 7:30AM Fr. Michael Menna—1st Anniversary
 12:05PM Bernadette & William West—Memorial

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Tuesday of Holy Week
 7:30AM Michael R. Dumont—28th Anniversary
 12:05PM Robert F. Armstrong—Birthday Remembrance

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12—SPY WEDNESDAY

Wednesday of Holy Week
 7:30AM Special Intention
 12:05PM Imelda Lewis—Memorial

THURSDAY, APRIL 13—HOLY THURSDAY

The Mass of the Lord's Supper
 7:00PM All Deceased Bishops & Priests of Providence

FRIDAY, APRIL 14—GOOD FRIDAY

Friday of the Passion of The Lord
 3:00PM Stations of the Cross
 7:00PPM The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

SATURDAY, APRIL 15—HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil
 8:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 16—EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

Last Saturday morning we had a grand celebration for Mrs. Claire Sharpe on her 107th birthday. Bishop Evans celebrated the Mass and her family joined Claire. All she wanted for her birthday was to receive the Eucharist at Our Lady of Mercy Church! Her words of faith and wisdom at the reception that followed the Mass were truly inspirational. God Bless her!

Also, last week our OLM Middle School Students attended the RI Science Olympiad and did very well. There is a complete list of winners in the bulletin. We congratulate the entire team on their hard work and success. We thank the many parents and volunteers who helped prepare the students for the event. Also thanks to their Olympiad Coach, our outstanding OLM Middle School Science Teacher, Dr. Deborah Husak! Great job by one and all, you made us proud!

We must also congratulate the OLM Girls Basketball Team who won the RI State Championship and last weekend made their way to the New England Tournament in Bridgeport. They went as far as the semi-finals. The OLM Girls had a great season finishing 11-1. We congratulate them on their hard work and success this season. We thank their coaches Brenda Verdi and Dr. Steve Basler for their commitment to the team.

I bring warm greetings from our former OLM Associate Pastor Father Shemek. He is doing very well in Tiverton where he serves as Pastor of both St. Theresa and St. Christopher Parishes. I am grateful for his kind

invitation to lead the parishes on a Lenten Mission last week. They are a vibrant community of faith and I truly enjoyed my time there.

It's hard to believe that our forty-days of Lenten prayer, fasting and alms-giving are coming to an end already. We begin Holy Week by recalling Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery.

At the heart of our faith is the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. All of salvation history leads up to and goes forth from these saving events. We call this week, "Holy Week" as Jesus' public ministry culminates with his suffering, death and resurrection.

Our celebration of Holy Week begins this Sunday as we remember in faith the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem to begin his final week and initiate his Passion. The Gospels recount this triumphant entry that Sunday Morning so long ago.

Today as we receive the palm branches, perhaps we might consider ourselves as part of that vast crowd. How will we journey with Jesus this week? Let the palm remind us to praise Christ with our prayerful presence during the Sacred Triduum.

Holy Thursday marks the beginning of the Sacred Triduum. We celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm with the foot washing of parishioners. At this Mass we recall the institution of the Eucharist and the Sacred Priesthood by Jesus Christ. The Church is to remain open until Midnight for private prayer and devotion before the Eucharistic Lord at the Altar of Repose.

On Good Friday we recall the Lord's Passion and Crucifixion. It is a day of prayer, fasting and abstinence. Whenever possible, we are urged to keep Good Friday free of work and social activities, as well as unnecessary distractions like TV, radio, internet and movies. Rather we should devote ourselves to both private and communal prayer and worship. Join us on Good Friday at 3:00pm for the Stations of the Cross and at 7:00pm for the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion where we venerate the Cross and receive Holy Communion.

On Holy Saturday we recall Jesus in the tomb as we pray and prepare for the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil Mass is at 8:00pm and is the only Mass that day. We begin in the darkness as we recall the death of Christ and then the Church comes alive with light as we recall his glorious Resurrection. We rejoice as the tomb is empty! At the Easter Vigil Mass we will also receive five people fully into the Catholic Faith. Pray for them as they join our Church.

On Easter Sunday the tomb is empty and so we rejoice in the glory of the Lord's Resurrection with Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:30am. There is no 5:00pm Sunday evening Mass on Easter.

Join us this Holy Week and truly enter into the Sacred Mysteries of our faith. Know of our prayers for those who are traveling for Easter. Be well. Do good. God Bless!

Father Healey



Did God punish Jesus on the Cross?

This question is an important one because it gets to the heart of why the Son took on human flesh, what exactly Christ did for us on the Cross, and how we are transformed as a result.

Some Protestants, particularly those in the Evangelical tradition who follow the 16th century reformer Protestant John Calvin, think that Jesus Christ on the Cross, by the will of God the Father, took on the punishment due to the human race as a result of sin. This is called "Penal Substitutionary Theory." Jesus is the scape goat who takes our punishment and transfers to us in an *extrinsic* way his innocence (i.e. we are not actually changed). It is a problematic vision for many reasons. One reason is its obvious sadistic vision of God. It is in essence saying that God needs to make someone suffer to be satisfied. The second reason that this is problematic is that Jesus is innocent. As we read in 1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God." So Christ would be unjustly punished. The day to day injustices we see committed among human beings would be elevated to a divine level.

When theologians explain what Jesus Christ did for us in his passion, death and resurrection, they use a term called "satisfaction." God is not punishing Jesus or forcing him to suffer, but Jesus is offering freely to God the perfect obedience and love that we as humans were originally meant to offer. Where we failed to be just, merciful, and charitable, Jesus did these things perfectly. No sinful human being could ever restore this relationship, but as perfect God and perfect human Jesus is able to restore friendship with God and overcome our alienation from Him (in fact Jesus's act is proportionately greater than all human sin in time).

God, being God, could simply wipe out sin and restore friendship with us, but God wants us to participate in the restoration of this friendship. By *taking on human nature*, he has transformed us, making *us* able to offer to God that perfect obedience and love through grace. The Incarnation transforms us! The fruits and grace from the sacrifice come to us through the sacraments. Further, the suffering that Jesus endured on the Cross shows us the depths which God is willing to condescend to bring us back. It is true that there is punishment due to sin (hence why souls go to purgatory), but the center of Christ's act is his offer of obedience and love, and not God punishing him. The suffering Jesus endured comes not from God, but from all the machinations and permutations of human sinfulness.

In this way, during Holy Week we celebrate the restoration of friendship with God in and through Jesus Christ.

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

Weekly Collection 

April 2, 2017

Weekly.....	\$12,017.50
Electronic Giving.....	\$1,489.50
	Total=\$13,507.00


Outreach.....\$1,595.50
 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: Operation Rice Bowl
 Next Week: The Easter Collection



2017 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

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!



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner **Patricia Corrigan** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last week at Our Lady of Mercy Church.
May she rest in peace.

Holy Week Office Hours
 The OLM Parish Office is closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday. The Office reopens on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 8:00AM. Please plan accordingly.



Religious Education NEWS

- **Sunday, April 9:** Last RE Class for RE Grades 1,3, 4, 5, 6, & 7
- **Sunday, April 16 & 23:** No RE Classes
- **Sunday, April 30:** RE Grades 2 and 8 meet
- **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.*



Outreach Update

- We thank all our OLM Outreach volunteers for cooking and serving the St. Patrick's Irish Boiled Dinner at St. Luke's Church for Christ's Community Kitchen on March 27th.

Congratulations OLM's Girls CAL State Champion Basketball Team



At the New England CAL Tournament, the team defeated St. Bernard's of Hartford, 46-28. They went on to lose semi-finals to St. Theresa's of Bridgeport, 25-13. St. Theresa was defeated in the finals by St. Denis of Boston, 31-21. Congratulations to the OLM Girls Team for a great season record of 11-1 and for their State Championship Title! They played great at the New England Tournament.



Upcoming Events:

- Monday, April 10: Little Saints & Scholars Bake Sale throughout the day.
- Tuesday, April 11: Middle School Mock Trial Competition: OLM vs. St. Philip School; Mobile Loaves & Fishes for 8th Graders
- Thursday, April 13: Half-Day of School with 11:30am Dismissal
- Friday, April 14: No School on Good Friday
- Monday, April 17: Easter Vacation Begins and school resumes on Monday, April 24

Congratulations to OLM Science Olympiad Team:

RI Science Olympiad Winners

Scrambler -Bronze

Colin Butera & Casey McQuesten

Anatomy and Physiology- Silver

Jack Ciunci & Patrick Torres

Bottle Rocket- Silver

Colin Butera & Maddie Laviolette

Mission Possible- Gold

Santino Izzi & Yaduvir Mangray

Experimental Design- Bronze

Santino Izzi & Jake Rademacher

Ornathology

Sophie Brunner & Emma Van Meeteran

***We commend the entire Team and
their Coach, OLM Middle School
Science Teacher, Dr. Deborah Husak***

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org

HOLY WEEK 2017 AT OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH



HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017

SOLEMN MORNING PRAYER AT 8:00AM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 7:00PM

ADORATION AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE UNTIL MIDNIGHT

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017

SOLEMN MORNING PRAYER AT 8:00AM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 3:00PM

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION WITH VENERATION OF
THE CROSS & HOLY COMMUNION AT 7:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017

SOLEMN MORNING PRAYER AT 8:00AM

EASTER VIGIL MASS AT 8:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017

MASS OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

AT 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 10:30AM

NO 5:00PM MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY

GOOD FRIDAY REGULATIONS FOR FAST & ABSTINENCE



Good Friday is *an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics*. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that

together 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. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS
AS 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.