



**“When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”**

LUKE 2:22



## **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 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



## **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2017**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30**

*Mass of Anticipation for the Feast of the Holy Family*  
 4:00PM Jean Standing—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

*The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*  
 7:30 AM Jean Ingraham—Memorial  
 9:00 AM Linda Canning—Memorial  
 10:30AM Gene & Mary Verri—Memorial  
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 1 NEW YEARS DAY**

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
 8:30AM Paul Amato, Carlos & Rose Montini—Anniversaries

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**

*Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church*  
 7:30AM Brian Messier—Memorial

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

*Christmas Weekday/The Most Holy Name of Jesus*  
 7:30AM Deceased of 248th Company B, Joseph Zaino—Memorial

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
 7:30AM Maria Rodriguez Gualpa—Memorial

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**

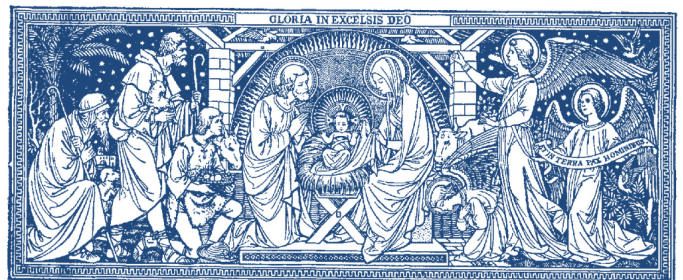
*St. John Neumann, Bishop*  
 7:30AM Virginia Arbige—Memorial  
 9:00AM Deceased Alumni & Benefactors of OLM School

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

*Christmas Weekday/St. Andre Bessette, Religious*  
 8:30AM Thomas Cavanagh—7th Anniversary  
*Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany of the Lord*  
 4:00PM Ben Kwang—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

*The Epiphany of the Lord*  
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church  
 9:00 AM Robert Girasole—Memorial  
 10:30AM Lillian E. Healey—Birthday Remembrance  
 5:00PM Dolores Dolenc—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

We are still in the midst of the Christmas Season and so we continue to celebrate our Savior's birth. Our celebration began last weekend with the Christmas Vigil Mass on Sunday evening. It was a grand kickoff to the solemn and joyful celebration of the season.

We give thanks for the gift of God's Son born on Christmas. Jesus Christ is our Messiah, our Redeemer, and our Savior, and so we continue to rejoice and give thanks for His birth. We continue to give thanks to God for the blessings of Christmas.

We give thanks to those who made Christmas at OLM so joyful, beautiful and memorable. We thank our hard working maintenance staff, under the direction of Paul Anderson, who have been working for weeks moving boxes, painting, raking, setting up trees, cleaning, waxing floors and seeing to the good order of our vast physical plant. Of course, they also took time out during the snowstorms to shovel and plow the property! We thank them for their tireless work and dedication to OLM.

We give thanks to Celia Franzone, and her band of decorators, who made the Church so beautiful at Christmas with the flowers and trees. They ensured that our Church nativity was once again a beautiful and prayerful stop for us. I am grateful for all their hard work in making the beauty of Christmas a vital part of OLM.

We thank too our talented parish musicians, Henri St. Louis and Deirdre Donovan, and the OLM Adult and Children Choirs for their great gift of music.

The music was so joyful at Christmas and we are grateful for the hours of rehearsals and devotion they give to ensuring beautiful and meaningful sacred music befitting the solemn celebration of our Savior's birth.

We thank our loyal and dutiful corps of OLM Altar Servers for their help and devotion at Christmas Masses. Their expert service to God's Altar was solemn and reverent, and we are truly grateful to them. We also thank our OLM Ushers who worked so diligently and did double time last weekend. Their warm hospitality to guests is truly appreciated.

We wish to thank our Lectors for joyfully proclaiming God's Sacred Word at Christmas. Also, our many Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who helped at Christmas Masses ensuring the faithful received the Body of Christ with reverence. We thank all who gave of their time and talent to make Christmas at OLM so solemn, joyful and faith-filled.

I also wish to thank the many parishioners and OLM School students and families who were so generous to support the good works of OLM Outreach. They generously adopted refugee families, collected gifts for the elderly residents of the Jeanne Jugan Residence, and provided a Christmas for many needy families. Your many donations of gift cards and generous monetary gifts ensure that Christmas is joyful for many people in need. We thank you for your charity and continued support of OLM Outreach.

I wish also to thank

Fr. Barrow, Fr. Connors and Deacon Dowd for their presence and ministry here at OLM, especially at Christmas. We are truly blessed at OLM with such talented and dedicated young priests, and such a devoted and joyful Deacon.

Also in their names, I wish to thank the many parishioners who were so kind, and very generous, to us at Christmas. Your gifts, cards, sincere greetings, and delicious goodies are truly appreciated and enjoyed by us all. We are grateful for your continued support and recognition of our ministry at OLM.

The New Year of 2018 begins Monday and now we look back and give God thanks for the blessings we enjoyed in 2017. On January 1st we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Since it falls on a Monday this year it is not a holy day of obligation and therefore there is only one Mass at 8:30am. It is a holiday but not a holy day and you are not obligated to attend Holy Mass.

As we approach the New Year of 2018, I wish you and your families the choicest of God's blessings for a Happy, Healthy and Holy New Year. May our Loving Father bless you and your family at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope and bountiful joy that is ours in the coming of Christ.

A very Happy New Year. Do good. Be well. God Bless! Go Pats!!!

*Father Healey*



**Is our celebration of Christmas pagan?**

One of the charges against the celebration of Christmas alleges that its pagan origins compromise its celebration. Interestingly for much of American history Christmas was outlawed by our country because it was considered idolatry. Even today the allegation that Christmas is merely a pagan holiday is used to discredit Christianity. The Christian writer G.K. Chesterton once said: "to complain that Christmas feasts or processions or dances are of pagan origin is like saying that our legs are of pagan origin." For Chesterton and for the Catholic Theology, whatever is good, holy and just may not only be preserved but fulfilled. Indeed the Incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas, is the greatest affirmation that God wants to redeem creation, not destroy it.

Unfortunately what many celebrate today as Christmas does not even have pagan roots. C.S. Lewis wrote an interesting article called "A Christmas Sermon for Pagans," in which he distinguishes between the true pagans or Heathens of old and modern people in Britain who have ceased to be Christians. To confuse these categories, Lewis says, is "like thinking... a street where the houses have been knocked down is the same as a field where no house has yet been built." Real pagans differ from post-Christians firstly in that they were actually religious. "To [the Pagan] the earth was holy, the woods and waters were alive." Secondly, they "believed in what we now call an 'Objective' Right or Wrong," that is, that "the distinction between pious and impious acts was something which existed independently of human opinions." Finally, pagans, unlike "post-Christian man," had "deep sadness" because of their knowledge that they did not obey the moral code perfectly. To compensate for this shortcoming, the pagan developed a wealth of ceremonies to "take away guilt."

The post-Christian world views nature as a "kind of machine for us to exploit." The world is no longer enchanted and so the old rituals and traditions lose their magic. Lewis provides an interesting solution: "... we shall have to set about becoming true Pagans if only as a preliminary to becoming Christians... For (in a sense) all that Christianity adds to Paganism is the cure. It confirms the old belief that in this universe we are up against Living Power: that there is a real Right and that we have failed to obey it: that existence is beautiful and terrifying. It adds a wonder of which Paganism had not distinctly heard—that the Mighty One has come down to help us, to remove our guilt, to reconcile us."

*If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at [associate@olmparish.org](mailto:associate@olmparish.org)*

*Weekly Collection* 

**December 24, 2017**

The Collection results for last weekend are unavailable due to the holiday print deadline.

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: Church in Latin America**



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of **Peter Monti, Mary Kathryn Garrahy-Serrechia, and Mary Elizabeth Powers** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated last week.



The Parish Office is closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 for the New Year's Holiday and reopens on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 8:00am.

**Mass on New Year's Day is at 8:30AM only**



### Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Monday January 1st:** No School for New Year's Holiday
- **Tuesday, January 2nd:** No School — Teacher Professional Day
- **Wednesday, January 3rd:** School resumes.
- **Friday, January 5th:** OLM School First Friday Mass at 9:00am. All are invited to attend.

*Discover the OLM Difference!*

[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)



### **● All RE Classes resume on next Sunday, January 7, 2018**

We wish all of our RE families a very Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all on January 7th to continue our learning more about the Lord and growing in our Catholic faith! Happy New Year!

Mickey St. Jean & Doug Green  
Religious Education Directors

### **Confession at OLM**

**There will be no Confessions at 6:00pm on on the holiday Monday, January 1st. Regular Confessions resume on Saturday, January 6 at 3:00PM and next Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:00PM.**



● **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items especially during the cold winter months. Please leave items in Food Box in vestibule. Thank you for your support.

● **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



**OLM Young Families  
Thursday, January 11, 2018  
5:30pm until 7:00pm  
OLM School Cafeteria**

**Topic of Discussion This Meeting:  
A Christian Response to the Secular Void of  
Lewis CK's Forever Empty**

**Presenter: Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, OP  
Professor of Biology & Theology at PC**

All young families are most welcome to join with us in fellowship and conversation about our Catholic faith. *Babysitting is available for your children and delicious Pizza served for dinner!* For more information or just to learn more about our group contact OLM Young Families Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: [Kate\\_Jelinek@hotmail.com](mailto:Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com)



## Mary, Mother of God



**J**anuary 1 is New Years Day in our secular life, but in our liturgical life, it is the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

In the year 431, the Council of Ephesus declared that the Virgin Mary was Mother of God; in Greek, *Theotokos*, “God-bearer.”

Mary was celebrated under this title on the first of January until about the eighth century when the day was changed to mark the circumcision of the Lord.

The reforms of the Vatican II returned the day to Mary, Mother of God but kept the Gospel reading which refers to Jesus’ circumcision.

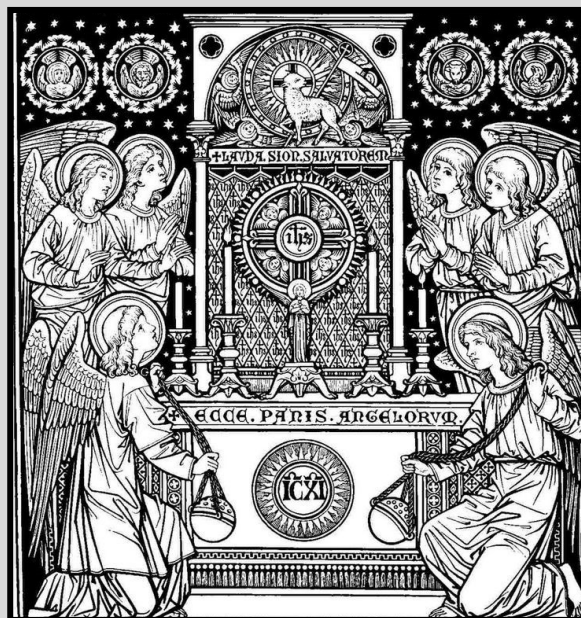


Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*

## First Friday Adoration

January 5, 2018



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
following 9:00am Mass

Adoration All Day

Benediction of the Blessed  
Sacrament at 6pm

*Adorers are needed,  
please sign up in the vestibule*

