



THE CHURCH OF
Our Lady of Mercy



Phone.....401-884-4968 Fax.....401-884-1415

Parish Email.....parish@olmparish.org

Parish Website.....www.olmparish.org

Sixty-Five Third Street ✕ *East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818*

The Third Sunday of Advent* ✕ *December 11, 2016

† **MASS SCHEDULE** †

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation.....4:00 PM

Sunday Mass.....7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM &
5:00 PM (Sept—May)

Daily

Monday - Friday.....7:30 AM

Saturdays & Legal Holidays.....8:30 AM

Holy Day

Vigil Mass.....5:00 PM

Holyday Masses.....7:30 AM & 7:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Mondays at 6:00 PM or by appointment.
Saturdays at 3:00 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Second Sunday of the month. Preparation Class is required. Please contact the parish Deacon prior to birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact one of the parish priests one year prior to the proposed date of your wedding.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact one of the parish priests if you are shut-in, sick, homebound or hospitalized and before surgery.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Please contact one of the parish priests or the Office of the Director of Vocations at 401-331-1316 or www.catholicpriest.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday.....8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, Parish Secretary

Email: parish@olmparish.org

Phone: 401-884-4968

Our Lady of Mercy School

Mr. Scott W. Fuller

School Principal

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone401-884-1618

Email.....olmoffice@olmschool.org

Web.....www.olmschool.org

The Very Reverend Bernard A. Healey, S.T.L., J.C.L., *Pastor*

The Reverend Joshua A. Barrow, S.T.L., *Associate Pastor*

Deacon John W. Dowd, *Parish Deacon*

Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.

William K. Wray

Parish Trustees





PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor*.....884-4968
 pastor@olmparish.org

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



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2016

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

The Mass of Anticipation for the Third Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Robert Petrucci—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

The Third Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Albert Edward Hyde—Memorial
 10:30AM Augustine Manocchia, Sr.—11th Anniversary
 5:00PM Deceased Mbrs. of the Calitri & Gemma Families

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe
 7:30AM Theresa Pearson—9th Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
 7:30AM Lauren Foley—11th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM John J. Sedlock, Jr.—1st Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM Pat & Marie Raimondo—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM George C. Jamieson—Birthday Remembrance

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Late Advent Weekday
 8:30AM Souls in Purgatory
Mass of Anticipation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Michael & Katherine Banas—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Janet Fayle—8th Anniversary
 10:30AM Kate Bedard—7th Anniversary
 5:00PM Filomena Gruber—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

On Friday night we celebrated the Annual OLM School Christmas Pageant. It is always a joyful and happy occasion as our talented students gather to sing songs of the seasons. The Church is always overflowing with smiling parents, siblings and grandparents. The highlight of the evening is the reenactment of the Nativity Story by the students. It is always a great event for our parish and school.

It really is inspiring to be able to sing beautiful Christmas hymns with the students in a spirit of faith, hope and love. Far too many around us have pushed God out of our culture and removed Christ from Christmas. The OLM School Christmas Pageant is truly a faith-filled way to rejoice in the season. It is also a great way to kick off this weekend of rejoicing.

We celebrate this weekend "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of Rejoicing. We rejoice because Christmas is coming soon. We have put away the dour purple vestments and wear the bright rose vestments. This is a sign of our rejoicing in Christ who was born on Christmas Day.

We do not rejoice because we believe Jesus came to bring Heaven down to earth. Rather, we rejoice because we know that Jesus, the Son of God, came to open a path from earth into Heaven. The joy of the Christian is the joy of a hope guaranteed by God Himself. This is true joy, the joy of hope, and Christ is its source.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XV commenting on *Gaudete* Sunday reminds us of this joy when he states: "To transform

*the world, God chose a humble young girl from a village in Galilee, Mary of Nazareth, and challenged her with this greeting: 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you.' In these words lies the secret of an authentic Christmas. God repeats them to the Church, to each one of us: **Rejoice, the Lord is close!** With Mary's help, let us offer ourselves with humility and courage so that the world may accept Christ, who is the source of true joy."*

This Sunday is called *Gaudete* Sunday, "Gaudete" being the Latin for "Rejoice!" The given entrance antiphon for this Sunday begins, in Latin, with "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" or "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" Here's the English translation of this beautiful antiphon, a hymn to rejoicing: "*Rejoice in the Lord always: I say again, rejoice: let your modesty be known unto all: The Lord is at hand. Let nothing upset you: but in all prayers make your needs known unto God.*"

So let us rejoice! This is the instruction we are given at the beginning of Mass today. In these last weeks of Advent, we might become weary and distracted. That's why the Church tells us to rejoice. Christ is coming! There's no doubt that the gospel is demanding, but we have the great joy of God's grace and our community of faith spurring us on toward true repentance and total joy!

One way we can rejoice is by rejoicing in God's Mercy! This week the students of the OLM Religious Education Program and the students of OLM School celebrate the

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Of course, Confession is a great way to prepare for the coming of Christ. Cleansing our souls of sin and receiving God's powerful grace of forgiveness and mercy is perhaps the best Christmas gift you can give yourself.

We have scheduled Confessions on Monday nights at 6:00pm and Saturday afternoons at 3:00pm. On Monday, December 19th we have scheduled two hours of Confession from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. There are to be two priests hearing Confessions per hour with the addition of some guest Confessors. I hope you can find the time during this busy season to stop, pray, and seek God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession. It will most certainly help you to truly rejoice in the season.

Pope Francis teaches: "*Advent is a time of rejoicing because it revives the happiest event in history: the birth of the Son of God by the Virgin Mary. Knowing that God is not far away but close, not indifferent but compassionate, not alien but a merciful Father who follows us lovingly with respect for our freedom, all this is the reason for a deep joy.*"

So let us rejoice for the Lord in coming! Let nothing upset us! Let us pray and make our needs known to God! Go to Confession and prepare the way! Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



Was Jesus born knowing his fate or mission to save us by dying on the cross?

There have been many positions throughout the centuries concerning Christ’s knowledge. Some have said that as an infant Jesus did not know his fate, but that as he grew up he gradually began to realize his fate at a certain point. Some have said that Jesus understood his fate to be something quite different than what the Church invented.

The Church teaches that Jesus always knew from birth what his mission or fate would be: to save us from our sins by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. We can appeal to several scriptural passages to support this position. There are several scriptural passages that show us that Jesus knew that he was God incarnate and that he knew his mission. Jesus states, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9); “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up” (Jn. 3:14); “‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter said in reply, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus said to him in reply, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah’” (Mt. 23:15-17); “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will” (Mt. 26:39).

How did Jesus know this? We know that Jesus is a divine person with human and divine natures. Since he has a human nature he has everything proper to it which includes (like us) a mind which learns. Theologians speak of three types of human knowledge in Christ: acquired, infused, and knowledge of the blessed. Jesus learned or acquired things in this life (e.g. the language), hence Luke writes of Jesus growing up “in wisdom and in stature” (Lk. 2:52). So there are some things that Jesus learned through experience. He also had infused knowledge (for example, knowledge of future events). Finally he had “knowledge of the blessed,” which means that his human mind has direct knowledge of God because his mind was hypostatically joined to the divine nature. Is it a contradiction to say that Christ both knows things already and has to learn them? There is no contradiction because there are these distinct kinds of knowledge. Therefore by infused knowledge Christ already knows (e.g.) language *through* direct communication from God, but when he learns it from his parents this is *through* images or ideas in his mind.

If you have a question about the Catholic Faith , email your questions to Father Barrow at associate@olmparish.org and it might appear in the bulletin!

Weekly Collection

December 4, 2016

Weekly.....	\$12,748.50
EFT.....	\$1,554.50
	Total=\$14,303.00

Building & Grounds.....	\$3,560.00
Outreach.....	\$2,162.00
Annual (to date).....	\$77,786.00

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 Weekend: Retired Religious Fund

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

www.retiredreligious.org



Religious Education NEWS

- RE Advent Confessions on Sunday, December 11th for Grades 3-5.
- Grades 1 & 2 only meet in the AM on Sunday, December 11th.



- Monday, December 12th: OLM School Confessions at 1:00pm
- Wednesday, December 14th: OLM Band Concert, 8:25AM—9:00am
- **Science Olympiad:** OLM School is looking for a few volunteers to help coach and mentor students as they prepare for the Science Olympiad. If you enjoy science and working with students please contact OLM Science Teacher, Dr. Husak at dhusak@olmschool.org. No experience is needed, just a willing attitude!!

Discover the OLM Advantage!



Outreach Update

- **The OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please deposit all donated food in the box in the Church vestibule.
- **The OLM Bereavement Group** meets on Thursday, December 15th at 4pm in Mercy House. All welcome.
- **For more information**, contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner **Joanne Maddalena De Nuccio** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

May she rest in peace.

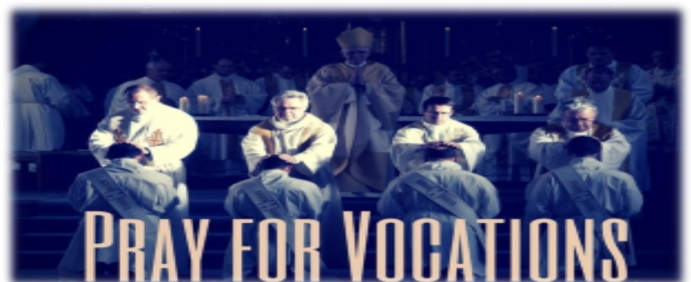
OUR LADY'S



ROSARY MAKERS

OLM Rosary Makers Monthly Workshop
Tuesday, December 13th from 9:30am—11:30am
OLM Cry room

Materials and instruction provided. Join us in making rosaries for the missions.



3rd Sunday of Advent



The traditional name for the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from *Gaudete in Domino semper*, Latin for “Rejoice in the Lord always,” opening words of today’s entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced by an opening hymn).

Because one of Advent’s tasks is to prepare us for Christ’s return at the end of time, this season once had a penitential quality similar to that of Lent. Gaudete Sunday with its rose vestments and relaxation of austerities softened the period and gave a glimpse of its fulfillment just as its counterpart, Laetare Sunday, did at the midpoint of Lent.

Viewed now as a season of devout and joyful expectation, Advent retains very little of its old penitential focus, but we still have the option of using the liturgical color of rose today as we rejoice that Christmas is near, and Christ’s second coming is nearer than it was yesterday.

REJOICE!

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.

Christmas Anticipation Prayer



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, *[here mention your request]* through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Beginning on St. Andrew the Apostle's feast day, November 30, this beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the feast of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For those interested in becoming Catholic, receiving Sacraments or simply interested in learning more about the faith, please join us next **Sunday, December 18** after the 10:30am Mass in the Rectory Conference Room. **This week’s topic: The Holy Catholic Church.** For questions please contact Fr. Barrow at 884-4968 or by email at associate@olmparish.org.