



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

† 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

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

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 Third Sunday of Advent ✕ December 17, 2017

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

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 Founded 1853



Parish Incorporated 1867



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Mass of Anticipation for the Third Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Lisa Tanner—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

The Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Ann Murphy—9th Anniversary

9:00 AM Joyce Honour—Memorial

10:30AM Kate Bedard—8th Anniversary

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM George C. Jamieson—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Ellen Allwell—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM John Gardner, Jr.—Memorial

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Late Advent Weekday/St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Jeannine Light—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Michael Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Late Advent Weekday; St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:30AM Bernard Kenny—10th Anniversary

Mass of Anticipation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Albert Catanio—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

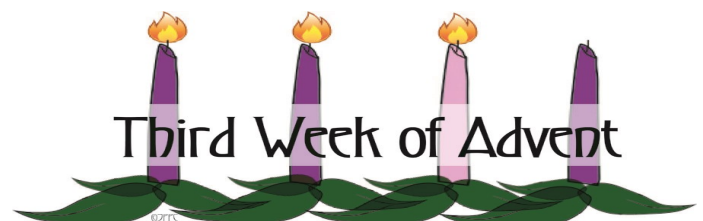
7:30 AM Pat Franzone—15th Anniversary

9:00 AM Janet Fayle—9th Anniversary

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

The Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Eve

4:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God," so said the French Jesuit, Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, or *Gaudete* Sunday. It is a time that the Church calls us to rejoice and celebrate God's presence even in the midst of this Advent Season of waiting.

This third Sunday of Advent is all about joy in the midst of darkness. As we wait the coming of Christ, we light a cheerful rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath as a reminder that our waiting is not in vain. This Sunday gets its name "*gaudete*," which means "rejoice" from the introit to today's Mass: *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."*

These words come from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, which he wrote from prison. St. Paul was no naïve optimist, and he obviously knew real suffering. Despite the intense suffering of his imprisonment, St. Paul was joyful.

"Gaudete" is the word's imperative form. We are commanded to rejoice against the headlines of violence, war and suffering. We do so even if we might not truly feel like rejoicing. *Gaudete* Sunday is a glimpse of the joy that comes at Christmas. The joy we anticipate today is the birth of our Messiah on Christmas Day.

On Christmas, God's light and peace dispelled the darkness of sin and evil. Our faith, hope and love are stronger than any doubt, despair or hatred we encounter in our lives or in our world. The birth of our

Savior is coming so let us begin to "Rejoice!"

We rejoice this Sunday as we gather in Mercy Park for the *Bambinelli* Blessing. This Italian tradition of bringing the Baby Jesus figures from the crèche to be blessed by the Pope is now here at OLM. So please join us on Sunday after the 9:00am Mass as we gather to sing and pray and truly rejoice at the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas.

We also rejoice after going to Confession this week to worthily celebrate Christmas. On this Monday night, December 18th, there are two hours of Confessions scheduled. Come to Confession from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, here at OLM, as two priests are available for both hours of Confessions. Also, there are two priests scheduled for Saturday, December 23rd, for Confessions from 3:00pm until 3:45pm.

No matter the season there is truly no better way to find real joy as we receive God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. Come to Confession this week and then be able to truly rejoice on Christmas in the love and mercy of God.

We also rejoice by helping the poor and needy. Perhaps consider buying an extra gift card at Stop & Shop while getting the Christmas cookie supplies, or an extra gift card at Walmart when going to find replacement lights for the tree this week. OLM Outreach is always in great need of these gift cards. Simple acts of charity bring great joy. Try it, and you'll be rejoicing this Christmas with the Christ Child

who Himself was born poor.

A friend recently gave me a copy of *Scalia Speaks*, a book of the collected speeches and writings of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. In one talk to a Catholic School group the Justice, a devout Catholic, reflected on Advent and Christmas. He writes:

"Christmas is coming soon. The world will celebrate that with us. The world likes to celebrate. It has not observed with us, of course, the penitential season of Advent that precedes Christmas when Christians have traditionally deprived themselves. The world does not like to deprive itself. What can be more incomprehensible to the world than intentionally depriving oneself of pleasure or satisfaction, not in order to lose weight, or to retain one's health, nor even because the pleasure is in any way sinful, but solely in order to mortify the flesh (as we used to say) and thereby to affirm commitment to the truth that our only lasting pleasure and satisfaction is not here, where we are alien citizens, but hereafter."

This late Advent Season is truly a time to celebrate the Messiah's coming at Christmas. We do so not as the world around us celebrates, but as joyful and faith-filled Catholics in prayer with our Lord, receiving the Sacraments, and doing more good works. Come, Lord Jesus! Do good. Be well. God Bless! Go Pats!!!

Father Healey



Why do we use Incense?

Incense has been used in religious rites from ancient times and it can still be found both in the West and the East. In the ancient world it was used to keep demons and other evil spirits away. Herodotus, the Greek historian, recorded that it was popular among the Ancient Assyrians, Babylonians, and Egyptians. In Roman times incense was used to indicate that the emperor or another important person would soon arrive. In Exodus 30:1 God instructs Moses to build an altar on which to burn incense at the entrance of the meeting tent where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.

In Catholicism the use of incense can be traced back to the early Church. The purpose of incensing and the symbolic value of the smoke is that of purification and sanctification. The smoke also conveys the mystical character of the Mass, as we try to penetrate the heavenly realm and the inner workings of God. It also symbolizes our prayers ascending into heaven. As the Psalmist prays, "Let my prayer come like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice." At funerals incense is used too, it symbolizes the soul entering into eternity

The Incarnation reaffirms the goodness of creation and its instrumentality. We are bodily creatures and so smells, sights, and sounds impact us and trigger memories and ideas. So we use incense and other liturgical rites in order to help our worship of God. It also prefigures and imitates the worship enacted eternally in heaven. The book of Revelation describes the heavenly worship as such: "Another angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all God's holy ones. From the angel's hand, the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people." Through the Mass we enter into the presence of God and cross between heaven and earth. Incense is one tool by which we instill this reality in our hearts and minds.

If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at associate@olmparish.org

Weekly Collection

December 10, 2017

Weekly.....	\$11,667.00
EFT.....	\$2,921.00
	Total=\$14,588.00
Outreach.....	\$1,413.50
Retired Religious.....	\$6,754.50
Immaculate Conception.....	\$2,525.50
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$112,511.00

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.

Christmas Flowers



Christmas Flower envelopes are enclosed in budget packets. All donations in memory of loved ones help defray the expense of the beautiful flowers that decorate our church at Christmas. Thank you for your generous support.

Christmas Confessions

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
6:00PM – 8:00PM WITH 2 PRIESTS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
3:00PM – 3:45PM WITH 2 PRIESTS**



Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Wednesday, December 20th:** School Assembly
- **Thursday, December 21st:** Dress Down Day in support of Keep the Heat On Fund.
- **Friday, December 22nd:** Early Dismissal at 11:30am. Christmas vacation begins.

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



● **All RE Classes meet this Sunday, December 17, 2017**

● **No RE Classes next week, December 24th.**
All RE Classes resume after Christmas Break on the weekend of January 7, 2018.



**THE BEST WAYS TO KEEP
CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
IS TO KEEP MASS IN CHRISTMAS**

www.CatholicMemes.com



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

● **Christmas Outreach:** We are always in need of gift cards to Walmart and Stop & Stop. Simply put in envelope marked Outreach and place in collection basket. Thank you.

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



*Best Wishes to our
newly baptized:*

**Eleanor Kate Roland,
and her parents,
William and Julie.**

"Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. She is now called a child of God, for so indeed she is." – The Rite of Baptism



**OLM Rosary Makers
Monthly Workshop
Tuesday, December 19, 2017
9:30am–11:30am
in OLM Cryroom**

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



masstimes.org
MASS TIMES FOR TRAVEL

946 Our Lady of Mercy—5

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.



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.



OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00pm until 8:00pm with Two Priests

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

3:00pm until 3:45pm with Two Priests

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00pm

Concert of Carols with Choir & Orchestra at 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Mass of Christmas Night at 12:00am

Masses of Christmas Day at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Confessions at 3:00pm

Vigil Mass at 4:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF MANKIND

NEW YEAR’S DAY · MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

Mass at 8:30am only

(NB: not a holy day of obligation this year)