



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 Second Sunday of Advent ✕ December 4, 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

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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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OFFICE OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS

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OLM SCHOOL

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



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2016

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

The Mass of Anticipation for the Second Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Rodolphe St. Louis—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Second Sunday of Advent

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

9:00 AM Dr. James Haggerty—Memorial

10:30AM Armando & Katherine DeAngelis—Memorial
 and Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial

5:00PM Laverne Marie Hess—Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Fr. Stanley Nakowicz—4th Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday/St. Nicholas, Bishop

7:30AM Salvatore DiStefano—26th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Ellen Allwell—Memorial

Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

5:00PM Olive Corvese—Memorial

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

7:30AM Elizabeth & Paul E. Moscatelli—Memorial

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

7:00PM Harry Mariani—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Advent Weekday/St. Juan Diego Cuauhtiatocatzin

7:30AM Hak Jin Pyun—Memorial

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Advent Weekday

8:30AM Margaret B. Devlin—41st Anniversary

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 of the Calitri & Gemma Families—Mem.



Dear Parishioners:

Christmas is here already! Or is it? If you look around you see the signs of Christmas everywhere. But by the time December 25 arrives, most people are "Christmased" out — too many parties, too much rich food and stretched budgets. We Catholics don't need to sit idly by while the rest of the world is celebrating Christmas in advance. Instead, we are called to celebrate two seasons: Advent and Christmas.

The Church began a new Liturgical Year last week on the First Sunday of Advent. During the subsequent four weeks, She prepares with mounting expectation and joyful anticipation for the coming of Christ in a spirit of waiting, conversion and hope.

There are always four Sundays in Advent, though not necessarily four full weeks. This year the Feast of Christmas falls on a Sunday so there are four full weeks of Advent for us to truly prepare the way with prayer, charity and alms giving.

Throughout the Season of Advent the prophesies of Isaiah are read often. Some biblical scholars have described Isaiah as the "fifth gospel" as so many of the themes of the gospels have their scriptural beginnings in Isaiah.

The writings of Isaiah are distinguished among the Old Testament writings for their extraordinary literary quality. Isaiah is a prophet of hope and new beginnings. In particular, he speaks of the birth of a new king who will be a "Wonderful Counselor" and "Prince of Peace." Christians have seen in his words a foretelling of the birth of Jesus.

He is a prophet of the

compassion of God. Isaiah's God is a God of mercy, comfort and consolation, much like the Father of whom Jesus spoke.

Isaiah was the first to speak of the God of the Jews as also the God of all people. God's mercy was to reach beyond the boundaries of Jerusalem and Judah, to extend to all peoples in every corner of the earth. Jesus, who brought the gospel to Jew and Gentile alike, exercised his ministry in the spirit of Isaiah.

Isaiah is a prophet of peace and justice. Harmony among all peoples and compassion for the poor are the hallmarks of God's presence. In these matters Jesus spoke out of a prophetic tradition that truly began with Isaiah.

Clearly Isaiah is the Prophet of Advent and should be part of our Advent reflection this season. In between Christmas shopping, card writing, cookie baking, and all the other assorted tasks that take our time and sap our energy this time of year, why not take a little time to read Isaiah and pray and reflect on the real reason of the season.

Another Advent practice that the whole family can do is that of having an empty crib or manger, which each family member softens with straw earned by a sacrifice, a prayer or a work of mercy. After Christmas, the family gathers before the Infant Savior, in his now-padded crib, to pray with joy, and perhaps read a verse from Isaiah.

Advent is here, don't let it pass without acknowledging it with prayer and reflection, confession and sacrifice, charity and mercy. With joyful hope and eager anticipation, let us prepare for the coming of the Son of God, praying with the entire Church: *Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!*

This Thursday, December 8th, we mark the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, and it is a holy day of obligation for all Catholics in the United States. On this feast the Church celebrates the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: *"Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: 'The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.'"*

I hope you join us in celebrating our National Patroness at Mass. There is a Vigil Mass on Wednesday at 5:00pm and three Masses on the holy day at 7:30am, 9:00am and 7:00pm. Come and celebrate Immaculate Mary this week!

I am away this week attending the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors meeting in Washington, DC. I am grateful to Bishop Evans for helping out during my time away. Advent is here! Prepare the way! Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



Is it ever right to be angry?

One question that keeps coming up is the question of anger. Particularly, people ask: is it ever good to be angry with someone else? This question is brought up in relation to several scriptural passages such as Ephesians 4:26 (“Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger.”), the Gospel of Matthew 5:22 (“But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.”), and the scene in the Gospel of John 2:15 when Jesus flips the tables of the money changers. It would seem that we have instances in scripture in which anger is both a sin and not a sin.

It is important to remember a key aspect of Catholic psychology. Part of what makes us human is that each of us possesses what are called the *passions*. Roughly we could call these today the emotions. Emotions, since they are part of our makeup and nature are good. For instance, we are rightly sad when we see another person suffer. Our emotions give us the drive to do things. It is when our emotions exceed our reason’s control that there is a problem.

But in order to answer this possible contradiction it is helpful to distinguish at least two different meanings or types of anger. Scholars have typically referred to these two types of anger as righteous and unrighteous anger. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, righteous anger is an emotional desire to correct vices and maintain justice. If you see someone stealing from a store, the emotion of anger can be the force that drives you to report it to the police.

On the other hand, unrighteous anger is the desire for vengeance in order to do evil to someone. Notice that this type of anger could respond to a real injustice (responding to injustice is good), but it goes beyond the correct response. As the Catechism tells us (1773) anger, as an emotion, is not necessarily evil or sinful, and is good when it contributes to a good action.

“Ask Father Barrow” is a new weekly column by Fr. Barrow. If you have a question about the Catholic Faith, email your questions to Father at associate@olmparish.org and it might appear in the bulletin!

Weekly Collection 

November 20, 2016

Weekly.....	\$11,128.50
EFT.....	\$1,959.50
	Total=\$13,088.00
CCHD.....	\$3,510.50
Outreach.....	\$272.50

November 27, 2016

Weekly.....	\$11,080.50
EFT.....	\$2089.50
	Total=\$13,170.00
Outreach.....	\$822.00
Annual (to date).....	\$76,861.00

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.

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



SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Weekend: Monthly Building & Grounds Collection
Next Weekend: Retired Religious



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner **Lucy G. Chapman** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

May she rest in peace.



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are lovingly donated in memory of Kevin Durnin. In your charity please remember him in your prayers.



Religious Education

NEWS

- **All RE Classes meet this weekend:** Grades 1-5, 10:00am—11:00am; Grades 6-8, 6:00pm—7:00pm.
- RE Advent Confessions on Sunday, December 11th for Grades 3-5. ● Grades 1 & 2 only meet in the AM on Sunday, December 11th



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



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For those interested in becoming Catholic, receiving Confirmation, or simply interested in learning more about the faith, please join us this **Sunday, December 4th** after the 10:30am Mass in the Rectory Conference Room. **This week's topic: Salvation through Jesus Christ.** For questions please contact Fr. Barrow at 884-4968 or by email at associate@olmparish.org.



- Annual OLM School Christmas Pageant! Friday, December 9th at 7pm in OLM Church
- Monday, December 12th, School Assembly at 8:05am
- Monday, December 12th, OLM School Confessions at 1:00pm

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org

**OLM School Invites You to
A Holiday Shopping Event
at Barrington Books on December 6th**

Looking for that perfect gift? Look no further than Barrington Books! Give the gift of reading! 20% of proceeds go to OLM School. Shop at either the Barrington or Cranston locations on Tuesday, December 6th!



*Patronal Feast of the USA
A Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics
Mass Schedule*

Wednesday, December 7th

Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

Thursday, December 8th

Holy Day Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 7:00pm

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A



As we celebrate this second Sunday of the new liturgical year, we note that this is an A year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. In A years, we concentrate on the Gospel of Matthew. In B years, we read Mark, and in C years, we delve into Luke.

Matthew was a Jewish Christian writing for a similar audience. His Gospel emphasizes Jesus as promised Messiah, is filled with references to Jewish life, and is even divided into five sections reflecting the Pentateuch of Moses.

Matthew's Gospel is always listed first because it used to be believed that it was the first of the four Gospels to be written. Scholars now know that Mark's was earlier and that Matthew probably used it as his primary source.

It is from Matthew's Gospel that we get our familiar forms of the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer.



O ADONAI!

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.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of spring. By the

Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. Jn 3:19-21). By 1500, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.



The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning that can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents 1,000 years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, *Gaudete* Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; *Gaudete* Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.