

“

*The Spirit
drove Jesus
out into the
desert, and he
remained in
the desert for
forty days,
tempted by
Satan.*

MARK 1:12-13

”



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Mass Intentions

for the Week
 ©JPPC

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
 FEBRUARY 18, 2018**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Mass of Anticipation for the 1st Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Romualdas Jagminas—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The First Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Bruce Hart—4th Anniversary
 10:30AM Matilda Manocchia—Memorial
 5:00PM Jeremiah Rego—Month’s Mind

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Lenten Weekday
 8:30AM Marie Oliverio—Memorial
 12:05PM Claire Sharpe—Month’s Mind

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Russell Johnson—Memorial
 12:05PM Dolores K. Vespia—3rd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Lenten Wednesday/St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Dalia Pundys—6th Anniversary
 12:05PM Fay Masterson—Month’s Mind

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory
 12:05PM Sarah Diccico—Memorial

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Lenten Weekday/St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
 7:30AM Kathy Andrews—Memorial
 12:05PM James Southard III—Memorial

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Lenten Weekday
 8:30AM Eraclio Iacobucci—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Steven Reid, Jr. —-Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The Second Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Anne Dayian—1st Anniversary
 10:30AM Lisa R. Horne—1st Anniversary
 5:00PM Michael Fabry—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Lent is here! Our forty days of repentance of sin and conversion to Christ! Ash Wednesday has come and gone, along with it the ashes on our foreheads. But the call to commit to more prayer, more penance, more sacrifice and more charity remains!

The three traditional Lenten disciplines are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. St. Peter Chrysologus taught that “*prayer knocks, fasting obtains, mercy receives.*” How can we take that wisdom to heart for Lent? How can we let those disciplines rule our lives over our own passions and selfish desires?

Begin with prayer. Jesus taught us to pray always. (Luke 18:1) To pray is to enter consciously and deliberately into the presence of God. Jesus was faithful unto death because He knew that He was always in the presence of our Heavenly Father, even when He did not feel that presence.

We too are always in the presence of our Heavenly Father who loves us perfectly. To “pray always” means to “practice the presence of God.” During this Lenten season, find the time to be with God in prayer. Stop by Church and spend time with the Lord. Pray the Rosary with more frequency. Pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays. Come to Daily Mass. God is present to us always, so why not acknowledge it with more prayer time.

Our Lenten fasting is more than just self-inflicted hunger, and it certainly isn't dieting. Fasting is a discipline that allows us to discover our true needs and our present

priorities. It allows us to discover whether our supposed desire for God is greater or less than our obvious desires for everything that is not God.

This Lent, choose to fast from those things, including those very good things, that easily become idols in our lives. Let's see if our desire for fullness, pleasure and love can be met by God. Until we give God every opportunity to be the first in our lives, we continue to fall into some form of idolatry. We'll continue to approach material things and even people in a grasping way, rather than approaching them with generous and open hands and hearts.

In Catholic tradition, almsgiving were the acts of charity or donations given above one's tithe or duty. This year, let the Lenten discipline of almsgiving become the practice of a lifetime. Make a choice to spend more time, money and energy supporting the needs of the poor and less fortunate. Give alms by supporting charity out of sacrifice not simply by giving from a surplus.

Next weekend we put our almsgiving to the test as we take up the Catholic Charity Appeal at OLM. It is our annual call to prayerfully and financially support the good works of our local Church in the Diocese of Providence.

These good works include welcoming refugees and immigrants, feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, aiding the sick and visiting the prisoner, and teaching the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith to our young people and sharing the Good News of Christ with the

ignorant.

The Catholic Charity Appeal supports the many ministries and programs of the Diocese of Providence which provide social, educational and spiritual support to thousands of Rhode Islanders each year regardless of race, creed or background. We do not help people because they are Catholic, we do it because we are Catholic!

We take up the Catholic Charity Appeal at all Masses next weekend. Our 2018 OLM Parish Goal is \$193,000 and I am hopeful that we can once again not only make the goal, but exceed it! I thank Kevin and Nancy McDevitt for serving as the General Chairs of the CCA here at OLM, and also Steve and Antonia Zubiago who serve as the Chairs to the Bishop's Partners in Charity at OLM. I am grateful for their leadership of the Charity Appeal in our parish. Please be prepared as we take up the in-pew solicitation of the CCA at all Masses next weekend. We are asking every parish family to prayerfully consider pledging a sacrificial gift of \$300 over 12 months. I am grateful for any support you choose to give and in the name of the poor and needy who directly benefit from your generosity, I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude.

It's Lent so remember that Fridays are for fish and Stations! Do good. Be well. Pray, fast and give alms!



Why are there forty days of Lent?

We are now in the midst of Lent. Very often we call it the “40” of Lent. There is a strong Biblical foundation for observing a 40 day period of more intense prayer, fasting and almsgiving (we should be doing these things year round). The Scriptures are full of the significance of the number 40.

In the Old Testament, God punished mankind by sending a flood over the earth for 40 days and nights. The people of Nineveh repented of their sins with 40 days of fasting. The Prophet Ezekiel lay on his right side for 40 days as a precursor to the siege and destruction of Jerusalem. The Prophet Elijah fasted and prayed for 40 days on Mount Horeb. Moses fasted 40 days and nights while on Mount Sinai. Moses and the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 penitential years until they entered the Promised Land.

While there are many references to 40 days in the Old Testament, the main reason Lent is 40 days is in imitation of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, the Lord fasted for 40 days and nights in the desert in preparation for the beginning of His public ministry. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: “By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.”

Yet, counting out exactly the 40 days takes more than a little work. The season of Lent (Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday) is technically, give or take, 44 days. We could do some math to make the number of days for penance and fasting before Easter 40 (44 days minus 6 Sundays, plus Good Friday and Holy Saturday equals 40). Yet that still does not take into account the two solemnities which usually fall within Lent and are not days of penance and fasting (e.g. St. Joseph’s Day [March 19] and the Annunciation [March 25]). Further, Sundays are still technically part of Lent (hence the reason why we number them 1st Sunday of Lent, 2nd, and so on. Also, the readings for each Sunday frame each Lenten week). At the very least Lent is a symbolic 40 days of more intense prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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

LENT
PRAY + FAST + GIVE

CREATED BY DEBATE HQ.COM

Weekly Collection

February 11, 2018

Weekly.....	\$11,635.00
EFT.....	\$2,834.00
Total=	\$14,469.00
Outreach.....	\$943.00

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.



PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY
Monday, February 19, 2018
Masses at 8:30AM & 12:05PM
The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.



2018
CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL
Supporting the work of the Church

2018 OLM Parish Goal=\$193,864

2017 OLM Parish Goal=\$193,864

2017 OLM Parish Raised=\$252,073

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



This Week at OLM School

● **Monday, February 19th:** Winter Vacation begins. School resumes on Monday, February 26th.

Discover the OLM Difference!

www.olmschool.org



● **Sunday, February 18 & February 25:** NO RE these dates due to Winter School Vacation.



● **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.

● **OLM Bereavement Group** next meeting is on Thursday, March 1 at 4:00PM at Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loss are most welcome to join us.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent
at 7:00PM
Please join us!

Best Wishes to our newly baptized:



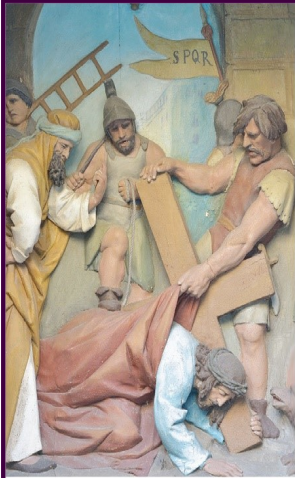
Adeline Jean Overton,
and her parents, Robert and Jennifer.

Audrey Grace Pinheiro,
and her parents, Cory and Kristyn-Anne.

"Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are." – The Rite of Baptism



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Cheryl Zola, JoAnne Celender, Timothy Franzone, and John Sugrue who have died.



Lent
at
**Our Lady
of Mercy Church**
65 Third Street,
East Greenwich, RI



Daily Masses during Lent

Monday - Friday, 7:30AM & 12:05PM

Confessions during Lent

Monday - Friday 11:45AM - Noon
Mondays 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests
Saturdays 3:00PM - 3:45PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00PM
Living Stations of the Cross, Friday March 23, 1:00PM & 7:00PM

Lenten Mission

Sunday – Wednesday, March 4 - 7
Mission Preacher:
Monsignor Douglas Cook, Diocese of Orange, CA

St. Patrick's and St. Joseph Day Masses

St. Patrick's Day Mass
Saturday, March 17, 11:00AM
Auxiliary Bishop Robert C. Evans, Celebrant,
Fr. David F. Gaffney, Homilist
St. Joseph's Day Mass in Italian
Monday, March 19, 12:05PM
Auxiliary Bishop Robert C. Evans, Celebrant,
Father James T. Ruggeri, Homilist

All-Day Confessions for Deanery VII

Saturday, March 24, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

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Lenten Fast and Abstinence
Regulations for Catholics

Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Also, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting: those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day. Serious health conditions excuse a person from these precepts. Pastors and parents are encouraged by the law of the Church to ensure that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated nonetheless in an authentic sense of penance. Following the implementation of the revised Code of Canon Law on November 27, 1983, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States determined that the rules of fast and abstinence which have existed for the last several years in this country be maintained. Namely, that the faithful observe suitable penitential practices on all Fridays throughout the year. These penitential practices need not include abstaining from meat. However, as indicated above, the faithful must not eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. They must also observe faithfully the fast regulations as they have been stated above in accord with the universal law of the Church (Cf. Code of Canon Law, Canons 1250-1252).



OLM Lenten Book Rack: A selection of spiritual and informative books and pamphlets are available for Lent on our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to stop and browse!

OLM Lenten Table: During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with religious articles both new and old. These items are available to you without cost. They have been donated by OLM parishioners. Stop by and check them out!