



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

Holyday 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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time ✕ February 19, 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 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 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The Mass of Anticipation for Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Edward & Helen Aptt—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Bruce Hart—3rd Anniversary
 10:30AM Armando, Katherine, & Gaetano DeAngelis—Mem
 5:00PM Ronald Crepeau—Month's Mind

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20-PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY

Weekday
 8:30AM Deborah O'Connell—3rd Anniversary

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Weekday/St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Dalia Pundys—5th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 7:30AM Denise Coleman—Memorial

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
 7:30AM Jean Perretta—Memorial

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Weekday
 7:30AM Steven Wilmes—Memorial

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Weekday: BVM
 8:30AM Souls in Purgatory

Mass of Anticipation for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Sonny & Etta Iannuccilli—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Theresa Kissane—Memorial
 10:30AM Deceased Members of Bess Family—Memorial
 5:00PM Michael Turner—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Snow days and snowstorms hit us hard last week. Let's hope we've seen the worst of the winter weather this year! I wish to thank Paul Anderson and our OLM Maintenance Crew who worked so hard plowing, shoveling and removing hazardous snow and ice from the Church and School property. They did a great job in tough weather conditions so please say "Thanks" when you see them.

This week schools are closed for the Winter Vacation. It's hard to believe that February is coming to an end already. We look forward to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday which falls on March 1st this year. Next week's bulletin features more about the Season of Lent and the Lenten Schedule at OLM.

You may have read about a recent "Town Hall Meeting" for the Catholic Parishes in the City of Warwick. The decline in those coming to Mass and receiving the sacraments, and also a reduced number of priests available was the topic. The Warwick parishes are beginning to prepare for a future with less people and less priests.

The decline in the sacramental life of the Church has also led to a decline in the financial support available to keep parishes viable. Many parishes have very large infrastructures that were built for an era when they were full and thriving. These require a great deal of expense to heat, maintain and keep up.

The recent meeting of Warwick Parishes allowed many parishioners to voice their

concerns about the future of their own parish while hearing about the realities of the Catholic Church in the 21st Century.

The reality in Rhode Island is that we have an aging and shrinking population in general. Thus, we have more parishes than people and priests available to serve them. Parishes merging and even some closing, as was seen recently in both Pawtucket and Providence, is part of the reality of the future.

We are blessed to have two priests and a very large, active parish at OLM. However, the reality is that we are a parish of 2,200 registered families but only about 600 OLM families attend Mass regularly and financially support the parish consistently. Across the Diocese, and the country, just a third of Catholics actually attend Mass and financially support their parish regularly.

This is the reality for the Church today. Unlike our past generations of Catholics who were active in the life of their Church, attended Sunday Mass faithfully and contributed to their parish's fiscal stability, today for many Catholics such sacrifice, commitment and faith are not a lived reality.

Yes, many Catholics still continue to come to Church for Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations and Funerals, and usually do like to attend Mass at Christmas and Easter. However, faithfully dedicating 40 minutes a week to attend Sunday Mass, worship God in prayer and give financial support to their parish, is not a real priority for them. It is a rather sad, but true, reality we face as a Church.

At OLM we are most

certainly grateful to the many good and faithful people that are truly committed to their Catholic Faith and worship of God at Sunday Mass. These people are also most generous in their financial support of the parish, for which we are truly grateful.

OLM is also a parish that has many volunteers who truly commit themselves to living the Catholic Faith. They serve in Outreach Ministry, teach Religious Education, Minister at Masses, serve on boards and volunteer at our parish school, social events and spiritual groups. They contribute to the vitality and life of our parish and generously share their talent and time. We offer our appreciation and give thanks for what they do for God, Church, and OLM!

As a parish family we too must look toward our own future and realize it is to be very different than our past. Let us begin by praying for a renewal of the faith life of many of our fellow parishioners who have somehow fallen away from God, Church and the Sacraments. Let's invite someone we know who has fallen away to join us at Sunday Mass. Let us celebrate our faith with them and share with them how the Eucharistic Lord inspires and nourishes us each Sunday. It may be just a small step but it is an important step forward in our future as Church and Parish.

Happy President's Day!
A happy and restful break this week to teachers and students!
Be well. Do good. God Bless.



What is the relation between the Catholic Church and Public Policy?

This Monday, February 20th we celebrate President’s Day originally in honor of George Washington, but it has since become an occasion to remember all presidents. It is a good day to reflect on the Catholic Church’s participation in public policy here in the United States.

President Washington once said, “Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.” Washington, the other founding fathers, and the states themselves saw the value of religion in the public domain, but today the metaphor “Separation of Church and State” has come to mean the prohibition of public displays of faith (the removal of crucifixes and Biblical quotations) and the prohibition of religion in political discourse. Interestingly it is a *phrase* not found in the Constitution, but is shorthand to refer to the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Since 1947 there have been three contemporary interpretations of “Separation of Church and State:” *strict separationism, non-preferentialism, and the jurisdictional/federalism-enhancing view.*

Strict separationism prohibits the government from any religious influence or exercise (the government is to be irreligious). *Non-preferentialism* believes that the national government will not establish an official church of the U.S. and it will not favor one religion over another. This does not exclude government support for or influence from a particular religion. Nor does it prohibit the government from supporting piety, religiosity, and religiously grounded morality. The *jurisdictional-enhancing view* argues for no official church and offers protection to each state to maintain religious establishments and policies within its borders. Only one interpretation prohibits the influence of religion in politics and that is the first, which, not surprisingly, has been invoked to silence religious influence in the public square.

Fr. Healey regularly lobbies at the RI General Assembly on issues of poverty, the common good, sanctity of life, and respect for human dignity. In state capitals throughout the U.S. the Catholic Church is advocating for such policies. All of us need to become more active in our local politics to make our voice heard. Please visit www.faithfulcitizenri.org to see how you can get involved. Those who advocate for human life and dignity, peace and justice, and religious freedom reflect biblical values which are the cornerstone of Western Civilization and of the United States. Those who oppose religion in the public square are hacking away at the very foundation upon which they stand. If anyone says: “your opinion is invalid because you are a Catholic and religion cannot be involved in public policies,” then they are following only one interpretation of the Constitution. We can appeal to the founding fathers and to the Constitution to support us in our efforts as Catholic Citizens.

If you have a question about the Catholic Faith , email your questions directly to Father Barrow at associate@olmparish.org

Weekly Collection 

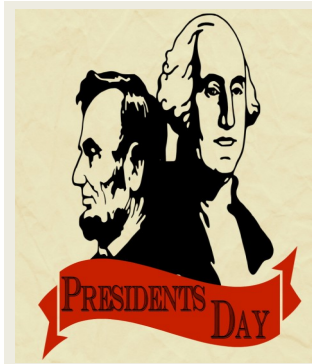
February 12, 2017

Weekly.....	\$12,198.00
Electronic Giving.....	\$2,966.50
	Total=\$15,164.50
Outreach.....	\$1,064.00

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 20**

Mass at 8:30AM

The OLM Parish Office is closed for the holiday.



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners **Gerald E. Celio** and **Raymond McCormick** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last week.

May they rest in peace.



Religious Education NEWS

●No RE Classes on Sunday, February 19th & 26th due to School Winter Vacation. *We wish all our RE Teachers, Students and Families a great vacation!*



●Monday, February 20: Mid-Winter School Vacation begins!

●Monday, February 27: School resumes!

Have a safe and restful break!

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org



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 Sacraments or simply interested in learning more about the faith, please join us **this Sunday, February 19** after the 10:30am Mass in the Rectory Conference Room. **This week's topic: The Law of the Gospel.** For questions please contact Fr. Barrow at 884-4968 or by email at associate@olmparish.org



*Prayerful Best Wishes
to our newly baptized :*

Arden Serafina Farside,
and her parents, Joseph & Aubrey.

Olivia Suzanne Hayek,
and her parents, Nathan and Lauren.

Oliver John Ocfemia,
and his parents, Gil and Iris.

Adelyn Aileen Pardini,
and her parents, Jonathan and Cassandra.

*"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*



ASHES NEEDED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please bring your old blessed palm branches from last Palm Sunday. Baskets will be at the doors next weekend, February 25/26 to collect your palm branches. Please deposit all branches in the baskets. These branches are to be burned and the ashes used for Ash Wednesday Masses on March 1, 2017. Thank you!



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

OUR LADY'S



ROSARY MAKERS

OLM Rosary Makers Monthly Workshop

Tuesday, February 21, 2017
9:30am—11:30am
OLM Cry Room

Materials and instructions provided.

Come join us in making Rosaries for the missions!



Pray the Rosary to End Abortion



We have partnered with Parish Giving to offer this program to all of our parishioners.

It's simple: just log on to the Our Lady of Mercy website (www.olmparish.org) and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration instructions. **It's secure:** Parish Giving is Payment Card Industry compliant and uses the strongest Secure Sockets Layering encryption technology available. **It's Convenient:** No more searching for the checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM machine. You can pick the day of the month for the recurring contributions to be processed. **Tax benefits:** You will be able to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.

Parish benefits: Stable monthly contributions and significant reduction of parish administrative costs.

To get started log on to: <http://www.olmparish.org> and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration steps.

ENSURE YOUR WEEKLY SUPPORT OF OLM PARISH WHILE AWAY ON WINTER VACATION or IN FLORIDA!!!!

Vacationing?
Finding a Catholic
Church Is Just a Click
Away!



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