

“AND SO
REVEALED HIS
GLORY, AND
HIS DISCIPLES
BEGAN TO
BELIEVE IN HIM.”

JOHN 2:11





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Mass Intentions
 for the Week
 ©JPPC

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 JANUARY 20, 2019**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

The Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Michael Alix—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial
 10:30AM Special Intention
 5:00PM Janet Fabry—Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, JANUARY 21—MLK HOLIDAY

St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
 8:30AM Jean Selwyn—18th Anniversary

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
 7:30AM For All the Unborn

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Weekday: St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
 7:30AM Margaret M. Healey—31st Anniversary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Fay Masterson—1st Anniversary

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
 7:30AM Francis J. Maguire—28th Anniversary

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

St. Timothy & St. Titus, Bishops
 8:30AM Timothy Franzone—1st Anniversary
The Mass of Anticipation for 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
 4:00PM George V. McKenna—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Deceased Alumni of OLM School
 10:30AM Joan O'Donnell—Memorial
 5:00PM Richard Patrick Liesching—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Since the 1973 Supreme Court cases, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized abortion-on-demand in our country, over 60 million lives have been lost to abortion. On this Tuesday we mark this sad, and infamous, anniversary. It is a National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

We will mark this anniversary at OLM with a Mass for the legal protection of the unborn at 7:30am. Also, we will gather in prayer on Tuesday night at 7:00pm for a Holy Hour of Life in which we will pray the Litany for Life before the Eucharistic Lord. I invite you to join us on this Day of Prayer. If you are unable to join us, please offer a Rosary on Tuesday for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

Praying for the protection of human life and respect of human dignity is a call we must all answer. Such prayer is vitally important if we are ever to change hearts and minds to help build a culture of life and civilization of love.

Pope Francis has accurately described abortion on demand as part of the "throwaway culture". He states: *"It is horrific even to think that there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day, Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as unnecessary."*

I reflected on this sad anniversary that resulted in the death of so many innocent unborn children and was struck

by a recent article in the local news. It reported that the fertility rate in the United States is below what researchers say is the level needed for the country's population to replace itself over time. New figures released by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics show that the 2017 total fertility rate in the United States is 16 percent lower than that required level.

Only two states in the country had a fertility rate sufficient for the population to replace itself, according to the NCHS. And in Rhode Island, the fertility rate was 1,508.5 births per 1,000, well below the replacement level. As a culture we are not having enough children yet many in our society rejoice in the legalization of abortion on demand.

So we must pray. But we must also act! We must work to see that children are welcomed into the world. We must work to ensure every child has pre-natal and post-natal care. We must work to ensure every child has enough food to eat, shelter to live in, clothing to wear and a good education available. But most of all we must act with love to build a culture that respects and supports human life from natural conception until natural death.

On Christmas we celebrated the birth of the Christ Child. There was no room in the inn for the Holy Family and so the Son of God was born in poverty and humility in a barn. Yet He was welcomed with great joy and love. Let's adopt this same attitude for every unborn child and see that they too are welcomed with great joy and love and not discarded as

unnecessary or burdensome.

So pray and act! But we must also advocate. While we celebrated Christmas, members of the RI General Assembly pre-filed an extreme and radical pro-abortion bill. The top priority for the powerful pro-abortion lobby and their many allies at the RI Statehouse is to expand abortion and ensure our tax payer dollars pay for it!

What a sad commentary on their priorities as elected officials. This group of extreme pro-abortion legislators includes those elected from East Greenwich, Warwick and North Kingstown. They seem to be driven not to serve the common good of our state but rather to a radical agenda and great desire to see legal abortion is expanded and funded by taxpayers.

So please take some time to advocate on behalf of unborn children! Call your state representative or state senator and ask them to work to protect the innocent unborn, to respect human life and dignity and to truly serve the common good of all including the unborn.

Your voice counts so don't remain silent as the unborn scream! Let each of us commit to prayer, action and advocacy. Let us be the voice of the voiceless as we pray to the God of Life for the unborn, as we act for the unborn with love and as we advocate for the unborn with justice!

Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



Does an Embryo have a Soul?

Part of the abortion debate revolves around the question of ensoulment. Ensoulment is the time or process when the soul and body come together to form a human being. Hence, the question of when ensoulment occurs is a pivotal part of the abortion debate.

Some pro-choice proponents argue that ensoulment occurs several months after conception based on the writings of some famous church theologians. In 2008 on Meet the Press, when asked about the timing of ensoulment, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi stated: "I would say that as an ardent, practicing Catholic, this is an issue that I have studied for a long time. And what I know is, over the centuries, the doctors of the Church have not been able to make that definition. St. Augustine said at three months. We don't know." Likewise, one of Catholicism's foremost theologians, St. Thomas Aquinas argued that ensoulment occurred around forty days after conception. Regardless of some of her theologians, Church teaching has consistently upheld that life is to be protected from the moment of conception. So what are we to make of these claims about some of our greatest minds?

St. Thomas Aquinas, in particular, argued for delayed ensoulment on the basis of the inaccurate biology of his time. Importantly, the Magisterium holds Thomas in high regard. While Thomas's biology is no longer tenable today, his philosophical and metaphysical principles are still applicable. Thinkers today claim that if St. Thomas had our current advanced understanding of human conception, then he would argue that ensoulment occurs right at conception. Some argue that Thomas's philosophy commits him to delayed ensoulment, but this too is not the case.

We see this clearly when we understand that for St. Thomas, in order for a living being to develop, it must have a principle of development. Just like a car needs fuel to run, and the fuel is the principle of motion, likewise a living being needs a principle which allows it to run and mature. We call this principle of motion of a living being the soul. Generally speaking there are three types of souls distinguished by their proper activities: vegetative, sensitive, and rational. Importantly, a living being can only have one type of soul/principle and souls do not develop/evolve from one to the other (gasoline can run a car, but it cannot change itself and power an animal).

Hence in order for a human embryo to develop to a mature human person, it must already have a rational (i.e. human) soul. You can't give what you don't have after all. Hence for St. Thomas we can say that ensoulment occurs right at conception.



Weekly Collection 

January 13, 2019

Weekly.....	\$11,578.00
EFT.....	\$2,859.00
	Total=\$14,437.00
Catholic University	\$2,049.50
Outreach.....	\$595.00
Annual (Final).....	\$122,484.00

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!

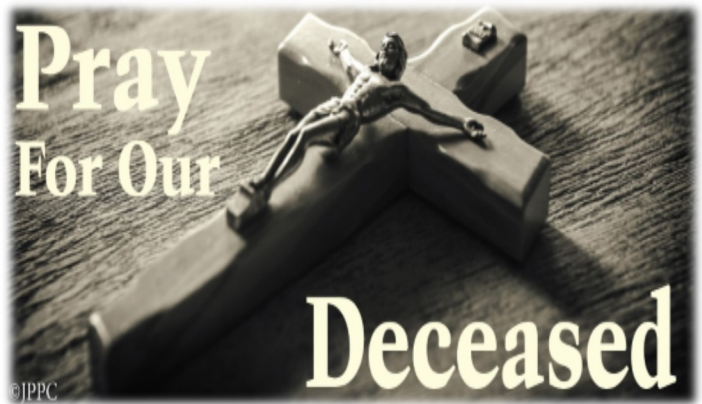


Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Second Collections

This Week: The Church in Latin America

Next Week: Saints & Scholars Collection



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of OLM Parishioner **Angelo Almonte, Jr.** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

Rest in Peace



- **Monday, January 21, 2019:** No School in observance of the MLK Day Holiday
- **Tuesday, January 22, 2019:** OLM School weekly Mass at 8:15am. All are welcome to join us!
- **Sunday, January 27, 2019:** Alumni Mass at 9:00am followed by Open House at OLM School

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org

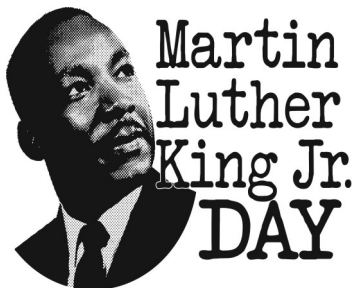
OLM Women's Book Group



All women of OLM are invited to join our new OLM Women's Book Club. We will be meeting once a month on the last Friday of the month, starting January 25th from 6:30PM to 7:45PM. The book we will be reading is called: *'The Friendship Project: The Catholic*

Woman's Guide to Making and Keeping Fabulous Faith-Filled Friends'. Meetings will take place in a private home. For more information, please contact Tricia Weekers via email at twweekers@gmail.com or by phone at 401- 885-8213.

Monday, January 21, 2019



Mass at 8:30am
The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.



- **NO RE Classes this weekend, January 20, 2019** in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday.
- **NO AM RE Classes on January 27, 2019** due to OLM School Open House. RE Grades 6—8 will meet on January 27th.



- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.
- **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

BASEBALL COACHES NEEDED



OLM Middle School is looking for a head coach and assistant coach to instruct its 6th thru 8th Grade baseball team for the months of April and May. Responsibilities to include four practices and games per week. Any compensation based on experience. Please contact Dean Burdon at 401-487-8784 for more information.

Discover
the **OLM**
Advantage

Featuring a full-day Pre-K for three year olds all the way to a top-notch Middle School high school prep program, OLM School offers a tradition of excellence in academics, athletics and the arts, all anchored by our Catholic Faith. We are proud of our outstanding faculty, award winning extra-curriculars and an amazing community of families which help to nurture the mind, body and soul of each and every one of our students. Your child will truly thrive in our warm, faith-based environment that promotes respect, mercy and compassion for others. Please visit us to Discover the OLM Advantage! We look forward to welcoming you!

Open House

When: Sunday, January 27th, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: Our Lady of Mercy School
55 4th Avenue,
East Greenwich, RI

*If you have questions, please contact us at **401-884-1618** or principal@olmschool.org to arrange for a tour.*



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1956



Pray to end
Abortion

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

***A Day of Prayer for the Legal
Protection of Unborn Children***

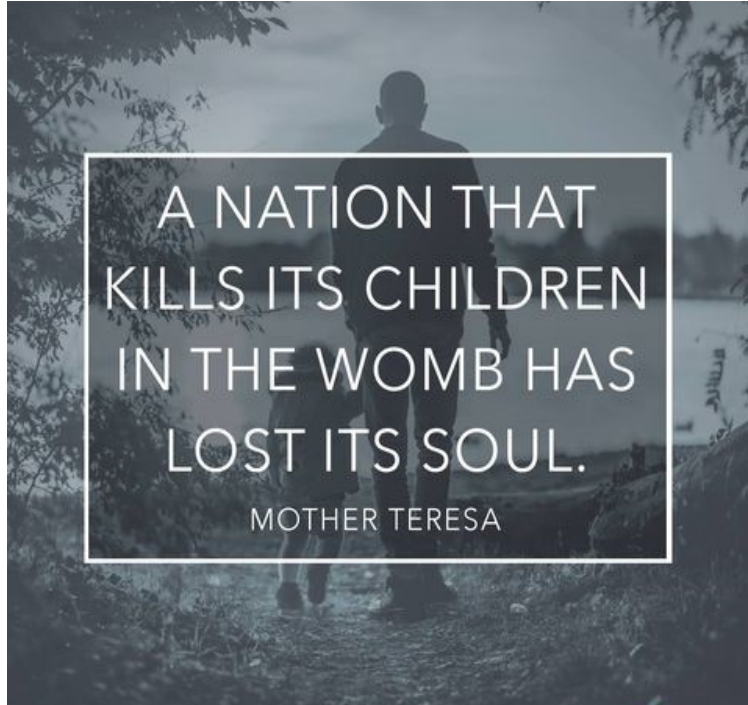
Holy Hour for Life at 7:00PM

Eucharistic Adoration

Litany for Life

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

***Join us in praying for the legal
protection of unborn children.***



A NATION THAT
KILLS ITS CHILDREN
IN THE WOMB HAS
LOST ITS SOUL.

MOTHER TERESA