

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Happy
the nation
whose God
is the Lord,
the people
chosen as his
very own.**

PSALM 33:12





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Mass Intentions for the Week

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**THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 7, 2019**

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Mass of Anticipation for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM Mary & James Winsper—Memorial

SUNDAY, JULY 7

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Thomas J. Brescia—7th Anniversary
 10:30AM John Joseph Tripode, Sr. —16th Anniversary

MONDAY, JULY 8

Weekday

7:30AM Carmine DiChiaro—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, JULY 9

Weekday; St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest & Companion Martyrs

7:30AM Brian Messier-2nd Ann. & R.G. Peter-Bdy. Rmb.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Weekday

7:30AM Josephine DiStefano—11th Anniversary

THURSDAY, JULY 11

St. Benedict, Abbott

7:30AM Joan O'Donnell—Memorial

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Weekday

7:30AM John Bosco Rhee—Memorial

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Weekday; St. Henry; BVM

8:30AM Derek Parenteau—Birthday Remembrance

Mass of Anticipation for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00PM William & Margaret Ahearn—Memorial

SUNDAY, JULY 14

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Eda Pascarella—Memorial
 10:30AM Paul Cienki—1st Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

I hope you had a Happy Fourth of July! It is always a great day to celebrate with family and friends, fireworks and cookouts. We celebrate our freedom and liberty as Americans and rejoice that we have overthrown the shackles of British oppression endured by our forefathers.

However, as we rejoice in our freedoms as citizens of this nation, we also must consider that we are called to be faithful Catholic Citizens. In a time when many object to any form of religious expressions in public, and others reject any attempt to speak the moral truth in the public square, we must be mindful of our role both as citizens of our nation and disciples of our Lord.

Our Catholic teaching about “the dignity of the human person” and “the sanctity of human life,” teaches that the unique nature of humans, unlike any other creature, is something to be elevated and considered sacred as it demands our special respect and protection.

When human dignity is violated it is to do evil. When we serve human dignity, we do good. We live in a culture that often speaks loudly about protecting the environment and rescuing species on the brink of extinction. But, it then casually licenses the killing of unborn children and easily legalizes euthanasia.

The Founders of our country acknowledged the existence of natural law and natural rights. These rights are inalienable and guaranteed by a Creator; by “nature’s God,” to use the words of the Declaration

of Independence. Such ideas have grown out of fashion in much of legal theory and social science today. But they’re very much alive in the way we actually reason and behave in our daily lives.

Our faith teaches us that we have basic rights that come with the special dignity of being human. These rights are inherent to human nature. In other words, they’re part of who we are. No government, and no other person, can legitimately take them away.

However, if “nature’s God” is forced out of any human dialogue, and political debate in the public square, then our rights become nothing more than a mere social convention. And social conventions can, and do, often change. Thus the very definition of who is and who is not a human can easily change to suit the latest social convention.

Our Catholic Faith teaches that all human life, no matter how broken or flawed, young or old, large or small, is sacred because it comes from God. And as both Catholics and citizens we have an obligation to defend human life and dignity.

The dignity of a human life, and its right to exist, are guaranteed by God. Catholic teaching on life and sexuality is part of the same integral vision of the human person that fuels Catholic teaching on immigration, poverty, justice, racism, and peace.

Our great American tradition of freedom has always given people a right to freely bring their beliefs to bear on every social, economic and political problem facing their community. However, many in

our nation and our state seek to stifle such free speech and ban moral beliefs in the public square.

Yet for us as Catholic Citizens it is not only a privilege and not just a right. It’s a demand of the Gospel and our Catholic Faith to speak the truth even in the public square. We also have a duty to treat with charity and justice those people who do not share our beliefs. But that must never be an excuse for silence on matters of grave importance even when such truths of our faith are unpopular and seemingly inconvenient.

This requires of all Catholics to truly be courageous witnesses to our moral convictions, and seek to advance what we believe about key moral issues in the public square. This is not a matter of imposing our beliefs upon others, but rather an act of truth-telling. Such truth is vital to the well being of our democracy. It is a duty and responsibility for each of us as faithful citizens of our nation to speak the truth with charity.

In this time of moral confusion in our culture and erosion of morality in the public square, consider the words of St Augustine in the 4th century: *“Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying, but let us live well, and times will be good. We are the times. Such as we are, such are the times.”*

God Bless! Be well. Do Good. Go Sox! God Bless America!!



**Freedom and Bravery:
The American Saint**

We live in a culture that is in desperate need of Catholics in America to live out their faith with great zeal and joy. To follow in the footsteps of Christ. To be saints! While there are not many saints that have been born here in the United States, there are a few. We have saints like St. Katherine Drexel, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Yet, there are more who currently have their cause for canonization underway.

Servant of God Fr. Emil Kapaun, born in Kansas, served as a military chaplain in the Korean War. As a prisoner of war, he would lead secret prayer services and share his rations with the other captives. Another military chaplain, Servant of God Fr. Vincent Capodanno, was killed in action in Vietnam. "The Grunt Padre" as he was known, was killed while administering Last Rites to the dying. Even after being wounded he pressed forward to anoint more soldiers before he was eventually killed. The bravery and love for their brothers exhibited by these two men show the conviction that we must have in our faith.

Venerable Augustine Tolton, was born into slavery in Missouri in 1855. He would eventually gain his freedom and with his mother raising him Catholic, he would go to seminary and be ordained a priest in Rome in 1886. Upon returning to the United States he was sent to Chicago to minister to the black Catholic Community there. Fr. Tolton is believed to be the first publicly practicing African American priest in the United States. He was recently advanced from Servant of God to Venerable on June 12th.

To be a saint in America today requires great faith that is deeply rooted in the sacraments. It requires a love for God that does not compromise. It requires bravery in the face of those who constantly scream out their hostility towards the faith. Finally, it requires true knowledge of freedom. As Pope St. John Paul II said, "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought". So as this Independence Day weekend comes to an end, let us pause for a moment and think of how much greater our country would truly be, if we all strived to live as saints.

May God Bless You, and God Bless America.

Dan Mahoney



Weekly Collection

Collection Results for last week are unavailable due to the Print Deadline.

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.

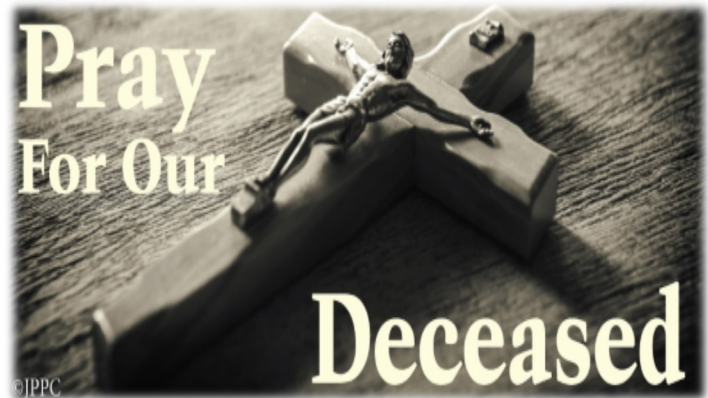
**Thank You for Your Support!
May God Bless Your Generosity!**

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

Summer Office Hours

OLM Parish Office
Monday – Thursday: 8:00AM to 4:00PM
Fridays: 8:00AM – 12:00Noon

*Summer Office Hours during
June, July & August.*



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of **Jane Walsh** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at OLM last week.

Rest In Peace



Religious Education
NEWS

Online registration for
the 2019-2020 RE Classes

*Please go to the parish website &
register. Students in Grades 1-8 need to
be registered and attend sequentially.*

**REGISTER
NOW**



Outreach
Update

- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of any kind of non-perishable food items especially in the summer months. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.
- **OLM Bereavement Group meets Thursday, July 18th at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those experiencing grief or loss are welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and support.
- **For more information** about OLM Outreach, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org



PRIESTHOOD
CONSIDER THE CALL

Quo Vadis Summer Camp
July 28—31

Quo Vadis is Latin for “Where are you going?” Legend tells us that St. Peter asked Jesus this question on the outskirts of Rome. And we know where Jesus went in response to His Father’s will. *Quo Vadis* is a camp for Catholic high school boys (from those entering ninth grade to those having just completed their senior grade year) to deepen their faith, learnt more about vocations, and better discern God’s call in their lives. It is a time of recreation, fellowship, and prayer. Priests and seminarians from around the Diocese of Providence will be present to lead conversations and offer witness talks. Activities will include prayer, daily Mass, recreation (games/sports), group discussions, witness talks, a challenge course, and more...The *Quo Vadis* camp will take place at the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence in Providence (485 Mount Pleasant Avenue).

For pictures and more information about the seminary, visit www.olpseminary.com or contact Fr. Barrow at associate@olmparish.org



A Prayer for the Nation



O GOD OUR CREATOR, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

YOU have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

THROUGH the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

WE ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

GRANT, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be *“one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”* We ask this through Christ our Lord.



masstimes.org

MASS TIMES FOR TRAVEL

Parish Giving

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.

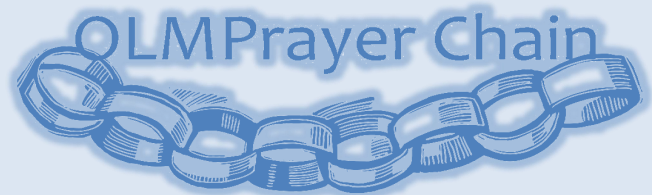
It's Convenient: No more searching for the checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM machine. You can pick the day of the month for the recurring contributions to be processed.

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.

SUPPORT YOUR HOME PARISH WHILE AWAY ON SUMMER VACATION OR AT THE SUMMER HOME!



Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain. The power of pray is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller, or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629 or email directly at 2hart@cox.net.

If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!