



JESUS SAID TO NICODEMUS:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

JOHN 3:14-15



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Mass Intentions
 for the Week
 ©JPPC

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 MARCH 11, 2018**

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM William & Catherine Pearson—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Chris Tasca—4th Anniversary
 10:30AM Hans G. & Hans F. Loeffler—Memorial
 5:00PM Mary Gianardi—5th Anniversary

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Shirley Berlanga—Memorial
 12:05PM Special Intention

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM John J. Tassoni—Memorial
 12:05PM John J. Trainor, Jr.—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Lenten Wednesday
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory
 12:05PM Mary Daly—27th Anniversary

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Sister Lucy Vescera—Memorial
 12:05PM Anna Hostermann—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Earl & Nina Mooney—Memorial
 12:05PM Lucille & Clement LaCoste—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Lenten Weekday
 8:30AM Deceased of McGinley & Kiernan Families—Mem.
The Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop
 11:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Mary Palombo Falchini—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—Memorial
 10:30AM Joseph R. Salvatore—Memorial
 5:00PM Robert Whalen—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

I hope those of you who lost your electricity in the storm last week are now in the light! It was a long weekend for many parishioners left in the cold and dark! Thankfully we never lost the power at OLM like several other parishes throughout the state. They celebrated Masses with just the candlelight!

However, the high winds did some damage to the northeast corner of the Church roof and we lost many shingles. Also, the wind caught a door in the school and did some damage. There were also a few leaks that sprung up as result of the rain and strong winds! Thankfully Paul Anderson, our very able and reliable Director of the Physical Plant, was able to limit any severe damage.

A large branch on a tree next to the Mercy Convent fell, but thankfully missed the Convent. Several large limbs fell over at St. Patrick Cemetery, but missed the fence and headstones. It's nice to see that kind of storm go back to sea! Thankfully Spring is just around the corner!

I hope you were able to join us for the Lenten Mission this past week. We had good crowds at the Mission each night and the priests were also kept busy in the Confessionals each evening. It was a great time of prayer and renewal for our parish. The Mission reminded us to make Lent a time to truly remember so we can truly celebrate Easter on April 1st!

In your name, I thank Monsignor Douglas Cook from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Newport Beach, California who led our Mission last week.

He did a terrific job preaching the Gospel and leading us on Mission. Let's take his message to heart so we change our hearts this Lent and truly prepare them to celebrate the crucified and risen Christ at Easter!

I invite you to join us for the Feast of St. Patrick next Saturday with Mass at 11:00am as we honor the Apostle of Ireland. The Mass features readings and hymns in Irish. Bishop Evans is our celebrant and Father David Gaffney, the Rector of Our Lady of Providence Seminary, is our homilist. As usual we are having a reception following the Mass complete with Irish Coffee, Irish Soda Bread and Shamrock cookies! You don't have to be Irish to come celebrate!

A week from Monday at 12:05pm we mark the Solemnity of St. Joseph with a Mass in Italian. Bishop Evans who is fluent in Italian is our celebrant and Fr. James Ruggeri, my classmate, and Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Providence, is our homilist.

The Mass features readings and hymns in Italian. Not to worry the homily is in English! Our reception following the Mass features Italian Coffee, and those delicious treats, zeppole! You don't have to be Italian to come celebrate.

The last two Saturdays we have celebrated First Confession for our Second Grade First Communion Classes. The children did an excellent job, and know all their prayers! I thank their teachers, OLM RE Directress Mickey St. Jean and Mrs. Mary Ryan from OLM School. I also thank their parents for sharing the Catholic faith

with their children and continuing to see that they are growing in the faith.

Thanks to a few brother priests, the parents were also able to go to Confession while the children came forward for the first time. Confession, as they say, is good for soul! We have ample opportunities here at OLM for Confession, so if you've not made a good Confession in some time, try to do it before Easter.

On Saturday, March 24th, OLM is hosting All-Day Confessions from 9:00am until 3:00pm. There is going to be four priests available the entire time so there won't be any waiting or long lines. This is an annual event across the world and in some Churches in major cities they hold Confessions for 24 hours! Here in Rhode Island there are many other parishes across the Ocean State with All-Day Confessions.

So if you've been away from God, if you need the second chance that only God can offer, if you need some mercy and forgiveness in your life or you simply want to properly prepare for Easter, make a good Confession. Saint Pope John Paul II taught us: "*Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.*"

Be sure to make a good Confession this Lent and make it an Easter to celebrate with peace and joy! Do good. Be well.



What is fasting?

Fasting is a form of penance that imposes limits on the kind or quantity of food or drink. Truth to tell we fast throughout the entire year. Notice that Friday has never ceased to be a day of penance and self-denial throughout the year, because it was on a Friday that our Lord died for our sins. Likewise, we fast an hour before every Mass. Lent is a period when we increase our fasting or add additional practices. This comes from Jesus himself who went into the desert to fast and prepare for his public ministry, death and crucifixion. He is our model and he expects his disciples to do the same.

Until 1966, during Lent the Church prescribed taking only one full meal a day, along with some food for breakfast and a collation. Days of fast and abstinence for the universal Church were Ash Wednesday, the Fridays and Saturdays of Lent, Ember days, and the vigils of certain feasts. Special indulgences (or exemptions) affected different nations and were provided for by canon law (for instance, eating meat on St. Patrick’s Day).

With the constitution *Paenitemini* of Paul VI in 1966, the meaning of the law of fasting remained, but the extent of the obligation was changed. Thus “the law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, while observing approved local custom as far as quantity and quality of food are concerned.” To the law of fast are bound those of the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year and up until the beginning of their sixtieth year.

Prescribed days of fast and abstinence for the whole Church are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The document also recommends, however, that “we, as people of God, make of the entire Lenten season a period of special penitential observance... [and] for all other weekdays of Lent, we strongly recommend participation in daily Mass and a self-imposed observance of fasting.”

Interesting fasting is becoming popular in non-religious circles as a way of purifying the body and limiting attachments to things in this world. Yet, we not only fast to become detached from this world, but also to become attached to Christ. The question for Lent is usually: What am I going to give up this Lent? But we should also ask: is what I am giving up going to bring me closer to God?

When I was younger I would give up sweets, but that really did not bring me any closer to God. Giving up sweets is not a bad thing because it can increase the virtue of temperance. This is always a good thing and self-control helps in our relationship to God. Ultimately Lent is about saying “yes” to God with our whole selves. Ask for the grace to know oneself and find out what to do this Lent to be closer to Him.

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

Weekly Collection

March 4, 2018

Weekly.....	\$12,970.00
EFT.....	\$1,562.00
	Total=\$14,532.00
Outreach.....	\$1,418.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$2,810.50

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.



2018 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL
Supporting the work of the Church

2018 OLM Parish Goal=\$193,864
Pledged to date=\$62,188
% of Parish Goal=32%
Total Donors to date=146
Average Gift=\$425
% of Parish Participation=7%

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of **Michael J. D’Ambra, Jr.** and **Dr. James Leach** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last week.



This Week at OLM School

- **Monday, March 12th:** Lenten Confessions at 1:00pm
- **Friday, March 16th:** Teachers' Professional Day, No School today

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



● **Saturday, March 10th:** First Confessions at 1:00PM for OLM RE First Communion Class.

● **Sunday, March 11th:** RE Grades 3-5 do not meet in the morning but must attend Lenten Confessions immediately following the 5:00pm Mass. Only RE Grades 1 & 2 meet in the morning.

● **Sunday, March 18th & 25th:** All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates (Public, Private, Parochial & Home School) must attend **MANDATORY LECTURES** in the OLM School Cafeteria.



March 17, 2018

Christopher John Abbott & Rachel Lynn Hahn



Attention All OLM Students in Grades 8 thru 12!

Join us this Sunday, March 11th from 7:00PM until 8:30PM at the OLM School Gym. For more information please contact Billy Burdier, OLM Youth Activities Coordinator, at 884-4968 or via email at youthactivities@olmparish.org

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"
—St. Catherine of Siena



● **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 15th 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

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

4th Sunday of Lent



The traditional name for the Fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday. This title comes from *Laetare Jerusalem*, “Rejoice, Jerusalem,” the first words of today’s entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced with a gathering song).

As we have reached the midpoint of Lent, we anticipate the joy of Easter with several options for softening our worship environment: rose-colored vestments, extra music, some floral enhancement.

These are not requirements, however, and many parishes choose to stick with purple vesture and a spare atmosphere.

**LAETARE
SUNDAY**

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.

Our Lady of Mercy Church

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

SATURDAY, MARCH 17
11:00 AM

The Most Rev. Robert C. Evans
Auxiliary Bishop of Providence
Celebrant

The Very Rev. David F. Gaffney
Rector of Our Lady of Providence Seminary
Homilist

Readings and Hymns in the Irish Language.
Homily in English. Reception to follow.



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS

MONDAY, MARCH 19
12:05 PM

The Most Rev. Robert C. Evans
Auxiliary Bishop of Providence
Celebrant

The Rev. James T. Ruggeri,
Pastor of St. Patrick Church, Providence
Homilist

Mass, Readings and Hymns in Italian.
Homily in English. Reception to follow.



OUR LADY'S



ROSARY MAKERS

Monthly Rosary Making Workshop

Tuesday, March 13th

9:30am-11:30am

OLM Cry Room

*Materials and instructions provided.
Join us in making rosaries for the
missions. All are welcome to join us!*