

LENT

Second Sunday



The LORD
loves justice
and right
and fills the
earth with
goodness.

Psalm 33:5



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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 12, 2017

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

The Mass of Anticipation for Second Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Lisa Tanner—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

The Second Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Chris Tasca—3rd Anniversary
 10:30AM Michael Vitucci—4th Anniversary
 5:00PM Anthony Winn—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Mary & Bernard Falchini—Memorial
 12:05PM Intention of the Priest Celebrant

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Earl & Nina Mooney—Memorial
 12:05PM Fr. William F. Sears—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory
 12:05PM Mary May—Memorial

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Sarah DiCicco—Memorial
 12:05PM Special Intention

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Lenten Weekday/St. Patrick, Bishop
 7:30AM Mary Falchini—Birthday Remembrance
 12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday; St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 8:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for the Third Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Mary Gianardi—4th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

The Third Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Frank Wildenhain—Birthday Remembrance
 10:30AM Joseph DiGianfilippo—7th Anniversary
 5:00PM Roy Damiano—Memorial



Dear Parishioners:

I thank those parishioners who have pledged their generous support to the Catholic Charity Appeal. With 191 parish families donating thus far we have raised \$70,547.50 towards our parish goal of \$193,000! It's a great start to reaching our goal this year!

If you have not yet made a pledge to the Catholic Charity Appeal, I ask you to consider to please doing so. We are asking every parish family to make a pledge of \$300. This is \$30 a month over 10 months, or less than a dollar a day! Your support helps the Diocese of Providence to help the poor and the needy through her good works. I thank you for your generous support!

Last week I wrote about alms-giving as pillar of Lent. This week we consider the pillar of prayer. More time given to prayer during Lent is meant to draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully and faithfully. We might pray for those joining our Church this coming Easter. We might pray that more might turn to the Sacrament of Confession during Lent, that they will be truly renewed by God's love and mercy.

During Lent there are many ways to pray more if only we make the time and sacrifice to do so. Each Friday we can prayerfully walk the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm. The Stations of the Cross began as the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary.

Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of

the fourteen stations currently found in every Catholic Church. Join us on Fridays to prayerfully make the Stations of the Cross.

There are two daily masses at OLM during Lent, 7:30am and 12:05pm. Try to attend Daily Mass during the week. The Eucharist is the truly the best way that we have to pray. Adding more prayer to your daily routine in Lent can help deepen your faith and strengthen your relationship with the Lord.

Also, I encourage you to mark your calendar for the Lenten Mission at OLM. Fr. Chris O'Connor, a priest from Boston who serves as the Vice-Rector at St. John's Seminary, will be leading us on Mission from March 25 through 29. The theme for the Mission is "*Helps for the Journey.*" Each night of the Mission Fr. O'Connor will speak and there will be the opportunity for Confession. This is another great way to deepen your faith and strengthen your prayer life.

Speaking of calendars, don't forget to add some great events coming this week. On Friday we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Mass at 12:05pm. Bishop Evans is to celebrate the Mass and Fr. David Cavanagh is the homilist. It will feature readings in Irish along with hymns from Ireland!!

Bishop Tobin has most graciously granted a dispensation from the rule of abstinence from meat for March 17th! The Bishop writes: "*This year, St. Patrick's Day (March 17) falls on a Friday during Lent. On this specific occasion, in light of the festive nature of the day, I hereby dispenses Catholics in the Diocese of Providence from the disciplines of fast and abstinence that are normally required on the Fridays*

of Lent. Catholics who take advantage of this dispensation are reminded that, in maintaining the penitential spirit of the Lenten Season, some other form of penance, prayer, or charitable work should be substituted at an appropriate time." So you may eat your corned beef and cabbage in good conscience on Friday!

Also, St. Joseph's Day is moved to Monday, March 20 because it falls on a Sunday this year. So we will celebrate St. Joseph's Day with Mass in Italian celebrated by Fr. Angelo Carusi, the Pastor of St. Rocco Church. The 12:05pm Mass features readings and hymns in Italian.

Next Saturday night we celebrate the Irish and the Italians with "*Gaelic and Garlic Night.*" Join us at the OLM School Cafeteria from 5:00pm until 9:00pm for a night of Italian and Irish music, corned beef sandwiches, pasta and meatballs, and lots of great desserts. We'll have Irish Step Dancers stopping by and loads of raffles and door prizes!

It is a great occasion for us to get together as a parish family and celebrate St. Patrick and St. Joseph! Tickets are being sold after Masses this weekend and are available in the Parish Office. It's going to be a great family party so be sure to mark it on your calendar and stop by!

Enjoy the corned beef on Friday! See you at Gaelic & Garlic Night! Lent is here! Pray! Fast! Give! Thanks for the support of the Catholic Charity Appeal! Be well. Do good. God Bless!



Does a person always have to follow their conscience?

The short answer to this question is: yes, but with some qualification. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph 1778: “Conscience is a *judgment* [emphasis added] of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is performing, or has already completed.” Another way to understand the conscience is as an *act* of applying our knowledge of good and evil to what we do or will do. A person must always follow his or her conscience. The Vatican Council II document *Dignitatis humanae* states: “He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters... [if he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself].” A person would sin when acting against his conscience.

Properly speaking, the act of following your conscience, involves performing an act that your conscience *has determined* to be the *good* act. When you do not follow your conscience it means that you perform an act that your conscience has determined to be the *evil* act. This is part of the reason why the Church stresses the need to follow one’s conscience; it means that you are doing the good act freely and knowingly instead of being forced to do it. We erroneously think that to “follow one’s conscience” simply means *performing* the act, whether good or evil. Following your conscience does not just mean that you are doing an act that *you* have decided to do; it means doing what you have determined to be the *good* act. There is a big difference.

Furthermore, following one’s conscience is a necessary condition for decision making and acting, but it is not the sufficient condition for decision making. People mistakenly think that so long as a person follows their conscience they are free from error and sin. Rather, someone can follow their conscience, perform what they think is a good act *and* commit sin. This is because there are two stages to the moral act. One stage is performing the good act determined by your conscience. But the essential first stage is forming one’s conscience. A conscience is formed by learning about Christ, his Gospel, the teachings of the Church, the Natural Law, and so on. If someone has not formed their conscience, but follow it by performing an act they incorrectly think is good, but are in fact committing an evil act, then they have sinned. One must follow one’s conscience, but one must also form it.

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

Weekly Collection

March 5, 2017

Weekly.....	\$14,015.00
Electronic Giving.....	\$1,484.50
	Total=\$15,499.50
Outreach.....	\$1,541.50
Building & Grounds.....	\$3,176.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$3,111.50

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.



2017 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

2017 Parish Goal =\$193,864

Pledged to date=\$70,547.50

Number of Donors=191

% of Parish Goal=36%

Average Gift=\$370

Total Raised in 2016=\$268,928

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Confession Times at OLM During Lent



Mondays-Fridays:

11:45AM—12:00PM

Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM

(Two Confessors)

Saturdays: 3:00PM—3:45PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

8:30AM—STATIONS FOR OLM SCHOOL

7:00PM—STATIONS OF THE CROSS

WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST, AND WE BLESS YOU, BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.



•Monday, March 13th: OLM School Lenten Confessions at 1:00pm

•Friday, March 17th: No School today due to Teachers' Professional Day

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org

OLM Lenten Book Rack

A selection of spiritual and informative books and pamphlets for the Lenten Season are available at our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to browse and take one for the season.

OLM Lenten Table

During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with religious articles (both new & gently used). These items are available without any cost. They have been donated by OLM Parishioners. Please stop by and check them out!



•**Sunday, March 12:** RE Grades 1 & 2 only meet this morning. RE Grades 3—8, meet for Lenten Confessions at 6:00PM

•**Sunday, March 19:** No RE Class for Grades 1, 3, 4, & 5. RE Grade 2 ONLY is to meet. ALL PM RE Classes Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet.



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING



FOR LENT FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT CHANGES LIVES.



•**The OLM Bereavement Group** meets on Thursday, March 16 at 4:00pm in Mercy House. All those in grief or experiencing a loss are invited to attend. •**For more information,** contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

Mass at 12:05PM

Bishop Robert C. Evans

Auxiliary Bishop of Providence
Celebrant

Fr. David Cavanagh

Homilist



Irish hymns, music
and readings in the
Irish language.
Reception to follow. All
are invited to Attend.

St. Joseph's Day Mass

Monday, March 20th

Mass at 12:05PM
celebrated in the
Italian language

Father Angelo Carusi

Pastor of St. Rocco
Church, Johnston, RI
Celebrant and Homilist



Mass to include hymns and readings in Italian.

Reception to follow. All are invited to attend.

Gaelic & Garlic Night

In Honor of St. Patrick & St. Joseph

Saturday, March 18, 2017

OLM School Cafeteria from 5:00pm – 9:00pm

Corned Beef Sandwiches, **Pasta & Meatballs** Irish Bread & **Italian Pastry**

Irish Step Dancers! **Raffles & Door Prizes**

Live Music with **Uncle Al the Italian Accordionist &**

Shawn "The Irish Rebel" Reilly

Tickets: \$10 per person in advance or \$12 at the door

\$25 per family of three or more in advance or \$30 at the door

All proceeds benefit the OLM Saints & Scholars Fund

Tickets on sale at Parish Office & after all Masses on March 11/12