

“ Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. ”

JOHN 12:24



PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor*.....884-4968
 pastor@olmparish.org
 Twitter: twitter.com/FatherHealey

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 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

Mass Intentions

for the Week
 ©JPPC

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 MARCH 18, 2018**

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

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

MONDAY, MARCH 19

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 7:30AM Special Intention
 12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Carole Perretta—Memorial
 12:05PM Claire Sharpe—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Lenten Wednesday
 7:30AM Ada Pyun—Memorial
 12:05PM Myrna E. Bigonette—Memorial

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM John J. Tassoni—Memorial
 12:05PM Mary Florence Wynne —Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday/St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
 7:30AM Ada Pyun—Birthday Remembrance
 12:05PM Dr. James B. Leach, Jr. —Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday/Blessed Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr
 8:30AM Thomas Cavanagh—Birthday Remembrance
Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday
 4:00PM Frank Wildenhain—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

The Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 7:30 AM Richard J. Casey, Jr.—Memorial
 9:00 AM Maria Paletta—Month’s Mind
 10:30AM Bethany Briggs—11th Anniversary
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

I hope you survived the big snowstorm on Tuesday! It was a reminder that winter has not ended yet! I thank Paul Anderson, and his crack crew, who worked very hard all day to shovel and plow the snow! They did a great job and we are grateful!

Luckily we didn't lose power, or heat, but we were snowed in all day. We still celebrated Mass at OLM! In fact, about 10 hearty souls attended the 7:30am Mass on Tuesday morning! Two brave souls trekked through the height of the snowstorm to attend the 12:05pm Mass! I commend them all for their faith, witness and dedication to God!

Let's hope it's the end of snow until next winter. But I fear it's not! I remember an Easter snowstorm or two over the years! Let's pray it doesn't happen this year but Easter is on April 1st! April Fools Day just might surprise us all!

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Saturday morning. I am grateful to Bishop Evans who celebrated the Mass and Fr. David Gaffney who served as the homilist. Also, I thank OLM Parishioner Sinead Campion who did the readings in her native Irish! It was a beautiful and solemn celebration with beautiful music and a great reception of Irish coffee and soda bread!

Of course on Monday at Noon we mark the Solemnity of St. Joseph with Mass in Italian. Again Bishop Evans serves as our celebrant and will celebrate the Mass in Italian! We thank Andrea Minopoli, from La Masseria, and Dr. Anthony

Bruzzese who will read in Italian. It is always a beautiful and solemn celebration and afterwards we enjoy a little Italian Coffee and a zeppole or two! I hope you can join us!

On Friday of this week I invite you to join in our special presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross. This beautiful and prayerful event is performed by the students of OLM Middle School. It is always a great way to prepare for Holy Week. There are two performances on Friday, the first at 1:00pm and then again at 7:00pm in OLM Church. Join us, and bring the whole family, you and your children will find it a great reflection for this holy season.

Of course, next weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday and the Passion of the Lord is to be solemnly proclaimed at all Masses. Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and marks the beginning of Holy Week. We will bless palm branches at all Masses and celebrate the solemn palm procession from Mercy Park at the 10:30 Mass.

On Palm Sunday our second collection is always the Operation Rice Bowl Collection. I hope and pray you've been filing those humble cardboard bowls throughout these forty days of Lent. All the funds collected from the Rice Bowls go directly to support the hungry of our world.

There are millions who suffer in famine and malnourishment and it's our Church through the great work of Catholic Relief Services that helps to feed them on a daily

basis.

I ask that you please count the many coins you've collected and return it in the form of a check payable to OLM. This helps our Monday morning counters complete the count. My thanks in advance for your cooperation and your generous support of the Rice Bowl Collection.

Yes this is our last full week of Lent! How has your Lent been going? Have you been praying and fasting? Have you made efforts to give alms to the poor and needy? Have you made a good Sacramental Confession of your sins? There's still plenty of time left to change your heart and renew your relationship with the Lord Jesus. Don't let Easter come without truly preparing this year.

Next Saturday OLM is hosting All Day Confessions from 9:00am until 3:00pm. There will be four or more priests available the entire time. So spread the word among your friends and neighbors!

It is a great opportunity to take the necessary time to confess your sins and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. It is a special grace to do so on the threshold of Holy Week. St. Augustine reminds us: "*The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.*"

Happy St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day! See you at Living Stations on Friday. Do good. Be well.

Father Healey



What are the origins of Lent?

The word “Lent” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words lencten, meaning “Spring,” and lenctentid, which literally means not only “Springtide” but also was the word for “March,” the month in which the majority of Lent falls. This period of time has always been seen as a season to prepare for Easter. As the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican Council II stated, “The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent — the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance — should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God’s word more frequently and devote more time to prayer” (no. 109).

The Church has always had some kind of preparation for prayer. For instance, St. Irenaeus wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West: “The dispute is not only about the day, but also about the actual character of the fast. Some think that they ought to fast for one day, some for two, others for still more; some make their ‘day’ last 40 hours on end. Such variation in the observance did not originate in our own day, but very much earlier, in the time of our forefathers.” This last expression “forefathers” indicates that Lent has existed since the time of the Apostles. Yet, the actual duration and practices of Lent were not yet homogenous throughout the Church.

Lent becomes more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in AD313. The Council of Nicea AD325, in its disciplinary canons, noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, “one before the 40 days of Lent.” St. Athanasius in this “Festal Letters” implored his congregation to make a 40-day fast prior to the more intense fasting of Holy Week. St. Cyril of Jerusalem in his Catechetical Lectures had 18 pre-baptismal instructions given to the catechumens during Lent.

The next development concerned how much fasting was to be done. The rules of fasting varied. First, some areas of the Church abstained from all forms of meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for food like fish. For example, Pope St. Gregory (d. 604), writing to St. Augustine of Canterbury, issued the following rule: “We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese and eggs.” Over the years, modifications have been made to the Lenten observances, making our practices not only simple but also easy. The present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast (having only one full meal a day and smaller snacks to keep up one’s strength) and abstain from meat; on the other Fridays of Lent, the faithful abstain from meat.

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

Weekly Collection 

March 11, 2018

Weekly.....	\$11,809.00
EFT.....	\$3,039.00
	Total=\$14,848.00
Outreach.....	\$923.00

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
Next Week: Rice Bowl Collection



2018 Catholic Charity Appeal

2018 Parish Goal=\$193,864

Pledged to date=\$72,763

% of Parish Goal=38%
Total Donors to date=172
Average Gift=\$423
% of Parish Participation=8%

Thank You for Your Generous Support!





This Week at OLM School

- **Monday, March 19th:** Mass for St. Joseph's Day at 12:05pm
- **Friday, March 23rd:** Living Stations of the Cross at 1pm & 7pm

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



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



● **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. ● **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

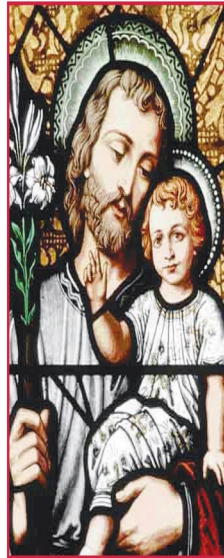
ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS

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.



Living Stations of the Cross

Performed by Students of OLM School

Friday, March 23, 2018



1:00PM & 7:00PM
OLM Church

*Join us for this dramatic performance of the
Stations of the Cross. A prayerful way to
prepare for Holy Week.*

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



Holy Week

at Our Lady of Mercy East Greenwich, RI

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Living Stations of the Cross
at 1:00pm & 7:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
All-Day Confessions
9:00am through 3:00pm
Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday at 4:00pm

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25
Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am,
10:30am & 5:00pm
Solemn Procession of Palms at the
10:30am Mass

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK,
MARCH 26**
Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confessions at 11:45am until Noon &
6:00pm until 6:45pm with 2 priests

**TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK,
MARCH 27**
Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confessions at 11:45am until Noon

SPY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confessions at 11:45am until Noon

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm
Adoration following Mass
until Midnight

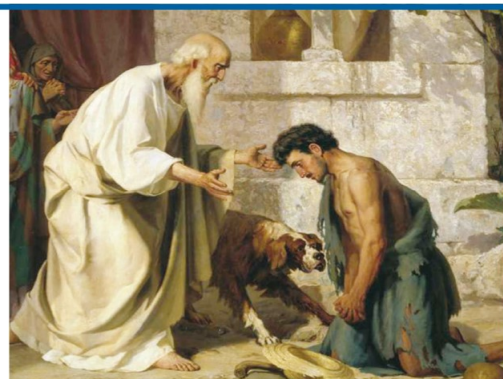
GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30
Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31
Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am
No 5:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH
65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI



Saturday, March 24
from 9:00am – 3:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration during the hours of Confession.
For more information, call 884-4968 • www.olmparish.org

“Be courageous! Go to Confession!”
-POPE FRANCIS-