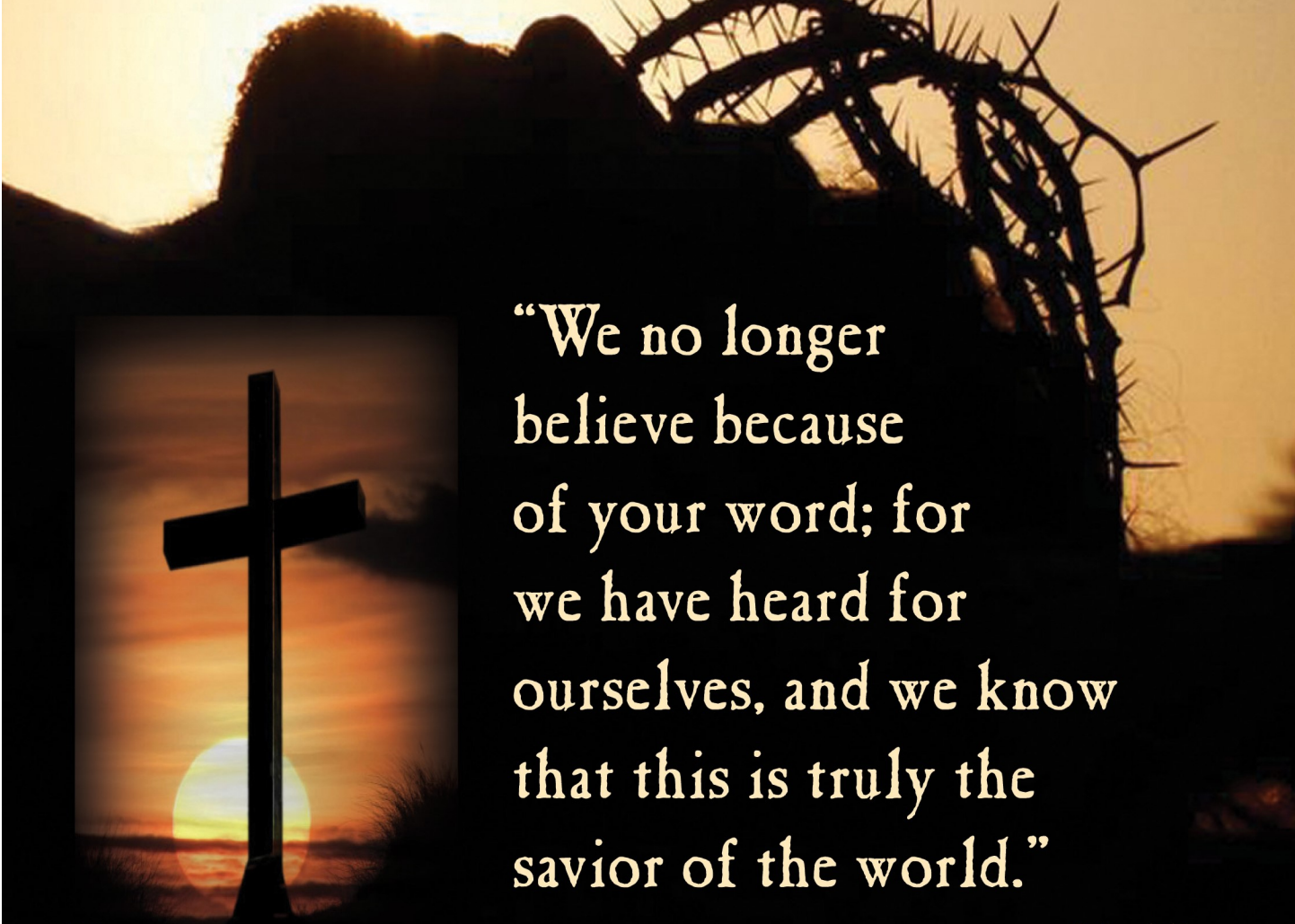


LENT

Third Sunday



“We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”



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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 19, 2017

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

The Mass of Anticipation for 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—8th Anniversary

5:00PM Roy Damiano—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 20

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30AM James Potter—Memorial

12:05PM The Intention of the Priest Celebrant

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM William Lonardo—Memorial

12:05PM Mary Ann McCoy—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM John Duffy—Memorial

12:05PM Fr. Joseph E. Horgan—Memorial

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday/St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

12:05PM Martha Eberhardt—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Thomas Cavanagh—Birthday Remembrance

12:05PM Lucille Masse—Birthday Remembrance

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30AM Phyllis DeLucia—Month's Mind

Mass of Anticipation for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00PM Deceased Members of the McCormack Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Kay Sangas—Memorial

9:00 AM Bethany Briggs—10 Anniversary

10:30AM Leonardo Giarrusso—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church



Dear Parishioners:

As I write this column the state and most of the east coast are getting ready for Winter Storm Stella! A major blizzard with lots of snow and high winds is predicted. Officials are urging everyone to be safe and stay home on Tuesday! I hope and pray people will heed the warning and remain safe at home.

I also hope and pray this is the last of the snow we see this year! Spring begins on Monday, March 20th! We hope the sun with it's warm temperatures reappears and we can get back to the normal routine especially the school children! So-long Stella and welcome Spring!!

Despite the bad weather, Lent continues! Lent is often described as a "forty day fast." Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, the paschal fast predates Lent as we know it. Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to our prayer, as the pangs of hunger serve to remind us of our hunger for God.

Fasting should also be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast due to their own poverty and need, those who suffer from injustice, oppression and persecution, and those who are in need for any reason. Thus fasting, too, is linked to our living out our baptismal promises.

God calls us to look deep within ourselves and reflect during Lent. Fasting helps us to this. Fasting should help us see the suffering that so many people in our world experience daily. It should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering and need. Thus, fasting is tied closely to alms-giving and concern for the poor.

Pope Francis teaches us:

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

Fasting serves to make the forty-days of Lent a time of true spiritual renewal and conversion to Christ. As we fast from the pleasures and comforts we enjoy so readily, we are reminded of those who never enjoy such things.

We also fast from sin as we take up our cross and deny ourselves. The great Doctor of the Church, Saint Augustine teaches us: *"Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, and kindles the true light of chastity. Enter again into yourself."*

Yes, during Lent we are called to "enter again into" our very selves as we renew our life in Christ. *"Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God,"* taught Saint Pope John Paul II.

When is the last time we've made an examination of our conscience? What sins and temptations do we continually struggle with in our lives? Catholics are expected to confess their grave sins in the Sacrament of Penance. Lent also calls us to confess and turn away from sin in order to truly enjoy and celebrate the great glory of Easter. When was the last time we went to Confession?

At OLM, we celebrate the Sacrament of Confession every Monday night beginning at 6:00pm with an additional guest

confessor during Lent. Also, we offer Confession before the 12:05pm Mass every day during Lent. During our Parish Lenten Mission, Confession will be offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 6:00pm with four priests available. Again St. Augustine wisely reminds us: *"In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You from myself, not myself from You."*

Everyone is invited to join us on Monday for the great celebration of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church and husband of our Blessed Mother. Fr. Angelo Carusi from St. Rocco Church in Johnston will celebrate the 12:05pm Mass in Italian and preach about the virtues of St. Joseph. The readings and hymns will also be in Italian! Please join us after the Mass for a zeppole and a cup of coffee!

Next weekend we welcome Father Chris O'Connor, of Boston, to Our Lady of Mercy. Father is coming to preach our Annual Parish Lenten Mission and to offer us *"Helps for the Journey."* He is dynamic preacher and fine priest who serves as the Vice-Rector at St. John's Seminary in Boston. I know you will give him your usual warm OLM welcome. He will be preaching all the weekend Masses and leading us on Mission during the week. A complete schedule is in the bulletin.

Celebrate Lent: pray, fast and give alms! Discover God's mercy and forgiveness in a Confessional Box near you! Be well. Do good. God Bless!



Why is there no Gloria at Mass during Lent?

We are well into the Season of Lent and as with every Lent there have been several liturgical changes to the Mass. Just like in Advent we do not sing or say the Gloria during Lent (except if a feast of solemnity takes place during either season). The Gloria is a song of exaltation and joy, whereas Lent and Advent are penitential and fasting seasons. When we think about fasting we should expand it our concept of it to include not only abstaining from food or drink, but other things which will train us to understand in body and mind the meaning of Lent.

The other things that change during Lent are: no purely instrumental music (there must always be a vocalist for music in Lent), the priest wears violet vestments, no singing or saying the Alleluia at the Gospel, no flowers in the sanctuary (except on *Laetare* Sunday), scriptural readings during Mass focus on repentance, the practice of virtue, and the growing opposition to Christ, during the Triduum the holy water fonts are emptied (to prepare for the blessing of water at the Easter vigil), and after the Fifth Sunday of Lent statues and crosses will be covered.

Lent is a season in which we gradually enter into Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Through the liturgy the Church helps us to prepare for the celebration of Easter.

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

Weekly Collection

March 12, 2017

Weekly.....	\$20,942.50
Electronic Giving.....	\$2,961.50
	Total=\$23,904.00

Outreach.....\$695.50

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.



**Second Collections
Next Week: Lenten Mission Collection**



2017 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

2017 Parish Goal =\$193,864

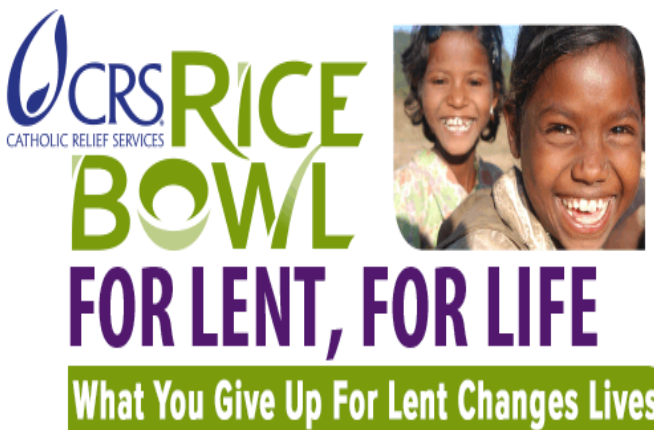
Pledged to date=\$76,927.50

Number of Donors=210

% of Parish Goal=40%

Average Gift=\$365

Total Raised in 2016=\$268,928



OCRS RICE BOWL FOR LENT, FOR LIFE

What You Give Up For Lent Changes Lives

Saturday Evening Mass Change of Time

MASS

SCHEDULE CHANGE



The Saturday Evening Mass will move from 4:00pm to a 5:00PM start time on April 1, 2017 and Confessions will move from 3:00PM to 4:00PM on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Please plan accordingly.



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners **Thomas C. Minuto, Nancy L. Cerio and Anne Vallely** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

May they rest in peace.

*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.*

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



Easter Flower Envelopes may be deposited in the Weekly Collection Basket at anytime. Your generous donations go to help defray the expense of the beautiful flowers used to decorate the Altar at Easter. Donations can be made in memory of your deceased loved ones who will be remembered at all Easter Sunday Masses. Thanks for your support.



•Monday, March 20th: St. Joseph Day Mass at 12:05pm

Discover the OLM Advantage!
www.olmschool.org



•**This 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.

•**Attention OLM Confirmation Class:** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on **Sunday, November 5, 2017** at 5:00pm by Bishop James Chechchio of Metuchen, NJ.



•**Christ's Community Kitchen—"Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner"** hosted by OLM Outreach, Monday, March 27th from 5:00pm—6:30pm at St. Luke's Dining Room. All are welcome to come. If interested in volunteering to help please contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

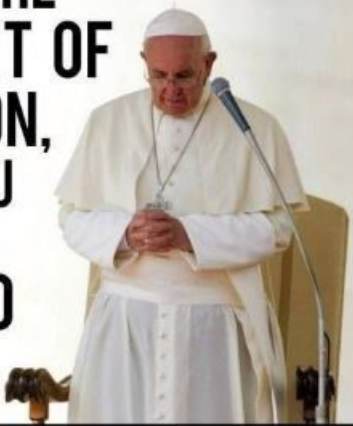
8:30AM—STATIONS FOR OLM SCHOOL

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.*

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**

Pope Francis



Confession Times at OLM During Lent

Mondays-Fridays:

11:45AM—12:00PM

Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM

With Guest Confessor

Saturdays: 3:00PM—3:45PM

L Turn away
E
N
T from sin

A graphic featuring a purple heart with a gold cross inside it. The heart and cross are set against a circular background with a gold brushstroke effect.

Vestments Available to be Memorialized



We have some new Lenten Vestments that are available to be memorialized in memory of your deceased loved ones. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Healey at 884-4968 or via email at pastor@olmparish.org

OUR LADY'S



ROSARY MAKERS

OLM Rosary Makers Monthly Workshop

Tuesday, March 21st, 2017

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

OLM Cryroom

Materials and instructions provided.

Join us in making rosaries for the missions.



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For those interested in becoming Catholic, receiving Sacraments or simply interested in learning more about the faith, please join us **this Sunday, March 19** after the 10:30am Mass in the Rectory Conference Room. **This week's topic: The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism & Confirmation**

For questions please contact Fr. Barrow at 884-4968 or by email at associate@olmparish.org