

OLM Parish Lenten Mission
March 23–27, 2019

Fr. Nathan Ricci
Mission Preacher

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is **MERCIFUL** and
COMPASSIONATE

— JOEL 2:13



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Mass Intentions

for the Week
 ©JPPC

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
 MARCH 24, 2019**

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

The Mass of Anticipation for the 3rd Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Louise Cardi—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

The Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00 AM Thomas Cavanagh—Birthday Remembrance

10:30AM George V. McKenna—Memorial

5:00PM Agnes Mellon, Barbara Kane & Paul Kane Earley—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

12:05PM Isabelle Henry—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Decd. Members of Gallagher Family—Memorial

12:05PM John & Margaret Beiermann—2nd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Robert Anderson—Memorial

12:05PM Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Rosemary Soares Richardson—Memorial

12:05PM Special Intention

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Robert Anderson—Memorial

12:05PM Michael Iapaolo—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Lenten Weekday

8:30AM Jack Donnelly—Memorial

The Mass of Anticipation for Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00PM Frank Wildenhain—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00 AM Catherine & Michael Caparco—Memorial

10:30AM Lillian E. Healey—32nd Anniversary

5:00PM Pieter de Vryer—Birthday Remembrance



Dear Parishioners:

Over the last two weeks Fr. Barrow and I have had the great privilege to hear the First Confessions of our OLM First Communion Class. It is a privilege to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament of Mercy and bestow God's loving forgiveness upon these children.

Of course, Confession is not just for kids! As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: *"Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. The Fathers of the Church present this sacrament as 'the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace.'"*

This Saturday we celebrated All-Day Confessions with priests across the state coming to help us. This week before the Mission each night we have four priests available for Confessions. I urge you to seize the great opportunity to receive God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. It's Lent, repent and convert to Christ! Confession is the best way to repent and convert our lives to Christ!

Saint Pope John Paul the Great wisely teaches 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."*

This weekend we welcome Fr. Nathan Ricci to OLM. He is leading us on our Annual Parish Lenten Mission this week. Fittingly his theme of the Mission is "the Face of God is Mercy." This weekend, and over the Mission, he will offer reflections on the Prodigal Son and God's mercy.

Fr. Ricci will preach a Mission Talk each night at 7:00PM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. His talks will focus on God's mercy as seen in the story of the Prodigal Son. Fr. Ricci is a wonderful young priest and a great preacher, I know you will enjoy his Mission.

A Parish Lenten Mission is a wonderful way to celebrate Lent with greater devotion and prayer. It is truly a time to retreat from our regular routine and reflect more fully on God's place in our lives. Bring the whole family to the Mission. Try to make it every night, but if you cannot, at least make it to one night. Join us this week at the Mission, make some room in your busy schedule for a little more prayer, devotion and reflection!

This Friday, March 29th, I invite everyone to join us for a Parish Lenten Soup Supper. As our Parish Mission finishes up, and as Fridays are days of prayer and penance during Lent, we are gathering to share a simple meal of (meatless) soup and bread. Following this meal, we gather as a family of faith in church to pray the Stations of the Cross.

There is no charge for this Soup Supper, we are asking only for a free will offering in support of the CRS Operation Rice Bowl. As we commit ourselves as individuals and as a

parish family to more prayer, more fasting and more alms giving, this a tremendous opportunity to do so together as a parish family.

So please join us on Friday in the OLM School Cafeteria from 5:30pm until 6:30pm for a simple supper of soup. And then together we can pray and walk the way of the Cross with Christ at 7pm! Bring the kids, invite the neighbors and come live the faith together!

Next weekend the young men and women of our Junior Legion of Mary are hosting a clothing drive at all weekend Masses. They are looking to collect new children's socks, underwear and pajamas. All of the children's clothing collected will go to area families in need. So please bring your donations of new children's socks, underwear and pajamas to Mass next weekend. Members of the Junior Legion will have collection bins available.

I think its difficult for us to imagine that the things we easily take for granted like socks, underwear and pajamas are truly needed by many who cannot even afford the basic necessities. In the name of the Junior Legion, I thank you for your generous support of this great work of alms giving.

It's Lent! Pray, fast, and give alms! Remember Fridays are for fish and Stations of the Cross! See you at the Mission this week! Be well. Do good. God Bless.

Father Healey



What are the pitfalls of prayer?

The first pitfall is perhaps the most obvious: we put God to the test. We hear in the Gospel, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” If we put God to the test, then we take a higher position to God (and make ourselves God). We test God in our prayer, when we base our faith in God on whether or not he answers our prayers. “If you answer my prayer Lord, I will follow, but if you do not, then you must not exist or you do not take an interest in me.”

At the same time, if our prayer is answered, we think that it was going to happen anyway due to natural causes or coincidence. Notice that our Lord doesn’t tell us “Ask and you’ll get whatever you ask for.” He promises us that our prayers will be heard and our Father will respond with what we need, rather than what we want. God is after all a loving father.

Secondly, when we pray we sometimes turn our attention away from God and neighbor and to ourselves. This involves using prayer to produce feelings by the action of our own wills. For instance, if we ask God for charity, what we really want are charitable feelings. When we pray for courage, what we really want is to feel brave. When we ask God for forgiveness, what we are really asking is for the feeling of forgiveness. In other words we try to manufacture these feelings in ourselves by our own strength. In this way we measure the effectiveness of our prayers by how well a desired feeling is produced.

Of course this is bound to fail, because our feelings always depend on our current state: whether we are currently well, fit, ill, tired, sad, and so on. Remember we are creatures; and so our bodily posture, state, and so on, can affect our prayer. We need to make sure that when we pray it is not a matter of us trying to produce a feeling. Instead our prayers are directed to God and our desire for real charity, real forgiveness, and real strength.

The third pitfall happens when we pray to something other than God. Our knowledge and understanding of God takes time to develop in this life. Our idea of God may contain many incorrect and contradictory ideas. The danger lies in praying to an object we have created, rather than God Himself. In this way we create an idol; and very often the idol tells us what we want to hear rather than what we need to hear. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

We advance in prayer when we attribute to God that which is proper to him and not our own subjective ideas. So we acknowledge a twofold truth; that we can come to know God more and more by what he has revealed to us about Himself, but that knowledge is like straw when compared to God’s infinite grandeur. In this way we become receptive to his teachings. Adam and Eve rejected this receptivity after the Fall as symbolized by them covering their nakedness. In this battle the Church, her teachings, the sacraments, theologians and the saints are our great allies.

Weekly Collection

March 17, 2019

Weekly.....	\$11,708.00
EFT.....	\$2,562.00
	Total=\$14,270.00
Outreach.....	\$498.00

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!

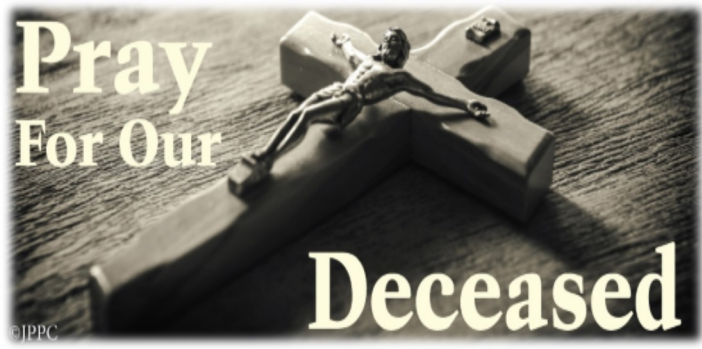
Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Second Collections
This Week: Lenten Mission Collection



Our Lady of Mercy
2019 Parish
Goal=\$200,000
Pledged to Date=\$71,905
Number of Donors=183
Average Gift=\$393

Thank You for Your Generous Support!
Make your Pledge Today!



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of **Shirley J. DellaVentura** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last week.



Upcoming Events:

● **Friday, March 29:** Stations of the Cross at 8:15AM; Hendricken Play for 7th & 8th Grade; Dress Down Day in support of CRS Operation Rice Bowl: Lenten Soup Supper 5:30—6:30pm followed by Stations at 7pm

Discover the OLM Difference!

www.olmschool.org



• RE Classes on Sunday, March 24th meet as regularly scheduled



- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.
- **OLM Bereavement Group** meets **Thursday, April 4th at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those experiencing grief or loss is 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

OLM Junior Legion of Mary

Clothing Drive



After Weekend Masses

March 30 & 31, 2019

The OLM Junior Legion of Mary asks parishioners to donate (new) children's sock, underwear and pajamas. Donations will be donated to Loaves and Fishes of RI and distributed directly to families in need. Junior Legionnaires will be at the front vestibule collecting donations after each weekend Mass on March 30th and 31st. We thank you for your support of this charitable work.



Friday, March 29, 2019

Join us for a Lenten Soup Supper in the OLM Cafeteria from 5:30pm until 6:30pm followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:00PM.

Free will offering in support of Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl.

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C



On the Third Sunday of Lent each year, the first reading comes from the book of Exodus.

In this C year, Moses discovers God in the burning bush and comes to know that he is standing on holy ground, the ordinary—but much transformed—place of his daily work.

This and other readings designated for today and for the next two Sundays may be set aside in favor of the A-year readings which focus on the baptismal themes of water, light, and life.

Taking the A option is especially appropriate in assemblies celebrating rites called scrutinies with the elect who are preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

These scrutiny rites, celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, are meant to discover and heal anything sinful that may remain in the hearts of the elect and to uncover and strengthen that which is good.



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 LENTEN MISSION

March 23-27, 2019



**THE FACE OF GOD IS MERCY:
A REFLECTION ON THE PRODIGAL SON**
Father Nathan Ricci, Mission Preacher

Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24
Father Ricci will preach at all weekend Masses

MISSION TALKS BY FATHER RICCI

Monday, March 25 at 7:00PM

“The Divine Whisper Calling Us Home: The Younger Son”

Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00PM

“Mercy and Justice: The Older Son”

Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00PM

“Regaining What Was Lost: The Mercy of the Father”

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction will be offered during the Mission on Wednesday night.

Four priests will be available each night (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) for Confession from 6:00 PM until 6:45 PM.



Father Nathan Ricci is a graduate of Bishop Hendricken High School. He attended Our Lady of Providence Seminary and graduated from Providence College in 2012 with a B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy. He was a Smith Fellow at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, during the summer of 2011. Father Ricci was assigned to theological studies in Rome at the Pontifical North American College, where he completed his S.T.B. in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas and received a licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He serves as the Associate Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, East Providence and also serves as the Assistant Chancellor for the Diocese of Providence.

