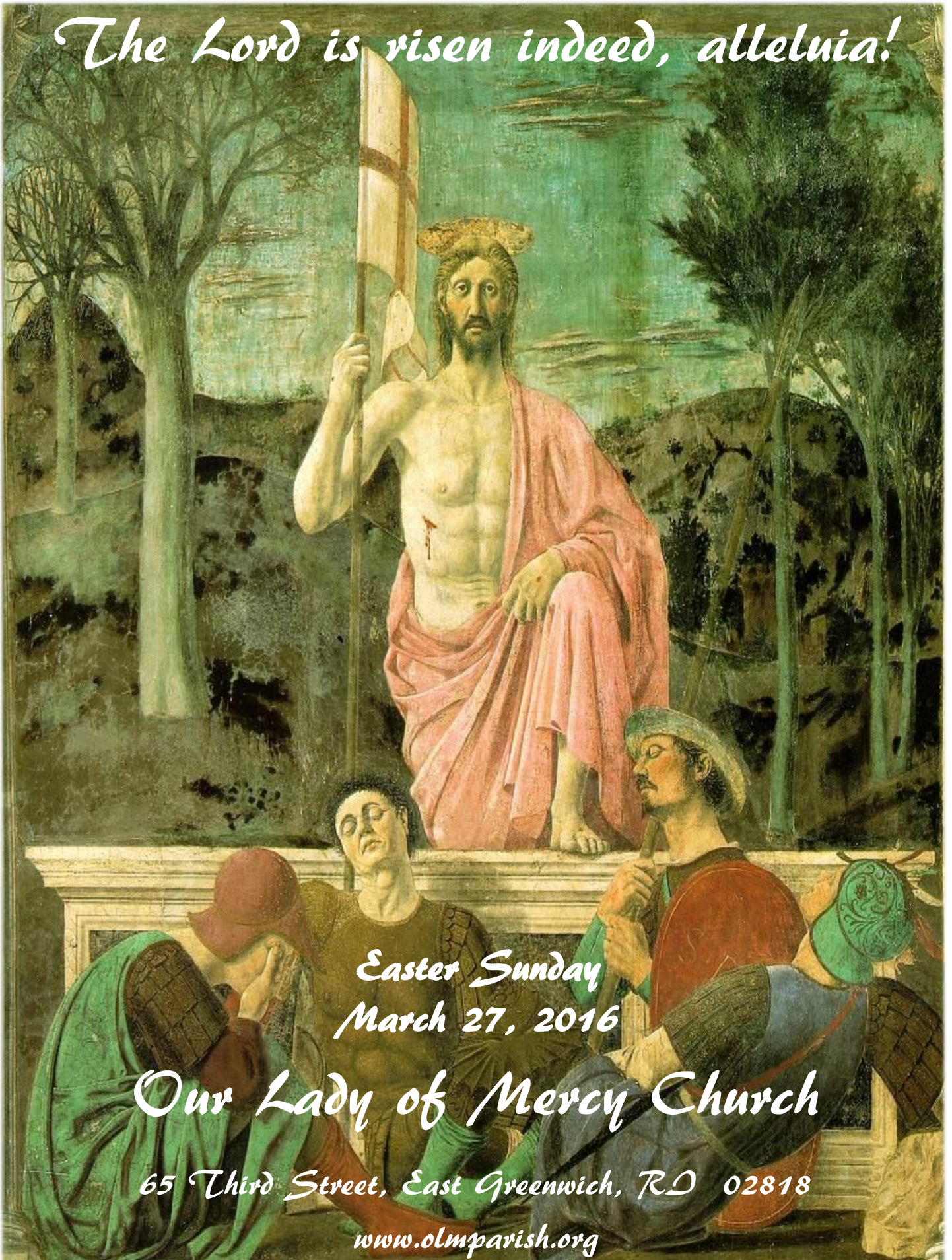


*The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!*



*Easter Sunday  
March 27, 2016*

*Our Lady of Mercy Church*

*65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818*

*[www.olmparish.org](http://www.olmparish.org)*



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*Mass Intentions*  
*for the Week*  
©JPPC

***Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord***  
**March 27, 2016**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26**

*Easter Vigil*

7:30PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27**

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

**MONDAY, MARCH 28**

*Monday within the Octave of Easter*

7:30 AM Earl & Nina Mooney—Memorial

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29**

*Tuesday within the Octave of Easter*

7:30AM Emily & Frederick Miller—Memorial

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30**

*Wednesday within the Octave of Easter*

7:30AM Eloise A. Foley—1st Anniversary

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31**

*Thursday within the Octave of Easter*

7:00PM Lillian E. Healey—29th Anniversary

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1**

*Friday within the Octave of Easter*

7:30AM Elizabeth Sorrentino—Memorial

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

*Saturday within the Octave of Easter*

8:30AM Barbara Dugan—Memorial

*Mass of Anticipation for the Second Sunday of Easter*

5:00pm Anne Nardone—Memorial

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

7:30 AM Dec'd Members of the Ferris & Eberhardt Families

9:00 AM Frank & Eva Montaquila—Memorial

10:30AM Lillian E. Healey—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy





Dear Parishioners:

*A blessed Easter!* It took us 40 days to prepare for Easter—that's what Lent was all about—so now it takes us 40 days to celebrate Easter. That will bring us up to the Feast of the Ascension, when Jesus, risen from the dead, after spending 40 days with His disciples, returned to His Father in heaven.

Actually, it doesn't even end there, because then, on the Ascension, we'll unite with Our Lady and the Apostles in a novena, nine days of prayer, bringing us to Pentecost Sunday and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

So join with me in saying "Happy Easter" for the 50 days after the great Feast! And, of course, every Sunday is a "little Easter," as we come together on the first day of the week at Mass to profess our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus.

We sometimes call this season of rejoicing the paschal season, or paschaltide. We sing alleluia with vigor, keep the sanctuary decorated with lilies, give the paschal candle prominence, and wear the dazzling white or gold vestments.

Our catechumens and candidates are no longer "waiting," but now are full members of the Catholic Church, and their faithful presence after their baptism, confirmation, first Eucharist, and profession of faith at the Easter Vigil, reminds us of the power of the sacraments, and the constant growth of the Church.

Our OLM second-graders

having made their first confession during Lent, are eager to receive our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time this coming May, and that beautiful ceremony will be a time for family unity and spiritual renewal for our entire parish family.

Our young teens are finishing preparation for the wonderful sacrament of Confirmation and await the gift of the Holy Spirit as they enter high school. Couples approach the altar for the holy sacrament of Matrimony, eager to seal their love and conform it to divine love: forever, faithful, and life-giving.

Our young parishioners graduate from eighth grade at OLM School and from high schools and colleges, trusting in God for a future full of promise and hope.

And, during these paschal days, candidates for Holy Orders kneel, before a bishop, to be ordained deacons and priests, and bind themselves to the Risen Jesus and His Church.

Look around and see the radiance of our Lord's risen life exploding in the sacraments and blessed events all over the place! Spring helps set the tone, doesn't it?

The earth itself is alive; winter is over; gardens are being planted; grass, flowers, trees growing; each day sees more light than darkness. Nature mirrors super-nature, as God's life flourishes in our souls and in the Church.

It's all about the paschal mystery: the dying and rising of

Jesus, and our share in it. Jesus invites us to die with Him to sin, selfishness, and rise with Him to new life. That's the sacred rhythm of Christian discipleship: at times we're on the cross with Jesus; at other times we're risen to new life with Him.

Pope Francis in his Easter homily last year reminds us:

*"We cannot live Easter without entering into the mystery. It is not something intellectual, something we only know or read about. It is more, much more! To enter into the mystery means the ability to wonder, to contemplate; the ability to listen to the silence and to hear the tiny whisper amid great silence by which God speaks to us.*

*To enter into the mystery demands that we not be afraid of reality: that we not be locked into ourselves, that we not flee from what we fail to understand, that we not close our eyes to problems or deny them, that we not dismiss our questions. To enter into the mystery means going beyond our own comfort zone, beyond the laziness and indifference which hold us back, and going out in search of truth, beauty and love. It is seeking a deeper meaning, an answer, and not an easy one, to the questions which challenge our faith, our fidelity and our very existence."*

Best wishes for a Happy Easter! *"He has risen as He said, alleluia, alleluia!"*

*Father Healey*



**Dear Fr. Connors: What do you make of Catholics who come to Mass only on Christmas and Easter?**

The best answer I've heard to this question of "Christmas and Easter Catholics" is from the former Pope Benedict XVI. He explained very simply, "Well, the Church is there for them too." That is, the Church exists for everybody, wherever they are.

Obviously, we want people to come to Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. We want people—and, really, God wants people—to live united to Him, in Him, with charity overflowing in their souls. They receive that in the Sacraments and, as far as we know, nowhere else.

It shouldn't be sugar-coated: missing Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is a grave sin. But like any sin, the Church's response is simply God's mercy.

It is true that at Christmas and Easter people think again about God. They are woken up from the slumber of thinking life can be just fine without Jesus or His Church. Easter occasions a second-look, a deeper reflection.

And the Church is there for them—for everybody. Nobody, no matter how far their lives may appear from the Church, should ever feel excluded. We are a home for everybody. And to everybody who seeks God's forgiveness, the Church is there with God's mercy.

The truth is there is a little "Christmas and Easter Catholic" in all of us. Whenever we think Christ and His Church have a limited place, a section of our lives instead of the whole thing, we fall into the trap of making God useful for certain occasions but fail to give Him everything.

The irony is, it is only when we give Him everything—our whole lives and hearts and minds—that we experience a freedom and joy that comes from nowhere elsewhere. That's true on Christmas, Easter and every day throughout the year. A blessed Easter to you all!

*If you have a question about the Catholic Church or Catholic Teaching, please email questions to: [associatepastor@olmparish.org](mailto:associatepastor@olmparish.org)*

**EASTER**  
*Blessings*

## Weekly Collection

**Results from last week's collection are not available due to the Easter printing deadline.**

*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: Easter Collection

Next Week: Building & Grounds Collection



**2016 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL**

**Our Lady of Mercy Church  
2016 Catholic Charity Appeal**

**Parish Goal = \$193,864**

**Pledged to date: \$104,310**

**Number of pledges: 241**

**Average Gift = \$451**

**54% of Goal**

**Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McDevitt  
OLM Catholic Charity Appeal Chair**

**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Zubiago  
OLM Bishop's Partnership in Charity Chair**

**Please pledge your gift today!**



Religious Education  
NEWS

•No RE Class next weekend due to Easter Holiday.  
*A Happy Easter to all our RE teachers and students!*  
*Doug Green & Mickey St. Jean*



Outreach  
Update

*Thank you for your generous support of  
the good works of OLM Outreach Office!*  
*Happy Easter to all our many benefactors,  
volunteers, and clients!*

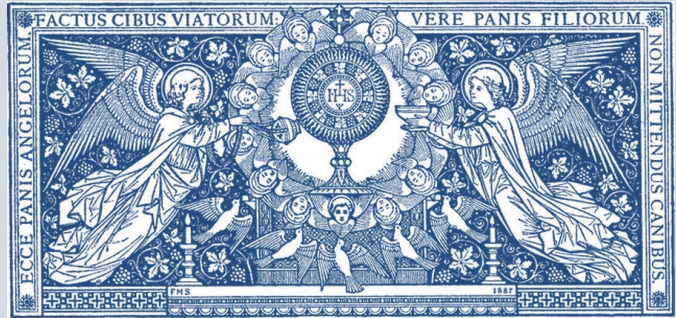
Doug Green  
OLM Outreach Director



*Easter Blessings to our OLM School faculty, staff,  
students, families, benefactors and alumni!*  
Principal Scott Fuller

Discover the OLM Advantage  
[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016



EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST  
FOLLOWING 7:30AM MASS  
ADORATION ALL DAY

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
AT 5:00PM



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY,  
APRIL 3, 2016

Divine Mercy Chaplet at  
3:00PM  
with Exposition & Benediction  
of the Blessed Sacrament



Mass  
Schedule

Saturday Evening Mass moves forward to 5:00PM beginning next week on Saturday April 2, 2016. Saturday Confession moves forward to 4:00pm also beginning on Saturday, April 2, 2016.

*Please plan accordingly.*

*Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia!  
He has risen as He said, Alleluia!*

## **A Blessed Easter!**

**THE STAFF AND PARISHIONERS OF  
OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH**

**THE VERY REVEREND BERNARD A. HEALEY**

*Pastor*

**THE REVEREND RYAN W. CONNORS**

*Associate Pastor*

**DEACON JOHN W. DOWD**

*Parish Deacon*

**HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm

**EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am

No 5:00pm on Easter

**65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818 • (401) 884-4968 • [www.olmparish.org](http://www.olmparish.org)**

### **Traditional Easter Blessing**

*The Roman ritual provides a special blessing of food at Easter. The Poles, however, have their own traditional formulas of blessing, authorized by the Synod of Piotrkow (fifteenth century) and approved by Rome. This is an ancient Polish Easter blessing.*



*O Lord, who hast blessed five loaves in the desert, graciously give us bread for life's needs. Almighty God, let not your gifts lead us to sin. Let not the goblet of sparkling wine induce us to misdeeds. While we enjoy our feast, let us also in charity remember all those who suffer want and hunger. May not the pleasure of the body stifle the inspirations of thy Holy Spirit, O Lord. Amen.*