



*Jesus told his disciples a parable,*  
“CAN A BLIND PERSON GUIDE  
A BLIND PERSON? WILL NOT  
BOTH FALL INTO A PIT?”

LUKE 6:39



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# Mass Intentions

## for the Week

### **THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MARCH 3, 2019**

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 2**

*The Mass of Anticipation for the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 4:00PM John J. Trainor, Jr.—1st Anniversary

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

*The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 AM Dolores Vespia & Fay Masterson—Anniversary

9:00 AM John Stetkiewicz—Memorial

10:30AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial

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

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 4**

*Weekday : Saint Casimir*

7:30AM Edward & William Sullivan—Memorial

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

*Weekday*

7:30AM Andrew Rockett—Memorial

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 —ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Ash Wednesday*

7:30AM Susan A. Metzger—Memorial

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

12:05PM Fr. Donald J. Bouressa—Memorial

7:00PM Fred & Evelyn Buoro—Memorial

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 7**

*Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

7:30AM Joan O'Donnell—Memorial

12:05PM Sue Carcieri—Memorial

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 8**

*Friday after Ash Wednesday*

7:30AM Andrew Rockett—Memorial

12:05PM Anne Valley—2nd Anniversary

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

*Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

8:30AM Brian, Clarence & Noella Larocque—Memorial

*The Mass of Anticipation for First Sunday of Lent*

4:00PM Albert Catanio—Birthday Remembrance

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

*The First Sunday of Lent*

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

9:00 AM Chris Tasca—5th Anniversary

10:30AM Dina Coelho—Memorial

5:00PM Mary Palombo Falchini—Birthday Remembrance



Dear Parishioners:

Are you ready? Lent starts this week on Ash Wednesday! Ash Wednesday begins our forty days of prayer, fasting and alms giving. Ashes are smeared on our foreheads with the words: *“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”*

The act of putting ashes on foreheads symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need for repentance. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptized are called during Lent.

More prayer, more fasting and more alms giving! They are the pillars of Lent and so necessary for any Catholic that takes their faith seriously. Lent is a 40 Day Retreat to convert our lives and our hearts more fully to Christ.

Lent is above all a time of prayer. A time to deepen our daily practice of prayer. We are invited by the Church to follow the custom of fasting. Fasting first from meats on Fridays, but also fasting from those pleasures and comforts we might enjoy too much! Such fasting should also be accompanied by an increase of almsgiving for the needs of the poor. St. Augustine, in a sermon on Lent, teaches that:

*“Through humility and charity, fasting and almsgiving, abstaining and forgiving, avoiding evil and doing good, our prayer seeks peace and achieves it.”* (Sermon 206)

There is a complete schedule of Masses and Confessions on Ash Wednesday, and for all of Lent, in this week’s bulletin. Clip it out and place it

prominently in your house. Take up the Cross of Lent and add more devotion and less distraction, more fasting and less feasting, and more sacrifice for the poor and less selfishness!

Our Lenten Season at OLM includes an annual Lenten Mission. So mark your calendars for the Mission from March 23rd thru March 27th. Father Nathan Ricci, an outstanding young priest and dynamic preacher, is our Lenten Mission Preacher this year.

All-Day Confessions are scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd from 9:00AM until 3:00PM. In addition, we’ve added daily Confessions and an extra Confessor for Monday night Confessions. And Confessions on Saturdays at 3:00PM remain. There will also be ample opportunity for Confession during the Lenten Mission.

Each Friday in Lent we celebrate the traditional devotion of the Stations of the Cross. It is a wonderful way to mark Fridays during Lent, a day on which we pray, fast and remember that Christ died for us on Good Friday. So join us in walking the Way of the Cross.

Almsgiving is an important part of Lent. We ask that you consider pledging to the Catholic Charity Appeal as part of your almsgiving. Your almsgiving to the CCA directly supports the good works of the Church in serving the poor and needy.

In addition, we encourage every parishioner to take home a simple cardboard Rice Bowl and fill it over Lent with your coins. It is a reminder of our duty to give alms during Lent as we

support Operation Rice Bowl in providing food for the poorest of our world.

Lent is coming! Get ready for this time of prayer, penance and the poor! Forty Days to strengthen and renew our Catholic Faith. Forty days to convert ourselves more fully to the Crucified and Risen Lord! Lent is coming, see you on Ash Wednesday!!!

Mr. Scott W. Fuller, Our Lady of Mercy School Principal, informed me that he intends to retire at the end of this school year. In the name of Our Lady of Mercy Church and School, I wish to profoundly thank Mr. Fuller for his outstanding leadership and dedication to Our Lady of Mercy School. His hard work and enthusiasm has and continues to advance the mission of our school to develop saints and scholars for our Church, and world.

I have established a committee to begin the search for a new principal for Our Lady of Mercy School. They begin their review of applicants for the position of principal of OLM over the next few weeks. I thank the Committee Chair, Mr. Gregory A. Paolino, and the members for their service in leading the search. During this time, and as we begin this new chapter in the history our great parish school, I ask for your continued prayers. *Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!*

Lent is coming! Pray, fast, and give alms! Be well. Do good. God Bless.

*Father Healey*



**What do the Ashes Symbolize?**

The late astronomer Carl Sagan boldly proclaimed: “we are star-stuff” presumably because we are made from the elements found in stars. While this may lead to grandiose musings on nebulae and ashes, it is bad metaphysics (it is a way of looking at the world known as Reductionism). Yes, we are made from elements found in stars, but we are something different. It would be a mistake to equate the notion of star dust with the Ashes on our foreheads.

In fact it does damage to what it means to be a human being, what the true meaning of ashes is, and the fundamental reality and goal of the universe. What is fundamental about the universe and about reality is not star dust or atoms, it is God, who is a Trinity of persons. As Fr. Thomas White O.P. quipped, “the universe is persons all the way down.” In fact the universe is geared toward personhood, toward rationality. Fundamentally human beings are not reducible to stars; we are rational beings; we are persons.

First and foremost: we were not created to be dust. In Genesis 3:19 God says to Adam after he sins, “you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Ash, therefore, represents mortality as a result of sin. Prior to sin, human beings were God’s stewards, coregents in the Garden and not destined to become dust. After the fall, the first sin, we are now subject to sin, suffering, and death. Every human being is mortal and we go back after death to a state of dust and ashes.

There are two other levels of meaning to the ashes. They symbolize repentance of sin, and intercessory prayer on behalf of others. We read in Job 42:6: “Therefore, I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” In 1 Maccabees 3:47 we read: “They fasted that day, put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads.” Finally in Daniel 9:3 we read: “I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.”

So ashes on Ash Wednesday are an ancient sign of remembering our mortality, repenting of sin, and interceding for others. It begins the Season of Lent whereby we unite our intense time of prayer to a period of fasting and supplication to God, drawing closer to God by detaching ourselves from the pleasures of this world. Lent is the time for us to come back to God

*Weekly Collection*

**February 24, 2018**

Weekly.....	\$11,104.00
EFT.....	\$1,898.00
	<b>Total=\$13,002.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$359.00

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: Building & Grounds**



**2019 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL**  
*Supporting the work of the Church*

**Our Lady of Mercy**  
**2019 Parish Goal=\$200.000**  
**2018 Parish Goal=\$193,864**  
**2018 Total Raised=\$225,639**

Ron & Kate Jelinek  
 OLM Parish Chairs of Catholic Charity Appeal  
 Steve & Antonia Zubiago  
 OLM Parish Chairs of Bishop’s Partners in Charity

**Make Your Pledge Next Week!**  
**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**



**Upcoming Events:**

- **Wednesday, March 6:** Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00AM
- **Friday, March 8:** School Stations of the Cross at 8:00AM

*Discover the OLM Difference!*  
[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)



- RE Classes resume on Sunday, March 3rd as regularly scheduled
- Celebration of 1st Penance: Saturday, March 9th & Saturday, March 16th at 1pm



- **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, March 7th 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](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)

**Guidelines for Lenten Fast & Abstinence**



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019. **Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent** (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Also, **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting**: those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day. Serious health conditions excuse a person from these precepts. Pastors and parents are encouraged by the law of the Church to ensure that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated nonetheless in an authentic sense of penance.

Following the implementation of the revised Code of Canon Law on November 27, 1983, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States determined that the rules of fast and abstinence which have existed for the last several years in this country be maintained. Namely, that the faithful observe suitable penitential practices on all Fridays throughout the year. These penitential practices need not include abstaining from meat. However, as indicated above, the faithful must not eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. They must also observe faithfully the fast regulations as they have been stated above in accord with the universal law of the Church (Cf. Code of Canon Law, Canons 1250-1252)



**OLM Lenten Book Rack:**

A selection of spiritual and informative books & pamphlets are available during Lent on our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to stop and browse and take a book for Lent!

**OLM Lenten Table:**

During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with many donated old and new religious articles. They are available for you to take without cost. Stop by and take something home for Lent!



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### Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Masses at OLM with distribution of ashes

At 7:30AM, 9:00AM School Mass, 12:05PM & 7:00PM

Distribution of Ashes with Prayer Service (No Mass)  
at 10:30AM at the Seasons, 1:30PM at Atria Harbor Hill  
& 2:30PM at Greenwich Bay Manor

### Confessions on Ash Wednesday

11:45AM—12:00PM with 2 Priests

6:00PM—6:45PM with 2 Priests

### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00PM

### Daily Masses during Lent

Monday-Friday, 7:30AM & 12:05PM

### Confessions during Lent

Monday—Friday, 11:45AM-12:00PM

Mondays, 6:00PM-6:45PM with 2 Priests

Saturdays, 3:00PM—3:45PM

### OLM Lenten Mission

March 23-27

Fr. Nathan Ricci, Mission Preacher

### All-Day Confessions

Saturday, March 23



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