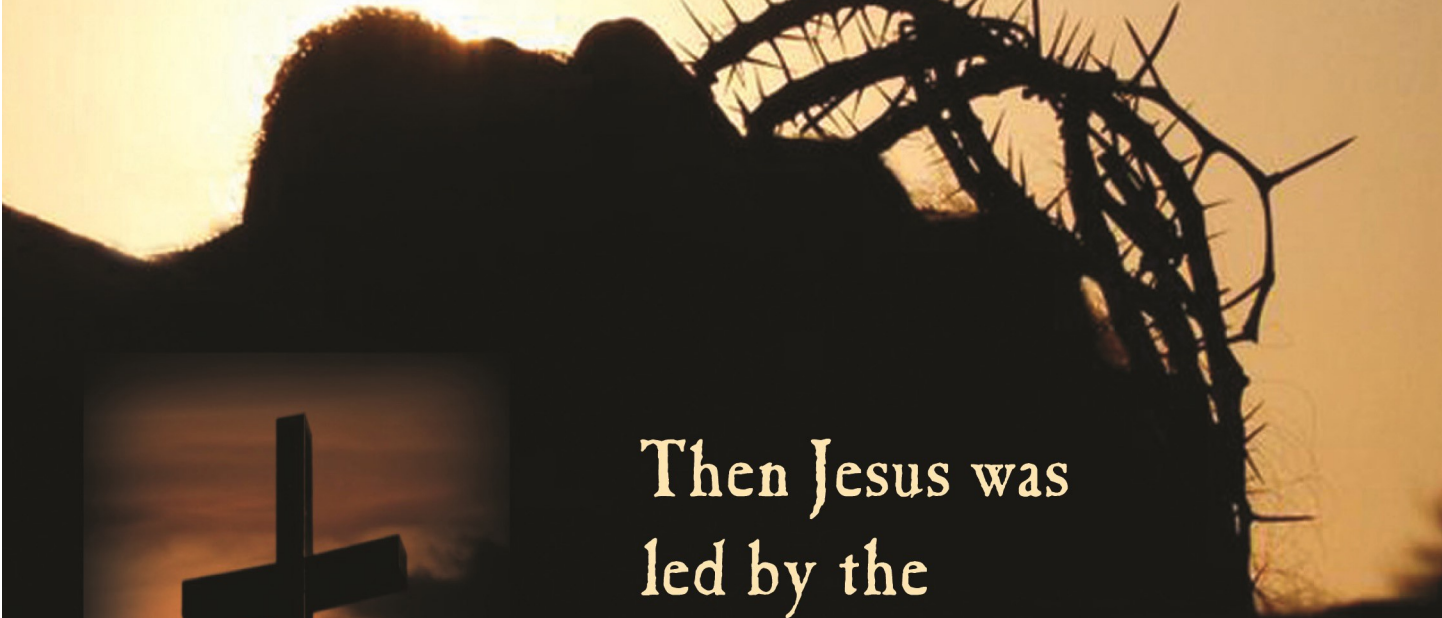


LENT

First Sunday



Then Jesus was
led by the
Spirit into the
desert to be
tempted by the
devil





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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 5, 2017

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

The Mass of Anticipation for First Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Albert Catanio—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

The First Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM John Duffy—Memorial
 10:30AM Joanne DeNuccio—Birthday Remembrance
 & Armand & Mary Maddalena—Memorial
 5:00PM Michael Turner—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Ron Robichaud—Memorial
 12:05PM Ellen Donovan—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Lenten Weekday/Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
 7:30AM Joanne De Nuccio—Memorial
 12:05PM Fr. Roger L. Marot—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Lenten Weekday/St. John of God, Religious
 7:30AM Murray & Mary Catherine Finley—Memorial
 12:05PM Robert Anderson—Memorial

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday/St. Frances of Rome, Religious
 7:30AM Susan E. Dumont Miner—9th Anniversary
 12:05PM William Granger—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Ignatius McGowan—Memorial
 12:05PM Fr. Charles B. McDermott—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday
 8:30AM Hans G. & Hans F. Loeffler—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for the Second Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Lisa Tanner—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

The Second Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Chris Tasca—3rd Anniversary
 10:30AM Michael Vitucci—4th Anniversary
 5:00PM Anthony Winn—Memorial



Dear Parishioners:

Lent has arrived! We saw big crowds at Ash Wednesday Masses as the faithful came forward to *“Turn away from sin and believe the Gospel!”* It is our time to pray, fast and give alms for forty days.

From the very early times in the Church the commemoration of the approach of Christ's passion and death was observed by a period of self-denial. In 379, St. Athanasius enjoined the people of Alexandria to a 40 days' fast, telling them: *“to the end that while all the world is fasting, we who are in Egypt should not become a laughing stock as the only people who do not fast but take our pleasure in those days.”*

On Ash Wednesday in the early Church, the Pope walked barefoot to St. Sabina's Church in Rome *“to begin with holy fasts the exercises of Christian warfare, that as we do battle with the spirits of evil, we may be protected by the help of self-denial.”*

In our own time, Lent might be likened to Spring Training for Major League Baseball. Working on the fundamentals and striving for excellence not as baseball players, but as Catholic disciples. Of course the fundamentals in this case are the three traditional pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Almsgiving is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity are an integral element of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized. During the forty days of Lent, we renew our commitment to loving our neighbor by being more generous in our charitable giving, by reaching out to the poor and

needy with acts of charity, and sacrificing some of the bounty we enjoy so the needs of the least among us might be met.

This weekend we have a tremendous opportunity to renew our sense of almsgiving with the Catholic Charity Appeal. This very important charity supports the many ministries and programs of the Diocese of Providence which provide social, educational and spiritual support to thousands of Rhode Islanders who are in need.

The ministries supported by the CCA range from social service ministries that provide direct support to the poor, the hungry and homeless, to immigrants and refugees, as well as emergency rent, heating and medical assistance for the poor. Also, the important work of prison ministry is funded primarily through the CCA.

OLM has always led the Diocese in supporting the CCA and so we are known across the state for our commitment to helping the poorest and neediest among us. The good works of the Church of Providence wouldn't exist if not for the generous donations of so many committed Catholics in Rhode Island.

I am especially grateful to the over 500 parish families that contributed to the CCA last year. Their generosity brought us well past our goal of \$193,000 in 2016. A total of \$268,000 was donated at OLM last year.

This support came in many pledges, including from those who are Bishop's Partners in Charity, and give in excess of \$1,000. Last year our average gift to the CCA at OLM was \$450! It is a great witness to your charity, generosity and goodness!

Again this year we are asking every parish family to

prayerfully consider a pledge of \$300. This is a monthly pledge of \$30 or just \$1 per day! Please consider making such a pledge, but also know that there is no amount too small to give and that every gift is truly appreciated.

The foundational call of Catholic discipleship to charity is a Gospel call. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently upon almsgiving, which means donating to the poor and also performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of our Lenten practice, almsgiving is *“a witness to fraternal charity”* and *“a work of justice pleasing to God.”*

The Catholic Charity Appeal has supported the good works of our Church since the 1920's. Its future depends on each of us to survive. In many cases, the Catholic Church is the only source of support for some of the poorest and neediest in our state. As Catholics we can take great pride in the good works of our Church done daily in the name of Christ. However, such pride must also be accompanied with real support, so I ask you to please consider a gift to the CCA today.

I thank parishioners Kevin McDevitt and Steve Zubiago for once again Chairing the CCA at OLM. With their leadership, and your generous support, I know OLM can once again lead the Diocese! Let's beat St. Luke's in Barrington this year! In the name of the poor, I thank each of you for your support and generosity!

Lent is here, let's live it! Pray! Fast! Give! Be well. Do good. God Bless!



Are the children of annulled marriages illegitimate?

If an annulment is a statement that a marriage never existed, how can the children from an annulled marriage be anything but illegitimate? This is often the first question I hear when the topic of annulments comes up and it is very worrisome to many parents. It is important to clarify this misconception so that people will not be kept away from the annulment process (if needed) so as to become full participating members at Mass.

The short answer to this question is “no,” the children of an annulled marriage are not illegitimate, nor does it change the parents’ responsibility toward their children. In fact during the annulment procedures the Church constantly reminds petitioners of their moral obligation to provide for the proper upbringing of their children. The children always possess all those rights associated with their basic human dignity as created in the image of God and those rights which they have as baptized members of the Christian faithful.

At the time of the child’s birth, he or she was born of a legal marriage in civil law and a *putative* marriage in canon law. “Putative” means that at least one person thought in good faith that the marriage was valid. Therefore at the moment of the child’s birth, he or she was *civily and canonically legitimate* and an annulment does not *retroactively* affect a child’s legitimacy (please see *Code of Canon Law* 1137).

The Church does not desire any ill effects for the children in an annulment case. The same is true for the couple as well. When the Church determines an annulment it is not looking for a “winner.” Tribunals try to answer this question: is it proved that what seemed to be a marriage was – usually through no one’s sin or crime – in fact only an attempted marriage?

The *decree of nullity* (the proper term for “annulment”) certifies that despite the fact that there was a wedding, and despite the fact that the parties believed that they were married, due to various reasons a valid *sacramental* bond never existed (the civil marriage did exist). If the decree of nullity is given, it is a sad fact and it has some consequences, but children’s legitimacy is not one of them.

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

Weekly Collection

February 26, 2017

Weekly.....	\$12,193.50
Electronic Giving.....	\$2,129.50
	Total=\$14,323.00
Outreach.....	\$658.00

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.



2017 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Kick-off at OLM This Weekend

2017 Parish Goal \$193,864

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin McDevitt
OLM Chairs of the CCA

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Zubiago
OLM Chairs of the Bishop’s Partners in Charity

The Lord never tires of forgiving, it is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.

Pope Francis



Confession Times at OLM During Lent

Mondays-Fridays: 11:45pm—12:00PM
Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM (Two Confessors)
Saturdays: 3:00PM—3:45PM

2017 LENTEN SCHEDULE AT OUR LADY OF MERCY



DAILY MASSES DURING LENT

MONDAY—FRIDAY AT 7:30AM & 12:05PM

SATURDAYS AT 8:30AM

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

MONDAY—FRIDAY FROM 11:45AM—12:00PM

MONDAYS FROM 6:00PM—6:45PM

TWO PRIESTS/ONE GUEST CONFESSOR

SATURDAYS FROM 3:00PM—3:45PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

8:30AM—STATIONS FOR OLM SCHOOL

7:00PM—STATIONS OF THE CROSS

OLM Lenten Book Rack

A selection of spiritual and informative books and pamphlets for the Lenten Season are available at our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to browse and take one for the season.

OLM Lenten Table

During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with religious articles (both new & gently used). These items are available without any cost. They have been donated by OLM Parishioners. Please stop by and check them out!



- Saturday, March 11: First Penance for OLM School First Communion Class.
- Monday, March 13: OLM School Lenten Confessions at 1:00PM

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org



- All RE Classes meet this weekend.
- Sunday, March 12: RE Grades 3—8, Lenten Confessions at 6:00PM



- The OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please deposit all donated food in the box in the Church vestibule.
- For more information**, contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

1st Sunday of Lent



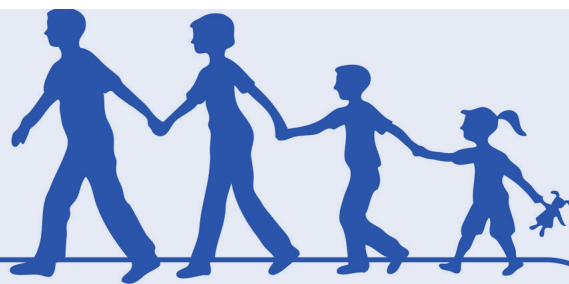
As we celebrate this first Sunday of our penitential season, it is interesting to note that the word “Lent” comes from the Old English *lencten* or *lengten*, which means springtime and derives from the concept of lengthening daylight.

By the fourth century, Lent had come to be a period of intense final preparation for catechumens who would be baptized at Easter and a period of re-conversion for penitents, serious sinners who were seeking reconciliation.

As conversion and re-conversion took place within the community of the faithful, Lent was soon seen as an excellent opportunity for all to fast, pray, and engage in charitable works in preparation for baptismal renewal at Easter.

L Turn away
E
N
T from sin

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.



OLM YOUNG FAMILIES

OLM Young Families Meeting
Thursday, March 9
5:30—7:00PM, OLM School Cafeteria

All young families are most welcome to come to join with us in fellowship and conversation about our Catholic faith. **The topic for this meeting is “The Rosary” presented by Fr. Barrow**

Babysitting is available for your children and delicious Pizza served for dinner!

For more information or just to learn more about our group contact Young Families Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com

***Prayerful Best Wishes
to our newly baptized:***



**Benjamin Thomas Pedro,
and his parents, John and Jaime.**

“Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He is now called a child of God, for so indeed he is.”
— The Rite of Baptism