



† MASS SCHEDULE †

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation.....4:00 PM
Sunday Mass.....7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM &
5:00 PM (Sept—May)

Daily

Monday - Friday.....7:30 AM
Saturdays & Legal Holidays.....8:30 AM

Holy Day

Vigil Mass.....5:00 PM
Holyday Masses.....7:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Mercy School

Mr. Scott W. Fuller
School Principal

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818
School Phone 401-884-1618
Email olmoffice@olmschool.org
Web.....www.olmschool.org

THE CHURCH OF

Our Lady of Mercy

65 THIRD STREET ✕ EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818



Phone.....401-884-4968 Fax.....401-884-1415
Parish Email.....parish@olmparish.org
Parish Website.....www.olmparish.org

First Sunday of Advent ✕ November 29, 2015

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Mondays at 6:00 PM or by appointment.
Saturdays at 3:00 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Second Sunday of the month. Preparation Class is required. Please contact the parish Deacon prior to the birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact one of the parish priests one year prior to the proposed date of your wedding.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact one of the parish priests if you are shut-in, sick, homebound or hospitalized and before surgery.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Please contact one of the parish priests or the Office of the Director of Vocations at 401-331-1316 or www.catholicpriest.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday8:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Very Reverend Bernard A. Healey, S.T.L., J.C.L., Pastor

The Reverend Ryan W. Connors, S.T.L., Associate Pastor

Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.

William K. Wray

Parish Trustees





PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

- Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor* 884-4968
 pastor@olmparish.org
- Father Ryan W. Connors, *Associate Pastor* 884-4968
 associatepastor@olmparish.org
- Deacon John W. Dowd, *Deacon Assistant* 884-4968
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- Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director* 884-4968
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- St. Patrick's Cemetery Office 886-5296
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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Mrs. Michele St. Jean (*Grades 1-5*) 884-1061
 reled@olmparish.org
- Mr. Douglas E. Green (*Grades 6-8*) 884-4410
 confirmation@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- Mr. Michael LaChimia, *Coordinator* 884-4968
 mlachimia@olmschool.org

OFFICE OF OUTREACH

- Mr. Douglas E. Green, *Director* 884-4410
 outreach@olmparish.org

MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS

- Mr. Henri M. St. Louis, *Music Director* 884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org
- Mrs. Deirdre A. Donovan, *Soloist* 884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org

OLM SCHOOL

- Main Office 884-1618
 olmoffice@olmschool.org
- Mrs. Carolyn C. MacCrae, *School Bookkeeper* 558-0051
 olmbookkeeper@cox.net
- Extended Day Program 886-0742



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

The Mass of Anticipation for the 1st Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM James Sheridan—3rd Anniversary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The First Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00AM Alice M Loftus—Memorial
 10:30AM Tom & Betty Kelly—Memorial
 5:00PM Joseph A. Caffey, Sr.—Memorial

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew, Apostle
 7:30 AM Mary E. Healey—36th Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Weekday
 7:30 AM Father Raymond M. Kelly—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
 7:30AM Emily Devlin—58th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday/St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Father Stanley T. Nakowicz—3rd Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday
 8:30AM Salvatore DiStefano—25th Anniversary

The Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Armando & Katherine DeAngelis &
 Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

The Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00 AM Milan Toljan—15th Anniversary
 10:30AM John F. McBurney, Jr.—Memorial
 5:00PM Anthony Reale—3rd Anniversary



First Sunday of Advent



Dear Parishioners:

I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends. It is a great day to spend time with the ones we love and to stop and give thanks for the blessings God has bestowed upon us.

We give thanks for much here at Our Lady of Mercy. We give thanks for the tremendous spirit of charity and mercy. It is this spirit that helped to support our OLM Outreach efforts this Thanksgiving. Thanks to your support we were able to provide many needy families and individuals a holiday basket. Thank you for your generosity!

We begin the New Church Year this week as we usher in the Holy Season of Advent. It is a season of prayerful preparation and joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ. We pray with patience and perseverance as we prepare the way for Christ to come into our lives and our world.

Advent is a time to recall the cry of the early Christians: "*Maranatha!*" "*Come, Lord Jesus!*" We join the cry as we too call out: "*Come, Lord Jesus!*" Come into our lives, come into our homes, come into our hearts and come into our world!

If the Lord Jesus is to truly come into our lives and hearts we must come to Him at Holy Mass, we must prepare ourselves with a good Confession and we must commit ourselves to prayer and devotion to the Lord.

As Pope Francis reminds us: "*The season of Advent, which*

we begin again today, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty."

We look forward to the hope and joy of Christmas and Christ's Second Coming but we also look back. Each year we send a report to Bishop Tobin with all the sacramental statistics of the parish.

We reported to the Most Reverend Bishop the following: we are a parish of 2,120 registered households and 7,150 people. There are over 400 children who attend Catholic School and over 400 who attend our Religious Education Program.

Last year we welcomed 41 people into the Church with the Sacrament of Baptism. We had 81 young children receive their First Holy Communion and another 111 received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We joyfully joined 24 couples in the Sacrament of Marriage last year! And sadly we had 64 parishioners laid to rest with a Mass of Christian Burial.

Overall these statistics indicate that our parish is active and youthful! However, they also suggest that many of our 2,120 families are not joining us for Mass on Sundays and some are not bringing their children forward for the Sacraments.

Let us pray for our parish that Advent may be a time of

renewal for all our parish. May we renew ourselves by faithfully and worthily receiving Christ in Holy Communion at Sunday Mass and humbly seeking God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession as we encounter Christ's real presence in the Sacraments.

Our Winter Coat Drive continues and I thank our Junior Legion of Mary and OLM Youth Group for their work. We hope to collect new and gently used coats for the homeless and the needy. There is always great need for warm coats during the cold winter weather.

If you cannot drop off your donated coat this weekend, please feel free to drop it off during the week at the OLM Outreach Office in Mercy House. Thank you for your generous support of this work of mercy as we seek to "clothe the naked."

The Year of Mercy called forth by Pope Francis is to commence across the globe on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 which is the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Tobin commences the Year of Mercy for the Diocese of Providence here at OLM at the 9:00AM OLM School Holy Day Mass. He honors our parish by celebrating the inaugural Mass for the entire Church of Providence at our parish dedicated to Mercy.

Advent is here! Prepare the way! "*Come, Lord Jesus!*" Be well. Do Good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey

Fr. Connors

Q & A



Dear Fr. Connors: Should food and water always be given even to terminally ill patients?

An innocent person, no matter how sick or handicapped, should never be intentionally killed. The *Catechism* explains that euthanasia refers to “an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering. [It] constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator” (CCC 2277).

In principle food and water, even when administered by artificial means, represents the ordinary care due to every person. Food and water are ordinary care due to everyone, not an extraordinary medical act designed to restore someone to health.

In 2004 Pope John Paul II explained: “I should like particularly to underline how the administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a *natural means* of preserving life, not a *medical act*. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, *ordinary* and *proportionate*, and as such morally obligatory, insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality, which in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of his suffering.”

All that is to say: yes, food and water, even when given by artificial means (a feeding tube, etc.) should in principle be given. If, however, one is no longer able to assimilate food, for example, a patient is consistently vomiting then, of course, it is not morally necessary to administer nutrition in that way. This is what the Pope means when he says the nutrition is necessary when it is able to reach its proper finality.

The point is one should not be starved to death. A person who is sick should be cared for, comforted, and if possible pain alleviated. However, no one should be intentionally killed either directly or by omitting the ordinary care, for example, food and water, due to every person.

If you have a question about the Catholic Church or Catholic Teaching, please email questions to associatepastor@olmparish.org



Weekly Collection

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday print deadline the collection results for November 22, 2015 are unavailable.

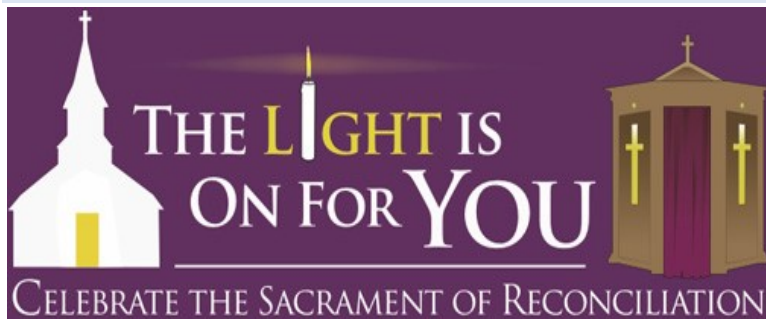
If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank you for your generosity!

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

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Week: Building & Grounds Collection



Confession at OLM

Mondays 6:00—6:45PM

Saturdays 3:00—3:45PM

Prepare the way of the LORD.

ISAIAH 40:3

Religious Education NEWS

No RE Classes this weekend due to Thanksgiving Holiday.

•The Religious Education calendar can be found on the Parish website: www.olmparish.org. Go to Faith Formation and then Religious Education for Children.

Outreach Update

*Thank you for your support of our
Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets!*



Cloth the Naked" this Winter Season

The OLM Youth Group and Junior Legion of Mary have teamed up to Support the **OLM Outreach Coat Drive**. Coats will be collected at all Masses **November 28 & 29**. There will be a collection bin at the main entrance to the Church for **new or gently used coats**. **Men's, Women's and Children's coats are needed**. These coat will go to Emmanuel House, McAuley House, and Midnight Moment Outreach to the Homeless.

Please contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or at outreach@olmparish.org for more information.

1st Sunday of Advent



Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year.

Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century.

It is a four-week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.



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.



The Jubilee Year of Mercy

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 thru Sunday, November 20, 2016

"In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: 'Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.'"—

Pope Francis

The Year of Mercy commences on Tuesday, December 8, 2015
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
A Holy Day of Obligation

Join us for the Opening of the Year of Mercy in the Diocese of Providence

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00AM Holy Day OLM School Mass & Opening of the Year of Mercy

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin

Celebrant & Homilist



The Year of Mercy — Work of Mercy at Our Lady of Mercy ***"Feed the Hungry"***

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 12, 2015

Our Lady of Mercy is taking action to feed our poor neighbors overseas and help reduce global poverty!



Join your fellow parishioners in the **OLM School Gym on Saturday, December 12, 2015 immediately following the 4PM Mass** for a **Helping Hands** meal-packaging event presented by **Catholic Relief Services** and Stop Hunger Now. Our goal is to **pack 10,000 bags** to help feed vulnerable children, women and men in the West African country of Burkina Faso.

Our participation in Helping Hands also supports CRS programs that assist people in Burkina Faso to develop skills so they can become economically independent. Those receiving the meals you will help package will learn new ways to earn an income through basic skills taught by CRS, such as how to grow a garden, make cloth or raise poultry.



For more information and to sign up for this event, contact the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 or via email at parish@olmparish.org

Open to All Parishioners Age 3 to 103!

