

Happy Thanksgiving



Give thanks to the **LORD**,
for he is good.

Psalms 107:1



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**THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 NOVEMBER 19, 2017**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Mass of Anticipation for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Steven Simms—Memorial

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Deborah Anderson—3rd Anniversary
 10:30AM James Riley—2nd Anniversary
 5:00PM Dec'd Members of the Legion of Mary—Mem.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Weekday
 7:30AM Joseph Grimes—Memorial

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 7:30AM John Gardner Jr.—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr
 7:30AM Edward V. Healey, Jr.—Birthday Remembrance

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23—THANKSGIVING DAY

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs
 7:30AM Gianna Cirella—Memorial

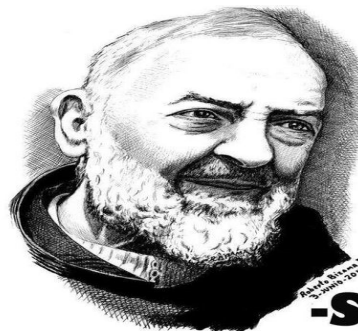
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Weekday/ St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr; BVM
 8:30AM Special Intention

Mass of Anticipation for Christ the King
 4:00PM Lisa Tanner—Memorial

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
 7:30 AM Matilda Manocchia—Memorial
 9:00 AM Hon. Vincent A. Ragosta—Memorial
 10:30AM Tom & Betty Kelly—Memorial
 5:00PM Elizabeth Ruzich—Memorial



**We must
 empty
 Purgatory
 with our
 prayers.**

-St. Padre Pio

946 Our Lady of Mercy-2



Dear Parishioners:

Ordinary Time is coming to an end as we prepare for the great Solemnity of Christ the King next week, which is the final Sunday of the Church Year. The Season of Advent starts soon. It's hard to believe that the Church's liturgical year is coming to end so soon!

Of course, if you turn on a radio or TV you hear all the Christmas music and see Christmas advertisements! If you go to the mall or the local CVS, you'll see the Christmas displays! It started immediately after Halloween and in some cases before Halloween! For me it is truly a ridiculous over commercialization of a sacred season.

This Thursday we celebrate that most American of holidays, Thanksgiving Day! Much of the retail world have seemingly forgotten this holiday. But on Thursday millions of Americans gather around their table to share a meal and give thanks to Almighty God for their blessings and bounty.

Thanksgiving Day is truly about preparing a special meal and then sharing it with family and friends. This also includes attending high school football games, watching the NFL and even tossing the football around in the backyard. Every family no matter how large or small, no matter how rich or poor, no matter what color or creed, stops on Thanksgiving to give thanks to God!

Now for many people it is just a chance to get away on vacation or a time to spend the night preparing for the big sales at the stores. They then rush to the malls to fight the crowds and

buy things nobody really needs and usually don't appreciate.

Having spent five Thanksgivings living in Belgium while in the seminary, I grew very fond of the holiday. For the Belgians it was just another Thursday and meant nothing! Classes were held and there were no football games! We had to get our turkeys and pies from the local U.S. military base. And our Thanksgiving meal was far from home and our family. Having celebrated Thanksgiving so far away, I grew to cherish it's uniquely American traditions.

I have a priest friend who maintains that Thanksgiving is not only a uniquely American holiday, but also a very Protestant one. He tells me that's why many people do not come to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. I'm not sure that's the real reason but history does tell us that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Protestant pilgrims in 1621.

We also know that the Puritan pilgrims were very anti-Catholic. They had left England because they thought that the Church of England was too Catholic. The Puritans were strict Calvinists who opposed celebrating Christmas, dancing, musical instruments in church, and even hymns as too "Papist"!

Squanto, the beloved hero of Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock, was a Catholic! He had been enslaved by the English but was freed by Spanish Franciscan Friars. Squanto was then baptized and became a Catholic. So it was a baptized Catholic Native American who orchestrated what became known as Thanksgiving Day. So perhaps it is a Catholic holiday!

So while Thanksgiving may celebrate the Calvinists who fled England, we Catholics might remember that the same unjust laws they fled also granted the crown of martyrdom to St. Thomas More, St. John Fisher, St. Edmund Campion, and many other Catholic martyrs.

Also, remember that the Greek word "*Eucharistia*" means "Thanksgiving." Thus, Holy Mass is the true "Thanksgiving Meal." So begin your Thanksgiving Day this year by joining us on Thursday at 9:00am Mass.

We gather together as a parish family to truly give our Heavenly Father thanks and gratitude for our many blessings. Our OLM Choir is singing with praise to our good and gracious God. Also, Dominican Friar, Father John Sica, OP from Providence College is preaching the Mass. Join us as we give thanks to God in the best possible way, at Mass!

And on Thanksgiving Day before you happily share your meal, don't forget to raise your glass and recall the words of the great Catholic author, Hilaire Belloc: "*Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, There's always laughter and good red wine. At least I've always found it so. Benedicamus Domino! Let us Bless the Lord!*" Fr. Barrow, Deacon Dowd and I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Know of our prayers for your safe travel. Do good. Be well. God Bless! Go Pats!!!



What is the meaning of the word “Eucharist”?

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and so it seems appropriate to delve into the origin and meaning of the word Eucharist. The word itself derives from the Greek word *eucharistia* which means “thanksgiving.” Going farther up the chain of words it also derives from the Greek word *kharis* which means “grace.” It may refer to Holy Communion itself, but it is also used to designate the second part of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Eucharist (as opposed to the Liturgy of the Word). This word signals part of the purpose of the Mass which is to give thanks to almighty God for all that he has done for us, and in particular, for His sacrifice and death on the cross and resurrection for our salvation. During the Mass the English terms “thanks” or “thanksgiving” are used often to try and emphasize this purpose of the Mass.

It is, however, not simply us offering thanksgiving to God, but Jesus Christ, the beloved son. At every Mass we unite ourselves to His great prayer of thanksgiving to the Father through the Holy Spirit. In many ways throughout our lives we offer thanksgiving to God, but it is through the Mass, united to Christ, that we offer perfect praise and thanksgiving.

Properly speaking we give thanks to someone in response to a gift. Saying “thank you” when receiving one’s due is mere politeness. For instance, when a person buys something from the store and says “thank you” to the clerk, this is not thanksgiving or gratitude in the truest sense, since it is an exchange of goods in justice (unless of course the clerk gives you something for free). Thanksgiving and gratitude are the response to something given to us freely. God gives us His very self freely and so properly speaking our response is thanksgiving.

If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at associate@olmparish.org



Weekly Collection

November 12, 2017

Weekly.....	\$13,699.50
EFT.....	\$3,254.00
	Total=\$16,953.50
Outreach	\$949.50
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$107,274.00

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.

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



Second Collections This Week: Human Development



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of **Austin M. Kairnes, Jr.** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday **Thursday, November 23, 2017** **Mass at 9:00AM**

The OLM Parish Office will close for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Wednesday, November 22nd at Noon and reopen on Monday, November 27th at 8:00am.





Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Tuesday, November 21:** Weekly School Mass at 8:15am
- **Thanksgiving Recess** begins Wednesday, November 22nd. School resumes Monday, November 27th. ***A Happy Thanksgiving to our students, staff and faculty!***

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



● **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in Food Box in vestibule. Thank you for your support.

● **Thanks for your support of our Thanksgiving Day baskets.** Your generous donations are appreciated.

● **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

Thank you for your generous support.



● All RE Classes meet this Sunday, November 19.

● Tonight is the **first mandatory lecture for all grade 8 Confirmation Candidates**, public, parochial, and Home Study. It is from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the school cafeteria.

● There are no classes on Sunday, November 26th. We wish all of our RE families a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! We are grateful for you!



Best Wishes to our newly baptized:



Allie Reece Harwood,
Her parents, Joseph and Ann

Ruby Grace Holgate,
and her parents, David and Tiffany.

"Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are." – The Rite of Baptism

Vacationing?

Finding a Catholic
Church Is Just a Click
Away!



masstimes.org
MASS TIMES FOR TRAVEL

Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday, November 23, 2017
9:00AM



Fr. John Sica, OP

Professor of Philosophy at Providence College
Homilist

Grace for Thanksgiving Day Meal



Heavenly Father,
Your gifts of love are countless and Your goodness infinite; as we come before You with gratitude for Your goodness on Thanksgiving Day, open our hearts to have concern for our brothers and sisters especially those who are less fortunate and live in want and need. May we generously share Your gifts in loving service to our neighbor and give generously of our many blessings. Bless us and all our family, Bless the food from Your bounty we are about to receive. We give You thanks for this day and all our blessings. Through Christ our Lord.

