

*The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe*



*November 26, 2017*

*The Church of Our Lady of Mercy*

*East Greenwich, RI*

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



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## **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE NOVEMBER 26, 2017**

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

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

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

*The Solemnity of 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

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—18th Anniversary

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Joseph Grimes—Memorial

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

*St. Andrew, Apostle*  
 7:30AM Mary E. Healey—38th Anniversary

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Ann E. Watters—Memorial

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

*Weekday/ BVM*  
 8:30AM Robert Anderson—Memorial  
*Mass of Anticipation for the First Sunday of Advent*  
 4:00PM Armando & Katherine DeAngelis &  
 Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**

*First Sunday of Advent*  
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church  
 9:00 AM Bernard S. O'Malley—Memorial  
 10:30AM Emily Devlin—60th Anniversary  
 5:00PM Roland Neeson—Memorial







Dear Parishioners:

We celebrate Christ the King this weekend and mark the end of the Church Year. This Solemnity proclaims Jesus Christ as the King of the Universe. Pope Francis reminds us: *“On this feast day, we rejoice together in the reign of Christ the King over the whole world. He is the one who removes all that hinders reconciliation, justice and peace.*

*We are reminded that true royalty does not consist in a show of power, but in the humility of service; not in the oppression of the weak, but in the ability to protect them and to lead them to life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). Christ reigns from the Cross and, with his arms open wide, he embraces all the peoples of the world and draws them into unity.”*

As the Church Year ends, we now prepare for the coming of the great Feast of Christmas. We do so with prayerful anticipation and joyful preparation. Advent begins next Sunday. Mother Church is shrewd for She knows that all good things demand proper preparation. Christmas is truly a good thing. Advent invites us to properly and joyfully prepare for the birth of our Messiah.

In our Advent prayers, and worship, we are reminded that as Catholics we are called to “stand out” during these weeks. We do so because we do not celebrate Christmas until Advent is over! Somber, purple vestments are worn by our priests and no festive Christmas carols are sung yet at Mass. The crèche and all the Christmas decorations are not to appear until around Christmas Eve.

Meanwhile in the cold and secular world around us it often appears to be December 25th already! But in our Church, we Catholics try to slow down, we take our time and try to truly get ready for December 25th. We celebrate that it’s Advent.

Now please understand that I am not an “Advent extremist,” nor am I on the warpath about Christmas being too secular, or its celebration coming way too early. Although I would agree that both are true in our world today. However, I do love the Advent Season and I know that Christmas is always more meaningful if we use this special season to truly prepare our hearts and homes for Christ’s coming.

So how can we “salvage” Advent? Well if you do put up your tree and the crib a bit early, save the arrival of the Baby Jesus until Christmas itself. Growing up, in my family home, the Baby Jesus was never put in the crib until Christmas Eve.

Why not place an Advent wreath, an Advent calendar, or perhaps even a giving tree, or “Jesse Tree” in your home. Teach your children to pray and prepare for Christmas with patience and joyful service to others in imitation of the Holy Family.

Many people worry that Christmas has become much too commercial and perhaps a little “too selfish.” So consider helping someone in need and sacrificing something this Christmas that you don’t really need. Helping the poor and needy buys the real joy of Christmas more than any expensive gift ever can.

I have a friend with eight

grandchildren, who, during Advent, claims she has nine, as she donates the amount she spends on one of her own to a charity to help a child.

Prayer is also a tried-and-true Advent practice. So try to join us at daily Mass this season, or perhaps make a stop in Church on the way home from work for a little prayer time with Jesus. Pray the mysteries of the rosary every day in Advent as a way to prepare for Christmas

Consider reconciling with that person with whom you’ve had a falling out, a fight, or have not heard from in a long time. Why not reach out to them in the spirit of Advent peace and reconciliation.

Finally, Advent is a great time to make a good Sacramental confession. You’ll find your Mass and Holy Communion on Christmas Day a lot more meaningful if during Advent you have experienced the loving and merciful forgiveness of the Messiah in Confession. God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession is the best gift you can ever give yourself, and also your family, for Christmas.

Over the next few weeks lets strive to “keep Christ in Christmas” by keeping Advent alive in our hearts and homes with patience, prayer, joyful good works and a good Confession.

Do good. Be well. God Bless! Go Pats!!! Advent is coming so prepare the way!

*Father Healey*



**Why were Adam and Eve kicked out of the Garden?**

We read in Genesis 3:22-24: “Then the LORD God said: See! The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil! Now, what if he also reaches out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life, and eats of it and lives forever? The LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken. He expelled the man, stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

I suppose that our immediate reaction to God banishing Adam and Eve would be shock and confusion. In fact, however, God’s banishment of Adam and Eve was an act of great mercy. This is because fallen human beings are no longer able to live in the Garden and use it properly. The inclination to sin from Original Sin means that we more often than not misuse the created world around us. For fallen humanity, suddenly all the things that were “good” in the beginning now have the potential for evil. Hence to be in the Garden in which all material needs are met, means that humans would, in the words of St. Augustine, fall upon the lovely things of God’s creation, and ignore God. Instead of being a source of peace, joy and love, the Garden becomes a prison which enslaves us to itself.

We can see this in the world today. Many of our material needs are met and people have replaced God with technology, pleasure, bread and circus. The world around us is fundamentally good, since it is created by God. Yet, as humanity becomes more materially prosperous the temptation becomes to rest in this life alone. We desire the created world and not God.

So the expulsion from the Garden was an act of mercy on God’s part so that we would not misuse and become attached to things of the created world. We are called to higher things; God Himself. As C.S. Lewis writes in *The Problem of Pain*, “Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.” It is interesting that in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Silmarillion* death is called the “Gift of Men.” The elves live forever, but they envy this gift because, despite the beauty of the created world, they are trapped in it. Remember, that despite our sin against him, God prepares for us an even lovelier dwelling than the Garden in the Kingdom of Heaven. This is prefigured at every Mass where we partake of the Christ Himself, participants in His sacrifice upon a tree.

*If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at [associate@olmparish.org](mailto:associate@olmparish.org)*

# Weekly Collection

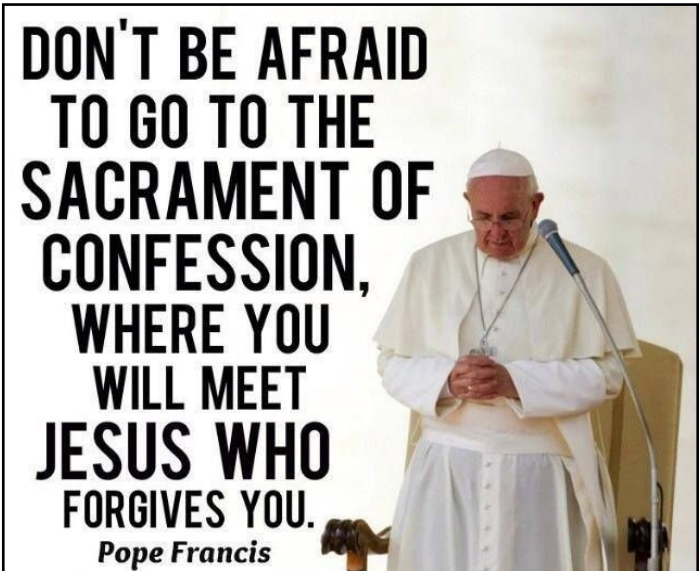
Collection results from last week are unavailable due to the Thanksgiving Holiday print deadline. They are to be published in next week’s bulletin.

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** Next Week: Building & Grounds Collection



**Confessions at OLM**  
Mondays: 6:00pm–6:45pm  
Saturdays: 3:00pm–3:45pm



### Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Monday, November 26:** School resumes after Thanksgiving Holiday Recess.
- **Thursday, November 30:** School Assembly

*Discover the OLM Difference!*

[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)



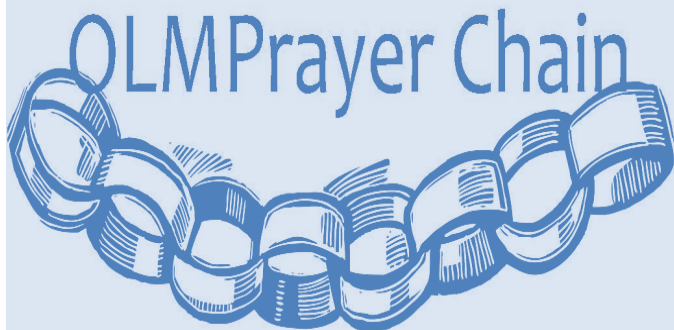
- NO RE Classes this Sunday, November 26. All RE Classes resume next weekend. Thank you to all RE families who generously donated to the Thanksgiving food drive.
- RE classes resume Sunday, December 3rd.



- **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.
- **Helping Refugee Families at Christmas:** The Diocese Providence's Office of Refugee Resettlement and Migration Services has several refugee families in need of basic, warm clothing. If you would like to adopt a family for Christmas and supply much need clothing and gifts, please contact Doug Green for more information.
- **The OLM Bereavement Support Group** meets Thursday, November 30th, from 4:00-6:00pm at Mercy House. All those experiencing sorrow, grief and isolation are most welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and support.

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

*Thank you for your generous support.*



*Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain.* The power of pray is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller, or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629 or email at [2hart@cox.net](mailto:2hart@cox.net).

*If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!*

*The power of prayer at work!*





# Christ the King



**N**ow celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the solemnity of Christ the King was originally observed on the last Sunday of October.

Established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, it was one factor in the church's response to the political turmoil leading up to World War II.

This feast with its emphasis on Christ's second coming and final sovereignty over all creation is the perfect note on which to end one year and look forward to the next.



*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.*

## Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ King (*Iesu dulcissime, Redemptor*)

*A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who piously recite the Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ King. A plenary indulgence is granted, if it is recited publicly on the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ King.*

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before you. We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart.

Many indeed have never known you; many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart. Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.

Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd. Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor for ever. Amen.



*“Be still, and know  
that I am God!”*

**I AM EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS,  
I AM EXALTED IN THE EARTH.”**

**PSALM 46:10, NRSV**