



THE CHURCH OF
Our Lady of Mercy



Phone.....401-884-4968 Fax.....401-884-1415

Parish Email.....parish@olmparish.org

Parish Website.....www.olmparish.org

Sixty-Five Third Street ✕ East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

The First Sunday of Advent ✕ November 27, 2016

† **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

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 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 - Friday.....8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, Parish Secretary

Email: parish@olmparish.org

Phone: 401-884-4968

Our Lady of Mercy School

Mr. Scott W. Fuller

School Principal

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone401-884-1618

Email.....olmoffice@olmschool.org

Web.....www.olmschool.org

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

The Reverend Joshua A. Barrow, S.T.L., Associate Pastor

Deacon John W. Dowd, Parish Deacon

Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.

William K. Wray

Parish Trustees





PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor*.....884-4968
 pastor@olmparish.org

Father Joshua A. Barrow, *Associate Pastor*.....884-4968
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Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*.....884-4968
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MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS

Mr. Henri M. St. Louis, *Music Director*.....884-4968
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OLM SCHOOL

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Mrs. Carolyn C. MacCrae, *School Bookkeeper*..558-0051
 cmaccrae@olmschool.org

Little Saints & Scholars Program.....886-0742



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 2016

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The Mass of Anticipation for the First Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Mary Gianardi—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

The First Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM Theresa & Frank Heran—Memorial
 9:00 AM Alex Tagliatella—Memorial
 10:30AM Robert & Patricia Morris—Memorial
 5:00PM Deborah Anderson—2nd Anniversary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—17th Anniversary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM Nicholas & Maria San Martino—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew, Apostle
 7:30AM Mary E. Healey—37th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday
 7:30AM Special Intention

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest
 8:30AM Emily Devlin—59th Anniversary
Mass of Anticipation for the Second Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Rodolphe St. Louis—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Dr. James Haggerty—Memorial
 10:30AM Armando & Katherine DeAngelis—Memorial
 and Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial
 5:00PM Laverne Marie Hess—Birthday Remembrance



First Sunday of Advent



Dear Parishioners:

I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Does it seem to you, as it does to me, that Thanksgiving snuck up on us this year, taking us by surprise? And here we are now with leftover turkey and cranberry and it's the First Sunday of Advent already!

The change to the color purple and the addition of the Advent wreath and candles in Church and our homes remind us that we've entered a new season on the church calendar. It is a season for preparing to ready the way for Jesus to enter our hearts.

So, as we enter the season of Advent this weekend, and with Christmas and a new year just around the corner, we need to heed the Advent cry: Come, Lord Jesus! When we need him most and least expect Him: Jesus is coming into our hearts. Not just at Christmas, not just in Advent, not just in December, but every minute of every hour of every day!

Many of us, especially the children, are looking forward to Christmas with great and joyful anticipation. For others this is a difficult time that can be overwrought with worry, anxiety, loneliness and grief. Today a season begins by inviting all our hearts to open up and prepare a way for the Lord to enter.

As Jeremiah reminds us: *"the days are coming when the Lord will fulfill his promise to keep us safe and secure."* As St. Paul tell us, the Lord's desire is *"to strengthen our hearts in love, to help us lead lives pleasing to God."* Advent is a season to keep vigil for signs of Jesus' coming, not so much in the sun, the moon and the stars, but in our hearts in the midst of all our troubles and joys.

Advent is a season meant to prepare us to welcome with joy the Lord more fully into our hearts and lives. The so-called "holiday season" is all around us, the "commercial season" taps our bank accounts, and the "social season" of decorations, cookies, gifts and parties distracts us. None of these are particularly beneficial in helping us welcome Jesus into our hearts or our lives.

What is helpful for us is to find some quiet time in Advent to sit with the Lord in prayer and reflection. We are blessed to have a Church that is open all day long. So stop by before or after work, or school, and spend just a few minutes away from the noisy and hectic pace of the season around us to be with the Lord.

What is helpful for us is to prepare ourselves by seeking God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession. Take some time this season to prepare yourself for Christmas through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come to Confession on a Monday night at 6pm or Saturday afternoon at 3pm. Receive God's mercy and forgiveness this season.

What's helpful is not buying, consuming and filling up on everything but rather emptying ourselves out to make room, for Jesus to come into our hearts and make Himself at home there. That's what the great feast we anticipate, Christmas, is truly all about: Jesus coming to make His home among us and within us.

What's helpful is doing whatever we can to avoid extravagance and over-indulgence in giving to those who already have so much and perhaps even too much, but rather doing whatever we can to reach out to those who have so little and need so much.

Will we welcome in the

season of Advent? Will we prepare to welcome the presence of Jesus within us? Will we try to spend at least part of the next four weeks focusing not so much on things whose shelf-life is so short but on those realities that can and do last forever?

The greatest Christmas gift ever given or received is God's gift of love to us in giving us His Only Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. It is the gift found in His Gospel, in His passion, death and resurrection, and in the Eucharist that we celebrate. As we enter into this time of joyful anticipation and prayerful preparation may it change our hearts to welcome Christ who comes to bring us healing, forgiveness, hope, peace, joy and love!

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman says of Advent: *"They watch for Christ who are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honoring Him, who look for Him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised, who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, if they found that He was coming at once. This then is to watch: to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as He came once, and as He will come again; to desire His second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of His first."*

So celebrate Advent! Pray and prepare the way of the Lord. Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



How long are the days in Genesis?

One of the questions that I have been asked by the eighth graders, whom I teach, is whether the days in Genesis chapter one are 24-hour periods. It is a good question, especially if one considers that contemporary scientific investigation dates the earth at 4.5 billion years old and the galaxy at a whopping 13.7 billion years old. Genesis chapter one seems to describe the creation of the entire universe over a span of a mere six days. How do we understand the Genesis chapter one creation account in light of modern science? In particular, what is the meaning of a “day” in Genesis?

It is sometimes risky to harmonize and concord everything we have in scripture to the science of the day (it is a movement called Concordism). Sometimes science changes and we find the interpretation of scripture tied to an outdated theory. But this should not disconcert us, for both reason and faith, science and religion are never in competition or contradiction.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (159) tells us, “Though faith is above reason, there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason. Since the same God who reveals mysteries and infuses faith has bestowed the light of reason on the human mind, God cannot deny himself, nor can truth ever contradict truth.”

So how long is a “day” in Genesis? The Hebrew word for “day” is *yom* and can mean at least three different lengths of time: (1) A period of twenty-four hours. (2) The period from sunrise to sunset. (3) A time period of an unspecified, but finite length. In the writings of the Fathers there are various opinions as to the length of these days. For instance, Augustine writes, “...we must bear in mind that these days [24-hour time periods] indeed recall the days of creation, but without any way being really similar to them.”

So, the Church has not definitively stated the length of the days of Genesis and we as Catholics are free to interpret a “day” in Genesis according to how we see the evidence.

“Ask Father Barrow” is a new weekly column by Fr. Barrow. If you have a question about the Catholic Faith, email your questions to Father at associate@olmparish.org and it might appear in the bulletin!

Collection results for last weekend are unavailable due to the Thanksgiving Holiday deadline.

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 Weekend: Monthly Building & Grounds Collection

Congratulations to our newly baptized :



Lucciana Marie Gaido
and her parents, Jose and Anna.

*“Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. She is now called a child of God, for so indeed she is.”
– The Rite of Baptism*



Religious Education NEWS

- **No RE Classes This Weekend** (November 27th) due to Thanksgiving.
- **All RE Classes meet next weekend:** Grades 1-5, 10:00am—11:00am; Grades 6-8, 6:00pm—7:00pm.
- RE Advent Confessions on Sunday, December 11th



- Weekly School Mass, Thursday, December 1st at 8:15am. All are welcome to attend.

Discover the OLM Advantage!

www.olmschool.org

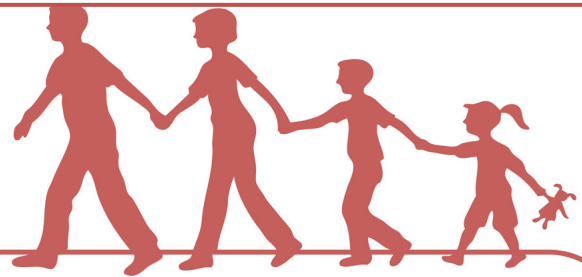


Outreach Update

- **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.

Thank you for help with Thanksgiving Baskets!!

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



OLM YOUNG FAMILIES

**OLM Young Families Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 2016
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 Religious Liberty with Fr. Thomas More Garrett, O.P., Associate Pastor of St. Pius V Church.**

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

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

*Advent:
A Season
of Hope
and
Anticipation*



**Pray
for
Vocations**



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.

First Sunday of Advent

Come, Lord Jesus

An Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Come into our weakness.
Come into our fears.
Come into our failures.
Come into our anxieties.
Come into our divisions.
Come into our grieving.
Come into our loneliness.
Come into our darkness.
Come into our doubting.
Come into our despair.
Come into our poverty of heart.
Come into our searching.
Come into our joys and hopes
Come into our dying.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

