

The Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation

November 5, 2017



The Most Reverend James F. Checchio, J.C.D.

Bishop of Metuchen

Our Lady of Mercy Church

East Greenwich, RJ 02818

www.olmparish.org



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THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 5, 2017

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Mass of Anticipation for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Robert Donatelli—4th Anniversary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

The Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Vincent Lanna—9th Anniversary
 10:30AM Deceased OLM Parishioners
 5:00PM Confirmation Mass

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Weekday
 7:30AM Martha & Gottlob Loeffler—Memorial

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Weekday
 7:30AM Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Weekday
 7:30AM Dec. Members of Frank & Isabella Almonte Family

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
 7:30AM James Howard—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

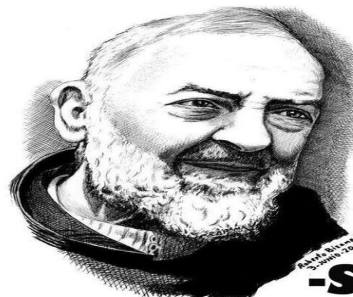
St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM William McDevitt—Memorial

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
 8:30 AM For All Veterans
Mass of Anticipation for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Donald Guilfoyle—6th Anniversary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Jean Montaquila—17th Anniversary
 10:30AM Miriam Gossmann—7th Anniversary
 5:00PM Nicholas San Martino—1st Anniversary



**We must
 empty
 Purgatory
 with our
 prayers.
 -St. Padre Pio**



Dear Parishioners:

November has arrived and with it our commitment and duty as Christians to pray for the dead. During this All Souls Month of November we especially recall the poor souls in purgatory.

The Church teaches us that after death there is for some a state of purgation, more commonly called Purgatory. It is entirely different from Hell. It is simply a purifying process for those who die in God's grace but are not yet prepared to enjoy the glory of heaven.

Saint Pope John Paul II described purgatory in these words: *"Those who live in this state of purification after death are not separated from God but are immersed in the love of Christ. Neither are they separated from the saints in heaven or from us on earth. We all remain united in the Mystical Body of Christ, and we can therefore offer up prayers and good works on behalf of our brothers and sisters in purgatory."*

It is good theology, and it is good common sense. Imagine if we got a call when we got home and they told us that the President or the Pope was coming for dinner. Wouldn't we want some time to prepare? Wouldn't we want to get ready to greet them?

And so it is when we are called at death to the eternal banquet by God, our loving Father. Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John: *"I go to prepare a place for you."* So we too prepare to meet our Lord, by our time in purgatory.

This is why the Church has the ancient and venerable

tradition of praying for the dead and why we have Masses for the dearly departed. It is also why we have the feast of All Souls, for the souls in purgatory.

This tradition can be seen as far back as the Old Testament in the book of Maccabees which tells us: *"it is good to pray for the dead."* St. Augustine, the great Doctor of the Church, once remarked about cemeteries that *"monuments are built for the survivors but prayer is the best way to assist the dead."*

We pray for the dead, and have Mass offered for the repose of their souls, because the dead who are in Purgatory depend upon the aid and charity of our prayers. For that reason, we have the custom of calling them poor souls.

We are urged to always remember the dead daily in our prayers, and at Masses. These beloved souls undergoing purification after death depend completely upon the charitable remembrances of us who are their fellow members in the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. At the same time, they continue to love us and can also pray for us.

Today in a very special way we remember our fellow OLM parishioners who died over the last year. We remember them and all souls during this month. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

This Sunday night at the 5:00pm Mass, we celebrate with great joy as a parish with the 88 young adults who are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and begin a new chapter in their

young lives as Catholic disciples.

They receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God to help them live as courageous witnesses of Christ in the world. We are grateful that they have chosen to come forward for the Sacrament and continue to grow in their Catholic Faith.

We thank their parents and sponsors who have led them to this important occasion in their faith life. We also thank the many teachers who taught them the ways of Christ and the rich teaching of the Catholic Church.

We must also thank Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen, NJ for traveling to OLM to celebrate Confirmation with our young adults. It is a great privilege to have him with us for this special occasion in the life of our parish.

Bishop Checchio's episcopal motto is *"Be reconciled to God."* This motto recalls St. Paul's appeal for us to continue the central mission for which Jesus was sent by the Father. And so let us pray for our newly Confirmed that they may always be reconciled to God in their lives. May they continue to grow in faith, hope and love as they go forth sealed with the Holy Spirit and confirmed in their Catholic Faith.

We offer a warm welcome to Bishop Checchio and our prayerful congratulations to our *Confirmandi!* Do good. Be well. God Bless! Happy Veterans' Day!

Father Healey



Why can't a parent be a Confirmation Sponsor?

The role of the Godparent or Sponsor in the Catholic Church (whether it be for the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation) has lost much of its significance today. People consider it a ceremonial position, or position of honor for a family member or close friend, when in fact, the purpose of a sponsor is much more significant. For an adult or teenager, the role of a Godparent or Sponsor is to assist the person in fulfilling Christian initiation. For an infant, a sponsor is to present the child for baptism with the child's parents, and to help him/her live a Christian life fitting for a baptized person, and to fulfill faithfully the duties inherent in his/her baptism. In other words, the sponsor is not supposed to disappear from the baptized or confirmed person's spiritual life after the sacrament is received. A concrete plan of action for any sponsor or godparent is to follow the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and impart them on the candidate.

In order to fulfill this role a sponsor needs to live the Catholic faith. We do not save ourselves and in order to impart unto others the saving truth and grace of the faith, we ourselves must be nourished by it (by coming to the sacraments, particularly Mass and Confession). Likewise, a sponsor must be confirmed and received Holy Communion, be at least sixteen years of age, not be under any canonical penalty (such as excommunication), and may not be the father or mother of the person to be baptized.

Is it simply because it is in Canon Law that a parent cannot be a sponsor? Are not parents the most concerned about a child's faith and the ones able to be with the child to help nurture their faith? As I wrote, the role of the Godparent or sponsor is to "assist the parents in raising children in the faith." We take this definition literally: a parent cannot assist himself/herself. A parent exercises a greater role or function in the sacrament of Confirmation and in raising the child in general. The sponsor participates in that function, but not to the same extent.

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



Weekly Collection

October 29, 2017

Weekly.....	\$11,843.50
EFT.....	\$1,977.00
	Total=\$13,820.50
Outreach	\$341.50
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$98,544.00

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.



Second Collections

This Week: Building & Grounds



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

The Parish Office is closed Friday, November 10th in observance of the Veterans' Day Holiday.



Daylight Saving Time ends on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Set your clocks back one hour!



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1951

Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Wednesday, November 8:** Faculty Meeting at 2:45pm
- **Thursday, November 9:** Weekly School Mass at 8:15am
- **Friday, November 10:** No School for Veterans' Day Holiday

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



Religious Education
NEWS

● **All RE Classes are cancelled this Sunday, November 5th due to Confirmation.** Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they receive the Sacrament that day.

● **Mandatory Meeting for all FIRST COMMUNION CLASS PARENTS:** Wednesday, November 8 at 7:00pm in OLM School Gym. At least one parent is expected to attend the meeting. ● **All RE Classes meet next Sunday, November 12.** Grades 1-5: 9:50am—10:50am; Grades 6-8: 6:00pm—7:00pm



Outreach Update

● **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.

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

Thank you for your generous support.



OLM Young Families
Thursday, November 9, 2017
5:30pm until 7:00pm
OLM School Cafeteria

Topic of Discussion This Meeting:

“Preparation for Marriage:

Raising Children to Be Good Spouses & Parents”

Fr. Nicholas Fleming

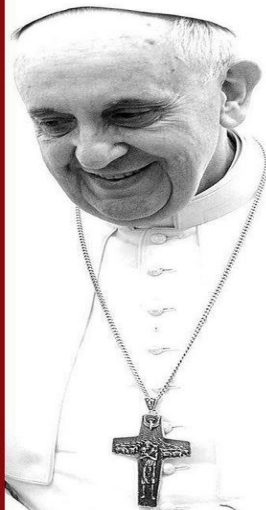
Associate Pastor of Sts. John & Paul Church

All young families are most welcome to join with us in fellowship and conversation about our Catholic faith. *Babysitting is available for your children and delicious Pizza served for dinner!*

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

Next meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2017

DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE,
DO NOT BURY YOUR TALENTS,
THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU!
DO NOT BE AFRAID TO DREAM OF GREAT THINGS!
POPE FRANCIS



All Souls Remembrance of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners

November 2016—November 2017

We pray for our brothers and sisters who have died this past year

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let the perpetual light shine upon them.

Louis Vallone
Lisa Tanner
Frank Ruggieri
Nicholas San Martino
Lucy Chapman
Richard Sceery
Joanne Denuccio
Marie Santos
James G Golden
Theresa McCaffrey
Mary Picozzi
John Beiermann
Dr. Robert Girasole
Frances M Floody
Michael Alix
Catherine Ann Gibbons
Nancy Jane King
Marjorie M Marrinan
Dolores Parente
Raymond McCormick
Gerald E Celio

Garrett Hunter
Thomas C Minuto
Lisa R Horne
Nancy Cerio
Anne Valleyly
Patricia Corrigan
Ernest G. Boutote
Lenora Purvis
Elsie M. Calore
Dorothy Frances Henry
Susan Marie Plouffe
Shirley Wesson
Robert A. Newell
Francis Hallaway
Michael Caparco
Megan A. Arcand
Antoinette King
Florence Hill
Marie Ann Oliverio
Linda Underhill
Brian Steven Messier

Edward J. Quinton III
Raymond Vigeant
Joan C. Moriarty
Elinor T. Burnett
John Joseph Corrigan
Joseph Haas
Matilda Manocchia
William Reynolds, Jr
Michael A. Rocchio
Constance Podedworny
Irene Brais
Ann Zonfrillo
Linda M. Canning
Evelyn V. D'Ambra
Mary Hyde
Beverly A. Zenga
Shirley G. Berlanga
Kathleen Souls
Rhonda A. Campanale

*And may the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*