



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

Third Sunday of Advent ✕ December 15, 2013

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Weekend

Saturday Vigil Mass..... 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses..... 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

September—June..... 5:00 PM

Daily

Monday - Friday..... 7:30 AM

Saturdays & Legal Holidays..... 8:30 AM

Holy Day

Vigil Mass..... 5:00 PM

Holiday Masses..... 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Mercy School

Sr. Jeanne Barry, R.S.M.

School Principal

55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone 884-1618

Email secretary@olmschool.org

Web www.olmschool.org

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 one of the parish priests 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

The 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

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 deacon@olmparish.org

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 parish@olmparish.org

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 parish@olmparish.org

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 bookkeeper@olmparish.org

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 parish@olmparish.org

St. Patrick's Cemetery Office..... 886-5296
 parish@olmparish.org

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 OUTREACH

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Mr. Jeffrey M. Allard 884-4968

Mrs. Deirdre A. Donovan.....884-4968
 musicministry@olmparish.org

OLM SCHOOL

Main Office..... 884-1618
 secretary@olmschool.org

Extended Day Program 886-0742

New Discoveries Pre-School 885-0776



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Mass of Anticipation for Third Sunday of Advent
 4:00 PM Anthony John Calitri—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00 AM Emily Devlin—56th Anniversary

10:30 AM Theresa Lolio—Memorial

5:00PM Maria San Martino—Memorial

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Advent Weekday
 7:30 AM Fred Buoro—Memorial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Late Advent Weekday
 7:30 AM Michael & Katherine Banas—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Late Advent Weekday
 7:30AM The Intentions of the OLM Cenacle

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Late Advent Weekday
 7:30 AM Teresa Wilson—1st Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Late Advent Weekday
 7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Late Advent Weekday/St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Dr. of the Church
 8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Totton Family—Mem.

Mass of Anticipation for Third Sunday of Advent
 4:00 PM Anthony Broccoli—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Mellissa Ann Burley—Memorial

9:00 AM Jeannine Light—3rd Anniversary

10:30AM Antoinette Mulchay—Memorial

5:00PM Dr. Walter Schubert—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

On Monday I had the great privilege of handing out report cards at our parish school. The students at OLM School seem to be doing very well academically but as always there is room for improvement. The excellent teachers do a fine job educating the children in all areas including Religion on a daily basis. Our parish school is a tremendous asset to our parish community and in fact to the entire community!

Many of our Catholic Schools struggle to keep open and operating but OLM School is blessed with a great administration, terrific faculty, wonderful students and families. This doesn't mean we are free from struggles or problems.

This year we saw a drop in the number of students enrolled from a high of over 400 to just 375 students this year. This drop in enrollment has taken place at nearly every Catholic School across the Diocese. One reason for it is the decreasing population of children in our state. Families are getting smaller, not larger and even the public schools are facing declining enrollments as a result of the lower number of children.

Also the cost of a Catholic Education can keep Catholic families away from our great schools. At OLM School I am happy to report that we provide tuition assistance to those families that need a helping hand in affording a Catholic Education. We also have some scholarships available for those families that

have multiple children in the school and are struggling to afford tuition. So spread the word, OLM School is a great place to get a great Catholic education!

While passing out the report cards to the students this week, I also learned of their great efforts in helping the less fortunate. They have raised over \$1,000 for the Philippine Typhoon Effort. This week they are bringing dozens of delicious cookies to McAuley House as they participate in the Annual Christmas Gathering there.

This generous spirit of helping those in need is not just limited to the children of our parish school but most certainly evident across the board at OLM. Last week we raised over \$5,000 for the Philippine Typhoon Effort in the special second collection. Also thanks to your generosity to the Outreach Collection we have been able to send \$1,000 to McAuley House, \$500 to Whitmarsh House and \$500 to the Diocesan Immigration Office to help with their good works at Christmas.

Additionally through our Outreach Office we have helped many local families with paying their rent, utilities and affording costly prescriptions. We were asked to adopt 14 refugee families for Christmas and thankfully 5 were adopted by parishioners and another 5 by the children of our Religious Education Program. We are still in need of people to adopt 4 families. If you are interested, please contact Doug Green at our

Outreach Office.

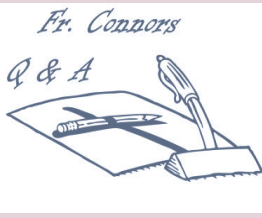
The children of the RE Program are also assembling Christmas Gift Bags for Emmanuel House. These bags are filled with items purchased by our Outreach Office. They include warm sweatshirts, thermal tops, hand and foot warmers, thermal socks, along with some candy and a religious gift. Over 50 homeless are to receive them at Emmanuel House this Christmas. This too was made possible by your support of the Outreach Collection.

With Christmas around the corner, there is still time to help the poor and needy. If you are interested in helping please contact the Outreach Office. If you are interested in supporting these good works simply drop a donation in the collection basket and mark it "Outreach."

Christ is coming at Christmas so take a moment and reflect upon Pope Francis words for Advent. *"Life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we're not self-centred, when we are amiable. We always encounter Christ in these things and the journey of life is exactly this: walking to encounter Jesus."* Let us continue to walk together to encounter Jesus in prayer, at Mass, while visiting the sick and in serving the poor! God Bless.

Father Healey

Dear Father: What is the meaning of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception that the Church celebrated last week?



Not to be confused with the virginal conception of Jesus (when Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation), the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary's conception in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. Catholics believe that Mary was preserved from original sin from the first instant of her conception. Mary is literally "full of grace," unstained by sin to be prepared for her singular mission in the Church.

The Immaculate Conception shows us God's goodness. He prepared Mary for her mission as the Mother of God, giving her the grace she needed to cooperate in His work. The same applies to us. Whether God calls us to the priesthood, religious life, the Sacrament of Matrimony, or whatever particular service He has in mind for us, He always, without exception, gives us the grace—the supernatural help—to follow Him.

Mary teaches us what true freedom means. How often do we hear the word freedom misused today, as some proclaim "freedom of choice" or freedom from the true goods of marriage?

By "freedom," some mean mere license to do what we want rather than the liberty to do as we ought. The Church stands as a beacon of light in a culture confused about freedom. Freedom is never about doing what we want, but rather about doing what we ought. God's action in Mary's life shows us that Mary is made more free to do God's will because she is free from sin. Sin is never an authentic exercise of freedom but is always an obstacle to it.

Mary is our model. What God did for her, He does in an analogous way for us. We were not made for sin and by God's grace we can be liberated from it. The Immaculate Conception shows that this promise to be free of sin—to live fully our vocation from God—was realized fully and completely in Mary our Mother.

From our Blessed Mother—and in a most particular way from the truth of her Immaculate Conception—we learn to depend on God's goodness knowing of His grace, we realize authentic freedom is saying "Yes" to God, and we see in Mary our model and guide for the Christian life.

If you have a question on the Church and Her teachings for Fr. Connors send it to associatepastor@olmparish.org

Weekly Collection 

December 8, 2013

Weekly.....	\$15,342.00
EFT.....	\$793.00
CRS Typhoon Relief.....	\$5,140.00
Outreach.....	\$1,924.00
Annual (to date).....	\$66,429.00

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Week: Retired Religious Collection

Thank you for your generosity!

THIS WEEK AT OLM

- Monday—Mass at St. Elizabeth's Home at 11:30AM
- Tuesday—Legion of Mary at 7:00PM
- Tuesday—Boy Scouts at 7:00PM
- Thursday—OLM Bereavement Group at 4:00PM
- Thursday—OLM Band Concert at 7:00PM

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

Congratulations to our newly baptized:



Tyler Garvan Nuti,
and his parents, Paul and Elizabeth.

Lillian Francis Wagner,
and her mother, Stephanie.

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



You can find a complete RE Schedule and Registration Forms online at under Faith Formation tab at www.olmparish.org

OLM Religious Education Schedule 2013-14

RE Grades 1—5

Sundays 10:00AM—11:00AM

RE Grades 6—8

Sundays 6:00PM—7:00PM

RE Grades 1 & 2 ONLY on Sunday Morning
RE Grades 3-8 Confessions at 6:00PM Sunday



The OLM Monthly Breakfast Group will not meet in December. Join us for our next breakfast on Wednesday, January 29, 2014!!

Outreach Update

The OLM Food Pantry is always in need of food. Please leave your food donations in the box in the vestibule of Church. **Please place all food donations in the large Food Box located in the vestibule of Church.** All donations in December to the Monthly Outreach Collection will be used to purchase food and gifts for the needy during the upcoming Christmas season.

*Thank you for your generosity.
Thank you for your generous support of our OLM Outreach efforts at Thanksgiving.*



Advent

Reading the Scriptures of Advent

Mondays of Advent at 7:00PM
Adoration & Benediction of Blessed Sacrament with Advent Lecture in Church

Monday, December 16th

The Incarnation in the Gospel of John
Fr. George Nixon
Associate Pastor, St. Philip Church in Greenville



Rejoice in the Lord always.

Th 1:46

Confession

Confessions During Advent Season

Mondays 6:00PM—6:45PM with Guest Priests
Saturdays 3:00PM—3:45PM
Monday, December 23rd —6:00PM —8:00PM



Our Lady of Mercy Church

Monday, December 23rd

Confessions from 6:00PM—8:00PM

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass at 4:00PM
With Children's Choir

Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas

Mass at Midnight
Choral Music beginning at 11:30PM
Masses on Christmas Day
at 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 10:30AM



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Knights of Columbus are selling religious themed Christmas cards this year after Sunday Masses. We start the first weekend of Advent (11/30 -12/1) and end the third weekend of Advent (12/14-15). All proceeds from the sale go to support various parish activities.

The Knights of Columbus, Council 58, is a fraternal order of men, who perform charitable work in support of Our Lady of Mercy church. If you are interested in the Knights of Columbus, please contact Tom Mahoney at tom@tommymahoney.com.



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

- OLM School Band Christmas Concert this Thursday at 7:00PM
- OLM PTG Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:45PM in Faculty Lounge.



**Our Lady of Mercy is proud to introduce
"Enhanced Stewardship through
Electronic Funds Transfer"
*What is EFT?***

We have partnered with Parish Giving to offer this program to all of our parishioners. **It's simple**, just log on to the Our Lady of Mercy website (www.olmparish.org) and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration instructions. **It's secure**: Parish Giving is Payment Card Industry compliant and uses the strongest Secure Sockets Layering encryption technology available. **It's Convenient**: No more searching for the checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM machine. You can pick the day of the month for the recurring contributions to be processed. • **Tax benefits**: You will be able to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. • **Parish benefits**: Stable monthly contributions and significant reduction of parish administrative costs. To get started log on to: <http://www.olmparish.org/> and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration steps.

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