



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent ✕ December 22, 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

Deacon John W. Dowd, *Deacon Assistant*.....884-4968
 deacon@olmparish.org

Mr. David E. Cote, *Business Manager* 884-4968
 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 21

Mass of Anticipation for Fourth 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

10:30 AM Antoinette Mulchay—Memorial

5:00PM Dr. Walter Schubert—Memorial

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Late Advent Weekday/St. John of Kanty, Priest
 7:30 AM Micheal Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

Late Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Pat Franzone—11th Anniversary

Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM Alfred Perretta—8th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS

The Nativity of the Lord

12:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

7:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr
 7:30 AM Frank Almonte—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

St. John the Apostle & Evangelist
 7:30AM The Deceased Members of the Tripode & Fogg Families

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 8:30 AM Helena Brady—21st Anniversary.

Mass of Anticipation for The Holy Family
 4:00 PM The Deceased Members of the Miller & Loeffler Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 AM Albert Edward Hyde—Memorial

9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM Mary & Gene Verri—Memorial

5:00PM John Bucci—Birthday Remembrance



Dear Parishioners:

We mark the last Sunday of Advent this weekend. Now we begin the final preparations for Christmas. No doubt for many that includes some decorating, last minute shopping, baking goodies, sending out cards, and cleaning the house. At OLM the coming of Christmas means cleaning the Church and getting the beautiful decorations ready for the great feast of God made Man!

It also means an additional hour of Confessions on this Monday night from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. Fr. Connors and I will be joined by two guest priests and we encourage you to give yourselves the best gift of all this Christmas, God's mercy and forgiveness! What a great way to truly celebrate the coming of our Savior by cleaning our hearts and souls from all that keeps us from drawing ever closer to Him!

It also means a full schedule of Christmas Masses at OLM. On Christmas Eve we celebrate the Vigil Mass at 4:00PM and our wonderful Children's' Choir is singing the carols of Christmas with us. If you plan on coming to the Vigil Mass, I suggest you come early as it fills up quickly and we usually have what you might describe as an above average sized crowd! I urge you to please be welcoming to all those good folks visiting OLM for the Vigil Mass! Perhaps even invite them to join us again next Sunday!!

The Nativity of the Lord couldn't be a celebration without

Midnight Mass! Many other parishes have moved away from the tradition of a Midnight Mass, even Pope Francis moved it to 9:30PM! At OLM we celebrate Midnight Mass at Midnight (that's 12:00AM)! At 11:30PM a concert of orchestral and choral music with our OLM Choir begins the Midnight celebration. On the day of Christmas itself we celebrate the Lord's Nativity with Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM and 10:30AM. Christ is coming and we plan on celebrating with great solemnity, joy and faith!!

Christmas is always a great opportunity to invite that friend, family member or neighbor to join you at Mass. I cannot image celebrating Christmas without going to Holy Mass. But sadly many do not celebrate the great feast of our Savior by coming to adore Him at Mass. Perhaps if you offer a kind invitation or even provide a ride to that individual or family who have been away from the Lord it might make a difference for them this Christmas. Let them know there's plenty of room in the stable at OLM for everyone!

This last week before Christmas has seen a flurry of activity around OLM. Our Religious Education and OLM School children made good Confessions this past week. Our OLM Decorating Committee led by Cecilia Franzone have been working tirelessly to ensure Christmas is celebrated with great beauty. Our OLM Musicians, Jeff Allard and Deirdre Donovan, and the Choirs have been rehearsing

with gusto the great sounds of the season. All this to prepare the way for Christ's coming at Christmas here at OLM.

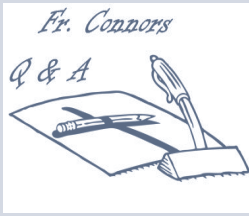
Perhaps we all need to take a short break or time out before Christmas this week. A little time to pray and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas for ourselves, our families and our parish. Let's not let the flurry of activities and the last minute to do lists take over the authentic reason for the season.

The Irish have a wonderful Christmas tradition of placing a candle in the window of their homes on Christmas Eve. It is offered as a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they travel looking for shelter. The candle is lit by the youngest in the family and extinguished after Christmas preferably by a young girl named Mary (there are lots of girls named Mary in Ireland!). We might light such a candle in our own homes this Christmas Eve as we proclaim with the Prophet Isaiah that *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone!"*

Christmas is coming! Light the candles! See the star over the manger! Acclaim the Son of God as the light of the world! Let Him banish the gloom and darkness from our world and our lives! Fr. Connors and I offer you our prayers and best wishes for a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

Father Healey

Dear Fr. Connors, Do Catholics really believe Mary was ever-virgin? What is the meaning of the virgin birth?



Catholics do indeed believe Jesus was virginally conceived and Mary remained a virgin before, during and after the birth of Christ. The virginal conception points to Jesus'

divinity as well as how Mary was specially prepared and set apart for her mission to be Mother of God.

The Gospels themselves attest to the fact that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit (Mt 1:20; Lk 1:35). Mary explains that she had no relations with a man. The virginal conception of Jesus makes clear His divinity—He is truly God's Son come among us.

Mary remained a virgin her whole life for the sake of her integrity as a vessel specially chosen by God for one purpose—to be the Mother of God. She was prepared for this mission by means of the Immaculate Conception.



While the Gospels sometimes speak of brothers or sisters of Jesus, it is clear—especially in the original Greek language in which the Gospels were written—that these refer to male relatives, such as cousins or other family members. The fact that Jesus entrusted His mother Mary to St. John the Evangelist at the foot of the Cross indicates that there was no other children to care for her after the death of Jesus.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains it well: "By his virginal conception, Jesus ushers in the new birth of children adopted in the Holy Spirit through faith. Participation in the divine life arises not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. The acceptance of this life is virginal because it is entirely the Spirit's gift to man."

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

Weekly Collection

December 15, 2013

Weekly.....	\$9,936.00
EFT.....	\$2,679.00
Retired Religious.....	\$4,441.00
Outreach.....	\$3,254.00
Annual (to date).....	\$72,188.00

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 generosity!

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



From lands that see
 the sun arise
 To earth's remotest
 boundaries,
 The Virgin-born
 today we sing
 The Son of Mary,
 Christ the King
 Blest Author of this
 earthly frame
 To take a servant's
 form He came,
 That liberating
 flesh by flesh
 Whom He had made
 might live afresh
 The manger and the
 straw He bore,
 The cradle He did
 not abhor;
 A little milk His
 infant fare
 Who feedeth all
 the fowl of air
 All honor, praise
 and glory be
 O Jesus, Virgin-born,
 to Thee;
 A All glory, as is ever meet
 to father
 and to paraclete,
 AMEN



You can find a complete RE Schedule and Registration Forms online 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

NO RE Classes this Weekend. All RE Classes resume the weekend of January 5, 2014!!!

We wish all our RE Teachers, Students and Families a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! See you in 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.**

Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for your generous support of our OLM Outreach efforts at Christmas!! Your generous charity helped many families and individuals truly have a Happy Christmas!

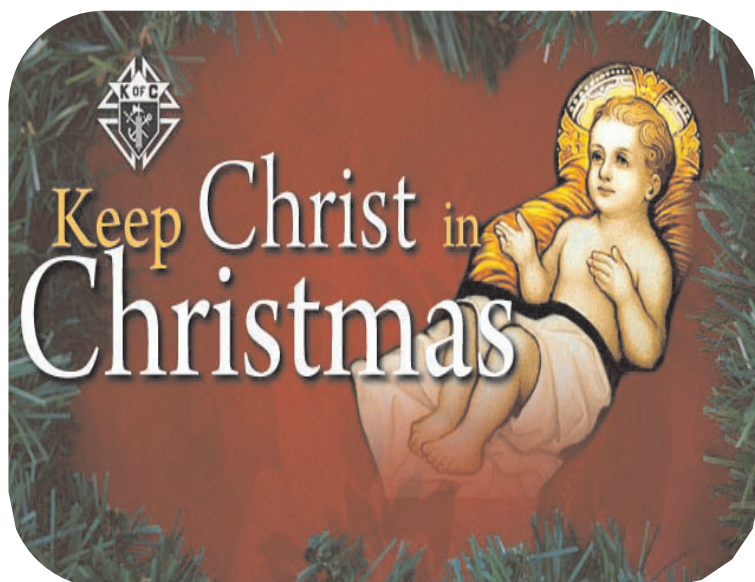
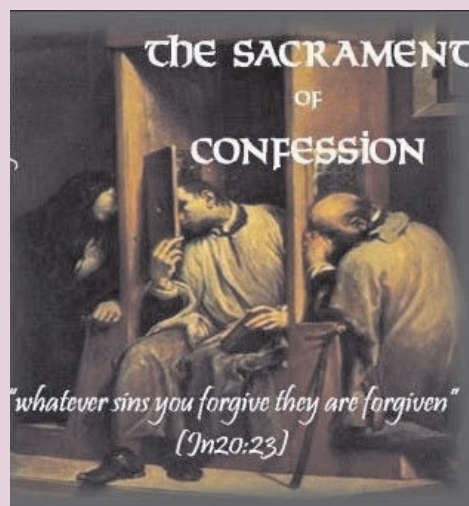


Prepare Yourself For Christ's Coming at Christmas!!

Christmas Confessions

Monday, December 23rd —6:00PM —8:00PM

with Guest Priests





Our Lady of Mercy Church Christmas Mass Schedule

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

Christmas Anticipation Prayer



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at Midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and

grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen



OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

We wish all our Administration, Faculty, Staff, Students and Families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2014!!!

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