



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

Second Sunday of Advent ✕ December 8, 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

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, *Administrative Assistant*884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

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 bookkeeper@olmparish.org

Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*..... 884-4968
 parish@olmparish.org

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

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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 7

Mass of Anticipation for Second Sunday of Advent
 4:00 PM Dorothy Bresnan—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00 AM Eleanor Florio Harkness—1st Anniversary
 10:30 AM Augustine Manocchia, Sr. —8th Anniversary
 5:00PM Dr. James Hagarty—7th Anniversary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 7:30 AM Hak Jin Pyun—Memorial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Advent Weekday
 7:30 AM Margaret Devlin—28th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Advent Weekday/St. Damasus I, Pope
 7:30AM Theresa Pearson—6th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe
 7:30 AM Pat & Marie Raimondo—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
 7:30AM Elizabeth & Paul E. Moscatelli—Memorial

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 8:30 AM Neil O'Donnell—Memorial

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00 AM Emily Devlin—56th Anniversary
 10:30AM Theresa Lolio—Memorial
 5:00PM Maria San Martino—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Happy Advent! We are one week into the solemn season of joyful anticipation of Christ's coming. How is Advent going for you? Have you taken a little time away from the "mad rush" to Christmas? A little more time for prayer, a little more time for God and a little more time in prayerful preparation is not a bad way to truly prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

In his homily on the first Monday of Advent, Pope Francis recalled that as we proceed towards Christmas, we embark on a journey of faith and prayer in preparation for our encounter with the Lord. *"Because Christmas," he said, "isn't just a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event. Christmas is something more, Christmas is an encounter with the Lord. And as we make our way towards Him, we must go with open heart and faith, even though this is not always easy in our times."*

Pope Francis noted that the Lord does not always say to us what we want to hear, but: *"He will tell me what is meant for me, because the Lord does not look at us all together, en masse. He looks each one of us in the face, in the eyes. His is not an abstract love; it is concrete,"* the Pope said. And *"letting ourselves be encountered by God means just this: letting ourselves be loved by God!"*

As we continue this season of Advent, we must continue to prepare spiritually for

the coming of Christ. Regular Mass attendance, making a good confession, and making time for daily prayer, can help us prepare the way. Also, in the midst of this very busy and noisy world we can truly "encounter" our loving God with such practices. So this Advent let us watch in hope and wait in faith for the coming of Christ.

Many parishioners have commented on the new landscaping in front of the Church. However, this project is not quite complete as we are awaiting the placement of two granite benches on either side of the front doors. Also, we hope to soon light up the statue of the Sacred Heart. The benches are available to be memorialized in memory of a loved one. If you are interested, please contact me.

We offer our thanks to the Reynolds Family at the Watson Mulch Company who generously donated the mulch and beautiful cobblestones for this project. They are always very generous in supporting the landscaping projects around the OLM physical plant, in your name I offer my gratitude for their generosity.

A few parishioners have also asked where the large Sacred Heart statue in the vestibule has gone. Well, the statue has been taken out for repair. We are fixing the broken fingers on the statue as well as totally restoring and repainting it to its original condition. The restoration takes a few weeks and I hope to get it back in the new year. Once it is fully restored and the project

completed we hope to find a prominent location for this statue inside the Church.

I hope you enjoyed Dominican Father Michael O'Connor's talk at Advent Devotions this past Monday. We invite you join us again this Monday as our own, Father Connors is to offer a talk on the Christmas Scriptures at Advent Devotions. These Devotions are a wonderful opportunity for us to gather before the Eucharistic Lord in adoration and reflect prayerfully on his Sacred Word.

Part of preparing in Advent is marking our calendars for upcoming events. I ask you to add the OLM School Pageant to your calendar. It takes place this coming Friday night at 7:00PM in the Church. It is always a festive season celebration of song and music. Our OLM students and band have been diligently practicing and preparing for this big night so I hope you can join us. I know you will truly enjoy it!

This year the Second Sunday of Advent falls on December 8th and as a result the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception has been moved to Monday, December 9th. Therefore, the Immaculate Conception is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. There is a Mass at 7:30AM only for the Immaculate Conception. Have a great week. Enjoy this Advent time of prayer and preparation. Hope to see you at Advent Devotions. God Bless.

Father Healey

Dear Fr. Connors: What are traditional practices helpful to celebrate a fruitful Advent and prepare for Christmas? Is it common to make acts of sacrifice during Advent as is popular in Lent?



This is a great question. A truly joyful Christmas requires good preparation. What should that involve? Advent has an interesting history in the Church. It certainly is related to Lent, the season of preparation before Easter. The same purple vestments are worn and a certain sobriety characterizes the liturgy, without use of the Gloria at Sunday Mass for example. Monasteries would still practice some kind of a fast during Advent, although not to the degree of the Lenten fast.

In 1966, the Bishops of the United States explained: "We call upon Catholics to make the Advent season, a time of meditation on the lessons taught by the liturgy and of increased participation in the liturgical rites by which the Advent mysteries are exemplified and their sanctifying effect is accomplished."

It seems the principle preparation for Christmas is one of awakening to what God is doing. We prepare both to celebrate the first coming of Christ at Christmas but also His second coming in judgment and glory. This second coming takes on a personal character for us at our death. The readings at Mass and for the Liturgy of the Hours (the official prayer of the Church) focus in fact on the second coming of Jesus for the first few weeks of Advent.

In so far as acts of self-denial would aid this awakening they could be part of Advent preparation. In the same statement the American bishops went on to say: "We suggest that the devout will find greater Christian joy in the feasts of the liturgical calendar if they freely bind themselves, for their own motives and in their own spirit of piety, to prepare for each Church festival by a day of particular self-denial, penitential prayer and fasting."

The self-denial of Advent though it not exactly the same as Lent. In Lent we join ourselves to Christ's fast for forty days in the desert. We specifically make acts of penance for sin, in reparation for offense to God. In Advent, the self-denial might be more like taking less time for entertainment and more for prayer. The Church's tradition has a rich liturgy in Advent and more deeply entering into that is the best preparation.

Daily Mass would be a wonderful practice during Advent. As would some portion of the Liturgy of the Hours or in a modified form as found in the *Magnificat* publication. Increased meditation on the mystery of God's coming—which may involve self-denial somewhere else—is the best preparation for a holy Christmas.

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

Weekly Collection

December 1, 2013

Weekly.....	\$12,178.00
EFT.....	\$627.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$3,203.50
Outreach.....	\$1,514.00
Annual (to date).....	\$65,363.50

November 24, 2013

Weekly.....	\$12,189.50
EFT.....	\$735.00
CCHD.....	\$3,580.00
Outreach.....	\$618.00

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: Typhoon Relief Collection

Next Week: Retired Religious Collection

Thank you for your generosity!

THIS WEEK AT OLM

Monday—Mass at Greenwich Bay Manor at 9:00AM

Tuesday—Legion of Mary at 7:00PM

Friday—OLM School Pageant at 7:00PM

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



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner, **Theodore Lichtenfels** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

May he rest in peace.



The Altar Flowers at the Marian Shrine were donated last week in memory of James Sheridan.



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

ALL RE CLASSES RESUME THIS WEEKEND.



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. If anyone is interested in adopting a needy family for Christmas (supplying gifts & needed items) please contact the Outreach Office.

*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 9th

Infancy Narrative in the Gospel of Luke
Fr. Ryan Connors

Monday, December 16th

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

*Prepare the way
for the
Lord,
make
straight
paths for him.
Matthew 3:3*

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



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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.



- Thanks to all those who helped make our Christmas Shopping Night last Thursday a successful event. Also thanks to all those who helped with the Breakfast with Saint Nicholas last Saturday.
- Join us for the OLM School Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 13th at 7:00PM in Church. It will be a festive celebration of music and song performed by our talented OLM Students!
- OLM School Board meeting on Monday, December 9th at 7:00PM
- OLM PTG Board Meeting on Thursday, December 19th at 6:00PM



**OLM Youth Group
Celebrate Advent!!
Monday, December 9th
7:00pm**

All High School Youth are invited to join us for Advent Devotions on Monday, December 9. We will have Eucharistic Adoration and a short spiritual talk by Fr Connors entitled, "Christmas in the Gospel of Luke."

A Pizza Social in the Rectory Basement is to follow Devotions.

While driving today turn off the Non-Stop Christmas Music on the Car Radio and tune in to...



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