



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

## The First Sunday of Lent ✕ February 14, 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

Holiday 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.

## Our Lady of Mercy School

**Mr. Scott W. Fuller**

*School Principal*

55 Fourth Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone ..... 401-884-1618

Email ..... olmoffice@olmschool.org

Web ..... www.olmschool.org

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, Parish Secretary

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

**The Reverend Ryan W. Connors, S.T.L., Associate Pastor**

**Deacon John W. Dowd, Parish Deacon**

**Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.**

**William K. Wray**

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*Parish Founded 1853*



*Parish Incorporated 1867*



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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, *Admin. Assistant*.....884-4968  
 parish@olmparish.org

Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*.....884-4968  
 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 YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Michael LaChimia, *Coordinator*.....884-4968  
 mlachimia@olmschool.org

**OFFICE OF OUTREACH**

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

**MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS**

Mr. Henri M. St. Louis, *Music Director*.....884-4968  
 musicministry@olmparish.org

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

**OLM SCHOOL**

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

Mrs. Carolyn C. MacCrae, *School Bookkeeper*..558-0051  
 olmbookkeeper@cox.net

Extended Day Program.....886-0742

*Mass Intentions*  
 for the Week  
 ©JPPC

**The First Sunday in Lent  
 February 14, 2016**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

*The Mass Anticipation for the 1st Sunday in Lent*  
 4:00PM W. Barbara O'Hara-Memorial

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

*The First Sunday in Lent*  
 7:30 AM Mary Catherine Leddy—15th Anniversary  
 9:00 AM James Riley—Memorial  
 10:30AM William Pearson III—Birthday Remembrance  
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 8:30 AM Francoise Anderson—Memorial

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30 AM Dr. James Haggarty—9th Anniversary  
 12:05PM Arthur E. Fitzpatrick-Memorial

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

*Lenten Weekday/Seven Holy Founder of the Servite Order*  
 7:30AM Deborah O'Connell—2nd Anniversary  
 12:05PM Rev. Raymond J. Rafferty—Memorial

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Louis F. Conca, Jr.—Memorial  
 12:05PM Sister Mary Randall, SSJ-Memorial

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

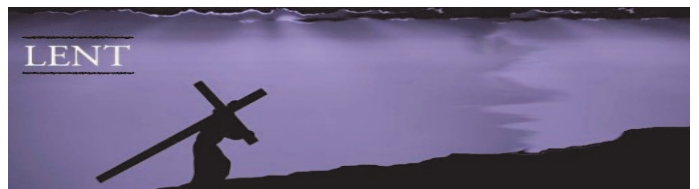
*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Michael & Wanda Zwolinski--Memorial  
 12:05PM Special Intention

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 8:30AM Mickey Gill—5th Anniversary  
*The Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Lent*  
 4:00PM Mary Ann Cardillo—Memorial

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

*The Second Sunday of Lent*  
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy  
 9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory  
 10:30AM Dalia Pundys—4th Anniversary  
 5:00PM Richard Lefebvre-Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

As he announced at Masses last weekend, Bishop Tobin recently informed Father Connors that he is to be transferred from OLM Church effective July 1, 2016. He has been assigned to pursue studies beginning next fall for a Doctorate in Moral Theology at the Angelicum University in Rome, Italy. Upon completion of his doctorate Father is to be assigned to the faculty of St. John's Major Seminary in Brighton, MA.

It is truly a great honor for Fr. Connors to be recognized for his great intellectual gifts and his tremendous priestly zeal. It is a further testament to the trust and confidence of both His Excellency Bishop Tobin and His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley of Boston to entrust the training, education and formation of many of the future priests of New England to Fr. Connors.

While I am greatly pleased for Father and most happy for this important appointment, it is truly a bitter-sweet moment. I am truly saddened at his departure from OLM as Fr. Connors continues to be a trusted and valued associate whose warm friendship, priestly fraternity and wise counsel I shall surely miss. I know many of you will as well.

Father Connors has graciously accepted my invitation to keep rooms here at the OLM Rectory during his time of study abroad. He is to be a regular visitor to us when home from Rome. We will formally thank Father for his priestly ministry

among us in June.

The assignment of a new associate pastor to OLM remains uncertain at this time. There is a growing shortage of priests in our Diocese and the availability of priests is always uncertain. I have written to Bishop Tobin asking that a new Associate Pastor be assigned to OLM. However, there is no guarantee that a priest is available to be assigned to our parish.

In the meantime, Fr. Connors is here at OLM and continues his zealous good work! Kindly keep Fr. Connors and his dear parents, Joe and Lisa in your prayers during these months of transition. We wish Fr. Connors sincere congratulations. *Ad multos gloriosque anos!*

Lent has begun! The forty days that lead us to the glory of Easter are underway. Lent and Easter are early this year. In fact Easter is very early on March 27. However, no matter when it falls these forty days of prayerful penance and preparation is truly a time for us to take stock of our world and our souls. Is the secular world shaping us or are we with our faith and good works shaping the world around us?

It is during Lent we acknowledge the struggle with evil in our world and in our own lives. We strive to overcome it not with fear but with faith and good works. Undoubtedly we all face temptations and sin in our lives and at times even fall to the lure of evil. Lent is our time to truly strive to renew our relationship with God and our

neighbor.

We can turn to the Ten Commandments and also the Beatitudes and ask how well we are living them out in our daily lives? Do the people around us at work, at home, at school or at church recognize the difference our Catholic Faith plays in our lives? Are we a people of faith, hope and love? Do we preach the joy of the Gospel in our words and deeds?

Yes, Lent is our time to take stock of our commitment to Christ and His Church. It is also a time to renew our relationship and our friendship with Christ. We must pray more, become more penitential and be more charitable during Lent. We do so not to beat ourselves up but rather to truly convert our minds, hearts and souls to Christ.

We must willingly take up the discipline of these Lenten forty days. We can do so by coming to Mass faithfully, going to Confession more frequently, praying daily, making the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and generously giving to the poor. This deepens our friendship with the Lord and then truly Easter will be all the more glorious and joyful for us!

We wish all students and families a safe, healthy and happy winter break this week. Happy Presidents' Day! Remember Fridays are for fish and Stations! Pray. Fast. Give Alms. Be well. Do Good. God Bless.

*Father Healey*



**Dear Fr. Connors: Why don't Catholics eat meat on Fridays in Lent?**

The short answer is because Catholics believe in penance. While this is not widely understood today, Catholics believe freely chosen sacrifices offered to Christ have value for our sanctification.

The universal law of the Church requires abstinence from meat on all Fridays throughout the year. In 1966 the bishops of the United States were granted permission for Catholics in the United States to substitute some other act of piety or charity for abstinence from meat on non-Lenten Fridays. That is to say, every Friday throughout the year remains a day of penance. Catholics should do something on Fridays—extra prayers or small sacrifices—to recall our Lord's death on the Cross.

In Lent, however, the traditional obligation of abstinence was retained even in the United States. Abstinence from meat is an ancient and common form of self-denial and sacrifice. For many centuries this has been the common, identifiable, form of mortification.

While an extravagant fish dinner would not violate the letter of law, the Catholic faithful have always understood that the idea is for the meal to be sacrificial. The beneficial thing about Friday abstinence from meat is that it is identifiable and communal. All Catholics together make this common sacrifice.

Fasting and acts of self-denial like abstinence aid our prayer by freeing the mind for contemplation. They satisfy for sins as they are acts of penance properly so-called. They also lead to growth in virtue by increasing self-restraint.

The real question is: do we value self-denial? Do we understand the importance of fasting and penance as our Lord spoke of them in the Gospel? He was always pointing us to the deepest meaning of these practices, that is, union with Him and growth in charity. In so doing it benefits others too.

**If you have a question about the Catholic Church or Catholic Teaching, please email questions to: [associatepastor@olmparish.org](mailto:associatepastor@olmparish.org)**



# Weekly Collection

**February 7, 2016**

Weekly.....	\$13,727.00
EFT.....	\$1,609.50
	<b>Total=\$15,336.50</b>
Outreach.....	\$1,643.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$3,091.50

*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.**



**Presidents Day Holiday  
Monday  
February 15, 2016**

**Mass only at 8:30AM**

*The Parish Office is closed in observance of the holiday.*



**Confession Times at Our Lady of Mercy**  
**During Lenten Season**

**Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM with 2 Priests**

**Saturdays: 3:00PM—3:45PM**

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 11:45AM—12Noon**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays: 7:00AM—7:20AM**



# Religious Education NEWS

●No RE Classes on February 14 & 21, due to the school vacation. All RE Classes resume February 28, 2016.

●**Reminder for First Communion Families:** First Confession for the Grade 2 Religious Education students has been switched to **Saturday, March 19th at 1:00pm.**



# Outreach Update

●**The OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please leave all donated food items in the box in the vestibule of the Church. *Thanks for your support!*

●**For more information** contact Doug Green, OLM Outreach Director 884-4410 or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



●No School this week! Happy Winter Break!  
**Discover the OLM Advantage**  
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## YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS

Year-End Tax Statements for contributions to Our Lady of Mercy Church for 2015 have been mailed out. If you have not received it or there is an error in your statement contact the Parish Office (M-F, 8am-4pm) at 884-4968 or via email at [parish@olmparish.org](mailto:parish@olmparish.org)



# FOR LENT FOR LIFE

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2016 marks the 41st year of CRS Rice Bowl – the largest and oldest Lenten program practiced by Catholics in the United States. In 41 years, generations of Catholics have used their Lenten sacrifice to alleviate hunger caused by poverty and improve the lives of individual and families in developing countries as well as in their own communities. ***Please take your Rice Bowl home today and return your sacrificial donations made during Lent on Palm Sunday, March 20.*** Thank you for your support.



All OLM High-schoolers are welcomed to join the Our Lady of Mercy Youth Group, which **meets every Sunday night in the OLM gym from 7:15-8:30 PM.** The Youth Group is a great chance for students to socialize, play team-building sports together, and grow in prayer. The Youth Group features frequent Eucharistic adoration, guest speakers, as well as fieldtrips outside of the parish. There is no need to sign up or register. For more information or questions, contact Michael LaChimia at [mlachimia@olmschool.org](mailto:mlachimia@olmschool.org)

# Fasting & Abstinence

*With the season of Lent beginning on February 10, please take a moment to review the following Lenten Regulations.*

Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Also, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are fast days: those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day. Serious reasons such as one's health can excuse a person from these rules. Pastors and parents are encouraged by the law of the Church to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

Following the implementation of the revised Code of Canon Law on November 27th, 1983, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States determined that the rules of fast and abstinence which have existed for the last several years in this country be maintained; namely, that the faithful must observe suitable penitential practices on all Fridays throughout the year. These penitential practices need not include abstaining from meat. However, as indicated above, the faithful must not eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. They must also observe faithfully the fast regulations as they have been stated above in accord with the universal law of the Church. (Cf. Code of Canon Law, Canons 1250-1252.)



**OLM Lenten Book Rack:** A selection of spiritual and informative books and pamphlets are available for Lent on our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to stop and browse!

**OLM Lenten Table:** During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with religious articles both new and old. These items are available to you without cost. They have been donated by OLM parishioners. Stop by and check them out!

## 1st Sunday of Lent



**A**s we celebrate this first Sunday of our penitential season, it is interesting to note that the word "Lent" comes from the Old English *lencten* or *lengten*, which means springtime and derives from the concept of lengthening daylight.

By the fourth century, Lent had come to be a period of intense final preparation for catechumens who would be baptized at Easter and a period of re-conversion for penitents, serious sinners who were seeking reconciliation.

As conversion and re-conversion took place within the community of the faithful, Lent was soon seen as an excellent opportunity for all to fast, pray, and engage in charitable works in preparation for baptismal renewal at Easter.



*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.*



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