



## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

### **PARISH OFFICE**

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pastor@olmparish.org	
Father Shemek Lepak, <i>Associate Pastor</i> .....	884-4968
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Mr. David Cote, <i>Business Manager</i> .....	884-4968
bookkeeper@olmparish.org	
Mrs. Lucy Forloney, <i>Secretary</i> .....	884-4968
parish@olmparish.org	
Mrs. Carolyn MacCrae, <i>Bookkeeper</i> .....	884-4968
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Mr. Paul Anderson, <i>Facilities Director</i> .....	884-4968
maintenance@olmparish.org	
St. Patrick's Cemetery Office .....	886-5296
maintenance@olmparish.org	

### **PARISH CONVENTS**

Mercy Sisters Convent .....	884-9292
Filippini Sisters Convent .....	886-4753

### **OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Mrs. Michele St. Jean ( <i>Grades 7-9</i> ) .....	884-1061
confirmation@olmparish.org	
Sr. Rose Iapaola, M.P.F. ( <i>Grades 1-6</i> ) .....	884-2578
reled@olmparish.org	

### **OFFICE OF OUTREACH**

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

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Bro. Roger Chingas, F.S.C. ....	884-4968
music@olmparish.org	

### **OLM SCHOOL**

Main Office .....	884-1618
secretary@olmschool.org	
Extended Day Program .....	886-0742
New Discoveries Pre-School .....	885-0776



### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

*Vigil of the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
4:00PM John Fandetti—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

*The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
7:30AM Thomas Brescia—Birthday Remembrance  
9:00AM Anne Marie Panto—Memorial  
10:30AM Katherine, Armando & Gaetano DeAngelis-Mem.

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

*Weekday/Our Lady of Lourdes*  
7:30 AM Barbara A. Sedlock—6th Anniversary

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

*Weekday*  
7:30 AM Eligio P. Moscatelli—11th Anniversary

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

*Ash Wednesday*  
7:30 AM Beatrice Basler—Memorial  
9:00AM Herbert Swain—Memorial  
12:05PM Charles E. Kelley, Jr.—1st Anniversary  
7:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

*Thursday after Ash Wednesday/Sts. Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop*  
7:30 AM John & Kirk Heiss—Memorial  
12:05PM Thomas Gates—Memorial

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

*Friday after Ash Wednesday*  
7:30 AM Ann Sullivan—Memorial  
12:05PM Gene Verri—Memorial

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

*Saturday after Ash Wednesday*  
8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Louis & Collins Families—Memorial  
*Vigil of the First Sunday of Lent*  
4:00 PM Emilio Petrucci—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

*The First Sunday of Lent*  
7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy  
9:00 AM Gilda & Manuel Machado—Memorial  
10:30 AM Milan Novakovic—Memorial



Dear Parishioners:

Last Saturday, Bishop Tobin ordained twenty-one men as Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Providence. These twenty-one men began their formation program in January of 2009, attending classes in Theology, Scripture, Homiletics, Canon Law and Liturgy and participating in weekend retreats as well as practical training for their ministry. The classes were conducted by the Diocese under the guidance several the priests and deacons of the diocese and in cooperation with the Theology Department at Providence College.

Permanent Deacons are men, usually married, ordained to service in the Catholic Church. They serve in parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons or other areas of ministry as needed. Additionally, they may lead classes for Baptismal and Marriage preparation, as well as Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programs. Permanent Deacons also officiate at Weddings, Baptisms, Wakes, and Burial Rites. They also serve at Mass and are to proclaim the Gospel and preach.

While Transitional Deacons go on to be ordained Priests, Permanent Deacons do not. I was a Transitional Deacon for several months before I was ordained a Priest in 1995. While I know several priests served here as Transitional Deacons, I am not sure that Our Lady of Mercy has ever been assigned a Permanent Deacon.

Well, this week Bishop Tobin notified me that one of the newly ordained Permanent Deacons, John Dowd, has been assigned to Our Lady of Mercy. In your name, I offer my congratulations and a warm welcome to him!

Deacon John Dowd has been married for thirty-seven years to his wife, Cathleen. He is the Father of three children, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Two of his daughters, Cristen and Caite, both graduated from OLM School. He lives with his wife in North Kingstown and runs his own financial services business here in East Greenwich. Some of you may recognize him as he frequently attends Daily Mass here at OLM.

It is a very exciting opportunity for us to have a Permanent Deacon serving our parish and I am looking forward to Deacon John's ministry here at OLM. Over the years Deacon John has been involved in many ministries in his home parish of St. Francis in Wakefield. In the coming weeks you will have chance to welcome him personally as he begins his Diaconal Ministry here at OLM. In the meantime, please keep Deacon John, his wife and family in your prayers.

The forty days of Lent begin this Wednesday with the arrival of Ash Wednesday. A complete schedule of Masses and Lenten Devotions is in the bulletin. This season of prayer and penance calls us to refocus

our lives on Christ and renew our Catholic Faith. In his annual Lenten Message, this year Pope Benedict tells us:

*The celebration of Lent, in the context of the Year of Faith, offers us a valuable opportunity to meditate on the relationship between faith and charity: between believing in God – the God of Jesus Christ – and love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and which guides us on the path of devotion to God and others."*

Lent is all about the Three Ps! Prayer, Penance and the Poor! We are called to a more intense prayer life, take up penitential practices and server the poor.

Perhaps we might come to Daily Mass, Weekly Stations of the Cross, read the Scriptures daily, or pray the Rosary daily. Perhaps we might give something up, take on some penitential practice or go to Confession more often. Perhaps we might make sure we put our extra change in the Rice Bowls, sacrifice some luxury in our life and give the cost of it to the OLM Outreach efforts or simply volunteer to help at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

Lent calls us to recommit to Christ and His Church and bear witness to our faith. *"Remember you are dust and to dust you will return."* Lent will soon be here, what are you doing about it? God Bless. Welcome, Deacon John!

*Father Healey*

## The Catechism Corner

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Each one of the Beatitudes reminds us of the great promises that Christ has made to those who believe in His Name. The Beatitudes though are not only about future realities -- ones that would only be fulfilled in heaven. They also speak of present realities for those who have the “holy trait” which Christ is referring to. Thus, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” definitely is referring to heaven and its fullness of the beatific vision, whereby we eternally gaze upon God’s beauty, but this Beatitude is also about seeing God RIGHT NOW in our lives. The “pure of heart” are first of all, pure. This purity “refers to those who have attuned their intellects and wills to the demands of God’s holiness, chiefly in three areas: charity, chastity or sexual rectitude; love of truth and orthodoxy of faith.” But even MORE than that is given to the “pure of heart” because “even now it enables us to see *according to God*, to accept others as ‘neighbors’; it lets us perceive the human body -- ours and our neighbors -- as a temple of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of God’s beauty.” Seeing our Faith as ONLY be fulfilled in the future leaves us looking for meaning to this life. God will fulfill all of His promises in their entirety in heaven but that does not negate His fulfilling them every day of our life! To see a little more of that goodness, strive for purity of heart. Then (and only then) you are guaranteed to “see God” as you **check it out** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2518-2519.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013

## Weekly Collection

**FEBRUARY 3, 2013**

Weekly.....	\$12,228.08
Outreach.....	\$1,420.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$3,526.00
Annual (to date).....	\$81,222.00

*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.**

### Deadline for Bulletin Notices



All notices and submissions for the weekly bulletin must be submitted in writing to the Parish Office or sent via email to [parish@olmparish.org](mailto:parish@olmparish.org)

**by Noon on Monday .**

**Ash Wednesday**

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

**Masses with distribution of ashes:**  
**7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:05 PM & 7:00 PM**

***Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fast & Abstinence.***



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners: **Richard A. Wills** and **Loretta M. Hodges** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here the last week.

***May they rest in peace.***



## Why Ashes?



Ash Wednesday opens up this season of penitence. "Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return." So says the priest as he makes the sign of cross with ashes on our

foreheads. The ashes are made by burning the previous year's blessed palms. This is a vivid reminder of our mortal nature. We are bodies fashioned from dust. "Then the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being" (Gen 2:7). Our bodies were made from nothing, and will return to nothing when we die. Ashes are a symbol of this passing world, a reminder of our death. The imposition of ashes is also a symbol of penance and sorrow for our sins. The practice of sprinkling ashes on one's head as a sign of penance was customary even in the Old Testament—in the Book of Esther, Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes (Est 4:1); Job sat in sackcloth and ashes to repent (Job 42:6); all of Ninevah put on sackcloth and ashes to repent after Jonah's preaching (Jon 3:5-6). In early Christian centuries the imposition of ashes was only used for public sinners, but around the year 1000 A.D. popes and all faithful started to receive the ashes as a sincere and external token that we are all poor sinners. Ashes remind us of the curse from Genesis. After Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin, God expelled them from the Garden of Eden with these words: *Cursed be the ground because of you; in toil shall you eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, and you shall eat the plants in the field. In the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, since out of it you were taken; for dust you are and unto dust you shall return* (Gen 3:17-19). The Church repeats these words as the cross is traced on our foreheads "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." Thus this opens a theme that is echoed throughout Lent and then decidedly pronounced during the Easter Vigil. In the *Exsultet*, the Church rejoices in this Original Sin, because it brought the Redemption: "O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!" The liturgy of Ash Wednesday gives us guidelines for our 40 day journey. We pray for blessing upon our endeavors in the opening prayer at Mass: "Lord, protect us in our struggle against evil. As we begin the discipline of Lent, make this season holy by our self-denial." The Old Testament reading is from the Prophet Joel 2:18. Here the message is very clear: do penance, but avoid an outward show, "Rend your hearts and not your garments." Our penance should not be mere hypocrisy. It is an interior change that is more important.



### Ash Wednesday, February 13

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:05 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Daily Masses

Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. & 12:05 p.m.

Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

#### Confession during Lent

Mondays 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturdays 3:00-3:45 p.m.

#### Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Church • Rev. Bernard A. Healey, Pastor  
65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818  
(401) 884-4968 • parish@olmparish.org

### **Lenten Regulations for Fast & Abstinence for All Catholics**

**The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. **Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.** On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence. **The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.** The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 17, 2013 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26, 2013. \*Canon 920, § 1. "All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year."



# Religious Education NEWS

RE Classes Grade 9 on Mondays and Grades 7 & 8 on Tuesdays. RE Classes Grades 1-6, meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4:00PM. All Classes meet this week.

### ***Grade 9 Schedule Changes:***

The Penance Night for Grade 9 Confirmation Candidates has been changed from Thursday, May 9th to Tuesday, May 7th. The time is 7:00pm in the church. In addition to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the candidates are also required to attend and sign-in to Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00pm and the Easter Mass of their choosing.

Grade 9 families are reminded the Sponsor certificates are now past due and Patron Saint Names are due the end of February. Grade 8 families are reminded that Sponsor Certificates are due the end of February. BOTH grades are reminded that we need a copy of the students Baptismal record if they were not baptized at OLM.



# RCIA

*A journey in faith*

Rite of Christian Initiation Classes begin this Sunday after the 10:30AM Mass. All those interested in becoming Catholic, all those Catholics in need of the Sacraments of Communion and/or Confirmation, and all those just interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith are invited to join the RCIA Team in the Rectory Meeting Room. For more information contact, Fr. Healey at 884-4968.

## **Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship**



Thank you to everyone for helping make the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship event a success. The competition was topped off by a thrilling shoot-off in the Boys 12 Year Old Division between Ben Izzo and Sam Hines that went to the third extra round before Izzo prevailed. Here is the official list of the winners, who now advance on to the State competition on Sunday, March 17, at Bishop Hendricken High School:

Boys 10's: Cole Basler  
Girls 10's: Kelly Gallagher  
Boys 11's: Roman Gloria  
Girls 11's: Madelyn Knudson  
Boys 12's: Ben Izzo  
Girls 12's: Abby Basler  
Boys 13's: Brendan Kelley  
Girls 13's: Kathryn Moore

Should the winner be unable to attend the State competition the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher will go.



### **Registered Nurse Needed**

Our Lady of Mercy School is looking for an RN to work from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Monday through Friday. It is a per diem position. Please call the OLM School Office at 884-1618 for more information.



### ***Youth Group Save the Date!***

***Save the Date!*** Plan on joining us on **Saturday, March 2nd** as the **OLM Youth Group and Altar Servers** will be taking a trip to Pat's Peak in NH for skiing and tubing. *More information to follow.*