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New Discoveries Pre-School 885-0776



The Second Sunday of Lent
 February 24, 2013

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Vigil of the Second Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Mellissa Ann Burley—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Second Sunday of Lent
 7:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00AM John & Eugenia Chaquette—Memorial
 10:30AM Carolina Dukevich—Memorial

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Lenten Weekday
 7:30 AM James Coyle—2nd Anniversary
 12:05 PM Anne Marie Pinto—Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Lenten Weekday
 7:30 AM Father Donal R. Kehew—Memorial
 12:05PM R. G. Peters—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Lenten Weekday
 7:30 AM Murray & Mary Catherine Finley—Memorial
 12:05PM John Donahue—Memorial

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Lenten Weekday
 7:30 AM John Gardner—Memorial
 12:05PM In Thanksgiving for the Pontificate of Benedict XVI

MARCH 1

Lenten Weekday
 7:30 AM Deborah & Edward Sullivan—Memorial
 12:05PM Barbara Palumbo—1st Anniversary

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Lenten Weekday
 8:30 AM Rosemary Casey—Memorial

Vigil of the Third Sunday of Lent
 4:00 PM William M. Pearson, Sr.—Birthday Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

The Third Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00 AM John, Louise & David Kiernan—Memorial
 10:30 AM Frank & Eva Montaquila—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

Enough snow already! The second weekend in a row it snowed! Just as we cleaned up after the Blizzard Nemo, Mother Nature decided to bring us another snowstorm. I've had enough of the white stuff for a while. Pray that if it snows again it will be on a Tuesday or Wednesday so everyone can get out for Mass!

How is your Lent going? Are you keeping up your Lenten promises to pray, fast and give alms? If you've slipped because of the snowstorms or vacation, don't worry and just start again. It's forty days and it's well worth the effort to get closer to the Lord and His Church.

There's no better way to pray than to come to Mass, so considering making it part of your daily life during Lent. The Mass is the source and summit of our lives as Catholic disciples and we can gain strength to live a life of holiness and faith. Why not join us for Daily Mass at either 7:30AM or 12:05PM?

When's the last time you went to Confession? Was it a week, a month, a year or even a decade ago? No matter, you're always welcomed back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions at Our Lady of Mercy during Lent are offered on Mondays from 5:30PM until 6:30PM, so stop by on the way home from work! We also continue to offer Weekly Confession on Saturdays at 3:00PM. Get Confession on your

calendar, it's good for the soul!

Of course, we also have Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:00PM. It is one of the most important devotions honoring the passion of Jesus. What matters most in the Stations of the Cross is to follow Jesus Christ in his passion and to see ourselves mirrored in him. By accompanying him on the Way of the Cross, we gain his courageous patience and learn to trust in God who delivers us from evil. I hope you are able to make the Stations at least once during Lent.

One of the three pillars of Lent is fasting. Reflecting on this ancient and venerable practice, Pope Benedict suggests: *"Denying material food, which nourishes our body, nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ and be fed by His saving word. Through fasting and praying, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God."*

During Lent we fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday but we are also asked to fast from meat on Fridays. Fasting and abstaining from meat on Fridays is a great Lenten discipline. How is it going for you?

We are called to refrain from the indulging in the pleasure of a good steak or a juicy hamburger not as a punishment but as a penitential practice to grow closer to the Lord who died for us on Good Friday. If we aren't focusing on Jesus and on the Cross when we abstain from

the meat, then the matter can become less about Lent and more about *"should I have the meatless pizza, a grilled cheese sandwich or a Lobster Roll?"* We all know that it's so much more than that.

Next weekend I will be speaking at all Masses about the Catholic Charity Appeal. This annual drive calls us to financially support the good works of our Diocese. It is an important part of our lives as Catholics in Rhode Island.

Every parish in the state is called upon to assist in helping those most in need and the most vulnerable in the Ocean State. Our CCA Chair, Kevin McDevitt, will also lead us through the in-pew pledge portion of the Appeal at all Masses. Please pray for the success of the CCA and consider making a pledge next week. Thank you for your generous support.

We continue to pray for Pope Benedict and for our Church during this time of transition. I ask you to especially pray on Thursday for the Holy Father on his last day as Pope and invite you to join us for a special Mass at Noon in thanksgiving for his Pontificate. We are thankful for his service and leadership of our Church but also hopeful as we await the election of a new Pope. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us! Remember Fridays are for fish and Stations of the Cross. God Bless.

Father Healey

The Catechism Corner

In the Season of Lent the Church asks of us certain penances which are meant to deepen our Faith. The penances of fasting and abstaining from meat on Fridays might seem to some to be a foolish endeavors. How can the body possibly help the soul? What benefit could the “physical” be for the “spiritual”? The Church over the past two millennia has always had a high regard for the body. All of Church prayer involves the body in some way—we kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we walk the Stations of the Cross, we move our hands over beads when we pray the Rosary. The true Christian life then involves both the soul and the body. That is why Lenten practices of fasting and abstinence take place in the body but also able to shape and form the soul. All of this is taught to us by Christ in the mystery of Easter Sunday. In His Resurrection Christ reveals the goodness of the body. Why would He have raised it up if it wasn't worth taking along? “The ‘resurrection of the flesh’ (the literal formulation of the Apostles’ Creed) means not only that the immortal soul will live on after death, but that even our ‘mortal body’ will come to life again.” Just as Lent prepares us for Easter, all of our Lenten penances prepare us for our own hoped for Easter, that day when our bodies will be raised to life again. Maybe now, those penances don't seem so foolish or even half as difficult. Just **check it out** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #988-991.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012-2013



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent at 7:00 PM

“We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.”

Weekly Collection

FEBRUARY 17, 2013

Weekly.....\$10,721.31
 Outreach.....\$285.00
 Annual (to date).....\$86,652.00

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Next Week: The Building & Grounds Collection

Parish Giving
Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Funds Transfer®

Electronic Funds Transfer

**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 (<http://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.

**A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE YOUR WEEKLY PARISH SUPPORT
 EVEN DURING VACATION OR IN A BLIZZARD!**



CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL
Supporting the work of the Church

OUR LADY OF MERCY CCA 2013

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McDevitt
General Chairs

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Zubiago
Bishop's Partnership in Charity Chairs

OLM 2013 Parish Goals

Pledge Goal: \$195,000

Donor Goal: 600 Donors

OLM 2012 CCA Results

Pledge Goal: \$195,000

Total Raised: \$187,271

Total Number of Donors: 505

Each year the funds raised by the Catholic Charity Appeal are used to support a variety of agencies and programs that meet the spiritual, educational, charitable and social needs of our sister and brothers in Rhode Island. These programs offer assistance to people of all races, creeds and backgrounds and often are an essential lifeline to the people who are served. The in-pew portion of the 2013 Catholic Charity Appeal begins at all Masses next weekend. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge.

Prayer for the 2013 Catholic Charity Appeal



Dear Mary, Our Lady of Providence, we turn to you in prayer, and we seek your assistance as we begin our Annual Catholic Charity Appeal. Inspired by your own example of service, we ask that you guide our works of love; help us to offer generous assistance to all who

turn to the Church in their time of need. Through your intercession, may we grow in faith, hope and love; inspire us to be generous in supporting the Catholic Charity Appeal, and allow us to see the face of Jesus in all those we serve. Fill our hearts with a compassionate spirit, so that the Church in Providence may always fulfill your Son's command to, "Love one another as I have loved you."

**The Light is
ON for You.**



Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lenten Confessions at Our Lady of Mercy

Mondays from 5:30 — 6:30 PM

Saturdays from 3:00 — 3:45PM

"Go to your confessor; open your heart to him; display to him all the recesses of your soul; take the advice that he will give you with the utmost humility and simplicity. For God, Who has an infinite love for obedience, frequently renders profitable the counsels we take from others, but especially from those who are the guides of our souls."—St. Francis de Sales

Prayer for the Church



O Lord Jesus Christ, Supreme Pastor of Your Church, we thank you for the ministry of Pope Benedict XVI and the selfless care with which he has led us as Successor of Peter, and Your Vicar on earth. Good Shepherd, who founded Your Church on the rock of Peter's faith and have never left Your flock untended, look with love upon us now, and sustain Your Church in faith, hope, and charity. Grant, Lord Jesus, in Your boundless love for us, a new Pope for Your Church who will please You by his holiness and lead us faithfully to You, who are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.



Congratulations to our Newly Baptized:

Riley Claire Casey

and her parents, Ryan & Michele.

***"Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. She is now called the child of God, for so indeed she is."
—The Rite of Baptism***



Religious Education NEWS

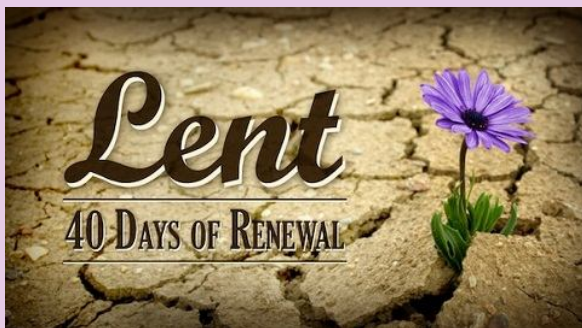
All Classes resume this week.

Grade 9 Schedule Changes:

The date for Penance for Grade 9 Confirmation Candidates has been changed from Thursday, May 9th to Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 PM

Attendance Requirements

Grades 8 & 9 must attend Stations of the Cross once during Lent. In addition to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 7:00PM, the candidates are also required to attend and sign-in to Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00pm and the Easter Mass of their choosing.



Lenten Book Rack

There are many books and pamphlets on our book rack in the vestibule for your devotional and educational life. Stop by to see what's available.

Seasonal Table

All during Lent there will be a table in the vestibule of the church with religious articles, some new and some gently used. These articles are available to you without cost. All items have been donated by parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Mercy Church. Take a few minutes to browse.



Mass of Thanksgiving for the Pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI

Thursday, February 28, 2013

12:05PM Mass

Please join us as we celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, on his final day as the Roman Pontiff.

"Dear Brothers, I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the Holy Church to the care of Our Supreme Pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff. With regard to myself, I wish to also devotedly serve the Holy Church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer."—Benedict XVI, February 10, 2013, Message to the College of

St. Joseph's Council

Knights of Columbus at OLM



Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, in the OLM School science room at 7PM. Old and new members of the Knights are invited to attend.



I-Robert Overton & Jennifer Belden



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 contact Father Shemek at 884-4968 or associatepastor@olmparish.org