

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 25, 2012

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday—November 24

Vigil of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

4:00PM—Jennie & Frank Longo—Memorial

Sunday—November 25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

7:30AM—Edward & Grace Hindle—Memorial

9:00AM—*Pro Populo*

10:30AM—J.F. Timothy Carroll—5th Anniversary

Monday—November 26

Weekday

7:30AM—John Gardner—Memorial

Tuesday—November 27

Weekday

7:30AM—R.G. Peter—Memorial

Wednesday—November 28

Weekday

7:30AM—Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—13th Anniversary

Thursday—November 29

Weekday

7:30AM—*Pro Populo*

Friday—November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

7:30AM—Mary Healey—33rd Anniversary

Saturday—December 1

Weekday/BVM

8:30AM—Bucky Bresnen—Memorial

Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent

4:00PM—Joseph & Lenore Neri & Ralph Buontempo—
Memorial

Sunday—December 2

First Sunday of Advent

7:30AM—*Pro Populo*

9:00AM—Ruth & Donald Guilfoyle—Memorial

10:30AM—Armando & Katherine DeAngelis & Concetta &
Antonio Tribelli—Memorial



Dear Parishioners:

It has often been said that "history repeats itself." It was this thought that came to mind as I reflected upon our recent national election. The election results indicate that we are a nation politically divided, the red states and the blue states as it is often described. But for me what is even more troubling is the fact that we seem to be a nation deeply divided on some very fundamental issues about the sanctity of human life and dignity, the nature and meaning of marriage, our obligations to the poor and needy, and the free exercise of religion and conscience. In some ways it seems we are a nation divided by those who have religious faith and those who do not have any religious faith.

A recent study by the Pew Research Center indicates that the number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace. One-fifth of the U.S. public - and a third of adults under 30 - are religiously unaffiliated today. Nearly 33 million people say they have no particular religious affiliation. While those Americans who are unaffiliated with any particular religion have seen the greatest growth in numbers as a result of changes in affiliation, the Catholic Faith has experienced the greatest net losses as a result of affiliation changes. While nearly one-in-three Americans (31%) were raised in the Catholic faith, today fewer than one-in-four (24%) describe themselves as Catholic. Very alarming statistics indeed!

These statistics suggest that many in our nation "want a king without the kingdom; a shepherd without the other sheep; a father, with us as the only child; a general without an army; to believe without belonging." Upon reflecting on the growth in secularism the U.S. Bishops state: "there are many men—and their number is daily increasing—who in practice live their lives without recognizing that this is God's world. For the most part they do not deny God. On formal occasions they may even mention His name. But they fail to bring an awareness of their responsibility to God into their thought and action as individuals and members of society."

The rise of secularism is not new as history does seem to repeat itself. You see the statement above was written in 1947 not 2012! And over twenty years earlier in 1925 Pope Pius XI established the great feast we celebrate this weekend, the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. He did so as an antidote to the growth of secularism especially in Europe in the 1920s. The feast proclaims in a striking and effective manner Christ's reign over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations.

Let's prayerfully reflect upon these startling statistics as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. And as we begin to prepare for the holy season of Advent next week, let us pray for all those alienated from God and Church, all those lost and confused about Christ and His teachings, and for ourselves and our parish family that we may always let our Lord and King, Jesus Christ rule our hearts and homes. Together let us echo the last words of the Blessed Martyr Miguel Pro: "Long live Christ the King!"

Father Healey



Weekly Collection

Week of November 10, 2012

Collection results are unavailable due to Thanksgiving holiday printing deadline.

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!

Second Collections

This Week: The Annual Collection

Next Week: Building & Grounds Collection

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



Monday – 11:30am – Mass at St. Elizabeth's

Tuesday – 7:00pm – Legion of Mary

Outreach Update

Thank you to all who helped in any way making Thanksgiving a time to celebrate during these times of economic hardship. The holiday season is under way and the demand for basic needs rises at this time of year. There is a need for \$10.00 food gift cards for the OLM Food Pantry. Basic items like milk, eggs, cheese, bread etc. are purchased with these cards. Please consider these as a means of sharing the holiday spirit. Next week please be sure to stop by the Advent Sharing Tree at the front entrance of the church as we continue to serve those in need. For more information contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or at outreach@olmparish.org



Religious Education

NEWS

Grade 9 Class —Mondays at 7:00pm

Grades 7 & 8 Classes —Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Grades 1-6—Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 4:00pm

Grade 8 & 9 Confirmation students wishing to earn service hours can volunteer to set out the new hymnals in the church on next Saturday, December 1st immediately following the 8:30am Mass. Please RSVP for this service project call Mrs. Hall at 885-1150 or email to OLMservice@yahoo.com



OLM School NEWS

Help us prepare the season!

Santa's Village

Sunday, December 2, 2012

9:45AM to 12:30 PM at OLM School

\$10 per Family (Includes Photo with Santa & Crafts) All Parishioners Welcome!! RSVP to Kimberly Izzi at: kimberlyizzi@gmail.com We will be collecting new and gently used books to be distributed locally through "Books Are Wings" collection boxes located throughout village.

Preparing for Christmas

BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR

Thursday, November 29th

9:00 AM to 10:00 PM



Come and get some pre Christmas shopping done early while supporting our school! Mention Our Lady Of Mercy School and a percentage of your purchase will go back to OLM. For More Information email Kristen Abood at kjabood22@cox.net

1st Sunday of Advent



Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year.

Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century.

It is a four-week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.

*Prepare ye the
way of the
Lord,*

*make
his paths
straight.*

Matthew 3:3

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BAPTISM CLASS All families scheduled for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, December 9th **must attend** Preparation Class on Monday, December 3rd at 7:00PM in Church. Please contact Fr. Shemek at the Parish Office (884-4968) if



you cannot attend or in need of more information.

HANDBELL CHOIR is looking for members. Basic music reading skills are needed and rehearsals will be scheduled at the players convenience.



HANDBELL CHOIR

If you don't know what a Handbell Choir is, check some out on You Tube. If you think you might be interested or just have questions, please contact Brother Roger at 884-4968 or via email at music@olmparish.org

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Are you a Non-Catholic interested in becoming Catholic? Are you a Catholic who hasn't received all your Sacraments? Why not explore becoming a Catholic or becoming a fully initiated Catholic? The Our Lady of Mercy Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA) is looking for you. Contact Fr. Healey at 884-4968 or at pastor@olmparish.org for more information.