

The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

MATTHEW 25:31-46





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Mass Intentions

for the Week
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**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

The Mass of Anticipation for Christ the King

4:00PM James Riley—Memorial

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

7:30 AM Pauline A. MacDonald—1st Anniversary

9:00AM Carlos Hernandez Ulacia—Memorial

10:30AM Gina M. Ponte—1st Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Weekday

7:30AM John E. Gardner, Jr.—Memorial

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Weekday

7:30AM John T. Cole—4th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Weekday

7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—Memorial

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

7:30AM Mary E. Healey—44th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Weekday

7:30AM Neal J. Armstrong—Birthday Remembrance

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Weekday; BVM

8:30AM Thomas Chisholm—Birthday Remembrance

The Mass of Anticipation for 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Josephine Ricci—Memorial

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

First Sunday of Advent

7:30AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial

9:00AM Peter & Gloria Monti—Memorial

10:30AM Emily Devlin—66th Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



**We must
empty
Purgatory
with our
prayers.**

-St. Padre Pio



Dear Parishioners:

I hope you had a joyful Thanksgiving Day. On my drive to and from my Sister's home in Saratoga, New York, the radio was full of Christmas music. Of course, the stores put up their Christmas displays on Halloween! Good grief, as Charlie Brown would say!

I get critical this time every year because we celebrate Christmas too early. I prefer to go back to when the tree didn't go up until close to Christmas Eve, the cookies could not be enjoyed until Christmas day, no carols could be heard until mid-December, and no "holiday parties" took place until the great Feast.

Then, once Christmas arrives, look out! We celebrated until Epiphany, January 6. No more. The decorations have been up since September in some places. The parties start, the songs are heard nonstop, the trees are up, and sadly, the season will end, not start on December 26.

I could complain, but it does no good. What I'm saying, to paraphrase Auntie Mame, is: *"We need a little Advent right this very moment!"* Mother Church is a wise teacher. She knows that all good things demand preparation. Christmas is worth preparing for, and Advent invites us to properly prepare for the Savior's birth.

Advent begins next Sunday, and in our worship in Church, we Catholics "stand out" these weeks because we will not celebrate Christmas until Advent is over! Somber, purple vestments; no carols yet at Mass; no manger or decorations until Christmas Eve. It may be

December 25 already in the world, but in the Church, we slow down, take our time, and prepare because it's Advent .

I am not an "Advent warrior," as some purists have become. I'm not on the warpath about Christmas being too secular or its celebration coming way too early, although I would agree on both counts. But I love Advent and know Christmas is more meaningful if we use this holy season to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

How can we "salvage" Advent? For one, enjoy the Advent feasts: St. Nicholas, December 6; the Immaculate Conception, December 8; Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12; and, of course, the four Sundays of Advent.

If you put up your tree and the crib in your home, save the baby Jesus' arrival until Christmas Eve. Put up an Advent wreath, calendar, giving tree, or "Jesse Tree" in your home. They are wonderful Advent devotions.

If we worry that Christmas has become "too commercial," shop for others instead of buying more stuff for people who already have too much stuff! OLM Outreach, Emmanuel House, or the Little Sisters of the Poor always need support. Gift cards and financial donations always help.

Advent is a time to be more charitable and generous with our money and also our time. Visit someone who lives alone, in a nursing home or hospital, or is homebound. Send a card or make a call to an old friend, someone who is grieving a loss or is lonely.

More silence, reflection, and prayer are much-needed

Advent practices in this busy and hectic time. Come to a daily Mass, pray with the bible passages of the season, and make more time for prayer in your daily life. Pray the joyful mysteries of the rosary every day in Advent since they help prepare for Christmas .

Advent is a time of peace and reconciliation. It is time for us to reach out to someone we are estranged from and make peace. A time to forgive someone who has hurt us and work for reconciliation. And finally, a time to pray for peace in the world, especially in the Holy Land.

Advent is a great time to make a good confession. You'll find your Christmas Mass and Holy Communion on the Feast more joyful and meaningful if you have experienced the mercy of the Messiah in the Sacrament of Penance this Advent. Mark your calendar for Confessions every Monday and Saturday. On Monday, December 18, Advent confessions are from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. with four priests. On Saturday, December 23, Confessions with two priests are from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Today is the Feast of Christ the King! A feast designed to give special recognition to Christ's dominion over all aspects of our lives. Let's truly worship Him as the ruler of our lives this coming Advent so we may truly "keep Christ in Christmas!" Do good. Be well. God Bless. Advent is coming! Prepare the way!

Father Healey



OLM's 3rd Annual Children's Christmas Bazaar 2023

DATE: SATURDAY, 12/2/2023
TIME: 2:00 - 3:30PM
LOCATION: MERCY PARK (INCLEMENT WEATHER: OLM SCHOOL GYM)



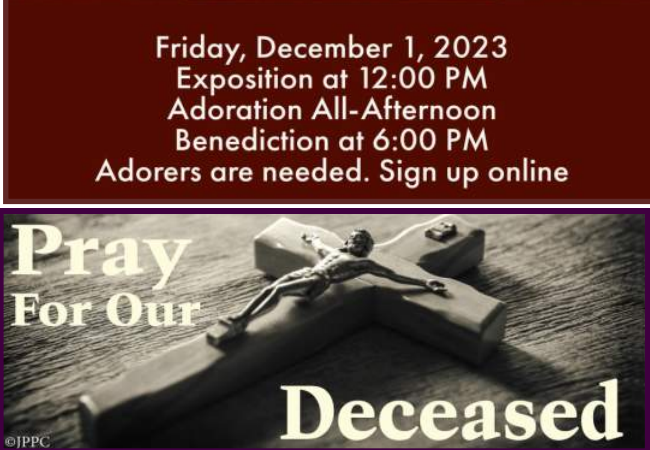
Calling all OLM parish and school children! You are invited to sell your baked goods, artwork and crafts at this year's bazaar. Scan the code for more information and to register as a seller.



First Friday Adoration

"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now."
 -St Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Friday, December 1, 2023
 Exposition at 12:00 PM
 Adoration All-Afternoon
 Benediction at 6:00 PM
 Adorers are needed. Sign up online



Pray For Our Deceased

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In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Anna D. Willett** and **Robert G. Armour**.

Rest In Peace

Weekly Collection

Weekly Collection results were not available due to the Thanksgiving Holiday print deadline.



Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Second Collections
Next Week: Building & Grounds Collection

Every penny counts!




Thank you for your contribution - big and small!

Confessions at Our Lady of Mercy



Mondays
 6:00 pm-6:45 pm
Saturdays
 3:00 pm-3:45pm

 The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of Emily Devlin.

In your charity, please pray for her.



OLM FAITH FORMATION

UPDATE

First Communion Class Schedule

Sunday, December 3

2024 Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, December 10

Sunday, December 17

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of Faith Formation at 884-4968 or email at faithformation@olmparish.org



Calendar

- **Monday, November 27:** School resumes after Thanksgiving Break. Welcome back!
- **Tuesday, November 28:** OLM School Mass at 8:15am
- **Wednesday, November 29:** OLM Drama Club 2:15pm-4:00pm in School Gym
- **Saturday, December 2:** OLM Children's Christmas Bazaar 2:00-3:00 pm at Mercy Park

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• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable.** We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

• **OLM Bereavement Group:** Our next meeting is on **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 4:00pm** in Mercy House. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.

• **For more information,** please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

Looking to join the Catholic Church? Want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? Interested in Baptism, Communion or Confirmation?

Come explore the Catholic Faith and prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation at our RCIA Class. Classes begin this month. For more information, contact Father Mahoney at 401-884-4968 or by email: associatepastor@olmparish.org

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

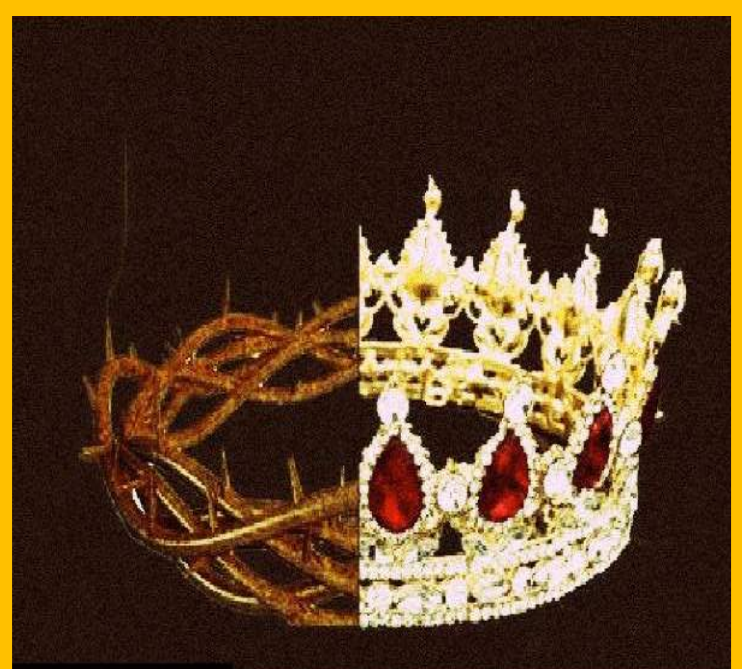
JESUS CHRIST is king of all creation. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (28:18). The Book of Revelation calls him, "King of kings and Lord of lords" (19:16). People wanted to make Jesus a king after he worked the miracle of the loaves, but he went away by himself instead (John 6:15). They wanted a secular king to govern their land. Jesus wanted to rule their hearts.

The Catholic Church celebrates the kingship of Christ on the last Sunday of the Church year. The liturgical year reaches its climax in a celebration that honors the supreme command of Christ. He has dominion over all creation, and he rules every person who believes in him.

The Solemnity of Christ the King entered the Catholic calendar in 1925, which Pope Pius XI had set aside as a holy year. Pius thought the feast would bring the year to a solemn close, help combat the forces of secularism, and remind the world that Christ is its ultimate ruler. The pope chose the last Sunday of October because of its proximity to the end of the liturgical year and to serve as a prelude to All Saints Day on Nov. 1. The same day was already being observed as Reformation Sunday in the Protestant traditions.

Pope Paul VI moved the observance from the end of October to the very last Sunday of the Church year in order to exalt its theme even more. Now we end the year with an idea that sums up all that we have celebrated and that prepares us to start anew: this Jesus, whose birth we will soon celebrate, is the king of all creation.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020
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A Prayer to Christ the King

O Jesus Christ,
I acknowledge You as universal King.
All that has been made,
has been created for You.
Exercise all Your rights over me.
I renew my Baptismal Vows.
I renounce Satan, his pomps and his works,
I promise to live as a good Christian.
And, in particular do I pledge myself to labour,
to the best of my ability,
for the triumph of the rights of God
and of Your Church.
Divine Heart of Jesus,
to You do I offer my poor services,
labouring that all hearts
may acknowledge Your sacred kingship
and that thus, the reign of Your peace,
be established throughout the whole universe.
Amen *Anastpaul/18*

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