



“YOU DO NOT KNOW ON WHICH
DAY YOUR LORD WILL COME.”

MATTHEW 24:42



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**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 DECEMBER 1, 2019**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Mass of Anticipation for 1st Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Mary E. Healey—40th Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

The First Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
- 9:00 AM John Vincent Roche—1st Anniversary
- 10:30AM Vivian & Raymond Ericson & Hugh McGraw—Mem.
- 5:00PM Jane Walsh—Memorial

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday

- 7:30AM Neal J. Armstrong—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

- 7:30AM Emily Devlin—62nd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday; St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

- 7:30AM Salvatore Di Stefano—29th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

- 7:30AM Fr. Stanley T. Nakowicz—8th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday; St. Nicholas, Bishop

- 7:30AM Robert Kazynski—Memorial
- 9:00AM Deceased Alumni of OLM School

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

- 8:30AM Brian, Clarence, & Noella Larocque—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 4:00PM Isabelle Nickolas Ruggiero—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
- 9:00 AM Laurea & Leo Hackett—Memorial
- 10:30AM Frank Chase—Memorial
- 5:00PM Jackie Picchione—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

I hope and pray you had a nice celebration of Thanksgiving with family and friends. It is a day to give thanks for blessings of the bounty we enjoy from God. We thank the Almighty for our food, shelter, family and faith. I had a wonderful celebration with my family at my sister's home in Saratoga, New York. Our family is growing with an additional newborn grand niece and nephew and a third on the way at Christmas time! God is good and we thank him.

I also wish to thank the many parishioners who supported the Our Faith, Our Future Capital Campaign last weekend. We are off to a great start of meeting our goal of \$2 Million.

In September, Our Lady of Mercy kicked-off the "Grateful for God's Providence; Our Faith, Our Future" Capital Campaign to raise \$2,000,000. To date, we have received over \$800,000 in pledges, and we are very thankful for the support we have received from those parish families that have already donated to the campaign!

Although this is a significant accomplishment for our parish, it is of greater importance that we have the participation of every family that considers Our Lady of Mercy their spiritual home and close to their hearts. We hope that we can count on your support.

Our Campaign is being conducted on the simple premise that not everyone can make the same size gift but everyone can make the same size sacrifice. Although each household is

being asked to consider a pledge of \$4,000 or more payable over the next four years, every pledge of every amount is welcome and is vital to the success of this project. Please return your pledge today if you have not yet done so!

This is an exciting time in our parish history. With your help and that of all those associated with Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, we will be able to complete our improvements. I thank you for your support and sacrifice for Our Faith and Our Future.

We begin the month of December this Sunday and so we begin the Solemn Season of Advent. During Advent we prayerfully prepare for the coming Feast of Christmas when we remember with joy and faith the First Coming of the Son of God, the birth of Jesus Christ. But it is also a time for us to anticipate with faith and hope Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. It is a season of "devout and expectant delight!"

We wear the violet color of the season and bless and light the Advent Wreath as we pray: *"Lord Our God, we praise Your Son, Jesus Christ, He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay."*

Advent is time to pause and prayerfully recommit and convert our lives to Christ. We recall the ancient cry of the early

Christians: *"Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!"* During Advent let us all ask how can we welcome Christ into our lives? More faithful attendance at Sunday Mass? More time in prayer and reflection? Making a good Confession of our sins? Helping the needy and the poor with greater generosity and charity? During Advent 2019, let us cry out in both our words and works: *Come Lord Jesus!*

Reflecting on this solemn season, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI teaches us: *"Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us."*

Next Sunday is December 8th which is normally the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, as it falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, the solemnity is moved to Monday, December 9th and therefore the Immaculate Conception is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Please join us this Friday at 9:00AM for the OLM School Mass for the Feast of St. Nicholas! I hear St Nick might make a appearance! Thank you for your support of the Our Faith, Our Future Campaign. Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats! *Oremus pro invicem!*

Father Healey



What is the Meaning of Advent?

Last weekend we celebrated the solemnity of Christ the King of the universe. It marked the end of the liturgical year. We journeyed with Our Lord from his birth through his ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and into the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel to all the nations. Now we enter the season of Advent with all its many symbols and meanings.

I am sure that everywhere we go we see and hear Christmas greetings, themes and music. These are wonderful things but poorly timed (and we miss out on the many beautiful and meaningful Advent hymns such as Lo, How a Rose, Creator of the Stars of Night, etc.). Unfortunately the culture does not understand the importance of the season of Advent and so when Christmas arrives we do not experience it properly. Many people have said to me that they enjoy Thanksgiving more than Christmas. This tells me that there is something fundamentally wrong about how we go about preparing for Christmas today. *Lex orandi, lex credendi*; how we pray is what we believe; how we spend the month of December will affect how we celebrate Christmas day.

The essential meaning of the season may be encapsulated by the terms anticipation or waiting. We anticipate the coming of the Messiah, the Lord, the return of the King. The term "advent" means "coming" and involves four weeks of preparation. We await two comings of Christ: (1) His Second Coming when he will judge the living and the dead at the end of time, (2) and we relive the period before Christ coming in the flesh in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Before Christ the world was in darkness, enslaved to the forces of sin and death.

The color of the season is purple like the season of Lent, albeit the purple of Advent is darker and has more of a blueish hue to it. St. John the Baptist gives us a reason for the color purple when he quotes Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" Our paths are prepared and made straight by acts of repentance and conversion. Hence, similar to Lent, the season of Advent is meant to be a season of repentance and conversion to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Living in the northern hemisphere the days get shorter while the darkness gets longer. The Advent wreath helps us to symbolically experience the darkness of the world without Christ. As we light the individual candle with each passing Sunday the darkness retreats because the light of the world is coming.

Everyone, truly live the season of Advent and you will have the best Christmas. It will transform your Christmas from a season of stress, shopping, gift buying and consumerism, into a season of joy with the coming of Christ.

Weekly Collection

NB: The Collection results are not available due to the holiday deadline.

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

Second Collections
This Week: Building & Grounds Collection
Next Week: Retired Religious Collection



Please pray for the success of the **Our Faith, Our Future Capital Campaign** at Our Lady of Mercy. We need every parish family to make a sacrificial gift to the campaign. Last weekend, was **our Commitment Weekend** and we ask all parishioners who have not yet done so to please return their pledge cards.

Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000
Pledged To Date=\$846,665

Thank You for Your Prayers and Generous Support!!



Religious Education
NEWS

• No RE classes this weekend due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. All Classes meet next weekend.

A D V E N T



O come • O come • Emmanuel



Outreach
Update

Thank You for your generous donations and support of our Thanksgiving Baskets for the poor and hungry!

- OLM Bereavement Group meets Thursday, December 5th at 4:00PM in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loss are welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and support.
- For more information about OLM Outreach, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

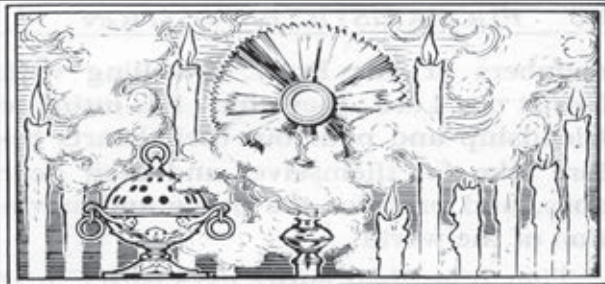


Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- Friday, December 6: St. Nicholas Day Mass at 9:00am
- Tuesday, December 10: Weekly School Mass at 8:15am

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**First Friday Adoration
Friday, December 6, 2019**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
following 9am School Mass
Adoration All Day
Benediction at 6:00pm



THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

The Men of St. Joseph meet next Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 7:00am in the OLM Rectory Meeting Room. All adult men of OLM are invited to join us for discussion, prayer and fraternity as we seek to strengthen our spirituality and renew our Catholic Faith.

For more information contact Fr. Barrow at 401-884-4968 or via email at associate@olmparish.org



OLM Young Families Meeting Thursday, December 5, 2019

5:30—7:00PM, OLM School Gym

All young families are most welcome to come to our first meeting of the OLM Young Families group. OLM Young Families is a group dedicated to providing a place for families to come together, learn about important topics of the faith and family life, and a time to come together to support one another.

Pizza served for dinner! Babysitting available!

For more information or just to learn more about our group contact Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com

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A WAY FOR THE LORD
LUKE 3:4



Find rest
for your weary soul
this season!



Join us for a unique
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