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Mass Intentions

for the Week
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**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 21, 2024**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

The Mass of Anticipation for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00PM Ellen Simms—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 AM Bill Daly—Memorial
- 9:00AM Agnes Mahoney—Birthday Remembrance
- 10:30AM Jean M. Selwyn—23rd Anniversary
- 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
7:30AM For the Unborn

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Weekday: St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
7:30AM Margaret M. Healey—36th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Religious Founder & Doctor of the Church
7:30AM Patrick & Rose Faherty—Memorial

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

The Conversion of St. Paul
7:30AM John Cabral—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

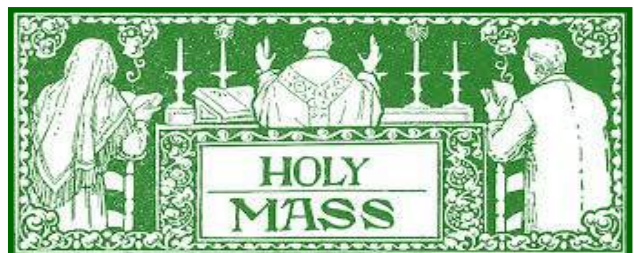
Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops
7:30AM Timothy Franzone—6th Anniversary

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

St. Angela Merici, Virgin: BVM
8:30AM John Cabral—Birthday Remembrance
The Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00PM Al Behbehani—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
9:00AM Bill Daly—Memorial
10:30AM Maragret E. Murray—Memorial
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish





Dear Parishioners:

This past Friday, the 51st Annual March for Life occurred in Washington, DC. Thousands of citizens from across the country descended upon the nation's capitol to call for an end to abortion and the building up of a culture of life in our nation.

Even with the blessing of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned by the Supreme Court Dobbs Decision, which now allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently.

Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year. That number is expected to decrease only by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-Roe America. Tragically, in Rhode Island, over 2,000 children are killed by abortion annually.

Many national legislative battles loom, including keeping longstanding Hyde Amendment protections, which limit government funding for abortion on annual appropriation bills. The Hyde Amendment has saved over 2 million lives and is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nation's history, but now it cannot be taken for granted.

In Rhode Island, we have one of the most radical abortion laws in the nation. It allows for the direct killing of a preborn child up until the day of birth. Last year, the Governor signed a law that provides state tax dollars to finance abortion on demand for the Medicaid program and the health insurance plans for state employees.

The goal of the National March for Life is to not only to change laws at the state and federal level but to change the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable. This includes the important work of changing hearts and minds. We must continue to pray, act and advocate for life.

On Sunday night we welcome Bishop Henning to Our Lady of Mercy as he celebrates the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass. He wrote in his recent column entitled "Life is Beautiful": *"The Catholic Church consistently upholds the truth of human dignity even in the face of cultural hostility and shifting moral viewpoints. We do so because the Lord himself gave us an example of universal and unselfish love and charged us to love one another as He loved us.*

We do so because He taught us to be most attentive to the forgotten, the vulnerable, the 'least' among us: 'Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me' (Matt 25:40). We do so in the knowledge that we will not be judged by our worldly accomplishments, wealth, or cleverness, but by the quality of our compassion and mercy.

It is a source of deep grief to me that our state has enacted laws that are among the most radical and anti-life to be found anywhere in the world. It seems so out of character in a state with such fervent hospitality and where people so often give and sacrifice for their neighbors. I am not sure how we reached this point of kindness to some yet such a merciless stance towards the most vulnerable.

Of course, the proponents of such laws argue that they are

a matter of freedom and choice. And yet the exclusive focus remains on the termination of innocent human life. We do not actually give vulnerable mothers a choice. We do not offer her equal resources to bring her child to see the light of day. Our system as it has been crafted brings women to only one choice – a tragic choice that occurs in heartbreaking numbers.

Please help me to communicate to the men and women of this state that the Catholic Church reveres life – each and every life. Any woman finding herself in fear or difficulty needs to know that we want to help her have a full choice and the support she will need to make the choice for life. Go to any parish in the Diocese of Providence and we will do all in our power to help you and your baby.

I also ask that we call upon our leaders to help women in Rhode Island have a true choice. Every life is sacred; every life is possibility. Where is compassion? Where is mercy? Are there not ways to respect the dignity of the mother and protect the life of her child? Every one of us was once a child in the womb! We will never be mistaken in efforts to preserve life, to nurture and protect life, to revere and celebrate life. Life is sacred and life is beautiful!"

Pray for an end to abortion and a culture of life in our state, nation and world. Be well. Do good. God Bless!

Father Healey



**January 21—Our Lady of Altagracia
Asopao de Pollo**

On January 21st each year, there is a great celebration in the Dominican Republic as the country celebrates its patroness, Our Lady of Altagracia. Legend says that the pious daughter of a rich merchant asked her father to bring her a portrait of Our Lady of Altagracia from Santo Domingo. Still, this was the first time anyone had heard of that title. The merchant, staying overnight at a friend's house in another town, described his problem as they sat outdoors after dinner. An old man with a long beard, who just happened to be passing by, pulled a rolled-up painting from his bag and gave it to the merchant, saying, "This is what you are looking for." It was the Virgin of Altagracia. They gave the old man a place to stay for the night, but by dawn, he was gone, not to be seen again. The merchant placed the image on their mantle. Still, it repeatedly disappeared only to be found outside, and the family finally returned it to the Church. The Blessed Mother, under the title, has been celebrated in the Church since 1692. In 1924, the Congress of the Dominican Republic declared the feast day a national holiday. The day is often celebrated with a traditional chicken and rice stew. While it may not be as cold in the Dominican Republic in January as here, this hearty stew is perfect for a cold evening

Ingredients

- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons light adobo seasoning (such as Goya)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 green bell pepper, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 ½ cups medium-grain rice
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon red pepper
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 cup sliced pimento-stuffed green olives
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Directions

Season chicken thighs with black pepper and adobo seasoning. Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Cook and stir green pepper, red pepper, onion, garlic, and tomato paste in the hot oil until the vegetables have softened slightly, 3 to 4 minutes. Remove vegetables from the pot and set aside. Pan-fry chicken in the pot until browned, 5 minutes per side. Return cooked vegetables to the pot along with rice, diced tomatoes, chicken broth, bay leaf, and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until rice is tender and chicken is no longer pink inside about 20 minutes. Stir in peas and olives and cook for another 5 minutes. Stir in cilantro and serve

Weekly Collection

January 14, 2024

Weekly.....	\$11,531.00
EFT.....	\$7,992.00
	Total=\$19,523.00
Outreach.....	\$1,197.00
Church in Latin America.....	\$3,066.00
Annual Collection (Final).....	\$136,874.00

January 15, 2023

Weekly.....\$16,230.00

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



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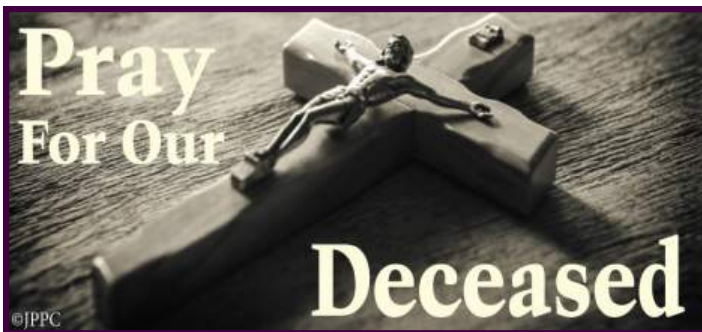
Second Collections

**This Week: The Catholic University of America
Next Week: Saints & Scholars Fund**

Every penny counts!



Thank you for your contribution - big and small!



In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Nancy J. Hagerty Manzi Chapman, Pauline Cashore, and Cameron M. O'Brien** who have died.



OLM FAITH FORMATION

UPDATE

First Communion Class Schedule

Sunday, February 4: Class. Children & Parents to attend.
Sunday, March 2: Class

2024 Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, January 21: 8th Grade Class
Sunday, February 11: 8th Grade Class

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



•**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, February 1, 2024 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



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

Weekly Calendar

- Monday, January 22:** Student Council Meeting at 2:30pm; Yearbook Club Meeting at 2:30pm
- Tuesday, January 23:** Weekly OLM School Mass at 8:15am; Beloved Meeting at 2:30pm
- Wednesday, January 24:** Drama Club at 2:30pm
- Thursday, January 25:** 8th Grade Science Fair 5:30-6:30pm
- Friday, January 26:** Youth Ministry Meeting at 6:30pm

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Pray for them.

OLM SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars

Date/Time

Sunday, January 28th
from 10am -12pm

Location

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