

**“Do not be
Afraid.”**

MATTHEW 1:20



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Mass Intentions

for the Week
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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2022**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

The Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Michael Alix—5th Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial

9:00AM Joe Faherty—2nd Anniversary

10:30AM Janet Fayle—14th Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM The Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Dr. John H. Duffy—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Late Advent Weekday; St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Sr. Hismena Manuel, FAS—30th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Michael Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Late Advent Weekday; St. John of Kanty, Priest

7:30AM Jeannie Light—12th Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Late Advent Weekday

8:30AM Pat Franzone—20th Anniversary

The Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Mass of Christmas Night

12:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

The Mass of Christmas Day

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy





Dear Parishioners:

We light the final candle on the Advent Wreath this weekend. It is a sign that Christmas is coming soon. Where did the time go over these four weeks of Advent? I still remember just one candle on the first Sunday of Advent, and here we are a week away from Christmas Eve.

How easily we can become distracted by errands, chores, and things we need to do before Christmas. In preparation for the celebration of Christmas, let us break away from the busyness and spend quiet time in prayer with Jesus, the Prince of Peace. He knows our worries and speaks to our hearts: "Peace I leave with you; My Peace I give to you... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

What does Christmas truly mean to us? As Catholics, we celebrate December 25 not as just another secular holiday but as the birthday of the messiah, the birthday, in the words of St. Leo the Great, of life itself.

We live in a special time of hope and joy every Advent and Christmas, which has little to do with holiday sales. Jesus Christ is Emmanuel – "God with us." Sharing gifts with friends and family is a wonderful tradition that springs eagerly from our Christmas joy.

But the noise of the secular season should never drown out the quiet voice of God's love made flesh in the birth of Jesus. Bethlehem, for each of us individually and the world as a whole, is the beginning of something entirely new and utterly beautiful if we ask God for the purity of heart to

possess it.

The world we know today is not so different from the world of the first Christmas. For Mary, there was nothing sweet or easy about being pregnant and unmarried in the rough hills of Galilee. She had her faith in God, but whether she had the understanding of her local relatives and friends is another matter.

Nor would Mary's story have been easy for her betrothed, St. Joseph. No matter how great his faith, no matter how good his heart, Joseph still probably struggled with very human temptations to doubt.

Yet, the reality is this: God loved us enough to send us — through the faith of Mary and Joseph — his only Son. He loved us enough to take on our poverty, our indignities and fears, our hopes, joys, sufferings, and failures — and to speak to us as one of us. He became man to show men and women how much God loves them. He was born for that purpose. He lived for that purpose. He died and rose again for that purpose.

When Jesus preached in his public ministry that "I am the way, the truth, and the life," he only restated the miracle that began in Bethlehem. Our redeemer is born in a stable; he is born to deliver us from sin and restore us to eternal life, which is the true meaning of the birth on that first Christmas.

It's never too late to invite the Christ Child into our hearts, homes, and lives. Surely this tired and complicated world never needed him more. May God grant us the gift of welcoming Christ into our hearts this Christmas and throughout

the coming year.

I encourage you to make a good confession as we prepare for Christmas. Four priests are available for Confessions from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Monday night. And again, on Christmas Eve, we have two priests available from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Put Confession on your to-do list this week! God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession is the best gift you can give to yourself!

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, so we hope many people, especially those who have not been in a while, make their way back to Mass. We will welcome them with joyful smiles, Christian kindness, and genuine hospitality!

We begin Christmas with a Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm. At Midnight we celebrate Christmas Mass with great solemnity with choir and orchestra. A concert of Christmas Music begins at 11:30 pm. On Christmas Day, Masses are at 7:30 pm, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am.

Invite those family members, friends, and neighbors who haven't been to Mass in a while to join you on Christmas. After all, there's no better gift to give on our Savior's birthday than going to Holy Mass.

May you and your family experience a joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior on Christmas! Be well. Stay safe. Do good. We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas! God Bless.

Father Healey

Weekly Collection

Due to the holiday print deadline the collection results for the weekend of December 11, 2022 are unavailable.



Second Collections

Next Week: Christmas Collection

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

Every penny counts!



Thank you for your contribution - big and small!

OLM Parish Office Hours Christmas 2022



The OLM Parish Office closes for the Christmas Holiday on Friday, December 23, 2022, at NOON & Reopens on Tuesday, January 3, 2022, at 8:00am

The OLM Parish Staff Wish You a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!



Christmas Confessions

Monday, December 19, 2022
6:00pm-8:00pm
Four Priests Available
Saturday, December 24, 2022
1:00pm-3:00pm
Two Priests Available

"Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God."
-Saint Pope John Paul II

www.universeoffaith.org



"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of consumerism, appearances, useless gifts, or excessive waste,

but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart"

POPE FRANCIS





Religious Education NEWS

RE Schedule

December 18: 9:00am Mass & Class for Grades 3 & 4; 5:00pm Mass Class for Grades 5-7

December 25: No Classes. Merry Christmas!

January 1: No Classes. Happy New Year!




Outreach Update

• **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 Holiday Outreach:** We are always in need of gift cards to Stop & Shop and Walmart during the holiday season. Please drop in the collection basket or the safe in the vestibule in envelop marked OLM Holiday Outreach.

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

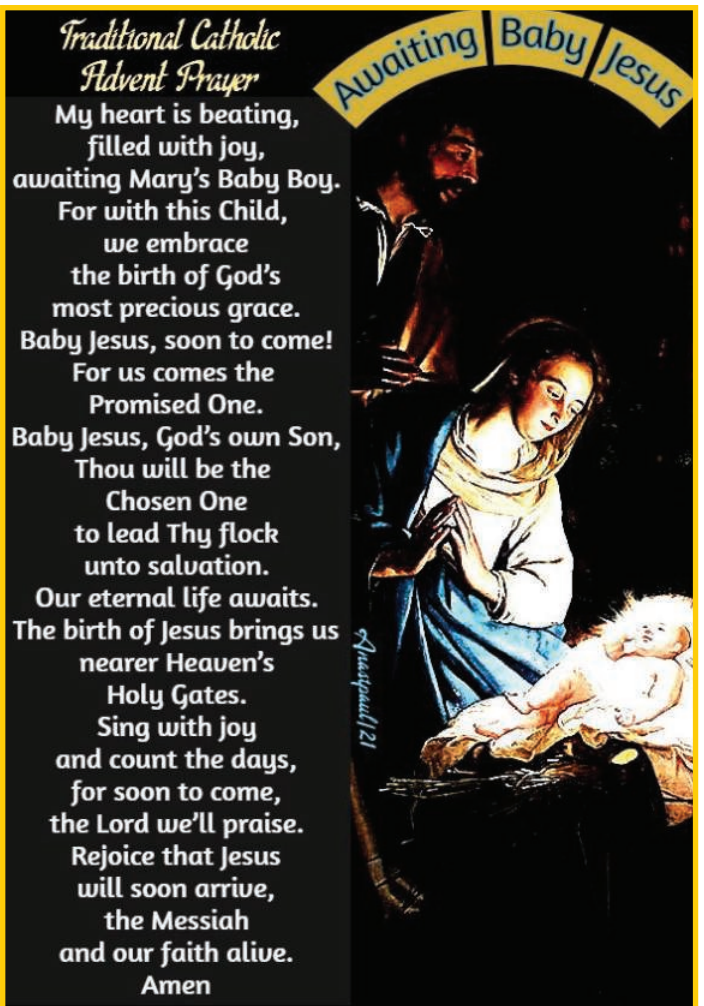


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Upcoming Events:

- **Tuesday, December 20:** Weekly Mass at 8:15am
- **Thursday, December 22:** Half-Day with Early Dismissal
- **Friday, December 23:** Christmas Break begins!

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*Traditional Catholic
Advent Prayer*

Awaiting Baby Jesus

My heart is beating,
filled with joy,
awaiting Mary's Baby Boy.
For with this Child,
we embrace
the birth of God's
most precious grace.
Baby Jesus, soon to come!
For us comes the
Promised One.
Baby Jesus, God's own Son,
Thou will be the
Chosen One
to lead Thy flock
unto salvation.
Our eternal life awaits.
The birth of Jesus brings us
nearer Heaven's
Holy Gates.
Sing with joy
and count the days,
for soon to come,
the Lord we'll praise.
Rejoice that Jesus
will soon arrive,
the Messiah
and our faith alive.
Amen

Shawspend 121



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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Confessions 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Four Priests Available

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Confessions 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Night Mass at Midnight

Christmas Concert with Choir & Orchestra

begins at 11:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Masses at

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

No 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2022

Confessions 3:00 PM

Mass of Anticipation at 4:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM,

10:30 AM & 5:00 PM


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