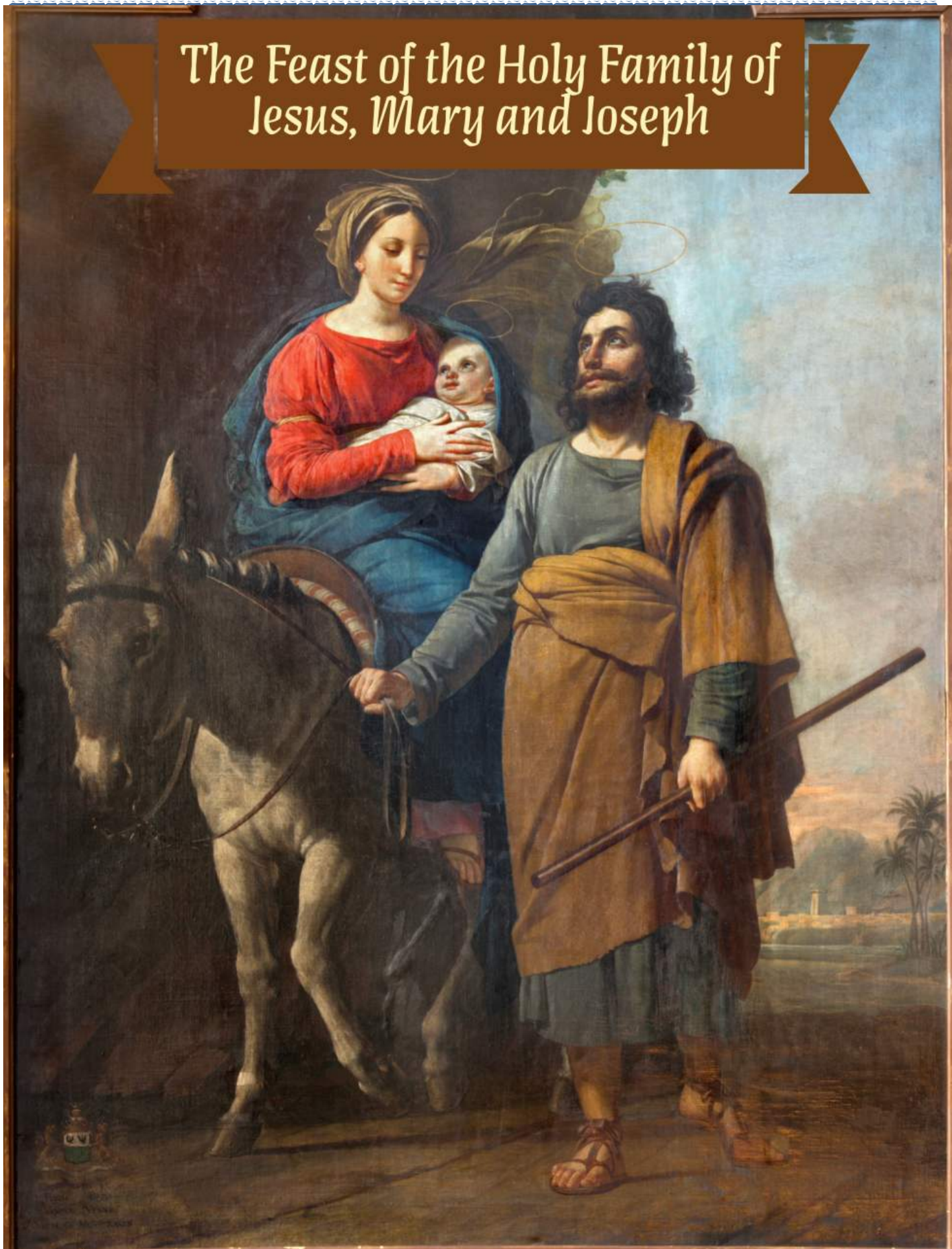


The Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph





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Mass Intentions
for the Week

**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

The Mass of Anticipation for the Feast of the Holy Family

4:00PM Gene & Mary Verri—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

7:30 AM Bill Daly—Memorial

9:00AM Edward Coleman—Memorial

10:30AM Antonetta Marzilli & Eileen DiMillio—Memorial

5:00PM Pope Benedict XVI—1st Anniversary

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024 NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

8:30AM Walter Mitchell—Memorial

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

7:30AM Rose & Ernest Knott—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday; The Most Holy Name of Jesus

7:30AM Joe Zaino & Dec'd of 248th Company B—Mem.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:30AM Mary Bucci—Memorial

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:30AM Edwin & Marie Muth—Memorial

9:00AM Deceased Alumni of OLM School

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Christmas Weekday; Saint Andre Bessette Religious

8:30AM Thomas Cavanagh—12th Anniversary

The Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany

4:00PM John P. Ponte—6th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30AM Frank & Arthur Palermo—Memorial

9:00AM Erica Clare Rose—9th Anniversary

10:30AM Arlene Pazienza—2nd Anniversary

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





Dear Parishioners:

Monday is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. It is usually a Holy Day of Obligation. However, as it falls on a Monday this year, we are not obligated to attend Mass. So, on New Year's Day, there is only one Mass at 8:30am.

While not obligated to attend Mass this year on New Year's Day, we should try to attend anyway. I can think of no better way to begin a New Year than coming to Holy Mass and bringing our gratitude, hopes, and resolutions to Jesus, who is truly present in the Eucharist!

As we welcome a new year and say farewell to the old year, we thank God. A Catholic Tradition is to sing or pray the *Te Deum* hymn in thanksgiving to God for his blessings for the past year. It has been sung on special occasions by Christians for centuries.

The name comes from the hymn's first words in the original Latin: *Te Deum laudamus* ("You are God, we praise you"). It can be chanted or prayed silently. Ring in 2024 Catholic style by singing and praying the *Te Deum*!

As we give thanks and praise to Almighty God for the blessings of 2023, we also offer our thanks to the many people who made Christmas so glorious and joyous at Our Lady of Mercy. Our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord was solemn, prayerful, and joyful.

Our parish and school staff are to be thanked for all their work for Christmas and during the last year. Their service to our parish and school is exemplary, and we are blessed to have such good people. I

thank them for their dedication.

Paul Anderson and our OLM Maintenance Crew worked hard preparing for Christmas. They set up trees and creches, hung wreaths, strung lights, moved boxes, polished floors, and ensured the entire Church physical plant was ready for the birth of our Savior.

Our Church, from the creche to the choir loft, was so stunningly beautiful for the birth of the Savior at Christmas! We thank the band of decorators who joyfully work so hard to bring the beauty of Christmas to life in our Church.

Our good Franciscan Sisters and Sacristans prepared all the sacred vessels, altar cloths, altar server garments, and vestments. They cleaned, polished, starched, ironed, and pressed with joy. We thank them for their dedication to our parish and devotion to the Lord.

We thank our Music Director, Henri St. Louis, the OLM Choir, and the guest musicians who provided majestic music for Christmas, especially at the Midnight Mass. Also, we thank Shirley Medici and the OLM Children's Choir, who provided such joyous music for the Christmas Vigil Mass.

Our Altar Servers served reverently at all the Masses on Christmas. Some stayed up beyond their bedtime to serve the beautiful Midnight Mass. Others awakened very early to serve at 7:30am Mass on Christmas Day. We also had a team of veteran Altar Servers home from college who expertly served! In your name, I thank them, especially our OLM Master of Ceremonies, Erik Carlson, and our OLM Seminarian, David DelBonis,

who make everything run smoothly, reverently, and solemnly.

We thank our many Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Ushers who provide such devoted service to our parish at Christmas and throughout the year. They helped our Christmas worship of the Christ Child and deserve our thanks and praise.

Finally, I thank you, OLM's good and faithful parishioners, for your abundant charity, support, kindness, and generosity. Your faith in the Lord is an inspirational witness and a sign of our parish's vibrant life and living faith. I offer my deep gratitude to you. And offer my praise and gratitude to Almighty God for the unique privilege and abundant joy of serving as your parish priest.

In the name of my brother priests, Father Mahoney and Father Connors, I thank the many parishioners who were so generous to us, the parish, and especially the poor and needy this Christmas. We also offer our thanks for the many beautiful cards and sincere greetings, delicious food and tasty treats, and the most generous and thoughtful personal gifts given at Christmas. Be assured of our gratitude and continued prayers.

We wish you a Happy, Healthy, and Holy New Year in 2024! May Almighty God bless you and your family in the New Year with his choicest Blessings! Be well. Do good. God Bless! *Te Deum laudamus!*

Father Healey

❖ January 1: Mary, the Holy Mother of God

JANUARY 1 is New Year's Day to most of the world, but in the Catholic Church, it is also the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This is a relatively new title for the day. Older Catholics will remember that we used to call January 1 the Feast of the Circumcision.

Circumcision may not seem like much to have a feast about, but the day commemorated an event in the life of Jesus, just as we have days for his Conception, Birth, Presentation in the Temple, Baptism, Transfiguration, Death, and Resurrection. Luke specifically mentions the circumcision of Jesus (2:21). It took place, according to the custom, on the eighth day after his birth. That is why the feast commemorating the event fell on the eighth day of Christmas. It just happened to be New Year's Day. The same passage from Luke says Jesus then received his name.

That is why the old calendar celebrated the Most Holy Name of Jesus on the Sunday between the Feasts of the Circumcision and the Epiphany. If no Sunday intervened, the feast occurred on January 2. It is now an optional memorial on January 3.

In present times, the Gospel passage for January 1 still refers to the circumcision, but the new title for the feast seems to have another verse in mind, Luke 2:19. There we hear that Mary treasured all the things that happened and the words that were said and pondered them in her heart. On the octave day of the birth of Jesus, we celebrate Mary, who bore him.

On January 1, we are also expected to pray for world peace. In the United States, this day is a holyday of obligation unless it falls on a Monday or a Saturday.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1st is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year as it falls on a Monday.

Weekly Collection

December 17, 2023

Weekly.....	\$11,690.00
EFT.....	\$6,159.00
	Total=\$17,849.00
Outreach.....	\$297.00
Annual Collection (To Date).....	\$128,484.00

December 18, 2022

Weekly.....	\$14,991.00
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024
MASS AT 8:30AM ONLY
CONFESSIONS AT 6:00PM
THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED
FOR THE HOLIDAY.**



Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us.



OLM FAITH FORMATION
UPDATE

First Communion Class Schedule

January 7: Class

February 4: Class. Children and Parents to attend.

2024 Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, January 21

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



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

Weekly Calendar

- **Wednesday, January 3:** Christmas Break ends and School Resumes
- **Friday, January 5:** First Friday Mass 9:00 am



• **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, January 4, 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

Congratulations



We offer our prayers and best wishes to Father Ryan W. Connors who has been appointed as the new Rector of Our Lady of Providence Seminary by Bishop Henning. Father Connors formerly served as Associate Pastor at OLM. He has been a resident priest at OLM while studying at the Angelicum University in Rome for his Doctorate in Moral Theology and then over the last few years while serving as the Dean of Men and a Professor of Moral Theology at St. John's Seminary in Boston. Father begins his new assignment as Rector of OLP Seminary in the Fall of 2024. Please pray for him as he takes up the important work of forming the future priests of our diocese. ***Ad multos annos!***

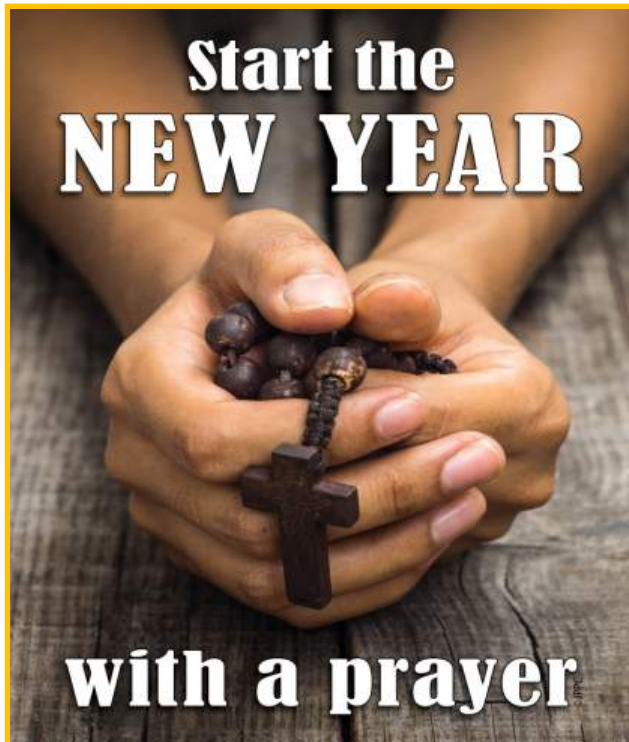
OLMPrayer Chain



Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain. The power of prayer is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller, or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629 or email directly to 2hart@cox.net. ***If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!***

The power of prayer at work!

Start the NEW YEAR



with a prayer

Pray for Peace in the Holy Land

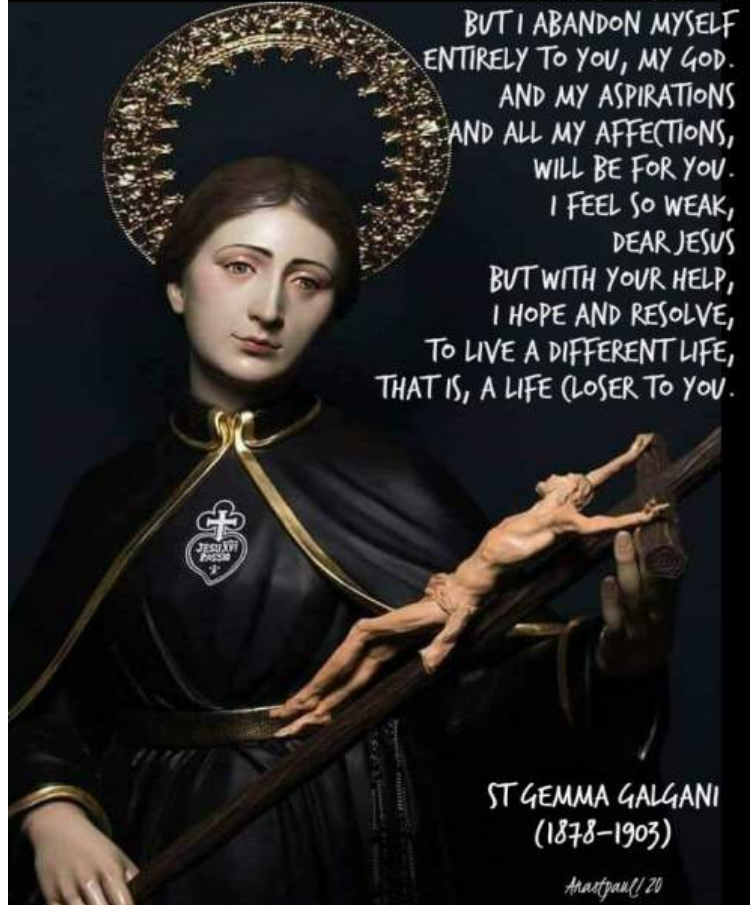


A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU!

DURING THIS NEW YEAR,
I RESOLVE TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE.
I DO NOT KNOW,
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME,
DURING THIS YEAR.

BUT I ABANDON MYSELF
ENTIRELY TO YOU, MY GOD.
AND MY ASPIRATIONS
AND ALL MY AFFECTIONS,
WILL BE FOR YOU.

I FEEL SO WEAK,
DEAR JESUS
BUT WITH YOUR HELP,
I HOPE AND RESOLVE,
TO LIVE A DIFFERENT LIFE,
THAT IS, A LIFE (LOSER TO YOU).



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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, January 5, 2024
Exposition at 12:00 PM
Adoration All-Afternoon
Benediction at 6:00 PM
Adorers are needed. Sign up online

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