

“Prepare THE WAY
OF THE THE
Lord.”
LUKE 3:4

Mass Intentions




for the Week

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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2021

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Father Bernard A. Healey, *Pastor*.....884-4968
pastor@olmparish.org

Father Daniel M. Mahoney, *Associate Pastor*....884-4968
associatepastor@olmparish.org

Mr. David E. Cote, *Business Manager*.....884-4968
business@olmschool.org

Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, *Admin. Assistant*.....884-4968
parish@olmparish.org

Mr. Paul E. Anderson, *Facilities Director*.....884-4968
parish@olmparish.org

St. Patrick's Cemetery Office.....886-5296
parish@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Michele St. Jean (*Grades 1-5*).....884-1061
reled@olmparish.org

Mr. Douglas E. Green (*Grades 6-8*).....884-4410
confirmation@olmparish.org

OFFICE OF OUTREACH

Mr. Douglas E. Green, *Director*.....884-4410
outreach@olmparish.org

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musicministry@olmparish.org

OLM SCHOOL

Mr. Patrick H, McNabb, School Principal
pmcnabb@olmschool.org

Main Office.....884-1618

Mr. David Cote, *School Business Manager*.....884-1618
business@olmschool.org

Mrs. Bethany Verret, *Office Manager & Admissions Coordinator*
office@olmschool.org.....884-1618

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Mass of Anticipation for Second Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Special Intention

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

The Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Fr. Stanley T. Nakowicz—10th Anniversary

9:00AM Peter & Gloria Monti—Memorial

10:30AM Dr. Stephen Burns—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday; St. Nicholas, Bishop

7:30AM Salvatore DiStefano—31st Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Special Intention

The Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

5:00PM Donna J. Storti—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30AM Yvette Adams—Memorial

9:00AM Deceased Faculty & Alumni of OLM School

7:00Pm The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Advent Weekday: St. Juan Diego

7:30AM Hak-Jin Pyun—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Margaret B. Devlin—46th Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

Advent Weekday; St. Damasus I, Pope

8:30AM Theresa Pearson—14th Anniversary

Mass of Anticipation for Third Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Leonard A. Morgese—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

The Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Cathy Stiglic—Memorial

9:00AM George Cooper—Memorial

10:30AM Jim & Lee Maloney—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



Dear Parishioners:

On this Wednesday, December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which celebrates the dogma that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception.

The origin of the feast arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century, it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. Finally, in the 18th century, it became a feast of the universal Church and is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: *"The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."*

In 1846, while meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops adopted a decree naming Mary, "conceived without sin," as patroness of the United States. Pope Pius IX approved the choice and placed the United States under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception in 1857.

This Solemnity is a holy day of obligation on which Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. A Vigil Mass is to be celebrated Tuesday at 5:00 PM, and on Wednesday, there are Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM School Mass, and 7:00 PM.

And while we anticipate the joyous celebration of Mary's Immaculate Conception this Wednesday, on last Wednesday, December 1, the U.S. Supreme

Court considered the conception of unborn children as it heard oral arguments in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* concerning Mississippi's ban on most abortions after 15 weeks. The Court is considering the question of whether all bans on pre-viability abortions are unconstitutional.

Legal experts say the case presents an ideal opportunity for the Supreme Court to reconsider previous rulings that upheld legal abortion nationwide. The 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in the entire nation, *Roe v. Wade*, said that states could not ban abortion before the "viability" of the fetus. Viability is the point at which an unborn child can survive outside the womb. The Court determined it to be around 24 to 28 weeks into pregnancy.

Nearly 20 years later, the Court upheld that ruling in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, saying that states could regulate pre-viability abortions but could not pose an "undue burden" in doing so. Mississippi's law bans most abortions after 15 weeks which is well before the point of "viability" established in *Roe* and upheld in *Casey*. Mississippi's law directly challenges the *Roe* and *Casey* decisions. Many legal experts suggest that these rulings were already vulnerable and ready for reconsideration.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in its friend-of-the-court brief filed July 27, stressed that abortion is not a right created by the Constitution and called it *"inherently different from other types of personal decisions to which this court has*

accorded constitutional protection."

Referring to the Court's major abortion decisions, the brief warned that if the Supreme Court *"continues to treat abortion as a constitutional issue,"* it will face more questions in the future about *"what sorts of abortion regulations are permissible."*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: *"Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."*

We are called to pray for the respect for the sanctity of all human life. Prayer is the foundation of everything we do in defense of human life. So let us pray for the Justices as they consider this case, and let us pray for an end to abortion in our nation and our world.

I am in Washington, DC, this weekend attending meetings of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors. There are updates by experts on the Supreme Court cases, and issues such as religious liberty, immigration, refugee resettlement, poverty, and education.

It's Advent, so prepare the way with prayer, Mass and Confession! Be well. Stay safe. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!!!!

Father Healey

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Holy Day of Obligation



Masses at OLM

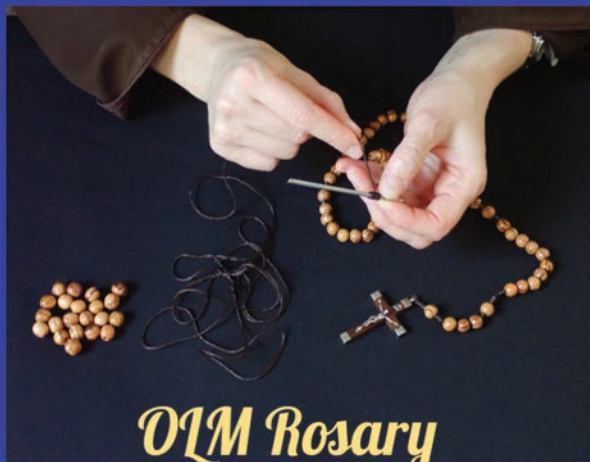
Tuesday, December 7

Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM

Wednesday, December 8

Holy Day Masses at 7:30am,

9:00AM School Mass & 7:00PM



**OLM Rosary
Makers Workshop**

Tuesday, December 7

2:00pm - 4:00pm

OLM Cry Room

Instruction & Materials provided

Weekly Collection

November 21, 2021

Weekly.....\$9,818.00
EFT.....\$4,676.00
Total=\$14,494.00

Outreach.....\$6,461.00
Annual Collection (to date).....\$140,715.00
CCHD Collection.....\$2,904.00

November 22, 2020

Weekly.....\$11,023.00
Annual 2020 Total.....\$132,265.00

November 28, 2021

Weekly.....\$7,164.00
EFT.....\$6,080.00
Total=\$13,244.00

Outreach.....\$1,260.00

November 29, 2020

Weekly.....\$9,875.00

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Church in your will or estate.*

Second Collections

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection

Next Week: Retired Religious Fund



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In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially for **Thomas Chisholm and Riccardo Fornaro** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here this past week.



Religious Education NEWS

RE Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 5:

5:00PM Mass & Class, Grades 3,4,5,6 and 7

Sunday, December 12:

5:00PM Mass & Class, Confirmation 2022-Grade 8

Sunday, December 19:

5:00PM Mass & Class: First Communion and Grade 1

Both Parents & Students must attend Mass & Class.



Outreach Update

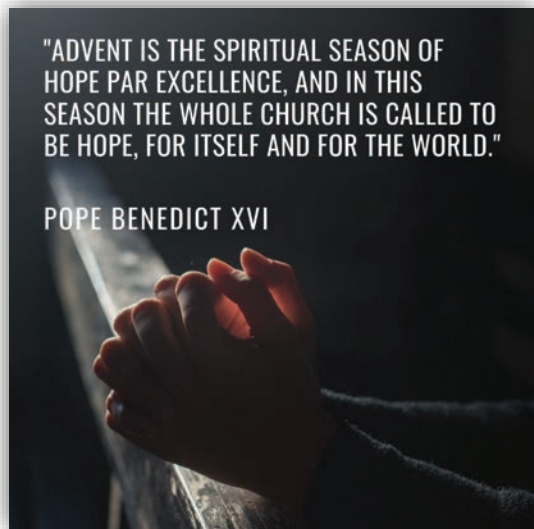
• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated **NON-EXPIRED AND non-perishable food items only and paper goods** in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **Please do not leave medical supplies.** *Thank you for your support!*

• **OLM Bereavement Group:** Next Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 16 at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those who are grieving are invited to join with us.

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

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POPE BENEDICT XVI



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Calendar of Events

- **Wednesday, December 8:** Holy Day OLM School Mass at 9:00am
- **Thursday, December 9** OLM School Christmas Pageant at 6:00PM in OLM Church (livestreamed)
- **Monday, December 13:** OLM School Confessions, 12:45pm-2:00PM
- **Tuesday, December 14:** OLM School Mass at 8:15am
- **Thursday, December 16:** Report Cards distributed

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Christmas Anticipation Prayer



Beginning on St. Andrew the Apostle's feast day, November 30, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the feast of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Confessions 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Four Priests Available

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS NIGHT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Night Mass at Midnight (livestream)
Christmas Concert with Choir & Orchestra
begins at 11:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Masses at
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
No 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Masses at
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD* SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Mass at 8:30 AM
**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year*

Happy and Holy Christmas!

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