

***“But I say to you,  
love your enemies  
and pray for those  
who persecute you.”***





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**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
FEBRUARY 19, 2023**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

*The Mass of Anticipation for 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:00PM James Riley—Memorial

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

*The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 AM Fortuna & Jack Palermo—Memorial

9:00AM Robert T. Roy—Memorial

10:30AM Arlene Pazienza—Memorial

5:00PM Station Night Club Fire Victims—20th Anniversary

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20—PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY**

*Weekday*

8:30AM Eraclio Iacobucci—Memorial

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

*Weekday; St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

7:30AM Dalia Pundys—11th Anniversary

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

*Ash Wednesday*

7:30AM Dorothy Ianacone—4th Anniversary

12:05PM George Ferruccio—Birthday Remembrance

7:00PM Gina Ponte—Memorial

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

*Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

7:30AM Special Intention

12:05PM Fr. Alfred Lonardo—Memorial

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

*Friday after Ash Wednesday*

7:30AM Joseph Laurino—Memorial

12:05PM Michael D'Ambra—5th Anniversary

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

*Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

8:30AM Ann E. Gardiner—Memorial

*The Mass of Anticipation for 1st Sunday of Lent*

4:00PM Theresa Turlak—Birthday Remembrance

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

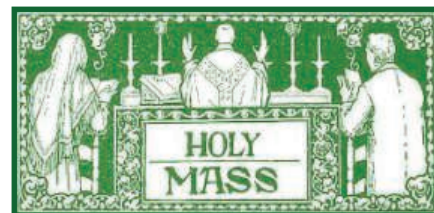
*The First Sunday of Lent*

7:30 AM Frank & Arthur Palermo—Memorial

9:00AM Josefina Maligaya—Memorial

10:30AM Michael A. Rocchio—Birthday Remembrance

5:00PM Daniel E. Green—Month's Mind





Dear Parishioners:

In Her wisdom Holy Mother the Church each year gives us the Holy Season of Lent. And so we *"begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint."*

Lent calls us to be vigilant against "spiritual evils," especially those we struggle with daily. Namely, sin, pride, selfishness, spiritual apathy, indifference, sloth, and laziness. We must be armed with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, which are our *"weapons of self-restraint."*

We must be more vigilant in faithfully attending Holy Mass on Sundays as God has commanded us. We must be more vigilant in seeking God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. We must be more vigilant in making sacrifices, being more generous and charitable to the poor, and practicing self-denial as we take up the cross and follow Christ.

Our spiritual campaign of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, with three Masses, 7:30 am, 12:05 pm, and 7:00 pm. Ashes will be imposed at all three. As our foreheads are smeared with ashes, we take up the clarion call of Lent: *"Repent and believe in the Gospel."*

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. So we are expected to eat only one large meal and two small, modest meals and avoid eating between meals. We also are expected to abstain from eating any meat. Fridays of Lent are days of penance and prayer as we loyally keep the sacrificial

fast and abstain from meat in honor of our Lord's sacrifice on the cross.

We have Lenten Masses at 7:30 am and 12:05 pm Monday through Friday. Put Daily Mass on your schedule this Lent! Confession in Lent is daily, Monday through Friday, at 11:45 am, just before the Lenten 12:05 Mass. On Monday nights at 6:00 pm during Lent, an extra guest Confessor joins us weekly. All Day Confessions are scheduled for Saturday, March 25!

Dominican Friar Father Justin Brophy, OP, leads the Lenten Mission this year. He is preaching: "Our Relationship with Jesus: the Pearl of Great Price!" Fr. Brophy is a Professor of Political Theory at Providence College. He is a brilliant young priest and an outstanding and dynamic preacher. The Lenten Mission is scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 4. Save the date and make the Mission!

Lent is a time for more sacrifice, prayer, and reflection in our daily lives. Many Lenten books, booklets, and pamphlets are available in the vestibule and the bookrack to help strengthen your spiritual life. Take a break from your daily routine for spiritual reading, prayer, Mass, and reflection during Lent.

Our Lenten fast from certain foods, drinks, and other comforts and pleasures helps us conform to God's will. For forty days, we take up fasting by giving up some selfish pleasure or creature comforts like chocolates, ice cream or sweets, perhaps beer or Bourbon, or even smoking cigars! We should moderate our use of technology like cell phones, the internet, and

social media. Such sacrificial fasting and self-denial are done during Lent in imitation of our Savior's forty days in the desert.

The late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said: *"Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are good reminders that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain to perfect life, all truth, and undying ecstatic love, which is the definition of God. In pursuing that goal, we find happiness."*

On Fridays during Lent, we pray the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. This venerable devotion draws us closer to the Crucified Christ. Join us as we prayerfully follow his footsteps to Cavalry.

We give more alms to the poor during Lent. We can do this through Operation Rice Bowl, OLM Outreach, and the Catholic Charity Appeal. Please take a rice bowl home today. The monies collected buy food for the hungry of the world.

Pope Francis states: *"Lent reminds us that we can always start again, with the help of God's mercy, we can always get up and resume following the Master."* If we've fallen away, let us resume following the Master this Lent with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In the name of the poor, I thank those who generously pledged their gift to the CCA. Please pray for the health and happiness of all students and teachers on vacation this week. Be well. Stay safe. Do good. God Bless!

*Father Healey*



**Lent 2023**  
at  
**Our Lady of Mercy Church**  
65 Third Street,  
East Greenwich, RI

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 22, 2023

Masses with Distribution of Ashes  
7:30am, 12:05pm & 7:00pm

Confessions on Ash Wednesday 11:45am-12:00pm & 6:00pm-6:45pm

**Daily Masses during Lent**

Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm Monday-Friday • 8:30am on Saturdays

**Confessions during Lent**

Monday-Friday 11:45am-12:00pm

Saturday 3:00pm-3:45pm

Mondays 6:00pm-6:45pm with Two Confessors

**Stations of the Cross**

Fridays at 7:00pm

**SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS**

**Annual Lenten Mission**

March 4-8, 2023

The Reverend Christopher Justin Brophy, O.P.  
Professor of Political Science, Providence College  
*Mission Preacher*

Mission Preacher to preach all weekend Masses  
Mission Talks at 7:00pm  
on Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, March 6-8  
with Confessions beginning at 6:00pm  
with Four Confessors each night

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Friday, March 17, 2023 • Mass at 12:05pm

Mass with Readings & Music in Irish

The Most Reverend John G. Noonan, D.D.  
*Bishop of Orlando, FL, Celebrant & Homilist*

**ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Monday, March 20, 2023 • Mass at 12:05pm

Mass celebrated in Italian with Readings & Hymns in Italian  
The Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, D.D., S.T.D.  
*Coadjutor Bishop of Providence, Celebrant & Homilist*

**ALL-DAY CONFESSIONS**

Saturday, March 25, 2023 • 9:00am-3:00pm

Four Confessors available All-Day

**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Friday, March 31, 2023 • 1:00pm & 7:00pm

[www.olmparish.org](http://www.olmparish.org) • 401-884-4968

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LENT  
COUNT**  
PRAY - ACT - GIVE

**Weekly Collection**

**February 12, 2023**

Weekly.....\$8,010.00

EFT.....\$5,801.00

**Total=\$13,811.00**

Outreach.....\$1,728.00

**February 13, 2022**

Weekly.....\$12,094.00

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**



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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mita,  
Bishop's Partner in Charity Chairs

**Parish Goal=\$190,000**  
**Total Pledged=\$59,425.00**  
**Total Donors=140**  
**Average Gift=\$647**

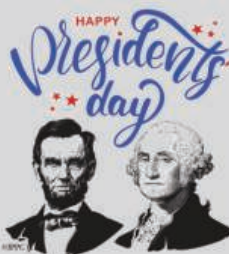
**2022 Catholic Charity Appeal**

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000

Total Pledged=\$262,643

Total Number of Donors=440

Average Gift=\$597



**Monday, February 20, 2023**

**Presidents' Day Holiday**

**Mass at 8:30AM**

**Confessions at 6:00PM**

**The Parish Office is closed.**



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of **Eraclio Iacobucci**. In your charity, please pray for the gentle repose of her soul.



# Religious Education NEWS

## RE Schedule

**Sunday February 19:** Winter Break. No RE Classes.

**Sunday, February 26:** 5:00pm Mass & Grades 5, 6 and 7 Classes to follow in the OLM School Gym



• **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:** Next meeting **Thursday, March 2, 2023 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



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed, most especially **Peter B. Pundys** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.



## *Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!*

*We wish all our students, families, faculty and staff a happy & healthy Winter Break! School resumes on Monday, February 27, 2023.*

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## Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria



The death toll has reached 36,000 and continues to rise after two earthquakes struck the central regions of

Turkey and northwest Syria. Catholic Relief Services is working with Caritas Turkey, Caritas Syria, and other local partners to provide emergency relief. To donate online go to: <https://www.crs.org/>



**Theodore Robert Card,**  
and his parents, Bryan and Emily.

**Lennon Michael Anderson,**  
and his parents, Ian and Sheana.

**Chandler Joseph Traupman,**  
and his parents, Brian and Heather.

## Lent

LENT IS the season that prepares us to celebrate Easter. The main reason Lent is important is that Easter is more important. On Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose passage beyond death into life offers redemption to believers. The Resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The mystery of Christ's rising from the dead is so deep that the Church invites us to six weeks of preparation before we fully celebrate it. We call that period Lent.

For the faithful, Lent is a time of penitential practices and spiritual discipline. During this time, we acknowledge our sins and seek God's help to overcome them. Traditionally, we engage in acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Together these actions show our dependence on God, our renunciation of the fascinations of this world, and our desire to better the lives of others.

For the elect, those preparing for Baptism, Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. They will celebrate Baptism at Easter because in this sacrament they enter the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. They die to their former way of life and open their hearts fully to discipleship in Jesus. For the elect, this is a season of purification and enlightenment. The prayers of this season help scrutinize and purify their intentions, removing whatever might block their commitment, and strengthening their resolve. They will become fully illumined with the light of Christ when they celebrate initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

*Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year* © 2020  
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Written by Paul Turner.



### Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations

Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Also, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting: those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day.

Serious health conditions excuse a person from these precepts. Pastors and parents are encouraged by the law of the Church to ensure that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated nonetheless in an authentic sense of penance.

Following the implementation of the revised Code of Canon Law on November 27, 1983, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States determined that the rules of fast and abstinence which have existed for the last several years in this country be maintained. Namely, that the faithful observe suitable penitential practices on all Fridays throughout the year.

These penitential practices need not include abstaining from meat. However, as indicated above, the faithful must not eat meat on all the Fridays of Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. They must also observe faithfully the fast regulations as they have been stated above in accord with the universal law of the Church (Cf. Code of Canon Law, Canons 1250-1252).



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