

*Whoever lives the truth  
comes to the light.*

JOHN 3:21





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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**MARCH 10, 2024**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

*The Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Lent*  
 4:00PM Gordon & Jeanne Scott—Memorial

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial  
 9:00AM Bethany Briggs—17th Anniversary  
 10:30AM Helen King—Memorial  
 5:00PM Nicholas Campanella—6th Anniversary

**MONDAY, MARCH 11**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Pauline Cashore—Memorial  
 12:05PM William Barrett—Memorial

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Don Boyle—Birthday Remembrance  
 12:05PM Evelyn, Domenic, & Thomas Scialla—Memorial

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Thomas Vespia—Memorial  
 12:05PM Ronald Verri—Memorial

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Margaret Armstrong—Memorial  
 12:05PM Theresa, Pauline, & Joseph Salvatore—Memorial

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Anne & Leo McGuire—Memorial  
 12:05PM Richard Narcessian—Memorial

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 8:30AM Bill Daly—Birthday Remembrance  
*The Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday of Lent*  
 4:00PM Mary Jo Duffy—Birthday Remembrance

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

*The Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
 7:30AM Mary Falchini—Birthday Remembrance  
 9:00AM Dec'd of McGinley & Kiernan Families—Mem.  
 10:30AM Mary Gianardi—11th Anniversary  
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish



Dear Parishioners:

It's Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The name Laetare comes from the entrance antiphon from Isaiah: *"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast."*

Laetare is the first word meaning "rejoice" in the Latin text. The Church expresses hope and joy amid our Lenten fasts and penances on Laetare Sunday (similarly to the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday). Often called Rose Sunday due to the rose-colored vestments. It indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter the somber days of Passiontide.

The joy of Easter being around the corner is symbolized in a few other interesting liturgical possibilities. During Lent, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal forbids flowers adorning the altar. But on Laetare Sunday (as well as solemnities and feasts within the season), there's a temporary halt to these acts of penance!

At one time, marriages were generally forbidden during Lent. Still, Laetare Sunday was often associated with a day when marriages could be celebrated during the penitential season. While marriages are now only forbidden on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, Laetare Sunday is still fitting for those wishing to be married before Eastertide.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an

opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

We are filled with joy this Saturday and next Saturday as our OLM First Communion Class will make their first confessions. They, too, will be filled with joy as they receive the grace of God's mercy and forgiveness in Sacramental Confession for the first time. Please pray for them.

Pope Francis said: *"I ask you: have you ever thought that every time we go to the confessional, there is joy and celebration in heaven? Have you ever thought about that? It is beautiful and fills us with great hope because there is no sin to which we have stooped from which, by the grace of God, we cannot rise up again. There is no person who is beyond recovery, no one is beyond recovery. Because God never ceases to want what is good for us, even when we sin!"*

Have you had a chance to make a good Confession during this Lent? If not, there are ample opportunities. Confession is offered daily at 11:45am, every Monday at 6:00pm with two priests, and every Saturday at 3:00pm.

On Saturday, March 23, there will be All-Day Confessions from 9:00am until 3:00pm with four priests available. During Holy Week, additional times and priests will be available for Confession.

As Pope Francis said: *"I ask you: have you ever thought that every time we go to the*

*confessional, there is joy and celebration in heaven?"* So make heaven celebrate with joy and make a good Confession.

Of course, there is also another occasion of joy at OLM. Next Sunday is St. Patrick's Day, so we rejoice for such a glorious saint. At the 10:30am Mass, there will be readings in the Irish language and Irish music. And we are truly blessed to have Monsignor Séamus Horgan to celebrate the Mass. Monsignor is a native son of Ireland and priest of the Diocese of Killaloe, established in the 7th Century. The Diocese comprises parts of the counties of Clare, Tipperary, Offaly, Limerick and Laois.

Monsignor is now the First Counsellor of the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See to the United States of America. This means he serves as the Holy Father's personal representative to the U.S., the Papal Nuncio, His Eminence Christophe Cardinal Pierre.

Following the 10:30am Mass, there will be a reception in the vestibule. Enjoy the Mass with its Irish hymns and readings, and join us in rejoicing with some Irish Soda Bread and Irish Coffee in honor of Glorious St. Patrick. It's sure to be a grand time for all young and old. Remember, you don't have to be Irish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, all are welcome!

Be well. Do good. God Bless! Pray. Fast. Give Alms. See you at Stations of the Cross on Friday!

*Father Healey*



## Act of Penance

AFTER WE confess our sins, it is customary for the priest to recommend an Act of Penance or some “satisfaction” for the offenses. This has several purposes. It helps amend the past. It makes reparation for injury. It puts us on the road to a new life. And it offers “medicine” to keep us from the same “sickness.” The Act of Penance reminds us that sin and forgiveness have a social aspect.

Priests may impose whatever penance they wish. It should correspond to the seriousness and the nature of the sins. Traditionally, priests assign prayer, often three Our Fathers and/or three Hail Marys. That penance can help us experience God’s ever-ready mercy, but the unrepentant may consider the tradeoff worth the sin.

The point of the Sacrament of Penance is conversion of heart. We confess our sins to experience God’s forgiveness and to change our way of thinking and behaving. The confession of sins is about reconciliation, about taking the steps to change what was wrong. It’s not about getting cheap grace so we can go forth and sin some more.

The burden of conversion does not lie completely with the Act of Penance, but that is a place to begin. The priest may request a penance of prayer, self-denial, or service to one’s neighbor. For example, if your sin is impatience, you might be asked to do some act of kindness toward those you’ve offended. If your sin is overindulgence in food or drink or the abuse of substances, you might accept a penance of fast and abstinence. You could also suggest to the priest a penance you think would help you.

The Act of Penance does not have to make up for all that we’ve done wrong. It couldn’t. Only Christ could do (and has done) that. Rather, the Act of Penance has a simpler goal. It helps us turn away from the past and turn toward the future with the equipment we need to make the journey well.

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Written by Paul Turner.

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

## Weekly Collection

**March 3, 2024**

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Weekly.....   | \$12,254.00        |
| EFT.....      | \$3,818.00         |
|               | <b>Total=\$.00</b> |
| Outreach..... | \$1,374.00         |

**March 5, 2023**

Weekly.....\$19,940.00

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### **2024 Catholic Charity Appeal**

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000  
Pledged to date=\$104,549  
Number of pledges to date=169  
Average gift=\$619

### **2023 Catholic Charity Appeal**

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000  
Total Raised=\$277,255  
Total Number of Pledges=480  
Average Gift=\$578



### First Communion Class Schedule

Saturday, March 9: First Confession: Last Names A-M

Saturday, March 16: First Confession: Last Names N-Z

### Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, March 11: Confessions at 6 pm after 5 pm Mass.

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of First Communion & Confirmation at 884-4968 or [faithformation@olmparish.org](mailto:faithformation@olmparish.org) or Miss Julia Anthon, Directress of Faith Formation, at 884-4968 or [faithformationdir@olmparish.org](mailto:faithformationdir@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, March 21, 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](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



## *Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!*

### School Weekly Calendar

- Monday, March 11: Student Council Meeting 2:30-3:15pm, Yearbook Club Meeting 2:30-3:30pm, Chess Master Connections 2:30-3:30pm, The Little Mermaid, Jr. Rehearsal 2:30-5:00pm
  - Tuesday & Wednesday March 12 & 13: The Little Mermaid, Jr. Rehearsal 2:30-5:00pm
  - Thursday, March 14: Choir Practice 3:30-3:15pm, Mock Trial Practice 2:30-3:30pm, The Little Mermaid, Jr. Rehearsal 2:30-5:00pm
  - Friday March 14: No School-Professional Day
- [www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)

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**THE LORD NEVER TIRES OF FORGIVENESS.**

**It is we who tire of asking his forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace not to tire of asking forgiveness, because he never tires of forgiving.**

— POPE FRANCIS

Quoted in the book *Fioretti: The Little Flowers of Pope Francis*





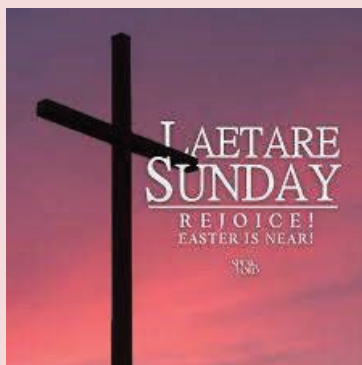
## 4th Sunday of Lent



**T**he traditional name for the Fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday. This title comes from *Laetare Jerusalem*, “Rejoice, Jerusalem,” the first words of today’s entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced with a gathering song).

As we have reached the midpoint of Lent, we anticipate the joy of Easter with several options for softening our worship environment: rose-colored vestments, extra music, some floral enhancement.

These are not requirements, however, and many parishes choose to stick with purple vesture and a spare atmosphere.



*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*

## Our Lady of Mercy Church

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 17  
MASS AT 10:30AM

Mass with Readings & Music in Irish

The Reverend Monsignor Séamus Horgan  
Diocese of Killaloe, Ireland  
First Counsellor of the Apostolic Nunciature  
of the Holy See to the U.S.  
Celebrant & Homilist

Reception to follow in Church Vestibule



### SOLEMN ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 19,  
MASS AT 12:05PM

Mass celebrated in Italian with  
Readings & Hymns in Italian

The Most Reverend  
Robert J. McManus, D.D., S.T.D.  
Bishop of Worcester  
Celebrant & Homilist

Reception to follow in Church Vestibule

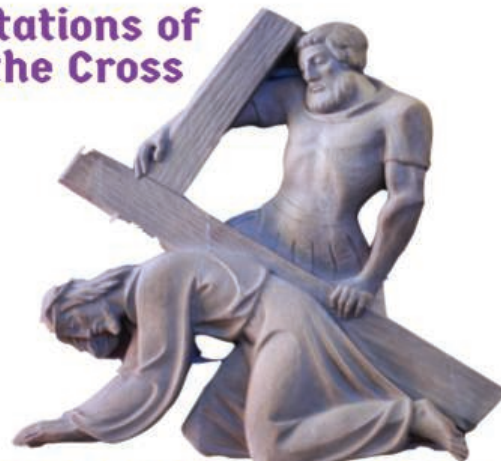


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