



**And just as Moses lifted up
the serpent in the desert so must
the Son of Man be lifted up.**

JOHN 3:14





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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 MARCH 14, 2021**

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Barbara Ingram—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM Joseph Masso—Birthday Remembrance
 9:00AM Gloria L. Mollis—Memorial
 10:30AM Michelino Paolino, Sr.—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 15

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM John Leyden—Memorial
 12:05PM Ronaldo Perea—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday
 7:30AM Mary Palombo Falchini—Birthday Remembrance
 12:05PM Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

St. Patrick, Bishop & Apostle of Ireland
 7:30AM Dec'd of McGinley & Kiernan Families—Mem.
 12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday; Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—Memorial
 12:05PM Fr. Robert Perron—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 7:30AM Marion & Brian Gillcrist—Memorial
 12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday
 8:30AM Norman L. Landroche, Sr—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for Fifth Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Joseph Sabry—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 9:00AM Vicki Iarossi—Month's Mind
 10:30AM Bethany & David Briggs—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

In your name, I thank Fr. James Mary Sullivan, OP, and Fr. Justin Mary Bolger, OP, for leading our Annual Parish Lenten Mission this past week. Their preaching and the music were truly outstanding, and we are grateful for the opportunity we had to renew our lives in faith, hope, and charity

Their reflections and songs on "*Living for the Other Side*" provide us with much food for thought. As the Hillbilly Thomists' album liner notes: "*This collection of new and old songs gives wide-ranging appeal to the human heart and soul so that even those 'who don't know what to listen for' will nonetheless be drawn to the One whom Flannery O'Connor called 'My Dear God.'*"

Indeed we must be grateful to our Dear God, who has provided us with the many blessings and graces of our Lenten Mission. A year ago, we had to close our Church and cease the public worship of God. Thankfully last Pentecost, we were able to resume public Masses. We have continued since last spring to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments at Our Lady of Mercy safely.

Many parishioners have stayed away from attending Mass for legitimate reasons of health and safety. This is perfectly reasonable and actually encouraged for those who have serious health concerns and suffer any illnesses. But many others have stopped regularly attending Sunday Mass for no other reason than a bad habit developed over this last year.

Yet, I see many parishioners regularly eating out

at restaurants, shopping at stores, attending sports practices and games, and traveling for holidays and vacations. But they are not regularly making their way to Sunday Mass. We invite you back to Mass! Join us in the worship and praise of our good and generous God every Sunday at Mass.

Vaccinations and good weather are a hopeful sign of a springtime of renewal for our parish community. Indeed it is a sign of great hope that the pandemic, with its many restrictions on our lives, is easing up a bit. Many people need a renewal of their social life. More importantly, however, many need a renewal of their spiritual life. This renewal begins at Holy Mass.

Make Sunday Mass a regular habit again. Nourishing our souls and strengthening our communion with our Lord and His Church should be reason enough to come back to Mass. St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) reminds us: "*It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass.*"

We mark two special events this week at OLM. On Wednesday, March 17th, we celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. Bishop Robert J. McManus of Worcester is the celebrant and homilist for the St. Patrick's Day Mass at 12:05 pm. In your name, I thank Bishop McManus for coming to our celebration.

The Mass features readings in Irish and Irish hymns in honor of Glorious St. Patrick. The Mass is live-streamed for those who cannot join us in person. I hope you can come and

celebrate this special feast with us.

If you do come to the St. Patrick's Day Mass, be sure to wear something green to celebrate our Irish brothers' and sisters' heritage! There is no public reception as in years past due to the COVID restrictions. So you'll have to bake your own Irish Soda Bread and make your own Irish Coffee!!

On Friday, March 19th, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Bishop Evans, our Auxiliary Bishop and OLM neighbor has kindly agreed to celebrate the Mass in Italian. Monsignor Anthony Mancini, Rector of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence, serves as the homilist. The Mass features readings and music in Italian. However, the homily is in English.

Join us for what I believe is the only St. Joseph Day Mass in Italian in the state! If you do come to celebrate with us at St. Joseph Day Mass, be sure to wear something red to celebrate the heritage of our Italian brothers and sisters! The Mass is live-streamed. You'll have to get your own zeppoles as we are prohibited from having our reception.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit! Happy St. Patrick's Day! Buona Festa di San Giuseppe! Happy Feast of St. Joseph! Stay safe. Be well. Do good. God Bless! Pray, fast, and give alms!

Ask Father

Why the Equality Act is Bad for the Country

On February 25th the US House of Representatives passed the “Equality Act”. It was first introduced by Rhode Island Representative David Cicilline in 2019. In 2019 it failed to pass the Senate. This legislation once again moves to the Senate. It would need 60 votes to break a legislative filibuster. This act updates the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by adding sex, sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes similar to race. It prohibits discrimination in “areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system.”

It also expands the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide “exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; goods, services, or programs; and transportation services.” Finally, the “bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual’s gender identity.”

The name of the bill suggests its purpose. Indeed, proponents of the bill hope that it will protect people who experience same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria from unjust discrimination. According to Catholic teaching, every person is made in the image and likeness of God and should be treated with respect. Yet, the Equality Act seeks to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ persons by introducing discrimination against people of faith, institutions, and women. This act would penalize those groups and persons who hold traditional views of marriage and sexuality. It also enshrines radical gender ideology on the federal level.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops lists the following consequences if this bill passes the Senate. The Equality Act: exempts itself from the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act, in an explicit and unprecedented departure from one of America’s founding principles, thereby infringing on religious freedom and making it more difficult for individuals to live out their faith; forces religiously operated spaces and establishments, such as church halls, to either host functions that violate their beliefs or close their doors to their communities; requires women to compete against men and boys in sports, and to share locker rooms and shower facilities with men and boys; forces faith-based charities that serve all people to violate their religious beliefs, and threatens the welfare of thousands of beneficiaries of charitable services such as shelters and foster care agencies, by forcing a multitude of them to be shut down; jeopardizes existing prohibitions on the use of federal taxpayer funds for abortion, likely pressuring or even mandating the performance of abortions by health care providers in violation of their consciences, and ultimately ending more human lives; hinders quality health care, by forcing health care professionals, against their best medical judgment, to support treatments and procedures associated with “gender transition.”

Weekly Collection

March 7, 2021

Weekly.....	\$7,625.00
EFT.....	\$3,550.00
Total=	\$11,175.00
Outreach.....	\$1,042.00

March 8, 2020

Weekly.....	\$12,559.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



2021 OLM Parish Goal= \$190,000

2021 Pledged (to date)=\$70,425

2021 Total of Pledges (to date)=153

2020 Goal= \$200,000

2020 Amount Pledged= \$131,236

Total Number Parishioners Pledges=290

Please support the Catholic Charity Appeal, make your pledge today!

Thank you for your support.

Our Lady of Mercy Church

SOLEMN ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
12:05 PM (live streamed)

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

Irish music and readings in the Irish language.
Homily in English.



SOLEMN ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS

FRIDAY, MARCH 19
12:05 PM (live streamed)

The Most Rev. Robert C. Evans
Auxiliary Bishop of Providence
Celebrant

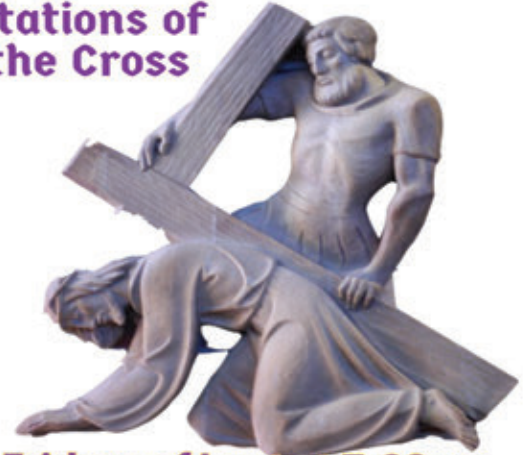
The Rev. Msgr. Anthony Mancini
Rector of the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul
Homilist

Mass celebrated in Italian with Italian Hymns.
Homily in English



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Stations of the Cross



Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially Alfred Luciano, Lois W. Stetkeiwicz, Thomas Mitchell, and Shirley Anderson who have died.



Congratulations
To
The
Newly Baptized

Max Steven Desrosiers,
and his parents, Philip and Stefanie

Luca Nashtyn Vilardo,
and his parents, Alexandre and Jenna Lynn

Brody Brendan Degnan,
and his parents, Brendan and Jessica

“Dear brothers and sisters: these children reborn through Baptism, are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. Through Confirmation they will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, they will share at the table of Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church.”—The Rite of Baptism

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

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-POPE FRANCIS-



•**OLM Food Pantry** is continually in need of food and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated **non-perishable foods only and paper goods** in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **Thank you for your support!**

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



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

- **Tuesday, March 16:** 9AM School Lenten Mass for Grade 8 (*no livestream*)
- **Wednesday, March 17:** St. Patrick's Day Celebration & Mass at 12:05pm Livestreamed; School Community Zoom Meeting at 7:00pm
- **Friday, March 19:** School Stations of the Cross at 9:00am; St. Joseph Day Celebration & Mass at 12:05pm Livestreamed

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www.olmschool.org



Confirmation Program

Sunday, March 21: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: *"Celebrating the Sacred Triduum."* Mass is for Confirmation students & their families only.

First Communion Program

Saturday, March 20: First Confessions for 2nd Grade First Communion Class

Sunday, April 11: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: *"Holy Eucharist"*. Mass is for First Communion students and their families only.

Sunday, May 2: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: *"Receiving the Real Presence."* Mass is for First Communion students and their families only.

Saturday, May 8: First Communion Masses at 10:00am for those whose last names begin A-J & at 12:00pm for those whose last name begin L-Z

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