



*Unless a grain of wheat falls to
the ground and dies, it remains*

**JUST A GRAIN
OF WHEAT.**

JOHN 12:24





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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 21, 2021

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday of Lent
4:00PM Joseph Fabry—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

MONDAY, MARCH 22

Lenten Weekday
7:30AM Warren & William J. Manton, Jr.—Memorial
12:05PM Marcia Durrell—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
7:30AM Ada Pyun—Birthday Remembrance
12:05PM Fr. Gerald W. Hussey—2nd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday
7:30AM Elena L. Bernstrom—Memorial
12:05PM Tom Cavanagh—Birthday Remembrance

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
7:30AM Andrew J. Walsh IV—Memorial
12:05PM Special Intention

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday
7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial
12:05PM Vicki Iarossi—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday
8:30AM Maureen Lee—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday
4:00PM Lillian E. "Dolly" Healey—34th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
9:00AM Alfred Luciano—Memorial
10:30AM Fr. Gerald W. Hussey—2nd Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

Some of you may be familiar with the term “Easter Duty” and relate it to the obligation to go to confession and receive Holy Communion during the Easter season. If you already have a habit of regular Confession and Communion, you can fulfill the obligation without much effort. If not, it is worthwhile to recall what the Church requires and why.

When considering our sacramental duties, we should first realize that the Church proposes certain rules and requirements to help us grow in grace and get to heaven. The idea of making our “Easter Duty” stems from two related Church laws: to receive the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season, unless a serious reason indicates another time as preferable (canon 920); and to receive absolution in sacramental confession for any mortal sin at least once a year (canon 989).

Of course, this is the minimum required by the Church, and today most practicing Catholics receive Communion during, not only the Easter season (broadly defined as the period from the First Sunday of Lent to Trinity Sunday), but also many other times of the year when not in a grave state of sin.

Less popular, however, is the practice of Confession. One motivator for confession is often a nagging uneasiness that we experience when we have hurt someone, and a desire to set things right. We may try to dismiss this uneasy feeling or rationalize our behavior, but ultimately we know that we have

fallen short and sinned. We need to make amends with those whom we’ve wronged and realize that God is the first one offended by sin.

That is why we make our way to the confessional — to present ourselves before Jesus in the person of the priest and receive the Lord’s pardon and peace in absolution. The Catechism teaches that this sacrament has many effects, the foremost of which is “*restoring us to God’s grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship*” (1468).

Sin damages our relationship with God. We don’t deserve, and cannot earn, God’s forgiveness, yet he gives it for the asking. In Confession, we drink from the depths of Divine Mercy, where God replenishes us with the graces needed to live in and act out of love each day. Considering that we are reborn spiritually in confession and fortified by grace in Holy Communion, we should think of our Easter Duty as an opportunity to become the better disciple God calls us to be.

Next Saturday we have All-Day Confessions with four priests available every hour from 9:00AM until 3:00PM. It is a great opportunity to make a good Confession, do your Easter Duty and clean your soul! Invite someone you know who has been away from the Sacrament of Confession for a while to come to All Day Confessions.

Next weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday and I am happy to announce we will be blessing and distributing palm branches at all Masses. Last year due to the COVID-19 restrictions we were prohibited

from doing this. With more vaccinations and restrictions easing up, we will resume this great tradition.

Of course, Palm Sunday is more than getting our palm branches. The day is called both “Palm Sunday” and “Passion Sunday.” The first name comes from the fact that it commemorates Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowd had palm branches (John 12:13). The second name comes from the fact that the narrative of the Passion is read on this Sunday.

Pope Benedict Emeritus XVI states: “*Palm Sunday is the great doorway leading into Holy Week, the week when the Lord Jesus makes his way towards the culmination of his earthly existence. He goes up to Jerusalem in order to fulfil the Scriptures and to be nailed to the wood of the Cross, the throne from which he will reign for ever, drawing to himself humanity of every age and offering to all the gift of redemption.*”

I ask for your prayers this week as I am on my Annual Retreat at Arnold Hall in Pembroke, Massachusetts. Last year I wasn’t able to go on retreat due to the pandemic. Please know of my prayers for you while on retreat. Get ready for Holy Week and make your Easter Duty. Stay safe. Be well. Do good. God Bless! Rice Bowl Collection is next Sunday, please be generous. Thank you!

Father Healey

Ask Father

Why are there forty days of Lent?

We are now in the midst of Lent. Very often we call it the “40” days of Lent. There is a strong Biblical foundation for observing a 40 day period of more intense prayer, fasting and almsgiving (we should be doing these things year round). The Scriptures are full of the significance of the number 40.

In the Old Testament, God punished mankind by sending a flood over the earth for 40 days and nights. The people of Nineveh repented of their sins with 40 days of fasting. The Prophet Ezekiel lay on his right side for 40 days as a precursor to the siege and destruction of Jerusalem. The Prophet Elijah fasted and prayed for 40 days on Mount Horeb. Moses fasted 40 days and nights while on Mount Sinai. Moses and the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 penitential years until they entered the Promised Land.

While there are many references to 40 days in the Old Testament, the main reason Lent is 40 days is in imitation of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, the Lord fasted for 40 days and nights in the desert in preparation for the beginning of His public ministry. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: “By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.”

Yet, counting out exactly the 40 days takes more than a little work. The season of Lent (Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday) is technically, give or take, 44 days. We could do some math to make the number of days for penance and fasting before Easter 40 (44 days minus 6 Sundays, plus Good Friday and Holy Saturday equals 40). Yet that still does not take into account the two solemnities which usually fall within Lent and are not days of penance and fasting (e.g. St. Joseph’s Day [March 19] and the Annunciation [March 25]). Further, Sundays are still technically part of Lent (hence the reason why we number them 1st Sunday of Lent, 2nd, and so on. Also, the readings for each Sunday frame each Lenten week). At the very least Lent is a symbolic 40 days of more intense prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



Weekly Collection

March 14, 2021

Weekly.....	\$8,449.00
EFT.....	\$5,786.00
	Total=\$14,235.00
Outreach.....	\$850.00

March 15, 2020

Weekly.....	\$15,913.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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



Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation

The 4:00PM Saturday Evening Mass moves to 5:00PM and Saturday Confessions from 3:00pm to 4:00PM on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Please support the Catholic Charity Appeal, make your pledge today



2021 OLM Parish Goal= \$190,000
 2021 Pledged (to date)=\$84,295
 2021 Total of Pledges (to date)=192

2020 Goal= \$200,000
 2020 Amount Pledged= \$131,236
 Total Number Parishioners Pledges=290

Thank you for your support.

ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

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-POPE FRANCIS-



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING



In your charity please pray for the happy
repose of the souls of the faithful departed, most especially
Marcia Durrell who has died.

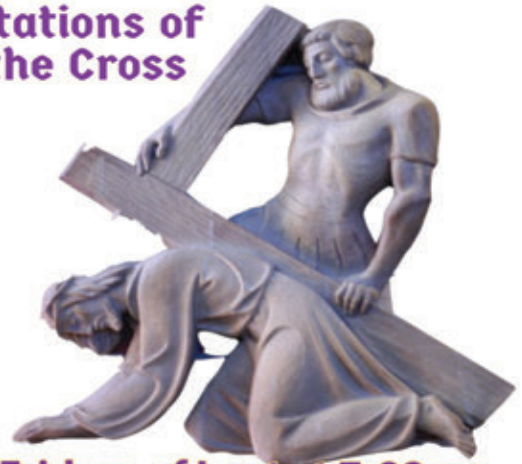


Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

- **Tuesday, March 23:** 9AM School Lenten Mass for Grade Pre-K (*no livestream*)
- **Friday, March 26:** School Stations of the Cross at 9:00am with Grade 8

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Stations of the Cross



Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm

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FOR LIFE**

WHAT YOU
GIVE UP
FOR LENT
CHANGES
LIVES.

HOLY WEEK

THE TRIDUUM & EASTER AT OUR LADY OF MERCY

The Triduum will be livestreamed on olmparish.org

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm
Adoration following Mass
until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
with Veneration of the Cross at 7:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am
No 5:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday



•**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



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 Mass

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