

Destroy this temple
and in three days
I will raise it up.

JOHN 2:19





Mass Intentions for the Week

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 3, 2024

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

The Mass of Anticipation for the 3rd Sunday of Lent

4:00PM Lisa B. Johnson—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

The Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Deceased Members of the Romano Family—Mem.
9:00AM Don Boyle—Birthday Remembrance
10:30AM Michael F. Quinn—Memorial
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Elaine Toohey—Memorial
12:05PM Anthony J. Paolino, Sr—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Maureen Kerin—Memorial
12:05PM Rosemarie Nash—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM John Duffy, Jr.—Birthday Remembrance
12:05PM Special Intention

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Lenten Weekday; Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

7:30AM Jay Potter—Memorial
12:05PM JoAnn Ellis—Memorial

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Lenten Weekday: St. John of God, Religious

7:30AM Special Intention
12:05PM Michael Iapalo—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday: St. Frances of Rome

8:30AM Margaret D. Carr—Memorial

The Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Lent

4:00PM Gordon & Jeanne Scott—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
9:00AM Bethany Briggs—17th Anniversary
10:30AM Helen King—Memorial
5:00PM Nicholas Camponella—6th Anniversary



Dear Parishioners:

We are at the halfway point of Lent. That means we still have three weeks until the Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Some people say that time passes quickly. But often, I hear people say that Lent seems so long.

Lent seems so long for two reasons. The first is completely objective: Lent is, in fact, the longest season of self-denial during the Church's year. No other season requires sustained fasting from worldly pleasures like Lent.

Many people make truly heroic sacrifices for six full weeks (without cheating on Sundays), such as giving up sugar, alcohol, red meat, curse words, gossip, and even cigars! Lent is not for spiritual wimps. It is for spiritual warriors willing to fight to express their devotion to God.

The second reason follows directly from the first. We are often unwilling to endure even the simplest sufferings over an extended period. We don't like to go without a whole meal for a whole day. We don't even like to go without snacks between meals for a whole day. Further, we don't like the daunting task of forming a new and good spiritual habit.

For these dispositions of mind and heart, we must repent. We must allow Christ to teach us His way instead of our own (see Luke 9:23). We must never forget that our life on this earth is the only chance to prove our love for our Lord.

It is about this time each year, about halfway through the spiritual boot camp and marathon that is Lent, that we

should remind ourselves of the purpose of Lent.

Recall that Jesus never promised that life as His disciple would be full of daily pleasurable experiences. Rather, He taught that the way to abundant life is through the ongoing death to self that one learns by detaching oneself from worldly cares and associations like food, money, lust, ego, and laziness. We take up our cross, deny ourselves, and follow him.

The Scriptures remind us that the journey toward communion with Our Blessed Lord is arduous and requires great discipline and unending work. In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul writes, *"Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly...but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified"* (1 Cor. 9:25-27).

Here, the Apostle recognizes that the goal dictates the measures one takes to keep progressing. In the case of Christians, the goal of eternal happiness with God causes us to reject habits and vices that might destroy our souls.

Another Scripture passage is from the letter to the Hebrews. The author writes to exhort his audience: *"Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us"* (Heb. 12:1).

In this brief moment, the reader understands that heavy things prevent a runner from running quickly and effectively.

In our spiritual lives, sin is that weight that keeps us from progressing toward the finish line.

With this heaviness in mind, the author offers encouragement by stating that we run while *"looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Heb. 12:2).

Indeed, when we see and understand the crown of glory that we will share with Jesus Christ, the sufferings and trials endured along the way seem to vanish. We realize we can endure anything if the reward is so great as heavenly bliss.

Therefore, we should not lose heart during this second half of Lent. Rather, we should encourage one another to continue the effort to gain control over our minds and our bodies for God's glory.

And let's never forget that this process always and only begins with His divine grace: we can do nothing alone. Any victory over Lent and over spiritual death is ultimately His victory. To God belongs the glory, now and forever! Stay the course and continue to run the race of Lent!

I am away this week, preaching the Lenten Mission at St. William's Parish in Naples, Florida. Please pray for me and the success of the Mission. Be well. Do good. God Bless!

Father Healey

Easter Duty

GOING TO Communion is a treasured privilege among Roman Catholics. Most of the faithful present themselves for the Eucharist at every Mass they attend. It is hard to imagine a time when people received Holy Communion infrequently, but that was the case for many centuries. As the Church stressed our belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, our ancestors began to feel unworthy to share it. Some people took this to an extreme and stopped receiving Communion altogether.

That was never the idea. At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "Take and eat, take and drink." He issued an invitation; he did not set up a barrier. Consequently, in the year 1215, the Fourth Lateran Council decided to take action. It required the faithful who had reached the age of discretion to confess their sins at least once a year to their own parish priest and to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist reverently at least once a year at Easter.

A version of this rule is still in the *Code of Canon Law* of the Roman Catholic Church. After their First Communion, each of the faithful must receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season (the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost). But for a just cause, people may receive at another time of year (can. 920).

Having reached the age of discretion, Catholics are obliged to confess grave sin at least once a year to any priest (can. 989), which many have done during Lent to prepare for an Easter Communion. Lent is still a good time to go to confession. Easter is a wonderful time to receive Communion. But we should confess grave sin right away and receive Communion every Sunday.

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Written by Paul Turner.

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

Weekly Collection

February 25, 2024

Weekly.....	\$9,012.00
EFT.....	\$3,501.00
	Total=\$12,315.00
Outreach.....	\$349.00

February 19, 2023

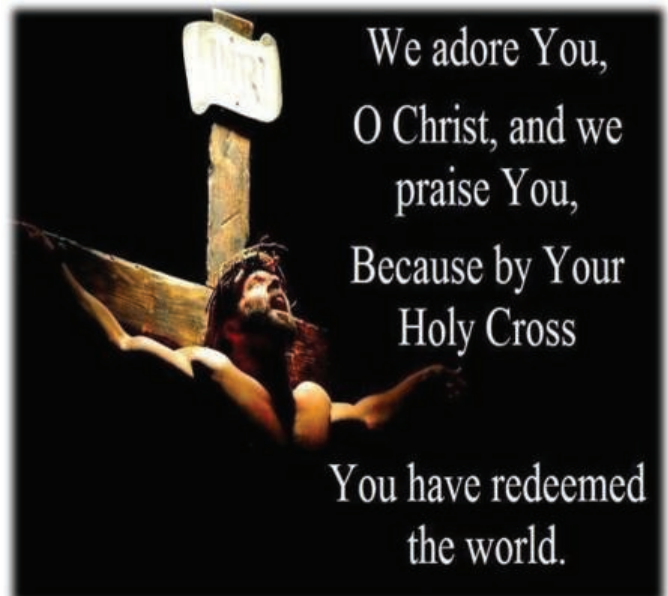
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Second Collections
This Week: Building & Grounds





First Communion Class Schedule

Sunday, March 3: Class

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 or Miss Julia Anthon, Directress of Faith Formation, at 884-4968 or faithformationdir@olmparish.org

LENT

WALKING WITH CHRIST



•**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 7, 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



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

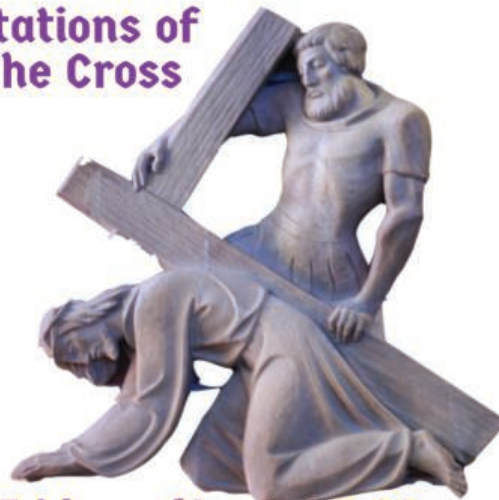
School Weekly Calendar

- **Monday, March 4:** Student Council Meeting @2:30pm; Yearbook Club Meeting @2:30pm; Chess Masters @2:30pm; The Little Mermaid Rehearsal @2:30pm; 8th Grade Trip Parent Meeting @6:00pm
- **Tuesday, March 5:** The Little Mermaid Rehearsal @2:30pm
- **Thursday, March 7:** Choir Practice @2:30pm; Mock Trial Practice @2:30pm
- **Friday March 8:** Stations of the Cross @8:15am; Youth Ministry Soup & Stations 6:00pm followed by Stations

www.olmschool.org

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Stations of the Cross



Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm



A STATE OF HOPE

The 2024 Catholic Charity Appeal, "A State of Hope", has begun. The OLM parish CCA goal remains the same as last year, \$190,000, with an overall diocesan goal of \$7 million.

Please prayerfully consider a gift or pledge to the appeal as we strive for 100% parish participation.

2024 Catholic Charity Appeal

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000
 Pledged to date=\$88,254
 Number of pledges to date=135
 Average gift=\$653

Thank You for Your Support!

2023 Catholic Charity Appeal

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

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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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Have Your Intentions Remembered in Prayer



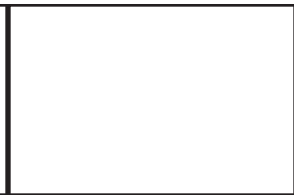
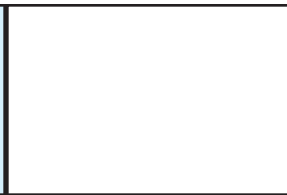
A book in which your prayer intentions can be written has been placed in the OLM Candle Room. Please feel free to list those intentions and needs you would like to be remembered in prayer. Weekly on Fridays at 3:00pm all the intentions in the book are remembered at the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

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