



**“BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO
HAVE NOT
SEEN AND HAVE
BELIEVED.”**

JOHN 20:29

Mass Intentions

©JPPC

The OLM Parish Priests are offering private Mass daily for the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church. In particular, we remember this week the following intentions:

Monday, April 20

The Deceased Members of the Baldino Family—Memorial

Tuesday, April 21

Father Daniel M. Trainor—Memorial

Wednesday, April 22

Sean T. Healey—Birthday Remembrance

Thursday, April 23

The Deceased Members of the Zaino & Mattiace Families—Memorial

Friday, April 24

Emily & Frederick Miller—Memorial

Saturday, April 25

Special Intention

Francis J. Wegrzyn—Birthday Remembrance

Third Sunday of Easter, April 26

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

Edward T. O'Keefe—17th Anniversary

Claudette Raposa—3rd Anniversary

Eleanor Cole & Irene Murtha—Birthday Remembrance



In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of those members of the OLM Family who have recently died:

**Donald McMann
Elizabeth Corgan
Joseph Peltier
Arthur Lewis
Christopher Geraghty**



Dear Parishioners:

We continue to celebrate the Easter Season with faith and joy. We give thanks for the Risen Christ and his victory over sin and death! Pope *Emeritus* Benedict XVI states: "*Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered.*"

This faith was evident and alive on Easter Sunday. We had over 3,000 people who viewed our livestream Easter Sunday Mass! Even though our Churches were empty, our faith was alive! We rejoice that so many isolated continue to strive to pray and live their Catholic Faith at home!!

I am most grateful to our OLM Music Director and Organist, Henri St. Louis, for the music he provided all of Holy Week and Easter Week. His beautiful music contributed greatly to the solemnity and joy of this unique celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

We also must thank Erik Carlson who served as our Altar Server for Holy Week and Easter Week. I am grateful for his dedication to OLM and to serving God at His Holy Altar. Erik does an outstanding job serving our community, especially in this most unique of times. He does this great work whilst studying Physics at URI!!

In the name of Fr. Barrow, Fr. Connors, Bishop Evans and our good sisters, Sister Lourdes, Sister Emma and Sister Jeanne, I also thank the many parishioners who were so generous to us at Easter. So many cards with well wishes and gifts and so many provided

delicious food to celebrate Easter! We thank you all for your generosity!

I also thank the many parishioners who continue to support the parish financially during this time of hardship. So many have continued to send in their budget envelopes by mail or by depositing them in the safe in the vestibule, and we are grateful. I urge all parishioners to consider giving directly online at Parish Giving. The link is located on our parish website. It is a safe, easy, and efficient way to support the parish.

In the name of Doug Green, our OLM Outreach Director, I also thank the many parishioners who have been so generous in donating food, paper goods and financial assistance. There is a growing need of food and paper goods in our community as well as increased financial hardship for so many. Your support is a great witness to the charity of OLM!

The faith is alive and well at OLM as you can see. So many parishioners living their faith from home by joining us online for Mass. So many parishioners living their faith by their good works and charity! As Sean Cardinal O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, stated in his Easter Sunday homily: "*At Easter we celebrate that new life that Jesus gives us. We witness to it when we insist that money isn't our ruler, that self-promotion isn't our King, that pleasure isn't a fulfilling aim and that the ruthless individualism of our age can never bring happiness. The new life of Christ is broken into our world, it cannot be contained, nor restricted nor managed.*"

Indeed the new life in Christ is being lived at OLM every day! So we continue to rejoice even amidst this crisis of pandemic because Christ is risen and alive! Let us remember that even while we are separated by "social distance", we are united in Christ and united in faith, hope and love!

In a special way let us turn to Our Lady of Mercy and seek her powerful intercession. Throughout Eastertide—starting on Easter Sunday and ending on the Seventh Sunday after Easter, Pentecost Sunday—the *Regina Caeli* is the Marian antiphon for Compline (Night Prayer).

In Holy Week, Mary was at the foot of the Cross, her heart pierced by a sword of sorrow as Simeon had foretold at the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. In the Stations of the Cross, she met Jesus on the way to Calvary, and each Station, with verses from the *Stabat Mater*, reminded us of His suffering and hers, seeing Him suffer. Now she rejoices: the Alleluia has returned!

Let us pray the *Regina Caeli* prayer each day: "*Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia. For He, whom thou was worthy to bear. Alleluia. Has risen as He said. Alleluia. Pray for us to God. Alleluia. V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia. R. Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.*" Be well. Do Good! Stay safe! God Bless. Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!



Are Palm Branches Important as the Mass?!!

Palm Sunday this year was unique for many reasons, not least because the faithful were unable to attend the celebration of public Mass. The inability to attend Mass continues to be a source of sadness and pain for Catholics. Yet, much debate focused on the suspension of the distribution of palms.

In her liturgy the Church tries to direct the faithful to the proper worship of God. Like God, she uses parts of the physical world to direct us to the spiritual world. These are called sacramentals. The Catechism tells us: "These are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the Sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. By them men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments and various occasions in life are rendered holy" (CCC 1667). Some examples of sacramentals include blessings, holy water, and palms. Sacramentals do not confer grace in the way that Sacraments do, but they prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it.

Sacramentals may become harmful to one's spiritual life when done for the wrong motive. Superstition or idolatry can creep in when one begins to think that they have power to save, over and above the Sacraments. The palms are no exception and can be a source of idolatry when a person comes to the Mass not for the Eucharist but to receive sacramentals. The Mass, then, becomes a means rather than an end. Unfortunately, there are those Catholics who come once a year to Mass simply to receive palms. As our Lord said to the onlookers on the Mount of Beatitudes: "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life."

As faithful Catholics our attention should shift from the sacramentals to the Sacraments. The Sacraments are what give life. We should long for the reestablishment of public Mass. While at this moment we cannot attend public Mass, the Mass continues to be offered. The Sacraments of Confession and Anointing of the Sick should take precedence in our minds. These, we are still at liberty to celebrate and should remain so in definitively. Rather than focusing our attention on palms, we should instead focus our attention on the free celebration of Confession and Anointing. There is the possibility that priests may be refused entrance to the bedside of a dying Catholic to administer Anointing of the Sick. Such a reality should frighten us as Catholics. Yes, a person may have their mortal sins forgiven through perfection contrition, but manifesting such contrition is difficult. Hence God instituted the Sacraments of Confession and Anointing to give help to those who need it most.

We do not need palms to experience the saving reality of Palm Sunday. Palms are merely the sign pointing to the greater event of Christ's triumph over sin and death. Palms do not forgive sins. This year we went without palms, let us make sure that we do not go without Confession and Anointing of the Sick.

Weekly Collection

April 2020

Palm Sunday.....	\$9,407.00
Easter Sunday.....	\$15,974.00
Rice Bowl.....	\$3,737.00
Good Friday.....	\$735.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$1,533.00

April 2019

Palm Sunday.....	\$13,987.00
Easter Sunday.....	\$18,956.00
Rice Bowl.....	\$9,821.00
Good Friday.....	\$2,086.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$3,451.00

**Thank You for Your Continued Support!
It is needed now more than ever!!**



We now have online giving! Please consider making a one time or recurring gift by clicking the Parish Giving link on the OLM Webpage. Help sustain our parish through these difficult times – please consider making your Sunday Offertory through online Parish Giving. Online giving is FAST, EASY and SECURE! Please visit our webpage today. Thanks for your support.



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• **OLM Food Pantry** is in **urgent need of food and paper goods** for many members of our community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods 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

• If you are need of food or financial assistance please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 (leave a message if not in) or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



For the safety and well being of all, the **OLM Parish Office is closed to the public until further notice.** Please call the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 or contact us via email at parish@olmparish.org for all parish business and spiritual bouquets.

For Sacramental Emergencies, confessions or to talk with a priest please call 401-884-4968. We are readily available to help, talk, pray or assist you.

Thank you for your patience & understanding.



MONDAYS

6:00pm — 6:45pm

SATURDAYS

4:00pm — 4:45pm**

**Note the new start time now in effect.

Confession is always available by appointment, please call 401-884-4968 to schedule an appointment with a priest.

**PLEASE DO NOT FORM LINES FOR CONFESSION.
PLEASE MAINTAIN PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING**


He is
RISEN



FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69
Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25;

2nd Sunday of Easter



Jesus Christ is risen. Alleluia!

What we celebrate on Easter Sunday we celebrate with equal joy for a full fifty days—seven times seven days, a week of weeks—until Pentecost.

The jubilant word “alleluia,” which comes to us from Hebrew, is not used at all during Lent.

We use it over and over again in this season, however, for as St. Augustine said, “We are an Easter people and ‘alleluia’ is our cry.”


Alleluia
Alleluia
Alleluia

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.

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