

**“THE LORD
HAS TRULY
BEEN RAISED AND
HAS APPEARED
TO SIMON!”**

LUKE 24:34

Mass Intentions

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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:

Easter Weekday, Monday, April 27

John Gardner—Memorial

Easter Weekday, Tuesday, April 28

Father John E. Watterson—Memorial

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church, Wednesday, April 29

The Souls in Purgatory

St. Pius V, Pope, Thursday, April 30

Richard Casey—9th Anniversary

St. Joseph the Worker, Friday, May 1

Deborah Anderson—Birthday Remembrance

St. Athanasius, Bishop, Saturday, May 2

Mary Arrow—4th Anniversary

Alice Fillipi Bleuze—Memorial

Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial

Nurys Medina—3rd Anniversary

Dr. Augustine Capotosto & Dec'd Members of Capotosto & Gelardi Families—Memorial

Covid-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult
decisions between food on the table or public safety,
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.



For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a
sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.



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Dear Parishioners:

As we approach the end of April, we also enter into another week of lockdown and quarantine. It's hard to believe that we've been in this state for so many weeks without Public Masses, no school, no socialization and no sports!!

It was obvious on this past Sunday when the sun came out and the temperature went up that people were ready to get out. I made a pilgrimage to St. Ann Cemetery to visit my parents' and grandparents' graves as is my usual Easter custom. The roads were busy with traffic, the streets full of walkers and bikers, and the cemetery was crowded

Yet we must continue to follow the safety measures, including social distancing and keeping groups to just five people and under. We hope and pray that we might soon resume some of our normal routines in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we continue to pray for our world and for an end to the pandemic.

Fr. Connors has returned to Boston to serve as a special Covid 19 Chaplain to the sick and dying. The Cardinal requested young priests who were not assigned to parishes to help with this important ministry. He is staying at the Seminary of St. John and is now available for emergency calls for the Anointing of the Sick to those suffering and dying from the coronavirus.

It has been so very sad to see so many die from this awful virus. So often alone without their families and very often without the Sacraments. As priests it is deeply troubling to us that we are prevented from

visiting the sick and praying with the dying. Local hospitals and nursing homes do not allow us into their facilities. In addition, to this troubling circumstance is the sad reality that we cannot yet celebrate Funeral Masses for our beloved deceased.

I hope our civic leaders realize the importance of religious freedom when making their decisions about ending the lockdown status of our state. The free practice of religion is not only guaranteed by our constitution it is truly "essential" to the fabric of our society and state. It serves the common good of our community to allow the practice of religious faith unhindered by the government!

This week our Holy Father, Pope Francis, specifically prayed for politicians stating: *"We pray today for the men and women who have a vocation to politics; politics is a high form of charity, Also for the political parties of various countries so that, in this moment of pandemic, they may seek together the good of the country and not the good of their own party."*

We continue to anticipate what may happen when the lockdown begins to be lifted. How it impacts our churches remains to be seen. We hope that in some fashion we might be able to publicly celebrate Mass with perhaps a limited number of people.

We have several candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation and would like to get them the Sacraments. The Easter Vigil is typically when this is done but we were prevented from doing so. We now hope we can do it soon, so please continue to pray for these

candidates.

We are also postponing our First Communion Mass. We are uncertain when and how we might be able to celebrate this most important event. In the meantime, pray that these young children and their families continue to practice their faith at home and join us faithfully for Mass online on Sunday.

I pray this time away from Public Mass strengthens our love and devotion of the Eucharist. Recently a friend told me week how he now truly understands how much he took Mass for granted. It was readily available in many places and at many times and now it's prohibited. And so, may we who under the ordinary circumstances of our lives enjoy the great privilege of attending Holy Mass in peace and freedom never be tempted again to describe it as "boring"!

May we never again think other things are more important on Sundays, but, rather, may our hearts burn with thanksgiving for the great gift of Mass, of receiving Jesus' Sacred Body and Blood, and, to proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes, the death that, at every sacred altar, brings us new life!

St. Maximilian Kolbe who died in Auschwitz deprived of the Mass said: *"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."* Be well. Do Good! Stay safe! God Bless. *Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!*



What is the Divine Mercy?

The image of the divine mercy helps to answer this question. What look like rays of light, red and blue, symbolize blood and water: Eucharist and Baptism. This image brings us back to the Cross. The chaplet we will pray soon, reminds us that we return to Calvary. As we say: "for the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." The lesson is clear: Divine Mercy comes to us through the Cross, through the water and blood that came from the side of Christ pierced, through the sacraments.

This truth needs constant reminding. We may doubt that God can work in and through the cross and suffering. We may be like St. Thomas in the Gospel, thinking God will not save the world through the Cross. In our doubts we place a limit on God's mercy; we place a limit on how much he loves us. On Divine Mercy Sunday, God breaks our expectations.

How do we receive this Divine Mercy? The Cross is the way to divine mercy. Our Lord speaks a hard but necessary truth; If we want to receive Divine Mercy and the forgiveness of sins, we need to take up our cross and follow Him. Our Lord is serious when he says we must die to self in order to be saved; the death of our selfishness, our attachments, our lesser loves; so that our Love of God may rise.

Yet as All-Knowing, He knows that sometimes in order to break us from attachments and sin, he must take those things and persons away from us, which keep us from Him. "If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands into Gehenna." Our crosses are meant to break us from the things or persons we love more than God. To free us from eternal death, God allows us to suffer these little deaths: the loss of employment, the loss of health, and even the loss of a loved one. We might cry out: our God is cruel. He is not; He loves us more than we could possibly understand; and in His love for us, He does not want to lose us. God will do anything to save us; even die for us. God would be unmerciful to leave us in our sins. He would be unmerciful to leave us in states of life, which keep us from loving Him the most.

How often we get our loves mixed up! We place the creature before the creator, forgetting: We cannot properly love someone or something until we first love God. If we try to love someone first before God, our love will eventually corrupt and wither.

To remove our doubts, to remind us: our Lord says: "see my wounds, take up your own cross." What a difficult process! As gold in the furnace he needs to refine us. Paradoxically the process of our sanctification and freedom is the most difficult thing to endure, but also the most joyous. Our Lord assures us: His yoke is easy and His burden light. Wonderfully, once the process completes, He gives everything back; and not just as it was before, but purified and heaven like. "Remember, He really loves us; and he always gives back to us with his right hand, what he has taken away with His left." The Resurrection shows us that God really gives back everything he takes from us. But he will not give them back until we have learned to love Him most of all. Otherwise we would be lost. There is no Easter Sunday, without a Good Friday. This is the Divine Mercy.



Weekly Collection

April 20, 2020

Weekly.....	\$4,908.00
EFT.....	\$3,113.00
	Total=\$7,933.00

Outreach.....	\$1,840.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$324.00

April 21, 2019

Weekly.....	\$20,676.00
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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.

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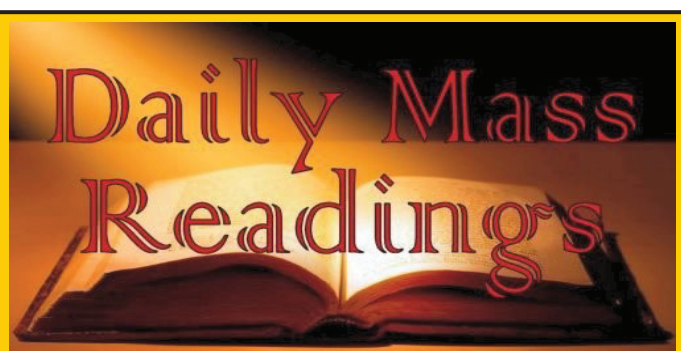


For the safety and well being of all, the **OLM Parish Office is closed to the public until further notice.** Please call the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968

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.



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; Jn 10:1-10



Confessions at OLM

Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM
Saturdays: 4:00PM—4:45PM

Confession by appointment anytime, please call the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 to contact a priest and make an appointment.



• **OLM Food Pantry** is in **urgent need of food and paper goods** for many members of our local 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**





Saint of the Week



Catherine of Siena

1347-1380

Feast Day—April 29

Catherine was the 24th of 25 children of a Sieneese dyer; her mystical experiences and raptures began at age 6. She refused to marry, and about 1367 joined the Third Order of St. Dominic. She attracted a like-minded group in Siena for prayer and good works and devoted her last five years to church unity and ending the scandal of rival papacies. Though she experienced the pain of the stigmata, it became visible only after her death at 33. And, in an odd division of relics, her body is in a Roman church, while her head is in a Sieneese church. Named a doctor of the church in 1970, Catherine is a patron saint of Europe and Italy, and the patron of fire prevention, nurses and nursing.

"Take as your example your heavenly patroness, St Catherine, a humble and fearless Dominican tertiary who gave herself unsparingly for the Church. For everyone may this great saint be not only a special protectress but a model to follow on the path of holiness."

—St. John Paul II, October 10, 1999



Quote from St. John Paul II, copyright © 1999, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Copyright © 2019, Catholic News Service—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Image: Saint Catherine of Siena Receiving the Stigmata, Domenico Beccafumi, J Paul Getty Museum.

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#WHATSMYNAME

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