

**“IF YOU LOVE ME,
YOU WILL KEEP MY
COMMANDMENTS.”**

JOHN 14:15



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/St. John I, Pope & Martyr, Monday, May 18

Beatrice Jutras—Birthday Remembrance

Easter Weekday, Tuesday, May 19

John & Jack Duffy—Memorial

Easter Weekday/St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest, Wednesday, May 20

Fr. John E. Watterson—Memorial

The Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, May 21

Edward V. Healey, Jr.—8th Anniversary

Katherine MacPhee—Memorial

Easter Weekday/St Rita of Cascia, Religious, Friday, May 22

John Gardner—Memorial

Easter Weekday, Saturday, May 23

Special Intention

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 24

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

George McKenna—2nd Anniversary

Beatrice Alfano—4th Anniversary

Nick & Nora Breeze—Memorial

The Deceased Members of the Bessette, Rose & Honko Families—Memorial



In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently died and for the consolation of their families:

Mary Theresa "Terry" Grausgruber

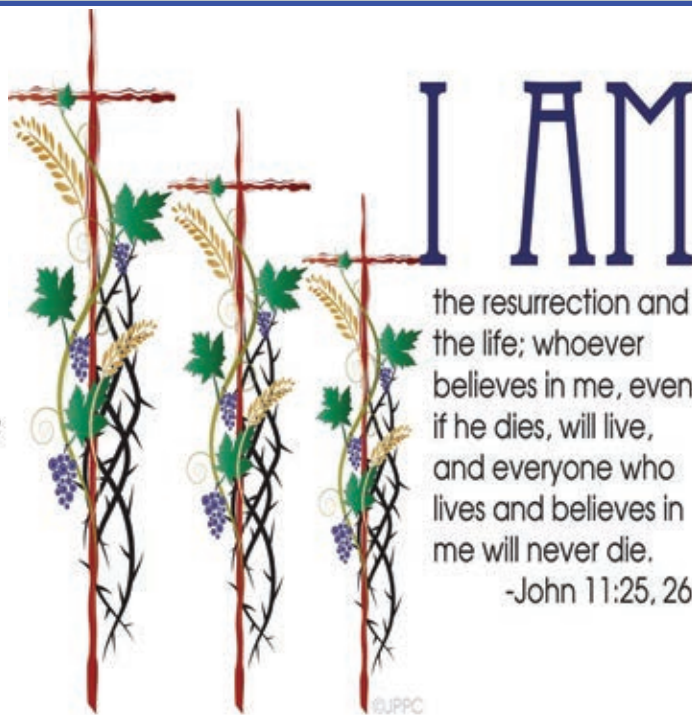
Frederick Hamil

Sister Rita Kiernan, RSM

Michael Fusco

Dorothy J. Mooney

Elinor McCarty





Dear Parishioners:

We continue to live through this Covid-19 Pandemic with faith and hope. The faith that God provides us, the strength, perseverance, and patience to endure this time of trial. The hope that the crisis may soon subside, restrictions on our social living eased, cures and vaccines might soon be found. It is clear that without such faith and hope, we would be doomed to despair and overcome with anxiety.

It is with this spirit of faith that we hope to once again celebrate public Mass with a congregation. Bishop Tobin has publicly shared his desire that public Masses may recommence on Pentecost Sunday, on May 31. His office is presently formulating guidelines for this eventuality.

These guidelines are the result of a national committee of liturgists, canonist, theologians, medical doctors and scientist who have been advising the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They express how to best restore public worship in the Catholic Church that ensures the public health and safety of all.

Rhode Island's own Dr. Timothy Flanigan, a Permanent Deacon of the Diocese of Providence, and international expert on infectious disease, along with PC's Professor of Biology Dominican Father Nicanor Austriaco, O.P. are part of this team of national experts providing guidelines for public worship during this time of pandemic.

Locally, Bishop Tobin and his staff have been working closely with the Governor's Office and the RI Department of

Health. As restrictions on activities and size of gatherings begin to ease over the next few weeks, we intend to follow the guidance of our Bishop and plan to restore the public celebration of Mass at OLM.

I ask for your prayers as we begin this process at OLM, but also for your patience and cooperation. The public celebration of Mass will be limited in size and include many safeguards for the safety and well being of all. So please pray for this good end, but also be very patient through the process.

Certainly there will be a limit on the size of the congregation allowed in church, and also the need to maintain distance during Mass. The church will need to be hygienically cleaned before and after every public Mass. Given supply chain difficulties, it may be especially challenging to purchase needed cleaning supplies expeditiously.

Also, the reception of Holy Communion undoubtedly presents a challenge. There are no procedures that entirely prevent all risk of infection. We are relying upon medical and public health experts to give us the best possible advice and guidance about this subject. Working with the Diocese, and following proper common sense and safeguards, we are working on a plan for OLM.

In the meantime, OLM is open daily for your private prayer and devotion. We hope you keep social distancing while in church, and wear a mask for the sake of others. Thankfully most parishioners have been cooperative and used common sense when in church.

The very last thing I wish to become is a public safety officer who has to admonish people for not following common sense precautions. We must work in solidarity and also we must be realistic. The public celebration of Mass will be very different than we've known it. It will require tremendous patience and great kindness along with cooperation, consideration and common sense by all.

There has been much pain and suffering endured during this pandemic. Families have seen their loved ones die alone without a Mass of Christian Burial. People continue to suffer with great sickness while others endure financial hardship and burdens. We must continue to pray for them that God might end this plague.

Also, I know the suffering endured by many because of no Mass and Holy Communion. The Eucharistic fast borne of Covid-19, is a painful time for people of faith. I pray that we are united again at God's Holy Altar and together rejoice in the Risen Lord truly present in the Eucharist!

Our plans for public Mass will be announced in the coming weeks until that time, please continue to pray, persevere and have patience! As Saint John Paul II, reminds us: "*Don't waste your suffering!*"

Be well. Do Good! Stay safe! God Bless. *Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!*

Ask Father™

How can we rejoice in suffering?

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans and to the Colossians tells us to rejoice in our sufferings. It sounds like a strange thing to rejoice in suffering. Paul teaches us that suffering in this life has been transformed through the particular way in which Jesus Christ saved us. Christ chose to suffer and die for us. Jesus chose to give up his life and endure the suffering and humiliation that was the Cross. He did this to show us not only how much he was willing to undergo to save us; to show us how much he loved us; but also to redefine suffering.

Before Christ, suffering was just something we had to endure as best we could. After he came and died for us in this way, he showed us that our sufferings can be used to save ourselves and save others. No kind of suffering or death should trouble us seeing that Christ endured the worst and rose from the dead. A very simple way of using suffering to save oneself and others is to say this simple phrase: *“Lord I offer up my sufferings, my illness, and unite to your Cross for my salvation and the salvation of the world.”*

Pope St. John Paul II speaks all about redemptive suffering in *Salvifici Doloris*, On The Christian Meaning of Human Suffering: *“Because of Christ every person has his/her own share in the Redemption. Each one is also called to share in that suffering through which the Redemption was accomplished. In bringing about the Redemption through suffering, Christ has also raised human suffering to the level of the Redemption. Thus each person, in his or her own suffering, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ. This discovery caused St. Paul to write particularly strong words in the letter to the Galatians: ‘I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.’”*

How do I offer my sufferings for my salvation and the salvation of others? You identify yourself with Christ, and you do this most especially by receiving him in the Eucharist, realizing that He is really there, and then when you receive Him, becoming a part of you.

There is **no evil** to be faced that Christ does not face with us.
 There is **no enemy** that Christ has not already conquered.
 There is **no cross** to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us.

— Pope John Paul II



Weekly Collection

May 10, 2020

Weekly.....	\$9,940.00
EFT.....	\$3,339.00
	Total=13,279.00
Outreach.....	\$940.00

May 12, 2019

Weekly.....	\$14,049.00
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Outreach Update

• **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 in 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



Solemnity of the
Ascension
of the Lord


Thursday, May 21, 2020

Holy Day Mass
Livestreamed at 9:00AM



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**The
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"The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times."—Saint Padre Pio

6th Sunday of Easter



Easter was the church's first celebration to be noted in a special way beyond the weekly keeping of Sunday and, by the second century, seems to have been adopted by all Christian communities.

This fifty-day celebration of resurrection, ascension and descent of the Holy Spirit developed out of the Jewish *Shavnot* or Feast of Weeks, a fifty-day period following Passover.

Because the first Christians were Jews, it should not surprise us at all that we maintain reflections of that heritage.



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.

The Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of

Rev. Mr. Paul Hiep Van Nguyen



**Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 10:00AM
Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul
Providence, RI**

Livestreamed on Youtube.com / Diocese of Providence

**Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Friday, June 5, 2020**

Livestreamed at 7:00PM

Youtube.com / St. Philip Church, Greenville, RI

**First Mass of Thanksgiving
Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 2:00PM
St. Philip Church
Greenville, RI**

***Please pray for Deacon Hiep
as he prepares for his ordination
as a Priest of Providence!***

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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

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