



OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET-IN-ILLINOIS
Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop

701 S. EOLA ROAD † AURORA, IL 60504
WWW.OLMERCY.COM

OUR VISION: TO OFFER EVERY PERSON A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS, GROW DISCIPLES, AND SEND THEM ON MISSION.

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr. Don E. McLaughlin, Pastor
Fr. Mark J. Bernhard, Parochial Vicar

TRANSITIONAL DEACON

Rev. Mr. Senovio Sarabia, Jr.

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Tim Kueper
Deacon Tony Martini
Deacon Mike Plese
Deacon Phil Rehmer
Deacon Art Tionson
Deacon Bob Vavra

PARISH OFFICE

(630) 851-3444
(630) 851-3468 FAX
Monday-Thursday.....8:30am-4:30pm
Friday..... 8:30am-1:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00pm
Sunday.....7:30am, 9:00am
 10:45am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm
Monday-Friday8:00am
Rosary prayed after all daily Masses

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Schedule varies. Consult the Mass Schedule in the bulletin or website.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday.....3:00-3:45pm
1st Fridays of the Month....8:30-9:00am
Or by Appointment

PRAYER CHAPEL

Open Daily7:00am-8:00pm
Adoration.....Monday & Thursday
 8:30am-6:00pm
Benediction.....Monday, 6:00pm

March 29, 2020



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Fifth

Sunday of Lent


Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26



From The Pastor's Desk...
Also Known as Chardonnay W(h)ines!

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we meet dead Lazarus brought back to life. In doing so, perhaps we meet ourselves!! If you haven't caught my drift yet, I started my last two bulletin articles with the same line after the person we met in that week's gospel.... "In doing so perhaps we meet ourselves!!" The gospel story two weeks ago of the woman at the well, the gospel last week of the man born blind, and the gospel of today, Lazarus all form the basis of the scrutiny prayers used each week with the elect who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. These prayers call not only the elect to see themselves in the character of the particular gospel and what Jesus does for those characters the prayers call us to see ourselves as well. So today, we all called to recognize what is dead in us, and ask Jesus to raise us from our sins so that we might live a new life NOW! Has love grown cold? Have hurts made us bitter and resentful? Have we isolated ourselves, unwilling to forgive? Certainly, Lazarus had human faults and failings. It is important to note in this gospel that Jesus resuscitated Lazarus back to the life in the time he was living. Lazarus got his same body back, he was the age he was when he died, he was the same person, given the chance to live again with the new life and ability to change that which was dead in him. Resurrection on the other hand comes at the end of time, and resurrection is something much more than resuscitation! At the resurrection, we are transformed in to the likeness of the Risen Lord – a completely new body! So, while we are still here on earth, we have the chance to live a happy life in this body if only we let Jesus heal what is dead in us!

The Coronavirus pandemic has certainly challenged one of the things we hold dearest...our independence. Many having to self-isolate, stores and restaurants closed, and worst of all, cancellation of public Holy Week and Easter liturgies. This pandemic has also made us more conscious of our mortality. This conversation between Martha and Jesus in today's Gospel is a reminder to us not to fear. Lazarus had died. Martha said to Jesus "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha replied Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." May we live with the faith of Martha  through this Coronavirus pandemic!

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Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, March 30 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM † James W. Ray &
† James W. Ray, Jr. by Helean M. Ray
8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration to 6:00 PM
6:00 PM Benediction

Tuesday, March 31 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM † Bob Humanski, by Toni Humanski

Wednesday, April 1 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Mass † Michael E. O'Hara, by John & Zara Taqn

Thursday, April 2 - St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

8:00 AM † Dale Christenson, by Patsy Peterson
8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration to 6:00 PM

Friday, April 3 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Frank Nuhan, by Loving Hands†

Saturday, April 4 - St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor

3:00-3:45 PM Reconciliation
4:00 PM **Vigil - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
† Catherine Gargas-Parinella, by Iskrzycki
† Joyce Markus, by Family

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:00 AM † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
† Melva Purnell, by John Salentine
9:00 AM † Armando Torres, by Family
11:00 AM † Ken Jachim, by Family
The People of Our Lady of Mercy
1:00 PM † Emma & Juanito DeChavez, by Family
5:30 PM † Edward C. Schmidt, by Family

All Masses have been cancelled until further notice. Please check the OLM website at www.olmercy.com for updates.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL LAMPS

Twelve lamps will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament for the following intentions:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Megan Gabaldon | 9. The Feldman Family |
| 2. The Sick | 10. Diane Pazos |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Medical Staff | 12. Those with COVID-19 |
| 5. OLM Parishioners | 13. Joanna Tayaban's Recovery |
| 6. The Vavra Family | 14. Good Health for Ricky |
| 7. OLM Clergy | 15. The Pluskota Family |
| 8. The Deceased | 16. The Homeless |

If you wish to have a candle burning for your intention in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, you will find envelopes on the shelf in the Narthex near the Priest's Sacristy or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Scheduled Mass Intentions

During this time in which Masses have been cancelled at OLM due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, intentions and the stipend for the Masses not celebrated will be sent to the Diocese of Joliet for retired priests and/or missionary priests to celebrate as soon as possible. It will not be possible for you to attend the Mass, as we won't know who, when or where the Mass will be celebrated, but the Mass WILL be celebrated. We decided not to re-schedule the Masses at OLM because the Mass intentions for 2020 and 2021 are nearly all taken. We appreciate your understanding.

We pray for our sick, confined and their families

Please contact the Parish Office if you or your **immediate** family member wish to be added to the Sick List.

Mark Hoeksema	Charlene Oates	Diane Pazos
Kathryn Martini	Maria Luna	Diane Ramonas
Brady Pembroke	William Nimmow	Diane Singer
Wayne Draper	Jill Brisceno	Joyce Craig
Ailani Banulos	Lexi Brisceno	John Swanston
Julia Schremp	Michael Butler	Robert Ciulla
Billy Walowski	Hailey Hartnett	Bridget Garry
Kathy Walowski	Thomas F. Sterling	David Bakke
Flo Paprzycki	Henrietta Pineda	
Helga Manglinong	La Moua	
Michael Dandan	Valerie Plesha	
	Hedy Sterling	

Please note: Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that person, or in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to



DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL PASTOR.....
¡También conocido como Chardonnay W(h)ines!

En este Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma, nos encontramos con Lázaro muerto que volvió a la vida. Al hacerlo, ¡tal vez nos encontramos a nosotros mismos! Si aún no me han entendido, comencé mis dos últimos artículos del boletín con la misma línea después de la persona que conocimos en el evangelio de esa semana... "Al hacerlo, ¡tal vez nos encontramos a nosotros mismos!" La historia del evangelio hace dos semanas sobre la mujer en el pozo, el evangelio de la semana pasada del hombre nacido ciego y el evangelio de hoy, Lázaro, todos forman la base de las oraciones de escrutinio usadas cada semana con los elegidos que serán bautizados en La Vigilia Pascual. Estas oraciones llaman no solo a los elegidos a verse en el personaje del evangelio particular y lo que Jesús hace por esos personajes, las oraciones nos llaman a vernos a nosotros mismos también. ¡Así que hoy, todos estamos llamados a reconocer lo que está muerto en nosotros, y le pedimos a Jesús que nos resucite de nuestros pecados para que podamos vivir una nueva vida AHORA! ¿Se ha enfriado el amor? ¿Nos han amargado y resentido las heridas? ¿Nos hemos aislado, no dispuestos a perdonar? Ciertamente, Lázaro tenía defectos y fallas humanas. Es importante notar en este evangelio que Jesús resucitó a Lázaro de vuelta a la vida en el tiempo que vivía. Lázaro recuperó su mismo cuerpo, tenía la edad que tenía cuando murió, era la misma persona, se le dio la oportunidad de volver a vivir con la nueva vida y la capacidad de cambiar lo que estaba muerto en él. La resurrección, por otro lado, llega al final de los tiempos, ¡y la resurrección es algo mucho más que la resucitación! En la resurrección, nos transformamos a semejanza del Señor Resucitado: ¡un cuerpo completamente nuevo! Entonces, mientras todavía estamos aquí en la tierra, ¡tenemos la oportunidad de vivir una vida feliz en este cuerpo si solo dejamos que Jesús sane lo que está muerto en nosotros!

La pandemia del Coronavirus ciertamente ha desafiado una de las cosas que más apreciamos... nuestra independencia. Muchos tienen que aislarse, las tiendas y restaurantes cerrados, y lo peor de todo, la cancelación de las liturgias públicas de Semana Santa y Pascua. Esta pandemia también nos ha hecho más conscientes de nuestra mortalidad. Esta conversación entre Marta y Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy nos recuerda que no debemos temer. Lázaro había muerto. Marta le dijo a Jesús: "*Señor, si hubieras estado aquí, mi hermano no habría muerto. Pero incluso ahora sé que cualquier cosa que le pidas a Dios, Dios te lo dará*". Jesús le dijo: "*Tu hermano resucitará*". Marta le dijo: "*Yo sé que resucitará en la resurrección del último día*". Jesús le dijo: "*Yo soy la resurrección y la vida; quien cree en mí, aunque muera, vivirá, y el que vive y cree en mí nunca morirá. ¿Crees en esto?*" Marta respondió "*Sí, Señor, porque yo creo que tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios, que ha de venir a este mundo*". ¡Que vivamos con la fe de Marta a través de esta

pandemia

¡Con mis oraciones para que todos se mantengan bien!

Padre Don

gan bien!

DA GLORIA A DIOS

En el Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma, justo antes de entrar en la Semana Santa, somos llamados a Betania. Si hubiéramos sido amigos de María, Lázaro y Marta, y nos hubiéramos enterado que Lázaro estaba gravemente enfermo, probablemente lo habríamos dejado todo para estar con ellos. Eso es lo más sorprendente del comportamiento de Jesús. Pese a que era su amigo cercano, eligió mantenerse alejado, para que la gloria de Dios se manifestara. Este es un tema persistente en el Evangelio de Juan. Hasta el mismo final, las obras de Jesús son para dar gloria al Padre. A medida que nuestra jornada de Cuaresma llega a su apogeo, recordemos que, como personas que "se han revestido de Cristo" en el Bautismo, también somos llamados a dar gloria a Dios en nuestras actitudes y acciones. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Sal 23 (22):1-6; Jn 8:1-11
Martes: Nm 21:4-9; Sal 102 (101):2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Miércoles: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Jueves: Gn 17:3-9; Sal 105 (104):4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Viernes: Jer 20:10-13; Sal 18 (17):2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Sábado: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Domingo: Mt 21:1-11 (procesión); Is 50:4-7; Sal 22 (21):8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Fil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the Lord GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

fifth Sunday OF LENT

MARCH 29
2020

THE TOMB OF
LAZARUS
AL-EIZARIYA
(BETHANY)

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!"

JOHN 11:43

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It is difficult to overstate the bleak situation faced by the people of Israel described in today's reading from Ezekiel. Babylon had invaded Jerusalem, killed many of its inhabitants, and destroyed the temple. Some of them were forced into exile in Babylon. Their captors and neighbors likely concluded that the Babylonian deity had pummeled the Hebrew deity into submission. Israel's God was as good as dead, and the people of Israel as well.

In the midst of this catastrophe, Ezekiel announces a counter-story. The narrative of God's death is false. Israel's God is alive, and God's own breath will restore their life. They will be lifted out of the grave of their grief and despair, and be returned to their land. Ezekiel's message speaks to all of us who know of profound disorientation, of separation from loved ones, and of deep loss. God will bear our unbearable sorrow, and God's spirit will offer new life and hope.

RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Today's Gospel tells us of the raising of Lazarus. In Jesus' exchange with Lazarus' sister Martha, she refers to the general

resurrection of the dead on "the last day." Jesus then shifts the perspective by identifying himself as "the resurrection and the life." What does this mean? Jesus earlier had spoken of the hour "when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). When Jesus cries out in a loud voice—"Lazarus, come out!"—Jesus fulfills that role in the present, offering resurrection and life here and now, in a new relationship with him.

Resurrection is offered not only on the last day, and not only at our physical death, but in the mix of our present daily lives. Sometimes we are buried in tombs of suffering or of entrapment in sin. When we encounter death in its many forms, in faith we can hear Jesus, who summons us out of death and into life.

Today's Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

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A Faith Response to the Coronavirus



The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time?

A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

Enough for Everyone

Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately.

The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need.

Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first.

In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or

have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others.

Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. That puts them in a difficult situation when they become ill and may have to choose between putting their job at risk and staying home to protect others. Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is canceled for their children.

The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves).

Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are canceled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly.

But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed *everything* in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something.

Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects. Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections.

Death rates in the city



were about one third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved.

We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it's unclear what's in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move *beyond* them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need.

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home.

Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues:

- **Prudence** - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take?
- **Justice** - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need?
- **Temperance** - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?
- **Fortitude** - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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What You Can Do

- **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any).
 - **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas' song "On Eagle's Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
 - **Avoid touching your face.**
 - **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
 - **Follow the guidance of local officials.**
 - **Stay home if you become ill.**
- **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable.
 - **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway.
 - **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.**
 - **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment.
 - **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation.
- **Proactively love your neighbor!**
 - **Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbors** and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc.
 - **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
 - **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
 - **Pray** for all those affected by the crisis.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(Grades K-5)**

Family Gospel Reflection and Prayer~

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who became very sick. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus and asked him to come and heal Lazarus, but when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already died. The Bible tells us that when Jesus saw Mary weeping because her brother had died, he cried too. That isn't all that Jesus did -- listen to what happened next.

Jesus went with Mary and Martha and some others to visit the grave where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a large stone across the entrance. When they arrived at the tomb, Jesus said to some of the men who were with them, "Take away the stone." Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus walked out of the grave. It's easy to imagine that when she saw that, Mary's tears of sadness turned to tears of joy.

We all cry, and we can take comfort that we have a Savior who weeps too. He loves us so much that he hurts when we are hurting. He feels our pain and sees our tears.

Dear Jesus, it is comforting to know that when we cry, you cry with us. But it is even more comforting to know that you have power over death and the grave and that one day we will be in heaven with you -- and then there



will be no more tears. Amen.

**SENIOR HIGH
YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS
(Grades 9-12)**

Our prayers are with all our teens, their families and our community during this Coronavirus health crisis. Please contact us if you need anything or have questions or concerns via email at Davem@olmercy.com or Jeanr@olmercy.com. Check out our LIGHT webpage for updates and news here: <https://olmercy.com/formation/light/>

EDGE (Grades 6-8)

THREE PILLARS OF LENT

PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING

PRAYER

I'd like our Jr High teens to go deeper this Lent. Try this activity. (Parents can lead & support them even by suggesting this idea.)

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING." 1 Thess 5:17

We breathe constantly & don't even realize it. Praying can be that way too. Even in the smallest of ways. How? Examples-Waking up & thanking God for another day that you are alive, a beautiful day, being able to attend school or your health, etc. you get the idea, right? Go through your day & just a few thoughts out to God thanking Him for your friends that you're able to join a group or a sport, that you have good teachers or you're able to use your gifts & talents. End your day thanking God for the glorious day He gave you. Ask God to bless your family for whom you are thankful for, pray for their health & for those that are suffering in this world. *This is really just talking with God as you would a friend. And it's prayer!*

CHALLENGE:

Try going through your day practicing "Pray Without Ceasing." It isn't that hard & you will also become more present in the moment you are focusing on. You will be able to feel God's presence. You will become more attuned to your gifts & your faults. Pray for forgiveness, be thankful for the food you eat, the home you have. **God is listening! And you are practicing the first "Pillar of Faith."**



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Parish Sacrificial Giving

I have been so very grateful for your generous support of our parish. During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, I understand that some of you may have financial hardships and are not able to contribute at this time. As you can imagine, with the cancelling of Sunday Masses and not being able to take a collection, our parish finances will be affected. Our average Sunday collection is \$30,00 - \$32,000. The good news is that we receive approximately 10% of our Sunday collection through online donors, so we do receive some monies. I encourage those who are not currently donating online to consider enrolling. To enroll for online donating go to our parish website www.olmercy.com and click on "Give" Then click on tab "Online Giving" and set up your account. As always, thanks for your support of OLM!

- Fr. Don




2020

be KIND and
MERCIFUL

Diocese of Joliet
Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal

We are pleased that so many parishioners have already pledged a gift to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your support will allow us to *Be Kind and Merciful* as, together, we do God's work here on earth.

Every gift brings us closer to our parish's 2020 CMAA goal of \$146,700. If we raise more than our goal, 70 percent of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our needs. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Please prayerfully reflect on your pledge to this year's CMAA and make your gift today. Pledge envelopes are available in the church. You can also return the pledge card you received in the mail from the diocese, make a gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text "Donate" to (815) 205-1949 from your mobile phone.

GEMS

ATTENTION...
ATTENTION...
PLEASE READ THIS
MESSAGE:

**THERE WILL BE NO GEMS
MEETING IN APRIL DUE TO
CONFLICTS WITH HOLY
WEEK.**

WANTED: People over 50 years old who would like to join in social interaction with fellow OLM parishioners. This is a great way to make new friends, share experiences and enjoy some delicious luncheon food. Consider coming to join our group, GEMS, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month and see what we're all about.

Our GEMS advisory group meets on the first Thursday of each month to formulate plans and ideas for future GEMS activities...come join us...out next meeting will be on April 2 at 9:00 a.m. in the Ministry Room.

Critics Corner Movie Club...contact Pat at 630-585-6437 for information.

Please pray for our sick GEMS members.

Parish Activities for the Week

All activities held in the Parish Life Building have been canceled until further notice.

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falconi.

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS



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Thank you for supporting our parish!!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; Reconciliation services held seasonally.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Contact the Parish Office so we may help you in any way possible.

HOSPITALIZATION: If you anticipate a hospitalization or are admitted to an area hospital and would like a visit from a priest or Eucharistic Minister, please notify the parish office.

BAPTISMS: Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must attend a parent meeting held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Baptisms are held at 12 noon the first Saturday of the month and at 2:00 p.m. the second Sundays of the month. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent.

WEDDINGS: The bride, groom or either set of parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Weddings may be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome you! Please register by attending our "New Parishioner Registration/Welcoming" meeting the last Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. For more info call: 851-3444, ext. 221.

HOSPITALITY: "Hospitality" weekend is held in the Parish Life Center Multi Purpose Room after all Saturday/Sunday Masses on the last full weekend of each month (excluding December).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Voicemail-ext. 400

CHURCH NAME AND NUMBER—

The Church of Our Lady of Mercy #512124

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on the North side of Church