



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 Tiongson

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

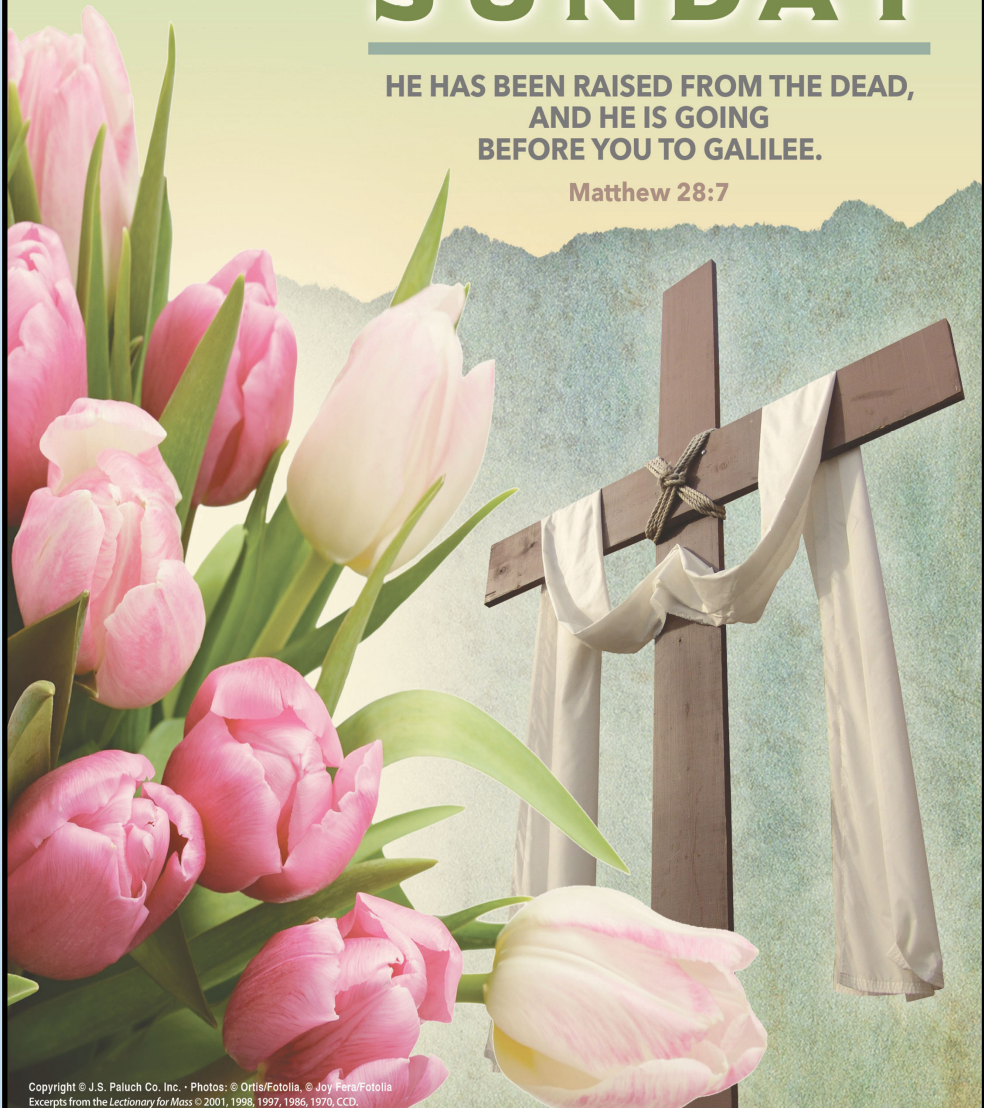
April 12
2020

Easter

SUNDAY

HE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD,
AND HE IS GOING
BEFORE YOU TO GALILEE.

Matthew 28:7





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

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning and saw the stone removed from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and told him they have taken the Lord as the tomb was empty. Simon Peter and the other

disciple came to the tomb and found it exactly as she said....empty!

On the first day of the week, two disciples of Jesus, Fr. Mark and Fr. Don, came to the church early in the morning, and found it just like the tomb....empty!! What a strange feeling overcame them! All due to an invisible virus that has stopped us in our tracks.

Easter 2020 will be remembered by all of us as the most surreal Easter ever! We've had snow on Easter, we've had storms on Easter, we've even had wars raging in different parts of the world on Easter, but we've never had no crowds on Easter! We all look forward to coming to Mass on Easter...the joyful music and choirs, the flowers and decorations, the signs of spring, the message of joy and hope, and most of all receiving the very body and blood of Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice he made for us on Good Friday to wash away our sins! And yes, the Easter bonnets and being all dressed up! Much of that we miss today. Yet, none of this changes the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and **IS** with us – even during this medical pandemic. When we started our Lenten “journey to the heights” none of us realized that the journey would be as challenging to our spiritual and physical life as it has been! We understood that as we undertook the journey, that the goal was to be a transformed person by the time we reached the heights of Easter. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to change not only our physical routines by staying at home, but spiritual routines as well. With churches locked, how was I going to be able to pray? During this time God has challenged us to grow closer to Him, but perhaps in new ways. Some created altar and prayer spaces in their homes. Keep them – even after the pandemic subsides. Some have taken more time to read the scriptures or other spiritual reading – keep doing it after the pandemic subsides. Some have experienced God by being more in tune to neighbors, family, or by taking walks in nature – keep doing that after the pandemic subsides. And never lose hope.....the risen Lord is always with us no matter how often we think not. After His resurrection the disciples did not immediately recognize Jesus when he appeared to them. We do the same. But perhaps this time of worldwide pandemic will open our eyes to recognize Jesus in ways we never saw him before! ALLELUIA!!

Blessed Easter to you All!

Father Don, Father Mark, the Deacons
and the Parish Staff

PARISH PRIESTS

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Len Eickhoff, Buildings & Grounds
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SEMINARIAN INTERN

Rev. Mr. Senovio Sarabia, Jr.
ssarabia@usml.edu

Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, April 13 - Monday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM † Bob Humanski, by Toni Humanski

Tuesday, April 14 - Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM † Pradeep Cherian, by Family
† Cherian Oommen

Wednesday, April 15 - Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM Mass † Cherian & Flossy Chinnappoun, by Family

Thursday, April 16 - Thursday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM † Cherian & Mary Eudocia Eapen, by Family

Friday, April 17 - Friday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM † Cherian & Sarmma Pappy, by Family

Saturday, April 18 - Saturday within the Octave of Easter

4:00 PM **Vigil - Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy**
† Mike & Carole Brogan, by Dcn Phil & Jean Rehmer
† Mark Atwood, by The Hapke Family

Sunday, April 19 - Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy

7:30 AM † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
† Steve & Nellie Murinka by Steve (Son)
9:00 AM † Barbara Saurer by Roy Saurer
10:45 AM † Alfonso Sr & Estela Ramirez, by Children
12:30 PM † Amanda Correa, by Claudia & Jessica
5:30 PM † Ilizabeth Irefo, by Family

**Due to the Governor's stay-at-home order,
all Masses are closed to the public.**

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL LAMPS

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Megan Gabaldon | 9. The Feldman Family |
| 2. The Sick | 10. The Health of the World |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Medical Personnel | 12. Ray & Dolores Simonek |
| 5. Parishioners of OLM | 13. Joanna Tayaban's Recovery |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. The Staff of OLM |
| 7. Maria Salome Embradura | 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
Wayne Draper
Ailani Banulos
Julia Schremp
Billy Walowski
Kathy Walowski
Flo Paprzycki
Helga Manglinong
Michael Dandan
Charlene Oates
Maria Luna
William Nimmow

Jill Brisceno
Lexi Brisceno
Michael Butler
Hailey Hartnett
Thomas F. Sterling
Henrietta Pineda
La Moua
Valerie Plesha
Hedy Sterling
Diane Pazos
Diane Ramonas
Diane Singer
Joyce Craig

John Swanston
Robert Ciulla
Bridget Garry
David Bakke

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 their medical care, calls to give permission.



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

El primer día de la semana, María de Magdala llegó a la tumba temprano en la mañana y vio la piedra removida de la tumba. Corrió hacia Simón Pedro y le dijo que se habían llevado al Señor porque la tumba estaba vacía. Simón Pedro y el otro discípulo llegaron a la tumba y la encontraron exactamente como ella dijo... ¡vacía!

El primer día de la semana, dos discípulos de Jesús, el Padre Mark y el Padre Don, vinieron a la iglesia temprano en la mañana, y la encontraron como la tumba... ¡vacía! ¡Qué extraño sentimiento los abrumó! Todo debido a un virus invisible que nos ha detenido en seco.

¡La Pascua del 2020 será recordada por todos nosotros como la Pascua más surrealista de todos los tiempos! ¡Hemos tenido nieve en Pascua, hemos tenido tormentas en Pascua, incluso hemos tenido guerras en diferentes partes del mundo en Pascua, pero nunca no hemos tenido multitudes en Pascua! Todos esperamos venir a Misa en Pascua... la alegre música y los coros, las flores y las decoraciones, los signos de la primavera, el mensaje de alegría y esperanza, y sobre todo recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesús, ¡el extremo sacrificio que hizo por nosotros el Viernes Santo para lavar nuestros pecados! ¡Y sí, los sombreros de Pascua y estar todos bien vestidos! Mucho de eso lo extrañamos hoy. Sin embargo, nada de esto cambia el hecho de que Jesús resucitó de los muertos y **ESTÁ** con nosotros, incluso durante esta pandemia médica. ¡Cuando comenzamos nuestro “viaje a las alturas” de Cuaresma, ninguno de nosotros se dio cuenta de que el viaje sería tan desafiante para nuestra vida física y espiritual como lo ha sido! Entendimos que a medida que emprendíamos el viaje, el objetivo era ser una persona transformada cuando llegamos a las alturas de la Pascua. La pandemia de COVID-19 nos obligó a cambiar no solo nuestras rutinas físicas al quedarnos en casa, sino también las rutinas espirituales. Con las iglesias cerradas, ¿cómo iba a poder orar? Durante este tiempo, Dios nos ha desafiado a crecer más cerca de Él, pero quizás de nuevas maneras. Algunos crearon espacios de altar y oración en sus hogares. Manténganlos, incluso después de que la pandemia disminuya. Algunos se han tomado más tiempo para leer las Escrituras u otras lecturas espirituales, sigan haciéndolo después de que la pandemia disminuya. Algunos han experimentado a Dios al estar más en armonía con los vecinos, la familia, o al caminar en la naturaleza, sigan haciéndolo después de que la pandemia disminuya. Y nunca pierdas la esperanza... el Señor resucitado siempre está con nosotros, no importa cuán a menudo pensemos que no. Después de su resurrección, los discípulos no reconocieron de inmediato a Jesús cuando se les apareció. Nosotros hacemos lo mismo. ¡Pero quizás esta vez de pandemia mundial nos abrirá los ojos para reconocer a Jesús en formas que nunca antes lo vimos! ¡ALELUYA!

Bendecida Pascua para Todos Ustedes

Padre Don, Padre Marcos, los Deáconos
y el Personal De la Parroquia

SEMILLAS DE FE

Hay una brevedad, una cierta concisión en las lecturas del Domingo de Pascua. El discurso de Pedro en Hechos está construido con frases directas y al punto. Las cartas de Pablo se basan en declaraciones directas como credos. Hasta el relato del Evangelio sólo narra brevemente lo que resultará ser uno de los sucesos más notables de la historia humana – la Resurrección de Jesús de entre los muertos. Los agentes publicitarios llaman a estos resúmenes “puntos para destacar”. Los biblistas los llaman *kerigma* o las “semillas” de nuestra fe. En realidad, “semillas” o granos son buenos términos para estas afirmaciones, puesto que durante todo el tiempo de Pascua, oiremos en los Hechos de los Apóstoles, en las cartas de Pablo y en los relatos del Evangelio sobre los días que siguieron a la Resurrección, exactamente cómo ese *kerigma* comienza a florecer, cómo continúa creciendo en la vida de la nueva Iglesia. Que estas “semillas” pascuales de fe sirvan un propósito similar para nosotros también, para que la vida de Cristo Resucitado florezca en nosotros y mediante nuestro testimonio en los días que siguen. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Feliz Pascua.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

- Lunes: Hch 2:14, 22-33; Sal 16 (15):1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
- Martes: Hch 2:36-41; Sal 33 (32):4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
- Miércoles: Hch 3:1-10; Sal 105 (104):1-4, 6-9; Lc 24:13-35
- Jueves: Hch 3:11-26; Sal 8:2ab, 5-9; Lc 24:35-48
- Viernes: Hch 4:1-12; Sal 118 (117):1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14
- Sábado: Hch 4:13-21; Sal 118 (117):1, 14-21; Mc 16:9-15
- Domingo: Hch 2:42-47; Sal 118 (117):2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pe 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

SEEDS OF FAITH

There is a brevity, a certain terseness, in the scripture readings for Easter Sunday. Peter's speech in Acts is built of direct, pointed sentences. Paul's letters are based on straightforward creed-like statements. Even the Gospel story only briefly recounts what will turn out to be one of the most remarkable events in human history—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Advertising agents call these encapsulated points of information “bullet points.” Scripture scholars call them *kerygmata*, or “kernels” of our faith. Actually, “kernels” or “seeds” are good terms for these statements, since throughout the Easter season, we will hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, and the Gospel accounts of the days following the Resurrection exactly how these *kerygmata* began to flower, how they continued to grow through the life of the early church. May these Easter “seeds” of faith serve a similar purpose for us, too, so that the life of the Risen Christ will flourish in us and through our witness in the coming days.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22;
Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a;
Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Psalm — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

(1) Second Reading — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4) *or*

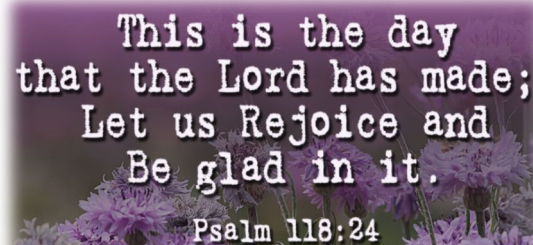
(2) Second Reading — Christ our Passover is sacrificed; therefore let us celebrate (1 Corinthians 5:6b-8).

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) *or* Matthew 28:1-10 (*or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35*).

CHRIST HAS RISEN

Where is your sting, O death? Where is your victory, O hell? Christ has risen, and you are overthrown. Christ has risen, and the demons have fallen. Christ has risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ has risen, and life reigns. Christ has risen, and not one dead rests in the grave. For Christ having risen from the dead became the first-fruits of them that slept. To him be glory and majesty to ages of ages. Amen.

—Byzantine Pentekostarion



This is the day
that the Lord has made;
Let us Rejoice and
Be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

THE EASTER OCTAVE

Eastertime lasts fifty days: seven weeks of seven days (seven equals Biblical perfection) plus one day: perfection plus! Like an eight-day Jewish wedding, or a child who can't bear to let go of Christmas, birthdays, and school vacation, the Church celebrates the Easter Octave: “the marriage of heaven and earth,” as the Vigil calls Jesus' resurrection; our new members' baptismal rebirth; our renewal of baptismal vows; our hearts' “divine vacation” (Latin *vacare*, “to be empty”), newfound time and space for love of God and neighbor. Make home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your “paschal candle”), a bowl full of water (ideally, from the parish's baptismal font), a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even non-singers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): “Be known to us, Risen Lord Jesus, as you were to the first disciples, in your word, in the breaking of bread, and in everyone we meet.” —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

STEPS OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TAKEN BY OLM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we at Our Lady of Mercy and the Diocese of Joliet realize that all of us have been financially affected by the pandemic. The volatility in the stock market has people worried. Many have been laid off work or worse yet, lost jobs. Families are struggling to pay bills and put food on the table. While many will get some financial help from the federal and/or state government, please let us know if there are any ways in which Our Lady of Mercy can help. Also, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Joliet can be contacted for help.

As you can imagine, five weeks thus far without a Sunday collection, especially Easter Sunday, our income is significantly down. With the extension of the governor's "stay at home" order through April 30th that will add another two weeks without public Masses.

One third of our Sunday collection comes from parishioners who donate online. Many have mailed in their envelopes. We are grateful to report that through March, our online and mailed in donations have amounted to 57% of our budgeted Sunday collection for the month. Thank you so much!! And thank you to the over 90 parishioners who are new online donors since the start of no public Masses. Please consider donating online if you do not already. Set up your account by going to: www.olmercy.com and click on "Give" at the top of the page and scroll down to the link to set-up an online giving account.

Here are some things we at OLM are doing to be fiscally responsible during this time.

- The Diocese of Joliet has mandated a 1/3 reduction in pay for the month of April for all salaried and hourly employees of the Diocese and parishes, including the priests
- Our custodial employees from Buck Services are laid off
- All non-essential spending is curtailed
- Reduction in spending for flowers and environment for the Easter season
- Suspension of garbage collection
- Heating shut off in the gym, and lower temperatures elsewhere throughout facilities
- Reduction in house cleaning services at the rectory from weekly to every other week
- Planned landscaping of the outdoor Station of the Cross is put on hold
- Fr. Mark and Fr. Don have gone on a diet of bread and water - just kidding ☐!
- Perhaps you have noticed the new sign at the driveway of church. While just installed in March, the sign was ordered and paid for in full in November 2019 to receive a 10% discount. The funds to pay for the sign came from profits still on deposit from the Manna gift card program that was discontinued in 2017.

PASOS DE RESPONSABILIDAD FISCAL TOMADOS POR OLM DURANTE LA PANDEMIA COVID-19

Durante este tiempo de la pandemia del coronavirus, nosotros en Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) y la Diócesis de Joliet nos damos cuenta de que todos hemos sido golpeados financieramente por la pandemia. El mercado de valores se ha desplomado, la gente ha sido despedida de sus trabajos o lo que es peor, la pérdida de empleos. Muchas de nuestras familias están luchando para pagar cuentas y poner comida en la mesa. Y si bien muchos recibirán alguna ayuda financiera del gobierno federal y/o estatal, hágannos saber si hay alguna forma en que Our Lady of Mercy pueda ayudar. También se puede contactar a Caridades Católicas en la Diócesis de Joliet para obtener ayuda.

Como pueden imaginar, cinco semanas hasta el momento sin una colecta dominical, especialmente el domingo de Pascua, nuestros ingresos han disminuido significativamente. Un tercio de nuestra colecta dominical proviene de donantes en línea y muchos de ustedes han enviado sus sobres dominicales por correo. Agradecemos a nuestros donantes en línea y a aquellos que han enviado sus sobres por correo. Pueden inscribirse para donar en línea visitando nuestro sitio web www.olmercy.com y haciendo clic en la pestaña "Give".

Aquí están algunas cosas que estamos haciendo en OLM para ser fiscalmente responsables durante este tiempo.

- La Diócesis de Joliet ha ordenado una reducción de 1/3 en el pago del mes de abril para todos los empleados asalariados y los que trabajan por horas de la Diócesis y las parroquias, incluidos los sacerdotes.
- Nuestros empleados de conserjería de Buck Services están despedidos hasta que nuestros edificios vuelvan a abrir.
- Se redujeron todos los gastos no esenciales.
- Reducción del gasto en flores y medio ambiente para la temporada de Pascua.
- Suspensión de la recolección de basura hasta que los edificios estén en uso nuevamente. • Reducción de los servicios de limpieza en la rectoría de semanalmente a semanas alternadas.
- El paisajismo planificado del Vía Crucis al aire libre se pone en espera.
- El Padre Mark y el Padre Don han hecho una dieta de pan y agua, ¡es broma!
- Quizás hayan notado la nueva señal en la entrada de la iglesia. Si bien se instaló en marzo, el letrero se ordenó y se pagó en su totalidad en noviembre del 2019 para recibir un descuento del 10%. Los fondos para pagar el letrero provinieron de las ganancias aún en depósito del programa de tarjetas de regalo "Manna" que se suspendió en el 2017.



**Religious Education
(Grades K-5)**

EASTERTIME PRAYER

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Risen Lord,
we greet you with joy
this Easter season,
and we thank you for the
gift of new life.
Bless our food,
our family
and our friends,
and help us
to celebrate the springtime
in our hearts
as we rejoice
in the good news
of your resurrection.
Alleluia! Amen.

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Source www.osv.com



EDGE (Grades 6-8)

A BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!

(For teens to pray)

God, You came, You died, and You rose from the dead – all to save *my* soul. Your resurrection means I do not have to experience death; my last breath in this world is my entrance into the next. With this knowledge, I ask for the grace to live my life looking forward to eternity. Help me to make every decision with You in mind. Thank you for making me a new creation. I am changed, I am yours, and I am grateful. Amen.

Today on Easter, thank God for all the things you're grateful for. Make every decision today (and everyday) with the knowledge that you will rise on the last day because Christ conquered death – He is risen.

-Excerpt from LIFE TEEN Blog

SO MANY THANK YOUS!!!!

I have been very *blessed* with the EDGE CORE Team for 2019-20. God sent amazing leaders & aides our way & when we got into a bit of a bind, He sent help once again. *Don't ever let someone tell you God isn't in charge!* I want to send my many thanks, appreciation & love to our leaders & aides for all the support, love & faith sharing they gave to our teens & myself.

MAUREEN DRONE
CHRIS HARVEY
DINE GIANNONE
JAMIE JOHNSON
MARK DOMBROSKI
DOUG KIEFFER
STEPHEN CADENA
CATEY GENC
DEANN CARRINGTON
NA HOLBROOK
MARIA ARROYO
JEANNE PATINKA

KATIE DRONE
CARRIE BAFFES
MARIA NAV
MARK CHAPAS
CHRIS CULLEN
LAURA WOODS
JEN QUINN
KIM KIM
COLLEEN BEARDSLEYAN-
KERRY CORKEY
JEANETTE KOELLER
FILIP MATUSIAK

It was a wonderful year I spent with all of our teens and I can truly say that this year's group is amazing! The 8th graders were so willing to learn, participate & lead! I have no doubt from this year's participation that our 7th graders will also become leaders to our current 6th grade class. They were eager to learn & also had fun with their faith. Our 6th grade groups jumped right into EDGE exploring & volunteering at every chance. Of course, I couldn't do this without the help of:

JEAN REHMER JEAN PALASZ LEN EICKHOFF
AND SYLVESTER!

Thank you all for always being there to help build the Kingdom of God!

Our Journey Continues

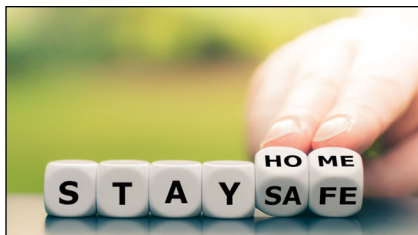
The Lord is Risen!! Alleluia! Alleluia! “*Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”* (Matthew 28:5-6) On Easter, may we take the time to think back on our Lenten journey with the Lord and realize what transformation has taken place in our hearts and our souls through what we were called to practice during Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During our Lenten journey did we open the doors of our heart to Jesus and invite Him in so that we could grow closer to Him? May we continue on that journey to stay close to Jesus and put our faith into action through our thoughts, words and actions. Will people who we are in contact with on the road of life see the risen Christ in us? Wishing you a Blessed and Happy Easter filled with the joy, hope and love of our risen Lord!! (*Reflection from Jolene LeRoy RN Director of Pastoral Care*)

Be Healthy – Be Hopeful

This article was written a week and a half before Easter due to the deadline for publishing. At this time we are in the “Stay at Home” mandate and the reports about the coronavirus are disturbing. There are many sources with guidelines on how to decrease transmission such as staying six feet away from people and practicing intentional handwashing rubbing with soap for twenty seconds or more to make foam appear and rinsing with hot water.

A consequence of staying at home because of the coronavirus is isolation which may give rise to anxiety, obsessions, loneliness and traumatic stress. God created us to be in relationship with Him and with others. Not being able to be together in our faith community, work, school and even with our family causes our relationships to be tested. Thank goodness we have ways to connect with one another through technology!



The following strategies are offered to help you through times of stress and isolation:

Make self-care a priority! It is important for everyone to do this, but especially for those who are caregivers. This includes getting adequate sleep, engage in physical exercise and eat a healthy diet which will help to strengthen the immune system. Keep a sense of normalcy with a routine each day. Start the day with a plan, with scheduled times if that helps (but allow for flexibility especially with children in the home).

You may want to keep a diary of feelings, a prayer journal or a gratitude journal. If you are managing an illness at home, you may want to keep a symptom log that will help you and your healthcare provider evaluate your health needs. Other self-care ideas are calling a person who is supportive to you, taking a walk and enjoying nature, listening to music, prayer, deep breathing and imagery techniques or stretching. The idea is to do activities that you enjoy and give you a joyful feeling!

Limit watching and listening to the news to once or twice a day. Limit your sources of information to one or two reliable sources. Know that the news coverage may not answer all of your questions or address your worries. Ask for help. Have family members or friends filter the news for you and tell you what you need to know.

Stay connected. There are a variety of ways to connect with others. To stay connected with your Our Lady of Mercy family sign up on Constant Contact to receive emails or get the parish app to receive notices and messages. The OLM website at olmercy.com has many resources and ways to connect. My family and I have been creative in ways to stay connected. We set up times during the week to say the Rosary together by phone. We cook the same meal together (all the grandchildren are involved from ages one to thirteen) and then eat together via ZOOM. We have also played games together via ZOOM which has been quite interesting but fun. The laughter that is shared is great for the heart, soul and immune system!

We are getting through this time in our lives with our trust in the Lord and knowing His love for us; by praying for each other – those in our community and around the world; and by being Christ to each other! We will be healthy and hopeful through our support of one another! If you have a health concern, are looking for resources or need support, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Director of Pastoral Care at 331-707-5380 or at jolenel@olmercy.com. Please let me know if you would like a Sunshine Call from our team of parish volunteers.

Take care and God bless!

Parish Sacrificial Giving

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 03/29/20)

Total Collections:	\$	1,202,143
Total Budget:	\$	1,248,000
Amount Short of Budget:	\$	(45,857)

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 03/08/20) Prior to the closing of churches due to Covid-19.

Actual Year-to-Date Collections:	\$	1,147,447
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget:	\$	1,152,000
Amount Short of Budget:	\$	(4,553)

03/15-03/29/20 Sunday Collection:	\$	54,696
Weekly Sunday Goal:	\$	96,000
Amount Short of Goal:	\$	(41,304)

We are extremely grateful for your continued generosity during this difficult time. There was an increase of 94 on-line givers, an increase of almost 50% which is amazing!!! We are truly Blessed as a Parish.

Thank you for your generosity!!

ONLINE GIVING

Go to www.olmercy.com and click on "Give"

NEW WAY TO GIVE.

Online Giving will help sustain our church.

Make this year's personal tithing goal easier to achieve through Online Giving. Meeting your giving goal will help support our church's many ministries dedicated to strengthening our church's community and community at large.

Online Giving allows you to make donations, payments, and pledges via your smart device or computer to our church.

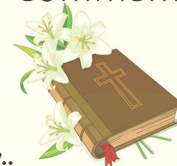
To Do:
1. Give online

Set up your gift today or consider an additional gift via our website on your smart device.

The Legend of the Easter Lily

Lilies are often called the "white-robed apostles of hope." Tradition has it that beautiful lilies sprung up where Christ's tears fell to the ground in His final hours of sorrow and deep distress. The triumphant and pure lilies commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

Easter Flowers



In Honor/Memory of...

Dcn Bob Vavra
Abt & Vavra Family
Joseph Salata
Jeanne LeRoy
Milton LeRoy
Our Family Members
Ruben Francisco Manzanares Jacobo
Jose Antonio Juarez Garcia
Joann Irwin
Konnie Keel
The Ziegler & Pluskota Families

Gifted by...

Betty Vavra
Betty Vavra
Jeff & Jolene LeRoy
Jeff & Jolene LeRoy
Jeff & Jolene LeRoy
Barb & Bill Jesse
Ruben Manzanares
Veronica Manzanares
Gallinati Family
Gallinati Family
Carol & James Pluskota, Sr.

In Honor/Memory of...

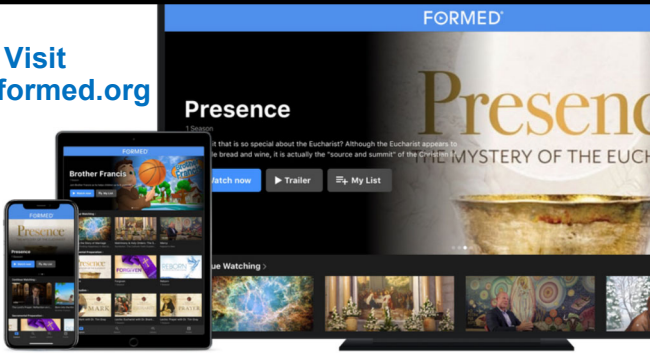
Joyce Markus
Dick Basten
Pray for all Souls
Perez-Salazar Family
Elizabeth Acierto
Ruth Miller
Pattie Plume
Carol Anne Kahlfeldt
Arlene Mary Lisak Grant
Stephania Zeremba Lisak
Maria Martin

Gifted by...

Julie Wucka
Rick & Nancy Basten

Suzanne Acierto
Suzanne Acierto
Jennifer & Brian Carter
Jennifer & Brian Carter
Michael Kahlfeldt
Richard Grant
Richard Grant
Richard Grant

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FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

This is a difficult and unprecedented time for all of us.

As Catholics, we are suddenly faced with our parish doors being locked and limited access to the sacraments. This can be very disheartening. Now more than ever, we must hold fast to the great virtue of Hope.

In the words of Pope St. John Paul II “Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.” We must open the doors of our hearts to Christ and trust in the Lord who will give us everything we need.

Sign up today and get immediate access to the best Catholic movies, faith formation videos, audio talks, and great children’s videos.

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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Aurora, IL 60504

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Diane - Ext. 221

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Please print and ship 100 copies of the bulletin.

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on the North side of Church