



# OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET-IN-ILLINOIS  
Bishop Ronald A. Hicks

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. James Guarascio, Parochial Vicar

## PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Tim Kueper  
Deacon Tony Leazzo  
Deacon Tony Martini  
Deacon Mike Plese  
Deacon Phil Rehmer  
Deacon Art Tionson

## PARISH OFFICE

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

## MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday .....8:00am  
Monday (Spanish Mass-begins 7/13)....6:30pm  
Tuesday.....8:00am, 6:30pm  
Thursday.....6:30am, 8:00am  
Saturday.....8:30am  
Saturday (Anticipated for Sunday)..... 4:00pm  
Sunday.....8:00am, 10:00am  
12:00pm, 5:30pm

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

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

## CONFESSIONS

Tuesday.....7:00-8:00pm  
Saturday.....9:00-10:00am  
1:30-2:30pm  
1st Fridays of the Month.....8:30-9:15am  
Or by Appointment

## PRAYER CHAPEL

Open weekdays.....7:00am-8:00pm  
Adoration.....Monday & Thursday  
8:30am-6:00pm  
Benediction.....Monday & Thursday  
6:00pm

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# Fourth SUNDAY of Advent

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel  
said to Mary,  
"Do not be afraid,  
Mary, for you have  
found favor with God.  
Behold, you will  
conceive in your womb  
and bear a son, and you  
shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31



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

During the Advent/Christmas season, the company that publishes our Sunday bulletin has earlier than usual deadlines for getting each weeks bulletin to them for printing. As such, I am writing today's December 20 article on

December 8 – one full week ahead of the normal deadline. I am writing too as I am recovering from my unexpected surgery on December 3 to remove gallstones and my gallbladder. A little concerning during the middle of a pandemic!

And so, on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we are 5 days away from the celebration of Christmas! And what a different celebration it will be for all of us this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was brought home for me today as I received an e-mail from friends in Wheaton where I have spent Christmas the last 19 years informing me they decided not to hold the annual dinner gathering with me and three other families that have traditionally come to their home on Christmas. What a bummer! I've sure many of you are experiencing the same thing in various ways. For some, it doesn't even feel like Christmas. But you know what? I'm OK with it, and even look forward to this Christmas alone (with the dog)! Please, no pity parties! I know that many of you would invite me to your house for dinner, and I appreciate that. But this Christmas IS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT – maybe even a great one! Why? The answer lies in a YouTube video I ran across the day before I wrote this article. So, if you are feeling down about Christmas this year, I wish you would watch this 8 minute 30 second video.

Go to YouTube and search "This Could Actually be a Great Christmas" by Fr. Casey Cole OFM. This young priest gives an insightful reflection that lifted me from this Christmas possibly being a depressing one to one that could be great!

So, I'll be just fine! After all the Christmas Masses, and still recovering from surgery, I know that I will be exhausted and I look forward to settling down for a long winter nap in the recliner next to the gas log fireplace with Chardonnay (the dog) in my lap and perhaps in a glass too. And my friends from Wheaton are bringing me dinner too! Life and Christmas, despite the pandemic, are grand!

Fr. James, our Deacons and wives, and all our parish staff wish you a most blessed Christmas. In the midst of the challenges of our times, the truth still isn't changed – God is with us!

Merry Christmas!

**PARISH PRIESTS**

**Fr. Don McLaughlin, Pastor**  
630-851-3444, Ext. 228  
frdon@olmercy.com

**Fr. James Guarascio, Parochial Vicar**  
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**PASTORAL STAFF**

**Frank Sauter, Dir. of Music Ministries**  
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**Jolene LeRoy, RN, Pastoral Care**  
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**Dcn Mike Plese deaconmikeplese@gmail.com**

**Dcn Phil Rehmer deaconphil@rehmer.com**

**Dcn Art Tionson hope2640@yahoo.com**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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**Jean Rehmer, RE Secretary (6-12) & RCIA**  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Bob Gancarz, Business Manager**  
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**Diane Reiter, Parish Secretary**  
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**Lydia Schmitt, Business Office Assistant**  
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**Len Eickhoff, Buildings & Grounds**  
630-631-1676 lene@olmercy.com

*Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions***Monday, December 21 - St Peter Canisius, Priest**

8:00 AM	Int Dcn Art & Babes Tioganson
8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 PM	Benediction
6:30 PM <small>Spanish Mass</small>	† Laura Conte de Garcia, by Juliana Hepburn
7:00-8:00 PM	Reconciliation

**Tuesday, December 22 - Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 AM	† John & Frank Nowak, by Family
6:30 PM	† Diane Colson, by Edgar Badillo
7:00PM	Reconciliation Until All Heard

**Wednesday, December 23 - St John of Kanty, Priest**

12:00 PM	Int Myles Jabonero, by Agnes Schlobohm
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**Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

6:30 AM	No Mass
8:00 AM	No Mass
3:00 PM	† Diane Mrizek, by Family
5:00 PM	† Emmanuel Masangcay, by Shirley Staples
7:00 PM	† Feldman, Ernsting, Sanders, Prasse, Barnes Families
9:00 PM	† John Salentine & Melva Purnell
Midnight	The People of Our Lady of Mercy

**Friday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day**

7:00 AM	† Mike & Carole Brogan, by Tom & Pat McHugh
9:00 AM	† Victoria Tiu Lo, by Elizabeth Lo
11:00 AM	† Joyce Markus, by Family
1:00 PM	† Jesus Pena, by Agnes Schlobohm

**Saturday, December 26 - St Stephen, The First Martyr**

8:30 AM	† Dorothy McLaughlin, by Fr Don McLaughlin
4:00 PM	<b>Vigil - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>
	† Austin Chase, by Roy Saurer
	† Pete Reiter, by Tim & Diane Reiter

**Sunday, December 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

8:00 AM	† Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
	† Sister Thoma Miller, by Mark & Amy Miller
10:00 AM	† Jim & Barbara DeZellar
	† Mary Cullotta, by Family
12:00 PM	Int Joselito & Aurora Garrido
5:30 PM	† Elizabeth Irefo, by Family

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL LAMPS**

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

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The Poor              | 9. The Feldman Family      |
| 2. The Sick              | 10. Peace                  |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos       | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Diane Pazos           | 12. Helen Joseph           |
| 5. Karin & Bryan Lange   | 13. Thomas Sterling        |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Jim & Barbara DeZellar |
| 7. The Lonely            | 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.*

**We remember in prayer those in service to our country**

TSgt Leah Harvey, USAF  
 Airman Melanie Hodges, US Navy  
 Nicholas Laurie, US Marines  
 SSG Sean Murphy, USMC  
 Capt. Tara Trammell, US Army  
 Roberto Ramos, US Army  
 Lt. Joshua Pucas, US Navy  
 SSG Gina Maro, USAF  
 Juan Gabriel Sindac, USAF  
 Aaron Godinez, US Marines  
 SPC Mason Webber, US Army  
 LC/Cpl Ryan Ludwig, US Marines  
 Capt. Brian Strohmaier, US Army  
 Elizabeth Pattermann, US Marine  
 Ensign Marion Eunece Bautista, US Navy  
 SSG Karla Venegas, US Army  
 SSG Jeremy Norris, US Army  
 Capt. Carmen Lockett, US Army

**LIVE STREAMED MASSES**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00AM, Wednesday 12PM, Saturday 8:30AM, Sunday 10:00AM  
 Monday Spanish Mass 6:30PM

**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  
 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  
 La Moua

Valerie Plesha  
 Hedy Sterling  
 Diane Pazos  
 Diane Singer  
 Joyce Craig  
 John Swanston  
 Robert Ciulla  
 Bridget Garry  
 David Bakke

Bill Morse  
 Nancy Higgins  
 Marilyn Reich  
 Helen Joseph  
 Antoinette Humanski  
 Alice Toschak  
 William Gardaphe  
 Allene Doddali  
 Mary Dunbar

*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!

Durante la temporada de Adviento/Navidad, la compañía que publica nuestro boletín dominical tiene fechas límite anticipadas de lo habitual para enviarles el boletín semanal para su impresión. Como tal, estoy escribiendo el artículo del 20 de diciembre de hoy, el 8 de diciembre, una semana antes de la fecha límite normal. También lo escribo mientras me recupero de mi cirugía inesperada del 3 de diciembre para extirpar cálculos biliares y mi vesícula biliar. ¡Un poco preocupante en medio de una pandemia!

¡Y así, en este 4<sup>o</sup> cuarto domingo de Adviento, estamos a 5 días de la celebración de la Navidad! Y qué celebración diferente será para todos nosotros este año debido a la pandemia del COVID-19. Esto me lo recordó hoy cuando recibí un correo electrónico de amigos en Wheaton donde pasé la Navidad los últimos 19 años informándome que decidieron no celebrar la cena anual conmigo y otras tres familias que tradicionalmente han venido a su casa en Navidad. ¡Qué pena! Estoy seguro que muchos de ustedes están experimentando lo mismo de varias maneras. Para algunos, ni siquiera se siente como Navidad. ¿Pero saben qué? ¡Estoy bien con eso, e incluso espero con ansias esta Navidad solo (con el perro)! ¡Por favor, no fiestas de lástima! Sé que muchos de ustedes me invitarían a cenar a su casa y se los agradezco. Pero esta Navidad VA A SER DIFERENTE, ¡quizás incluso una gran Navidad! ¿Por qué? La respuesta está en un video de YouTube que encontré el día antes de escribir este artículo. Entonces, si te sientes mal por la Navidad de este año, me gustaría que vieras este video de 8 minutos y 30 segundos.

Vayan a YouTube y busquen "This Could Actually be a Great Christmas" ("Esta Podría ser Realmente una Gran Navidad") del Padre Casey Cole OFM. ¡Este joven sacerdote da una reflexión profunda que me sacó de esta Navidad posiblemente deprimente a una que podría ser genial!

¡Así que, estaré bien! Después de todas las Misas de Navidad, y aún recuperándome de la cirugía, sé que estaré exhausto y espero con ansias acomodarme para una larga siesta invernal en el sillón reclinable junto a la chimenea de gas con Chardonnay (el perro) en mi regazo y quizás también con una copa. ¡Y mis amigos de Wheaton también me traerán la cena! ¡La vida y la Navidad, a pesar de la pandemia, son grandiosas!

El Padre James, nuestros Diáconos y esposas, y todo el personal de nuestra parroquia les desean una Navidad muy bendecida. En medio de los desafíos de nuestro tiempo, la verdad no ha cambiado: ¡Dios está con nosotros!

¡Feliz Navidad!

*Padre Don*

## CAMBIA NUESTRAS VIDAS

Las cartas de Pablo a los tesalonicenses están entre sus primeros escritos movidos por su creencia, y la creencia de la comunidad de la Iglesia joven, de que el retorno de Cristo era inminente, y que dedicar tiempo y atención a otras cosas era tontería.

Con el paso del tiempo este fervor disminuyó un poco. Hoy, cuando escuchamos sobre la llegada del fin de los tiempos, podemos preguntarnos si la tenemos que tomar en serio, si es que realmente creemos que Cristo todavía puede venir por nosotros como "un ladrón en la noche" (1 Tesalonicenses 5:2). ¿Significa esto que debemos ponerle un paro a establecer metas a largo plazo, despojarnos de nuestros calendarios y agendas anuales, dejar de ahorrar para una educación universitaria? Por supuesto que no. Lo que significa es que necesitamos cambiar nuestra vida, vivir como hijos de la luz e ir iluminando el mundo que nos rodea con la luz del Evangelio. Entonces, en aquél día, cuando los detalles de nuestra vida diaria se tornen poco importantes, estaremos listos para encontrar nuestra paz y seguridad en Cristo Jesús. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Ap 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Sal 1:1-4, 6; Lc 18:35-43  
 Martes: Ap 3:1-6, 14-22; Sal 15 (14):2-5; Lc 19:1-10  
 Miércoles: Ap 4:1-11; Sal 150:1b-6; Lc 19:11-28, O (para la memoria de la Dedicación) Hch 28:11-16, 30-31; Sal 98 (97):1-6; Mt 14:22-33  
 Jueves: Ap 5:1-10; Sal 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lc 19:41-44  
 Viernes: Ap 10:8-11; Sal 119 (118):14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lc 19:45-48  
 Sábado: Ap 11:4-12; Sal 144 (143):1b, 2, 9-10; Lc 20:27-40  
 Domingo: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Sal 23 (22):1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

December 20, 2020

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 | Rom 16:25-27 | Lk 1:26-38

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

During Advent, we await the One who is perfect grace, light, and joy. The Christ Child's arrival during a time when darkness has been increasing each day, and our anticipation of that arrival, emphasize his salvific role. For if even the smallest light is a glimmer of hope in the night, how much more is Christ's perfect and all-consuming light a life-saving flare in the darkness of sin and death. As we hear the angel Gabriel say of Christ, in his visitation to Mary: "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High ... and of his kingdom there will be no end." Emmanuel, God with us, is the reason for our hope, and the reason for our joy.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I don't know about you, but despite my best intentions, I have been known to get a little swallowed up in the commercialism of Christmas. But this last week of Advent feels like a chance to reorder my mind and heart. One way to do this is by focusing on the "O Antiphons," prayed during the Church's evening prayer from December 17-23. Each antiphon begins with the word "O," and is followed by a title for the Messiah, found in Scripture, and a petition for him to come and save his people. Although this may sound overly complicated, you most likely know of these without realizing it: they have been transposed into the verses of the hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. Today's first reading speaks of David, who thought he could build a place for God to dwell, but he can't. Instead, for us, whom God created and fashioned in his own image, God created a dwelling for his Son, so that he might enter into our human history as one of us; and in doing so, dwell among us and within us forever. Come, Lord Jesus.

**INVITE** When lighting the final candle on your Advent wreath, invite your family to help you make the prayer interactive. Focus on the lesser-known verses of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, such as the one below - it is an ancient prayer still very relevant today.

*O King of the Nations*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us our King of Peace.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

## Making Christmas Bright

Dear Families,

Your Christmas gift donations to children and youth in need filled several tables! Not pictured are boxes of NEW sets of pajamas, socks, boots, gloves and hats. What a generous outpouring of love!! Because we could do this together, the joy of the Christ-child will enter the hearts of many young people.



And through the Angel Giving Program your generous donations helped many families in need. Gift cards and monetary donations were sent to Mutual Ground, Breaking Free, Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and OLM's Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

God bless you and thank you for sharing  
in the Season of Giving!!!

This Christmas, may you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the jubilation of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

*Fr. Don, Fr. James, and the OLM Staff*





**Online Sign-Up for Faith Conversations,**

**LIGHT Mini-Courses and Discipleship Projects is now open!** Check it out on the LIGHT webpage.

**Confirmation Letter of Intent** (for those teens who have or will have completed the requirements by June 2021) are asked to fill out and return a Letter of Intent. These will be available on the LIGHT webpage starting January 1, 2021.

**Parent Volunteers needed** to help with LIGHT mini-courses and check-in teens on Sunday mornings and evenings. If you can help, please sign-up on the mini-course sign-up page.

Register for LIGHT, EDGE and R.E. online! Go to our LIGHT webpage for the details and the link: <https://olmercy.com/formation/light/>



**Online Sign-Up for Faith Conversations, LIGHT Mini-Courses and Discipleship Projects is now open!**

Check it out on the LIGHT webpage.

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## PASTORAL CARE

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

As you light the fourth candle on your Advent wreath, the purple candle is lit that represents peace. It is called the “Angel’s Candle” as a reminder of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.” May your heart and mind be filled with peace, joy, faith and hope – prepared for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day!

### Blue Christmas

The holiday season is one of happiness and celebration. But not for everyone. The holiday season is difficult for those whose hearts are hurting from experiencing the death of a loved one, facing life after a divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with an illness or dealing with the challenges of the pandemic. The pain and loss that some people are experiencing may be why they are saying that this year is a “Blue Christmas.”

A spiritual time is being offered for reflection, a time to learn from others, a time to accept where we are and a time to experience hope and healing. A sacred space and time will be offered for a virtual gathering on Monday, December 21 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on ZOOM facilitated by Jolene LeRoy RN Faith Community Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care. Please reach out to Jolene to register for the gathering or for more details at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com) or 331-707-5380.

### The Gift of Presence

Christmas is a time to reflect on what the gift of presence means. God gave the gift of himself, the gift of his presence in the person of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are called to accept and appreciate the gift of God’s presence in our lives. This means developing a relationship with Jesus and staying close to Him during our life.

The Lord calls us to give the gift of our presence to others. Our presence is the best gift that we can give to people. It is a gift that can only be given in the way that we can give it. When we are with others, the gift of presence involves active listening and giving our full, undivided attention. It may mean putting the cell phone away, sitting still, not looking at the time and listening more, talking less. It is living in the moment, not in the past or the future. It is being intentional. Giving someone our presence may provide healing. The gift of presence involves being fully awake and impacting the moment. The gift of presence does not come in a box and it cannot be opened – it just is.

This Christmas and as we enter a new year, reflect on how you are living your life. Are you aware of the presence of the Divine within you whether you are being the gift of presence for someone else or being offered the gift of presence from someone else? As we navigate our lives through the challenges of the pandemic, we find that things that once were a priority have changed. Think about ways that you may be a gift of presence to others especially to those who are lonely and isolated. Let’s remember that the best gift of presence for all of us will be found in the manger on Christmas – our Lord, Jesus Christ!

### Pastoral Care Needs

If you are in the need of support, resources or spiritual care, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Faith Community Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care at 331-707-5380 or at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com). Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

**JUSTICE & PEACE  
MINISTRY**

Thank you to all who have donated toiletry items in the past for the “Blessing Bags” that we assemble. Hundreds of bags have been distributed in the past year, providing homeless persons on the street, as well as in shelters, with needed items that not only allow them to take care of their daily needs to keep clean/healthy but also assure them that someone cares. This gives them hope. Please keep all who are homeless, especially during the Covid pandemic in the cold winter months, in your prayers. During the Christmas season let us recall the place of Jesus’ birth, in a cold stable and the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt to escape the danger of Herod’s edict. Pray for refugees, asylum seekers, and all migrants around the world and those who are homeless or lacking safe permanent housing. May they be welcomed and cared for.

Although not many people are traveling, we continue to collect hotel size shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, soap and toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, feminine products, deodorant, combs, wash cloths, socks and granola bars. In the winter months we also accept hats and gloves. A container for donations can be found in this PLC lobby near the desk.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

Questions? Contact Chris Harvey at [chrisharvey@olmercy.com](mailto:chrisharvey@olmercy.com).

Thank you.

**Blue Christmas**  
A Virtual Service of Healing

Feeling blue due to the loss of a loved one, divorce, job loss or challenges of the pandemic? You are invited to a virtual gathering of reflection & support on Monday, December 21st from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via ZOOM. Please email Jolene LeRoy RN at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com) to register.

*Registration Required  
(Links go live 12/14)*

**Christmas Eve**  
**Thursday**  
**Dec 24**  
3PM  
5PM  
7PM  
9PM  
**12AM MIDNIGHT MASS**

**Christmas Day**  
**Friday**  
**Dec 25**  
7AM  
9AM  
11AM  
1PM

*Come thou long expected  
Jesus*

**Vigil of Mary**  
**Thursday**  
**Dec 31**  
4pm  
*Mother of God*

**Solemnity of Mary**  
**Friday**  
**January 1**  
9AM & 11AM

**SCHEDULE OF  
UPCOMING  
MASSES**

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON  
CONTINUES WITH THE**

*Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God*

**VIGIL**  
**Thurs Dec 31 @ 4pm**

**SOLEMNITY**  
**Fri Jan 1 @**  
**9am & 11am**





Online Giving is a great way to help your parish staff while supporting Our Lady of Mercy. Signing up is easy! Just go to our church website at [www.olmercy.com](http://www.olmercy.com) and click "Give" located in the menu at the top of the page, then look for the Online Giving logo to get started. If you need assistance, directions can be found on the parish website listed under the Online Giving Link. There is also a help video located on the Online Giving website. It can be found at the top of each page.

*Note: If you are giving online and would no longer like to receive envelopes in the mail, please inform the parish office.*

*Parish Sacrificial Giving*

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 12/06/20)

Actual Year-to-Date Collections:	\$	633,643
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget:	\$	625,600
<b>Amount in Excess of Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,043</b>
12/06/20 Sunday Collection:	\$	35,875
Weekly Sunday Goal:	\$	32,000
<b>Amount in Excess of Goal:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,675</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!!*

**Our Lady of Mercy  
Weekend Masses  
December 26 & 27**

**Father James will be preaching at all Masses.**

Saturday:	4:00p	Fr James Guarascio
Sunday:	8:00a	Fr Don McLaughlin/Dcn Art Tionson
	10:00a	Fr James Guarascio/Dcn Art Tionson
	12:00p	Fr Don McLaughlin/Dcn Tony Leazzo
	5:30p	Fr James Guarascio

*For the Budget Year 2020/21 we have reduced the Parish Sunday goal by 15%, to \$27,200/week, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.*

*This was due in part to the Budget shortfall that we had during the 2019/2020 year.*

**You have donated \$9,525 to the Angel Giving Program through December 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!!!**

Construction loan for building the Parish Life Center

April, 2009	\$1,950,000
October, 2020	\$ 765,997
November, 2020	\$ 755,777

be KIND and MERCIFUL

2020

It is very important that these pledges be paid so that our parish will reach our goal. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the additional funds received will be returned to the parish for our use.

Parish Goal	\$	146,700
Amount Pledged	\$	185,022
Amount Paid	\$	170,488
Remaining Balance	\$	14,534
Rebate Amount	\$	16,652
# of Families Pledged		700

December 7, 2020 - Here's the story, and I'm sticking to it!!

First of all, thanks to OLM parishioners, friends, and all who have sent via various platforms prayers and best wishes for my recovery, and offering to help in any way I need after my most unexpected surgery this past Thursday to remove gall stones and my infected gallbladder. I truly feel your love and support. I especially thank Fr. James for his "stepping up to the plate" to cover the sacramental and spiritual needs of our parishioners. I was touched that Fr. James offered and did stay overnight my first night home (this past Saturday) to be sure I was OK. Thanks also to my staff for taking care of other details and being of assistance. I anticipate being out at least the rest of this week. (I still have a drain in me that needs to be removed). So until that happens, it is true....I'm a pain in the drain!

Many of you know how much I enjoy eating! From gourmet to home-cooked meals brought to the rectory or eaten at your house, to burgers and hot dogs on the grill, and any of the fast-food restaurants around....and don't forget the dessert! If you are tempted to bring me food, **please don't do it!** As any of you who have had your gallbladder removed know, the first several months require slowly getting back to eating and discovering what your body will tolerate and what that it will not. My body will let me know if it doesn't like something I've eaten by giving me diarrhea. The first few weeks are limited to 3 grams of fat in a meal and much smaller portions. No dairy and all sugary treats are out (bye, bye to Christmas cookies this year!) Thankfully the doctors didn't say anything about wine, but I suspect that will be a trial and error too.

This whole episode began last Wednesday evening. I had gone to a local fast food drive-thru to get some dinner before I was going to welcome and say a prayer to kick off the scripture study program on Mary. While I was sitting in the restaurant's parking lot eating, suddenly it felt as if my upper abdomen was being filled with air like a bicycle tire to the point of exploding.

Then as if one of those heavy jackets they put over you to take dental x-rays was placed on top. Getting home, I proceeded to vomit for an hour and a half.

I called my doctor who instructed me to go to the emergency room. (All my doctors are at Northwestern Central DuPage in Winfield). So I drove to the emergency room arriving at 8:45pm. After several tests, it was determined that my gallbladder was the culprit, so I was then given a COVID test (negative) and admitted at 2:15am on Thursday morning. Surgery was at 3:15pm Thursday afternoon, and I came home Saturday.

While this turn of events was unexpected, now that I know what causes gall stones and gallbladder problems (a high-fat diet of greasy fried foods), I am not surprised that this happened. I need to be more intentional about eating properly (I confess, I am a stress eater).

And that is another reason I ask for no food at this time. Five years ago this coming February, I had a kidney removed due to a golf ball size tumor that was cancerous. Thank God, no margins were affected and no other treatment was indicated. But, I am now considered to be in stage III kidney disease and was told to go on a low protein, low sodium, low potassium, dairy-free diet. I have not been very faithful to that!

While you can function with one kidney, you want to treat it well, as you do not want it to go on strike! My gallbladder went on strike and you can live without it, but I need to do a better job with sticking to a healthy diet.

I know many of you would like to help me. Let me get through the fatigue, soreness, and adjusting to uncontrolled bile now dumping into my digestive system before providing me with food.

Again, thanks for the prayers!

- Fr. Don



"The small neat scar was from the surgery. The long jagged scar is where I sneezed."



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Thank you for supporting our parish!!

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**  
Tuesdays 7-8pm. Saturday 9-10am & 1:30-2:30pm.  
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 complete a parent workshop. 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 visiting our website at www.olmercy.com. Click on "New Here" and choose "Join OLM" to fill out the online registration form.

**HOSPITALITY:** At this time Hospitality Sundays have been put on hold due to Covid-19. Please always wear a mask when in the church and Parish Life Center and remember to keep a social distance of at least six feet.

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