



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 Phil Rehmer
Deacon Art Tionson
Deacon Lupe Villarreal

PARISH OFFICE

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday8:00am
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

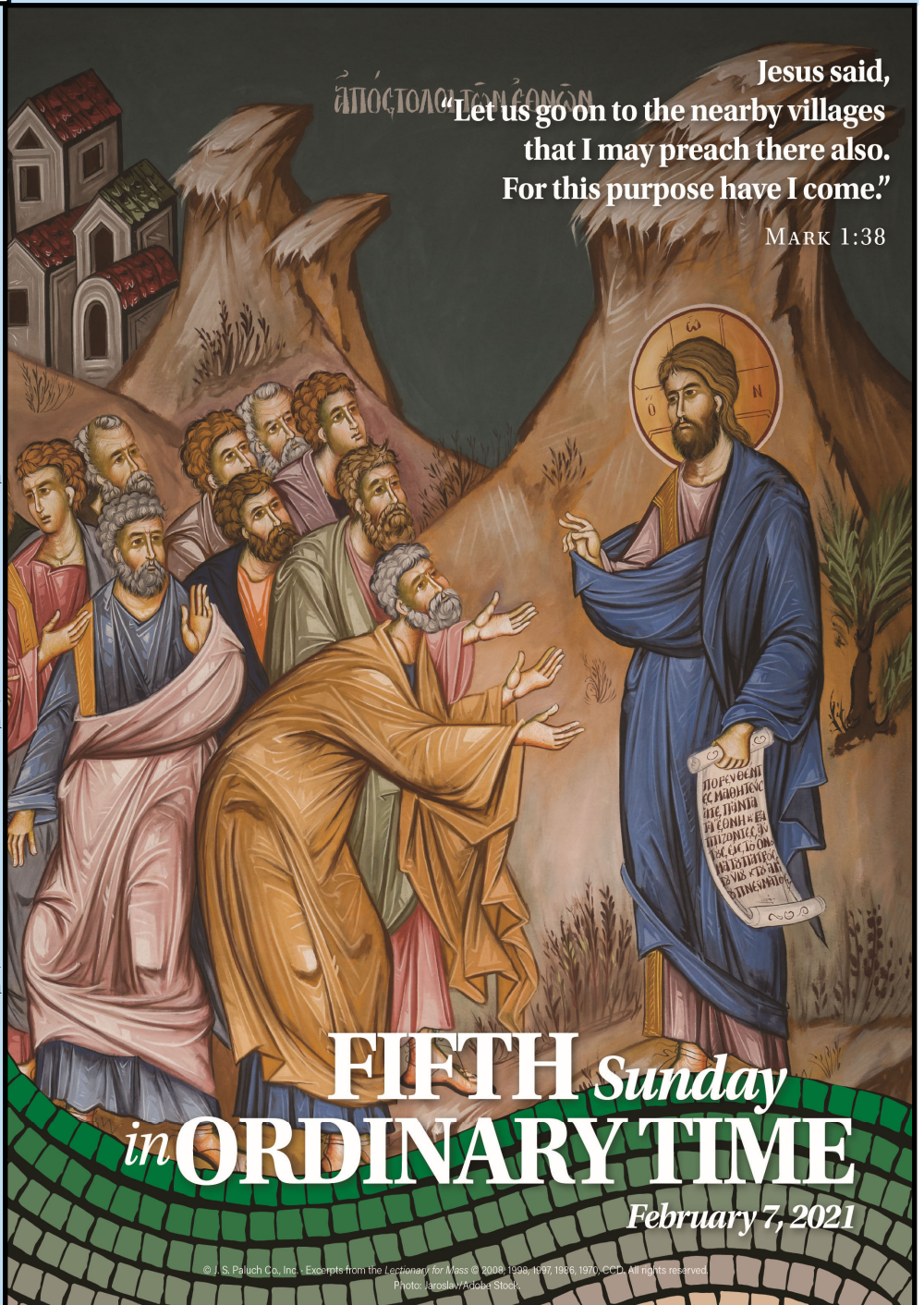
Tuesday.....7:00-8:00pm
Saturday.....9:00-10:00am
1:30-2:30pm
1st Fridays of the Month.....8:30-9:15am
Or by Appointment

PRAYER CHAPEL

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

SEMINARIAN INTERN

Tom Logue



Jesus said,
"Let us go on to the nearby villages
that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come."

MARK 1:38

FIFTH Sunday
in **ORDINARY TIME**

February 7, 2021



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

Why me? That is the universal question everyone asks when faced with suffering! That suffering can be physical with a terminal diagnosis. That suffering can be the loss of a job or home. That suffering can be the emotional pain and grief of losing a loved one or a divorce.

That suffering can be the loss of broken family relationship. The list can go on and on. And "why me" seldom if ever leads to a satisfying answer. And so today we hear of the plight of the Old Testament figure, Job.

At the time of Job, suffering was seen as punishment for sin. It still is by many today. In the time of Job, there was no understanding of an afterlife of happiness, and hence no hope of God's "making it up to you" for suffering. This compounds Job's misery. He has lost the only happiness he thinks possible – in spite of being a good and righteous man. It seemed that God was punishing him for no reason at all.

As Christians, we are taught to live by faith, and usually we do. When doubt casts a shadow over our faith, it's especially unsettling. We feel a second loss – loss of confidence in the faith we counted on. However, doubt IS NOT THE SIGN OF A WEAK FAITH OR A SINFUL SPIRIT. It's NOT an insult to God, nor is it an act of disloyalty. Pope Francis wrote that "trusting in God does not mean never arguing with Him." Thomas Merton wrote, "Faith means doubt. Faith is not the suppression of doubt. It is the overcoming of doubt, and you overcome doubt by going through it." Paul Tillich wrote, "Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element OF faith." In other words, do not doubt that God can handle your doubt, whether occasioned by suffering or by something else.

The valuable question about our personal suffering is not "why?" Instead the valuable and practical question is, "What am I going to do with it?" We can choose the "woe is me" path, or we can choose, like the suffering of Christ himself, to accept and offer our suffering WITH Christ and then our suffering has the power to accomplish good. When suffering comes your way, and it will, pray to God for the grace to offer your sufferings for the good of others.

Today Boy Scout Sunday is celebrated. We look forward to the time when our Cub and Boy Scout Troops sponsored by Our Lady of Mercy can meet again at OLM.

Ash Wednesday is two weeks away. Please remember to pre-register to attend a Mass or Scripture Service. Also, due to COVID, the sign of the cross with ashes will not be traced on your forehead. Instead, ashes will be sprinkled like a "pinch of salt" on top of your head.

Have a blessed week!

PARISH PRIESTS

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SEMINARIAN INTERN

Tom Logue tlogue@rcdoj.org

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Len Eickhoff, Buildings & Grounds
630-631-1676 lene@olmercy.com

*Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions***Monday, February 8 - St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita**

8:00 AM † Robert P Wagner, by Family
 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration
 6:00 PM Benediction
 6:30 PM Spanish Mass † Deceased Preciado Family, by Raul Preciado

Tuesday, February 9 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM † Bob Moran, by Judy Zeno
 6:30 PM † Souls in Purgatory
 7:00-8:00 PM Reconciliation

Wednesday, February 10 - St Scholastica, Virgin

8:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration
 12:00 PM Int Lourdes Indad, by Family

Thursday, February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

6:30 AM † Mary Ann Gurnack, by Nicholas & Camille Hahn
 8:00 AM † Edward & Ida D'Silva, by Maybird D'Silva
 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration
 6:00 PM Benediction

Friday, February 12 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM † Paul Fullmer, by Susan Wagner

Saturday, February 13 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM † Judith Tenebro, by Family
 9:00-10:00 AM Reconciliation
 1:30-2:30 PM Reconciliation
 4:00 PM **Vigil - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 † James W Ray & James W Ray, Jr, by Helean M Ray
 The People of Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday, February 14 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
 10:00 AM † Victoria Tiu Lo, by Elizabeth Lo
 † Barbara Brosnan, by Joan Seifried
 12:00 PM † Nora Caceres, by Family
 5:30 PM † Edward & Ida D'Silva, by Maybird D'Silva

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL LAMPS

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mother Mary | 9. The Feldman Family |
| 2. The Sick | 10. The People of OLM |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Special Intention | 12. Frank Kingsley |
| 5. Susan Mennenga | 13. Thomas Sterling |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Phyllis Anderson |
| 7. Mike & Carole Brogan | 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

We remember in prayer those in service to our country

TSgt Leah Harvey, USAF
 Airman Melanie Hodges, US Navy
 Nicholaus Laurie, US Marines
 SSG Sean Murphy, USMC
 Capt. Tara Trammell, US Army
 Roberto Ramos, US Army
 Lt. Joshua Puscas, US Navy
 SSG Gina Maro, USAF
 Juan Gabriel Sindac, USAF
 Aaron Godinez, US Marines
 SPC Mason Webber, US Army
 LC/Cprl 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
 William Gardaphe

Allene Doddali
 Mary Dunbar
 Frank Kingsley
 Susan Mennenga

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!

¿Por qué yo? ¡Esa es la pregunta universal que todos se hacen cuando se enfrentan al sufrimiento! Ese sufrimiento puede ser físico con un diagnóstico terminal. Ese sufrimiento puede ser la pérdida de un trabajo o de una casa. Ese sufrimiento puede ser el dolor emocional y el dolor de perder a un ser querido o divorciarse. Ese sufrimiento puede ser la pérdida de una relación familiar rota. La lista puede seguir y seguir. Y el "por qué yo" rara vez o nunca conduce a una respuesta satisfactoria. Y así hoy escuchamos sobre la difícil situación de Job, la figura del Antiguo Testamento.

En la época de Job, el sufrimiento se consideraba un castigo por el pecado. Todavía lo es para muchos hoy. En la época de Job, no había comprensión de una vida de felicidad después de la muerte y, por lo tanto, no había esperanza de que Dios "lo compensara" por el sufrimiento. Esto agrava la miseria de Job. Él ha perdido la única felicidad que cree posible, a pesar de ser un hombre bueno y recto. Parecía que Dios lo estaba castigando sin ningún motivo.

Como cristianos, se nos enseña a vivir por la fe, y generalmente lo hacemos. Cuando la duda proyecta una sombra sobre nuestra fe, es especialmente inquietante. Sentimos una segunda pérdida: la pérdida de confianza en la fe con la que contamos. Sin embargo, la duda NO ES EL SIGNO DE UNA FE DÉBIL O UN ESPÍRITU PECADOR. NO es un insulto a Dios ni un acto de deslealtad. El Papa Francisco escribió que "confiar en Dios no significa nunca discutir con Él". Thomas Merton escribió: "Fe significa duda. La fe no es la supresión de la duda. Es la superación de la duda, y la superas al atravesarla". Paul Tillich escribió: "La duda no es lo opuesto a la fe; es un elemento DE la fe". En otras palabras, no duden que Dios puede manejar su duda, ya sea ocasionada por el sufrimiento o por otra cosa.

La pregunta valiosa sobre nuestro sufrimiento personal no es "¿por qué?" En cambio, la pregunta valiosa y práctica es: "¿Qué voy a hacer con esto?" Podemos elegir el camino del "ay de mí", o podemos elegir, como el sufrimiento de Cristo mismo, aceptar y ofrecer nuestro sufrimiento CON Cristo y entonces nuestro sufrimiento tiene el poder de lograr el bien. Cuando el sufrimiento se les presente, y lo hará, oren a Dios por la gracia de ofrecer sus sufrimientos por el bien de los demás.

Hoy se celebra el Domingo de los Boy Scouts. Esperamos con ansias el momento en que nuestras Tropas de Cubs y Boy Scouts patrocinadas por Our Lady of Mercy puedan reunirse nuevamente en OLM.

Faltan dos semanas para el Miércoles de Ceniza. Recuerden pre-inscribirse para asistir a una Misa o Servicio de las Sagradas Escrituras. Además, debido al COVID, la señal de la cruz con cenizas no se trazará en tu frente. En cambio, las cenizas se esparcirán como una "pizca de sal" sobre tu cabeza.

¡Que tengan una bendecida semana!

Padre Tom

LAS BUENAS NOTICIAS

Las lecturas de hoy comienzan con unos versos del libro de Job. En primer lugar, Job se queja de que sus noches se alargan indefinidamente. Y luego, aún peor, "Mis días corren más aprisa que una lanzadera y se consumen sin esperanza" (Job 7:6). No son precisamente alentadoras estas lamentaciones, no cuando se examinan por separado.

La mayoría de nosotros ha estado allí, sin embargo, y el antídoto es la "buena noticia" que Pablo encontró tan convincente que sentía que predicarla "era su obligación. ¡Ay de mí, si no anuncio el Evangelio!" (1 Corintios 9:16). Pablo se sentía impulsado a anunciar el Evangelio a tantos como fuera posible, "para ganarlos a todos" (9:22).

Esta buena noticia era que el misterio de la vida, muerte y Resurrección de Jesucristo, que levantó a la suegra de Simón Pedro de su lecho de enferma con un simple toque de su mano. "Todo el pueblo se apiñó junto a la puerta. Curó a muchos enfermos de diversos males y expulsó a muchos demonios" (Marcos 1:33-34). Nuestros males y demonios son tan reales como los de Job, y Jesús es nuestro salvador. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes:	Gn 1:1-19; Sal 104 (103): 1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mc 6:53-56
Martes:	Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Sal 8:4- 9; Mc 7:1-13
Miércoles:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Sal 104 (103):1-2a, 27-28, 29bc- 30; Mc 7:14-23
Jueves:	Gn 2:18-25; Sal 128 (127): 1-5; Mc 7:24-30
Viernes:	Gn 3:1-8; Sal 32 (31):1-2, 5-7; Mc 7:31-37
Sábado:	Gn 3:9-24; Sal 90 (89):2- 6, 12-13; Mc 8:1-10
Domingo:	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Sal 32 (31):1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mc 1:40-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39

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

I remember taking my oldest son on a tour of a technical theater program at a state university. He had been considering an IT field – he’s everyone’s go-to whenever a technical issue arises. The theater professor said, “Enroll in our program only if you can’t do anything else.” The implication was clear: Choose this field if you love it so much you can’t imagine pursuing a different career. My son tried a more practical direction, but ultimately came back to theater, where he thrived! I thought of this story when listening to Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians: He preached the Gospel because he *had* to – excuse the double negative, but he could not “not” share the Good News with everyone he met! Once he encountered Jesus, he willingly devoted his life to sharing the story of love and salvation with all those whom he encountered – the weak and the powerful, rich and poor, saints and sinners. Let us pray that God helps us recapture the wonder the crowds must have felt in Jesus’ presence – wonder that compels us to share the Good News, too.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Wherever you happen to live, imagine “the whole town gathered at the door.” Even in the smallest of villages, that would be a big deal! So it was with Jesus, where crowds seemed to follow him wherever he went, wanting to catch a glimpse of this carpenter’s son who cured the sick and drove out demons. When the disciples found him off by himself, praying, and told him “everyone is looking for you,” Jesus tells them they need to move on to nearby villages. I sense an urgency in Mark’s account of Jesus’ movements, showing Jesus as compelled to reach as many people as possible during his public ministry. As I hear this, I think how easy it is for us Catholics to remain in our comfort zones – whether a favorite pew, the same core group of “parish friends,” or even sticking with one ministry or one Mass time. But, as Jesus shows us, preaching the Good News – witnessing to the power of God in our lives – means we cannot stand idly by. We must share this news.

WITNESS What if we tried to emulate Jesus, albeit in a small way, by reaching beyond our “circles” to greet someone new at our parish, volunteer for the first time or in a different way, or – yes – sit in a different spot! In doing so, we can challenge ourselves to “stretch” a bit and welcome others into our world.



What if we tried to emulate Jesus, albeit in a small way, by reaching beyond our “circles” to greet someone new at our parish?

ASH WEDNESDAY February 17, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, the Vatican and our Diocese have modified how ashes are to be distributed this year.

You will not receive ashes on your forehead. The minister distributing ashes will come through the pews (as we do for communion) and sprinkle ashes (like a pinch of salt) on top of your head.

The customary formula will be said only once, applying it to all in general.

Ashes are blessed and distributed after the homily at either Mass or a Scripture Service.

Schedule of Services on Ash Wednesday:

Pre-Registration Required – Seating Capacity at Every Mass/Service is 225

6:30am Mass

8:00am Scripture Service

12:00pm Mass (livestreamed with parking lot ashes & communion)

4:30pm Scripture Service (livestream with parking lot ashes)

6:00pm Mass

7:30pm Mass (livestreamed)

LENT GUIDELINES Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois Fast and Abstinence Regulations

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on ***Ash Wednesday*** and all the ***Fridays of Lent***.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast and to abstain on ***Ash Wednesday*** and ***Good Friday***.
3. On ***Ash Wednesday*** and ***Good Friday***, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year; all, in addition to following the Lenten regulations, are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.



EDGE News: The EDGE Night will be Feb. 1st from 6:30-

7:30 pm in the PLC.

Parents are needed to assist with check-in at EDGE nights. Please consider helping with this vital ministry for our young people!

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



Confirmation Letter of Intent information is NOW available. Check the LIGHT

webpage to get your packet! Teens are asked to complete the 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.

Online Sign-Up for Faith Conversations, LIGHT Mini-Courses and Discipleship Projects is now open! Check it out on the LIGHT webpage.

LIGHT Mini-Courses continue for Term #1 in the PLC and Virtually. Check the online sign-up on the LIGHT webpage for more information

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/>

PASTORAL CARE

Open HEARTS Ministry

The ministry focuses on mental and emotional health and wellness. As one of the pastoral care ministries of the parish, the ministry offers Hope, Empathy, Awareness, Renewal, Trust and Support. The ministry has been meeting via ZOOM during the pandemic and hope to meet in-person in February. The next scheduled time to meet is Monday, February 15 at 7:00pm in Room 114. We will wear masks, follow the six-foot distance guideline and have hand sanitizer available. If it is not safe to meet in-person in February, we will meet via ZOOM.

The ministry meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00pm. If you would like to be put on an email list to stay in touch and be up to date on changes in meetings, or be notified about prayer requests, resources workshops or programs, please send an email to Janice Hurtado Aeppli at olmopen-hearts@yahoo.com.

Take Care of Your Heart

Heart disease is a leading cause of death among Americans. One way to lower the risk of getting it or having a stroke is by simply moving more! The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of aerobic activity a week and suggests that as little as 60 minutes a week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity such as walking briskly benefits the heart. If your goal is to achieve 150 minutes a week, then think about 30 minutes of physical activity, five times a week. If you only have 10 minutes at a time, think about walking briskly for five minutes, turning around and walking back or dancing to three of your favorite songs.

Daily heart healthy tips offered this week that you can change or modify to fit your health status, medical conditions or interests are: *Day 8:* Get your blood pressure checked. *Day 9:* Walk an extra 15 minutes today. *Day 10:* Aim for 30 minutes of physical activity today. *Day 11:* Plan your menu for the week with heart-healthy recipes. *Day 12:* Reduce stress through relaxation techniques. *Day 13:* Take the stairs instead of the elevator or park farther away when you go to the store. *Day 14:* Pray for your loved ones with heart-related health issues. Happy Valentine's Day! Remember how much God loves you! Feel God's unconditional love for you! Share God's love with others!

Walking to Jerusalem will begin on February 17! Details coming soon in the next bulletin.

Pastoral Care Needs

For questions or concerns for physical, mental or spiritual health needs, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Faith Community Nurse and Director of Pastoral Car at 331-707-5380 or at jolene-el@olmercy.com.

FEBRUARY 17

A S H
 WEDNESDAY

MASS TIMES 6:30AM 12PM* 6PM 7:30PM** <small>*LIVESTREAMED WITH ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION @ PARKING LOT **LIVESTREAMED</small>	SCRIPTURE SERVICES 8AM, 4:30PM*** <small>***LIVESTREAMED WITH ASHES DISTRIBUTION @ PARKING LOT</small>
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Join
Fr Don's Lenten Study

LIVING YOUR BAPTISM

Wednesdays for 6 weeks starting 2/24th
 7pm - 8:30pm
 In-Person or Online

Register @
WWW.OLMERCY.COM

NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW · NEW

TUESDAYS @ 7PM
IN-PERSON starts 2/16th

details & registration
WWW.OLMERCY.COM/CONSUMINGFIRE



Consuming Fire
YOUNG ADULT GROUP

connect with Mary & Matt for questions rysavyme@gmail.com

VISIT CATHOLICCHARITIESJOLIET.ORG FOR MORE INFO
 No identification or information will be required or collected.
 This is open to anyone in-need of food!

Meat, produce, nonperishable items will be given out



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Wed 2/10
 5pm to 6:30pm

Drive thru distribution of food

Please clear space in your trunk or backseat

Grandparents Ministry



Our Lady of Mercy is forming a Grandparents Ministry to create awareness, encourage and support the vocation of Grandparents to pass on their faith within their families and the Church.

In the words of Pope Francis, “The mission of grandparents is a real and true vocation.”
“Grandparents’ words hold something special for the young. This is how faith is transmitted – through the elders who have made their faith the leaven of their life.”

The ministry consists of Grandparents, which includes Uncles (Gruncles), Aunts (Grauntys), Godparents and others who nurture through love and strong family bonds. All are welcome to this ministry for their key and critical roles in sustaining the family and passing on their faith while keeping prayer at the core.

The ministry will connect Grandparents on a regular basis to focus on prayer and topics of importance to families, the Church and the community; offer educational opportunities; offer opportunities to enrich catechetical life and one’s vocation as a Grandparent and promote ways to serve our parish community through ministry and service.

If you would like more information about the Grandparents Ministry or would like to join, please contact Deacon Tony and Allyson Martini at tonym@olmercy.com or Jolene and Jeff LeRoy at jolenel@olmercy.com.



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 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.

Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses February 13 & 14		
Fr Don - CMAA Pledge Weekend		
Saturday:	4:00p	Fr Don McLaughlin
Sunday:	8:00a	Fr James Guarascio/Dcn Art Tiongson
	10:00a	Fr Don McLaughlin/Dcn Lupe Villarreal
	12:00p	Fr James Guarascio/Dcn Tony Leazzo
	5:30p	Fr Don McLaughlin

Parish Sacrificial Giving

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 01/24/21)

Actual Year-to-Date Collections:	\$	826,323
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget:	\$	816,000
Amount in Excess of Budget:	\$	10,323

01/24/21 Sunday Collection:	\$	26,337
Weekly Sunday Goal:	\$	27,200
Amount Short of Goal:	\$	(863)

Thank you for your generosity!!

Christmas Collection

Actual Collections	\$56,256
Budgeted Collections	\$ 68,000
Amount Short of Budget	\$ (11,744)

Construction loan for building the Parish Life Center

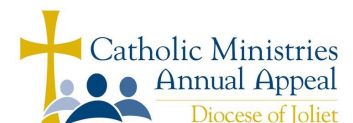
April, 2009	\$1,950,000
November, 2020	\$ 765,997
December, 2020	\$ 755,797

Your gift to the CMAA makes a difference

In an abundance of caution, the opening report for the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) is being delivered directly to your inbox and is also available online at jolietdioceseappeal.org. Please take a moment to read how the 30 ministries supported through our annual appeal truly illustrate this year's theme, *Shining the Light of Christ*, serve our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, and assist parishes, including ours.

Our parish's goal for the 2021 CMAA is \$154,400, with 70 percent of any amount we raise over this goal returned to us for our use. The Diocese of Joliet mailed a packet about the CMAA, including a pledge card, to all registered parishioners in January, and our pastor is sending additional information this month. Please prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's CMAA and return your pledge card or envelope, make a gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text DONATE to (815) 205-1949.

Thank you for considering the most generous pledge possible to this year's annual appeal.



THE GOOD NEWS

Today's readings begin with a few verses from the book of Job. First, Job complains that his nights drag on endlessly. Then, worse yet, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; / they come to an end without hope" (Job 7:6). Not exactly encouraging, these lamentations, not when taken alone.

Most of us have been there, though, and the antidote is the "good news" that Paul found so compelling that "an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul felt driven to announce the gospel to as many people as possible, "to save at least some" (9:22).

This good news is the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lifted Simon Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed with a mere touch of his hand. "The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons" (Mark 1:33-34). Our woes and demons are as real as Job's, and Jesus is our savior. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

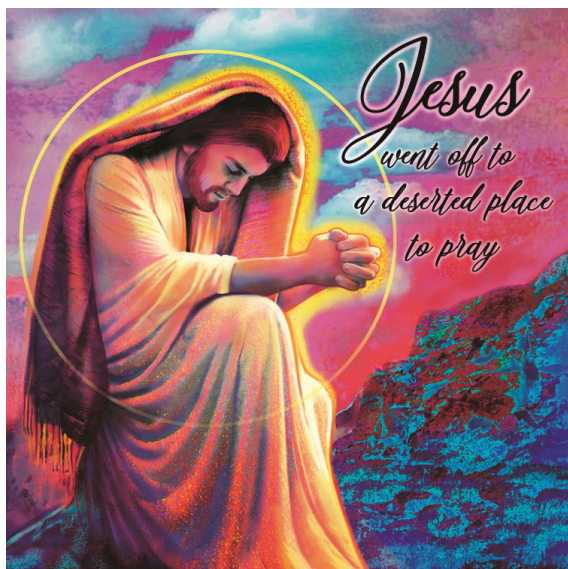
FEAST OF FAITH

The Gloria (1)

The Gloria, or Glory to God, follows the penitential rite. Both are acts of praise. In the penitential rite, we sing of the mercy of Christ. In the Gloria we praise God's saving action in the universe.

The Gloria is a relatively late addition to the Mass. It first appeared in the Roman liturgy in the sixth century, and then it was sung only by the pope—and only on Christmas! With time, the hymn came to be sung by bishops on major feasts, and then by priests; finally, it became the song of the entire assembly. With the advent of more elaborate musical settings, the people gradually stopped singing the Gloria, until this song of the people became the exclusive domain of the priest and the choir. But the liturgical reforms have restored it to its place as primarily the song of the assembly.

The language of the Gloria echoes the New Testament canticles. It may be begun by the priest, the cantor, and the entire assembly in varied combinations. The Gloria is sometimes called the "greater doxology," and in some ways it is like an extended, ecstatic version of the familiar doxology ("Glory be to the Father") prayed in the Divine Office and the rosary. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Job finds life on earth to be drudgery; he is filled with restlessness (Job 7:1-4, 6-7).

Psalm — Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted (Psalm 147).

Second Reading — Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel. I have become all things to all, to save at least some (1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23).

Gospel — Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases (Mark 1:29-39).

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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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