



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

MARCH 14, 2021

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

John 3:14-15



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

Have you noticed? It began on Ash Wednesday. A change in the conclusion of some of the prayers at Mass. I bet you didn't even notice...it's so small. I even wondered why the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments made a big deal of it, and why they didn't catch it before we started using the third translation of the Roman Missal which is a more accurate translation of the Latin, on the First Sunday of Advent 2011. So what's the change? It is in the concluding doxology of the Collects in the Roman Missal and other liturgical books. Most of the prayers conclude with "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **one** God, for ever and ever." Specifically, the Congregation points out that the current translation is incorrect. There is no mention of "one" in the Latin, and that "one" was added when the texts were published in English, after the Second Vatican Council. So, now we conclude with "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever." If you ask me, they must have run out of things to do in Rome!

This coming Friday, March 19th is the Feast of St. Joseph. Pope Francis declared this a year in honor of St. Joseph. At all the Masses the weekend of March 20 & 21, we will recite the Prayer of Consecration to St. Joseph, and you will receive a holy card of St. Joseph as you leave Mass courtesy of Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Home.

Most depictions of St. Joseph show him holding the child Jesus, but sometimes he is depicted holding a church like the statue of him on the wall in our church. This is because St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church. Pope Francis in proclaiming the Year of Saint Joseph wrote: "Saint Joseph was a father in varied ways; beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, working, and 'in the shadows'." Pope Francis concluded his letter with a short prayer to Saint Joseph as a synthesis of his teachings. This prayer will be on the back of the holy card you receive.

In the bulletin today and on our website, you will find a list of what you can do to receive a Plenary Indulgence during the Year of Saint Joseph.

Have a blessed week and Lent!

PARISH PRIESTS

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Tom Logue tlogue@rcdoj.org

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Len Eickhoff, Buildings & Grounds
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*Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions***Monday, March 15 - Lenten Weekday**

8:00 AM † Mary Deborah Green, by Joanne Whetter
 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration
 6:00 PM Benediction
 6:30 PM Spanish Mass Special Intention

Tuesday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM † Jane Spehar, by Dcn Phil & Jean Rehmer
 6:30 PM † Larry Bonafacchi, by Jolene LeRoy
 7:00-8:00 PM Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 17 - St Patrick, Bishop

8:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration
 12:00 PM Gloravette Alegria, by Family

Thursday, March 18 - St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop

6:30 AM † Nathaniel Centeno Jr by Centeno Family
 8:00 AM † Beverly Linden, by Carolyn Kerkla
 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration
 6:00 PM Benediction

Friday, March 19 - St Joseph, Spouse of beloved Mary

8:00 AM † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer

Saturday, March 20 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM † Daniel Riordan, by Katie Dudley
 9:00-10:00 AM Reconciliation
 1:30-2:30 PM Reconciliation
 4:00 PM **Vigil - Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 The People of Our Lady of Mercy
 † Maria Salome Embradura, by Oscar & Lourdes Indad

Sunday, March 21 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
 10:00 AM † Arthur Biegel, by Family
 12:00 PM † Robert P Wagner, by Family
 5:30 PM † Thomas Treacy, by Family

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. Allene Doddoli |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Special Intention | 12. Shirley Wagner |
| 5. Peg Hartnett | 13. Thomas Sterling |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Sharon Spitzer |
| 7. Lowell Cook | 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
 Nicholas 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

Mary Dunbar
 Frank Kingsley
 Susan Mennenga
 Virginia Maher

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!

¿Han notado? Comenzó el Miércoles de Ceniza. Un cambio en la conclusión de algunas de las oraciones de la Misa. Apuesto a que ni siquiera se dieron cuenta... es tan pequeño. Incluso me pregunté por qué la Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos le dio tanta importancia, y por qué no lo captaron antes de que comenzáramos a usar la tercera traducción del Misal Romano, que es una traducción más precisa del Latín, en el Primer Domingo de Adviento del 2011. Entonces, ¿cuál es el cambio? Está en la doxología final de las Oraciones Colectas del Misal Romano y otros libros litúrgicos. La mayoría de las oraciones concluyen con *"Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos"*. Específicamente, la Congregación señala que la traducción actual es incorrecta. No se menciona "un solo" en latín, y ese "un solo" se agregó cuando los textos se publicaron en Inglés, después del Concilio Vaticano II. Entonces, ahora concluimos con *"Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, Dios, por los siglos de los siglos"*. Si ustedes me preguntan, ¡deben haberse quedado sin cosas que hacer en Roma!

El próximo viernes 19 de marzo es la Fiesta de San José. El Papa Francisco declaró este año en honor a San José. En todas las Misas del fin de semana del 20 y 21 de marzo, recitaremos la Oración de Consagración a San José, y recibirán una estampa de San José al salir de la Misa, cortesía de la Funeraria Beidelman-Kunsch.

La mayoría de las representaciones de San José lo muestran sosteniendo al niño Jesús, pero a veces se lo representa sosteniendo una iglesia como la estatua de él en la pared de nuestra iglesia. Esto se debe a que San José es el santo patrón de la Iglesia Universal. El Papa Francisco al proclamar el Año de San José escribió: *"San José fue un padre de diversas maneras; querido, tierno y amoroso, obediente, tolerante, creativamente valiente, trabajador y 'en las sombras' "*. El Papa Francisco concluyó su carta con una breve oración a San José como una síntesis de sus enseñanzas. Esta oración estará en el reverso de la estampa que reciban.

En el boletín de hoy y en nuestro sitio web, encontrarán una lista de lo que pueden hacer para recibir una Indulgencia Plenaria durante el Año de San José.

¡Que tengan una bendecida semana y Cuaresma!

Padre Don

LA MISERICORDIA DE DIOS

La lectura de hoy del libro de las Crónicas contiene una especie de "breve historia" de Israel, que pone de relieve la misericordia de Dios en la elección de Ciro el persa para ser instrumento de liberación cuando el pueblo estaba en cautiverio en Babilonia. A pesar de su pecado y el castigo merecido al que estaban siendo sometidos, la misericordia de Dios se prodigó en el pueblo en forma de un acto milagroso de liberación.

La Carta a los Efesios, en términos mucho más teológicos, da una versión similar de un Dios "que nos dio la vida con Cristo y en Cristo [y] por pura generosidad suya, hemos sido salvados". El autor hace hincapié en que era cuando estábamos "muertos por nuestros pecados" que Dios nos salvó, un acto de pura gracia. Hace hincapié en que no es nuestro propio esfuerzo que nos ha liberado del pecado ("esto no se debe a ustedes mismos"); sino que "es un don de Dios". Esto, por supuesto, es el corazón de todos los escritos paulinos, que la salvación nos llega por la fe en la misericordia de Dios, revelado en la muerte de Jesús.

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LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

- Lunes: Is 65:17-21; Sal 30 (29):2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
 Martes: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Sal 46 (45):2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
 Miércoles: Is 49:8-15; Sal 145 (144):8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
 Jueves: Ex 32:7-14; Sal 106 (105):19-23; Jn 5:31-47
 Viernes: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a o Lc 2:41-51a
 Sábado: Jer 11:18-20; Sal 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
 Domingo: Jer 31:31-34; Sal 51 (50):3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
 Lecturas alternativas (Año A): Ez 37:12-14; Sal 130 (129):1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]



Mass Times for
PALM SUNDAY
 Saturday 3/27
4PM
 Sunday 3/28
8am, 10am*, 12PM,
*LIVEStream
5:30PM

confession
RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13,
 3/20, 3/27, 4/3
 9AM-10AM
 1:30PM-2:30PM

TUESDAYS 2/23, 3/2, 3/9,
 3/16, 3/23
 7PM-8PM

FIRST FRIDAY 3/4
 8:30AM-9:30AM

LAST CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER SUNDAY 3/28 4PM - 5:30PM
 TUESDAY 3/30 8:30AM - 10AM & 7PM - 9PM



"Do not be afraid of Confession"
 -Pope Francis



stations of the
CROSS
FRIDAYS DURING LENT

7PM in English | 12PM in Spanish



OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lent

Find encouragement, some resources,
 the Lenten (and Holy Week) schedule for these 40 days

WWW.OLMERCY.COM/LENT2021

March 14, 2021

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 | Eph 2:4-10 | Jn 3:14-21

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

We all have mementoes that we treasure – a handmade Mother’s Day card, a delicate glass sculpture inherited from a relative, perhaps a fine piece of woodwork or beautifully woven quilt. We treasure them because they remind us of someone we love. Now, think about that we are God’s “handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance”! Our God, rich in mercy, rich in love, treasures us so much that he created each of us in his image and gives each of us grace – a pure, free gift. As we look in the mirror, we may be tempted to see only our imperfections. But Paul reminds us that if we look at ourselves the way God does and accept the gift of his love and grace, and cooperate with it working in us, we can live in Christ in the here and now, by extending love and mercy to others, and in eternity, in God’s loving embrace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading the news and social media, the phrase in today’s Gospel that “people preferred darkness to light” seems as true now as it was in John’s time. Sinfulness and evil still cause great harm in our societies. The good news is that it is also as true for us as it was then that God sent his only Son, “not ... to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” Clearly, the world is a work in progress. We are a work in progress. Yet today’s readings remind us that we can choose light over darkness by accepting the gift of faith and grace that our patient and merciful God bestows on us. It doesn’t mean that we should turn off the news or hide from the world, but instead do our part to bring light to the situations we encounter. We know the kingdom of God won’t be built in a day, or even a millennium, but we take a step toward building the Kingdom when we allow God’s light to enter our hearts and then share that light with others through our witness, words, and prayer.

GIVE Choose light! Respond to a troubling event in your community or state by seeking a concrete way to help – donate to a local Catholic Charities or relief organization, or contact your parish about possibly organizing a donation effort.

In Honor of St. Joseph on His Feast Day, March 19

What is the story behind the St. Joseph Altar Table?

The people of Sicily prayed. For too long there had been no rain to nourish the crops that sustained life for most of the island. The dried-out wheat stalks cracked beneath the feet of the poor farmers as they walked through their barren fields. Only a sea of dust and withered vines remained from what had once been row upon row of brightly colored fruits and vegetables. And so, the people prayed.

They pleaded to St. Joseph, their patron, for relief from the famine that gripped the island. At last, the skies opened, sending down the life-giving water. The people rejoiced. Sometime later, to show their gratitude, they prepared a table with a special assortment of foods they had harvested. After paying honor to St. Joseph, they distributed the food to the less fortunate.

The first St. Joseph Altar set up on the Island of Sicily was a small one, of course. But as time went on and the tradition took hold, the flamboyant nature and creative spirit of the Italians caused the altars to grow larger and more ornate.

Though Sicilian immigrants introduced the custom to America, the celebration is not confined to any nationality. It has become a public event and a source of petition and thanksgiving. It is common to hear stories about favors received (a loved one's recovery from an illness, for example), which are in turn attributed to the family's dedication to St. Joseph.

St. Joseph's Feast Day is a tradition that centers on the entire family. One of the special customs calls for the selection of children to portray members of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Angels and favorite saints may also be included in the ritual, which begins with the "saints" going door to door to seek help until finally reaching the place where the altar is on display.

After the Holy Family has eaten, guests may partake of the meal. Most of the foods presented on the altar are acquired through begging, a symbolic gesture that represents what the poor of Sicily were forced to do. When the feast is over, the remaining food and whatever money has been contributed are given to the poor.

Whether a St. Joseph Altar is an elaborate display at an elegant church or a humble table in a modest home, it is noted as a deep devotion to St. Joseph, the patron of those in need—workers, travelers, the persecuted, the poor, the aged, the dying.



Photo Credit: Linda Eickhoff

After many centuries, the St. Joseph Altar still serves as a reminder that those who have enjoyed some measure of good fortune must share it with those who have less.

During this Year of St. Joseph and especially during the month of his feast day, go to virtualstjosephaltar.com. There, you will find prayers, crafts for the kids, and a 2021 St. Joseph Virtual Altar to celebrate this Patron Saint of Families.



EDGE Nights are meeting In-Person! Our 6th, 7th and 8th graders are meeting in the Parish Life Center twice a month on Monday nights from 6:30-7:30pm. Please see the EDGE webpage for more details. **Upcoming EDGE Nights: March 22, April 12 & 26.**

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 are still being accepted!

We will still accept Letters of Intent for high school teens who would like to enter the Sacrament of Confirmation preparation program. Please see the LIGHT webpage for the information and packet.

LIGHT “Basics of the Faith” Mini-Courses have openings for Term #3. Please see the LIGHT webpage for more information and sign-up.

Faith Conversations for Teens: Any high school teen interested in being a part of the Sacrament of Confirmation preparation program will need a Faith Conversation with a Faith Mentor. Please see the details on our webpage or contact Jean or Dave in the youth ministry office.

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

As one of the pastoral care ministries of the parish, the ministry focuses on mental and emotional health and wellness. HEARTS stands for what the ministry offers: Hope, Empathy, Awareness, Renewal, Trust and Support.

The next scheduled in-person gathering is Monday, March 15 at 7:00pm in Room 114 in the Parish Life Center. We will share a reflection and discussion on forgiveness and how it impacts our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. We will follow the COVID-19 protocols of wearing masks, following the six-foot distance guidelines and using hand sanitizer. If you would like to receive emails about the ministry, resources or programs, please send an email to Janice Hurtado Aeppli at olmopenhearts@yahoo.com.

Walking to Jerusalem

Thank you to those who have reported their miles for week two from February 24 to March 2. Twenty-one participants reported their miles and as of March 5, we have accumulated 2,309.25 miles. We are getting closer! In order for us to reach Jerusalem, we need 3,905.75 miles. Not everyone has reported at the time of the bulletin, so the miles may be more. Once we reach Jerusalem, hope we accumulate enough miles to come back to Aurora. Praying that your Lenten journey is bringing you closer to the Lord.



Plan Ahead to Eat Healthy

The focus for week two of *National Nutrition Month*® includes the following suggestions. Plan your meals each week. Use a grocery list to shop for healthful foods. Be menu-savvy when dining out or ordering take-out. Choose healthful recipes to make during the week. Fuel for each day with a healthy breakfast. Enjoy healthful snacks.

Consider some of the following smart-snacking tips. Make a quesadilla with a corn or whole-wheat tortilla, sprinkle low-fat shredded cheese in the tortilla, fold it in half and microwave for twenty seconds. Top with salsa. Spread hummus on a tortilla. If you like lemon flavor, you might like to try lemon hummus. Top the hummus with a slice of turkey or ham, shredded low-fat cheese, shredded cabbage or shredded carrots. Roll it up and enjoy. Bake homemade chewy granola bars using whole-grain oats and dried fruit or try making no bake date energy balls.

Some ideas for healthy breakfast ideas are as follows. Make a breakfast smoothie with low-fat milk, frozen strawberries and a banana. Stuff a whole-wheat pita with a sliced, hard-cooked egg and low-fat shredded cheese with some vegetables. Spread a flour tortilla with peanut butter or almond butter, add a whole banana and roll it up. Top a toasted whole-grain English muffin with lean ham and a slice of low-fat cheese. Use your creativity to add fruit and vegetables to your meals. You can add more fiber, omega-3, and protein to your diet by adding flaxseed and chia seeds. For more ideas to eat healthy, look at www.eatright.org and www.kidseatright.org.

Pastoral Care

If you need assistance with navigating the COVID-19 vaccination registration, need assistance with grocery shopping or have other needs, please know that your faith community is here for you. For physical, emotional, spiritual and mental health concerns, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Director of Pastoral Care at jolenel@olmercy.com or call 331-707-5380.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL
CLOTHING DRIVE
March 20 & 21**

Items can be dropped off:

- Saturday March 20 -15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the 4:00 PM mass
- Sunday March 21 -15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the 8:00 AM mass
- Sunday March 21 -15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the 10:00 AM mass
- Sunday March 21 - 15 minutes before the 12 noon mass (The truck will be picked up shortly after noon so it likely will not be there after the noon mass)

No baby equipment such as cribs, walkers, strollers, playpens, etc. **ALL BABY CLOTHES ACCEPTED! SORRY NO TELEVISIONS.**

For furniture and large item donations please call 630-231-4658 to schedule a home pickup or email us at – saintvincentdonate@gmail.com.

Thanks for your generous
donations!



Easter Flower Offerings

This Easter we will decorate the church with lilies around the altar. If you would like to make a gift towards the flowers please go to our website at www.olmercy.com and click on "Give" and log into Online Giving and choose "Flowers:".

If you wish to memorialize your loved ones you can add their names in the Comments section.

The recommended donation is \$10.00.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make our church beautiful during the Easter season.



**Knights News:
*Knights of Columbus Council 12005***

Mobile Food Pantry: Even with the Pandemic, your council has continued to be active in our community. In conjunction with Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Robert H. Weaver Council 12005 has been sponsoring a Mobile Food Pantry once a month since August right here in our parking lot. In that span we have assisted well over 1,000 families with much needed staple food supplies. We have had a lot of help from other groups in the Parish like the Fit Sheppard's and several of the ministries. Thanks to all who have recently been braving the extreme cold to help out!! We will continue until at least June to provide this service.

2021 College Scholarship Program: We are proud to announce that we will again be offering our College Scholarship Program to both graduating High School Seniors and Students who are completing their first year of College. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to offer the program last year so we are opening it up to students who are completing their first year of studies this year. To apply for the Scholarships, go to the knights of Columbus link on the OLM Website and download the forms needed. All applications will be due back not later than Saturday June 19th. Scholarship award amounts will be paid directly to your college.

Thinking of becoming a Knight? You can join for free between now and the end of the year. It will only take 30 minutes of your time and you can become part of the largest Catholic Men's service organization in the world. We need you! For information reach out to Jeff LeRoy, Grand Knight, at jleroy53@hotmail.com or call 630-336-7728.



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 March 20 & 21 Fr Don will preach at 10:00 Fr James will preach at 4:00, 8:00, 12 & 5:30	
Saturday:	4:00p Fr James Guarascio
Sunday:	8:00a Fr Don McLaughlin/Dcn Art Tionson
	10:00a Fr Don McLaughlin/Dcn Art Tionson
	12:00p Fr James Guarascio/Dcn Lupe Villarreal
	5:30p Fr James Guarascio/Dcn Tony Leazzo

Parish Sacrificial Giving

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 02/21/21)

Actual Year-to-Date Collections: \$ 934,202
 Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget: \$ 924,800
Amount in Excess of Budget: \$ 9,402

02/21/21 Sunday Collection: \$ 24,123
 Weekly Sunday Goal: \$ 27,200
Amount Short of Goal: \$ (3,077)

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 02/28/21)

Actual Year-to-Date Collections: \$ 960,103
 Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget: \$ 952,000
Amount in Excess of Budget: \$ 8,103

02/28/21 Sunday Collection: \$ 25,901
 Weekly Sunday Goal: \$ 27,200
Amount Short of Goal: \$ (1,299)

Thank you for your generosity!!



Thank you to everyone who has already pledged a gift to the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Every gift, large or small, brings us closer to our parish's 2021 CMAA goal of \$154,400.

If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support the CMAA. If we raise more than our goal, 70 percent of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our use. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Our pastor recently mailed a pledge envelope to everyone in our parish. Please either return it, or the pledge card you received from the diocese, in the mail. You may also make a secure gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text DONATE to (815) 205-1949.

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
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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.

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

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1st Friday of the Month

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