



# 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 Tiongsom  
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-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

## SEMINARIAN INTERN

Tom Logue

MARCH 21, 2021

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# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat;  
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.*

John 12:24



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

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we enter the last full week of Lent. Next weekend is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Lent ends when we start the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, this year on April 1. It is time to reflect on how well we have done with our resolutions for this Lent. If not so well, perhaps a prayer St. Augustine recited resonates with our experience: *"Grant me chastity and self-control, but please not yet"* (*Confessions 8.7.17*). This prayer probably resonates with some of us. We admire goodness and righteousness. We respect them and aspire to them, but we also enjoy our faults. If they weren't enjoyable, we wouldn't keep kicking the proverbial can down the road! Perhaps the title of St. Augustine's "Confessions" should be re-titled: "The Procrastination of Perfection!" With Augustine, we pray for conversion from our sins, but *not yet*.

In our First Reading today from the Prophet Jeremiah, there is an astounding message to the people of Israel who kept breaking their covenant with God time and time again. Jeremiah proclaims that God is going to make a new covenant: *"All, from least to greatest, shall know me...for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more."* This is great news for those who truly desire conversion and salvation. For those of us who relish our sins, however, it is unnerving. We do not wish to be made perfect *yet*. Just a bit longer. That's all we ask, right? But, as Jesus answers in the gospel reading, "The hour has come." During this final week of Lent before Palm Sunday, may we not kick the can any further down the road! Instead, be reconciled to God, go to confession, and pray for a clean heart! The last confessions before Easter are: Tuesday, March 23 – 7pm to 8pm; Saturday, March 27 – 9am to 10am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm; Sunday, March 28 – 4pm to 5:30pm; Tuesday, March 30 – 8:30am to 10am and 7pm to 9pm.

May I ask for your prayers on Thursday, March 25. I will be having surgery to remove part, or all of my thyroid. Medical tests I had in December when I had my gallbladder removed, and tests subsequent to that, indicate that I have nine granulomas in my lungs that are not cancerous and do not need to be treated. Two of the granulomas, one being the largest at 3cm, are in my thyroid and causing problems. So, part or all of my thyroid needs to be removed. Because this surgery requires general anesthesia, I will be in the hospital overnight and discharged the next day. I should be just fine, I better be! As I am preaching all the Masses Palm Sunday weekend, March 27 & 28.

Have a blessed last full week of Lent!

**PARISH PRIESTS**

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## Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

### Monday, March 22 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM † Christine Holbrook, by Family  
 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration  
 6:00 PM Benediction  
 6:30 PM Spanish Mass † Elena DeVarela, by Family

### Tuesday, March 23 - St Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:00 AM † Maria Salome Embradura, by Oscar & Lourdes Indad  
 6:30 PM † Andrew Toschak, by Family  
 7:00-8:00 PM Reconciliation

### Wednesday, March 24 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration  
 12:00 PM † Bill Rigby, by Judy Zeno

### Thursday, March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

6:30 AM † Departed Souls  
 8:00 AM † Kathryn Martini, by Philip Barnum  
 8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration  
 6:00 PM Benediction

### Friday, March 26 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM † Joan Weingartz, by Dorothy Horton

### Saturday, March 27 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM † Alice Toschak, by Pat & Al Pate  
 9:00-10:00 AM Reconciliation  
 1:30-2:30 PM Reconciliation  
 4:00 PM **Vigil - Palm Sunday**  
 † Dcn Bob Vavra, by Dcn Phil & Jean Rehmer

### Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

8:00 AM † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family  
 † Roland Vercillo, by Mary Houdek  
 10:00 AM † Paulus Khim, by Muliando Chua  
 12:00 PM † Alfonso, Sr & Estela Ramirez, by Family  
 5:30 PM † Alan Gustaitis, by Roberta Wells

## 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. George Lange           |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos       | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Special Intention     | 12. Joseph F. Kubicki      |
| 5. David Freeman         | 13. Thomas Sterling        |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Fr. Don McLaughlin     |
| 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 Chapel.*

## 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

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!

En este Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma, entramos en la última semana completa de Cuaresma. El próximo fin de semana es el Domingo de Ramos, el inicio de la Semana Santa. La Cuaresma termina cuando damos inicio a la Misa de la Cena del Señor la noche del Jueves Santo, este año el 1 de abril. Es hora de reflexionar sobre lo bueno que hemos hecho con nuestras resoluciones para esta Cuaresma. Si no fue tan bien, tal vez una oración que recitó San Agustín resuena con nuestra experiencia: *"Concédeme castidad y dominio propio, pero por favor todavía no"* (Confesiones 8.7.17). Esta oración probablemente resuena en algunos de nosotros. Admiramos la bondad y la rectitud. Las respetamos y aspiramos a ellas, pero también disfrutamos de nuestras faltas. Si no fueran agradables, ¡no seguiríamos pateando la proverbial lata en el futuro! Quizás el título de las "Confesiones" de San Agustín debería cambiarse de título: "¡La postergación de la perfección!" Con Agustín, oramos por la conversión de nuestros pecados, pero todavía no.

En nuestra Primera Lectura de hoy del Profeta Jeremías, hay un mensaje impresionante para el pueblo de Israel que siguió rompiendo su pacto con Dios una y otra vez. Jeremías proclama que Dios va a hacer un nuevo pacto: *"Todos, desde el menor hasta el mayor, me conocerán... porque perdonaré su maldad y no me acordaré más de su pecado"*. Esta es una gran noticia para aquellos que verdaderamente desean la conversión y la salvación. Para aquellos de nosotros que disfrutamos de nuestros pecados, sin embargo, es desconcertante. No deseamos ser perfectos todavía. Solo un poco más. Eso es todo lo que pedimos, ¿verdad? Pero, como Jesús responde en la lectura del Evangelio, "Ha llegado la hora". Durante esta última semana de Cuaresma antes del Domingo de Ramos, ¡que no pateemos la lata más adelante! En cambio, ¡reconcíliense con Dios, vayan a la confesión y oren por un corazón limpio! Las últimas confesiones antes de la Pascua son: martes 23 de marzo de 7:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m.; sábado 27 de marzo de 9:00 a.m. a 10:00 a.m. y de 1:30 p.m. a 2:30 p.m.; domingo 28 de marzo de 4:00 p.m. a 5:30 p.m.; martes 30 de marzo de 8:30 a.m. a 10 a.m. y de 7:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m.

¿Les puedo pedir sus oraciones el jueves 25 de marzo? Me operarán para extirparme parte o toda la tiroides. Las pruebas médicas que me hicieron en diciembre cuando me extirparon la vesícula biliar y las pruebas posteriores indican que tengo nueve granulomas en los pulmones que no son cancerosos y no necesitan tratamiento. Dos de los granulomas, siendo uno el más grande de 3 cm, están en mi tiroides y me están causando problemas. Por lo tanto, es necesario extirpar parte o la totalidad de mi tiroides. Debido a que esta cirugía requiere anestesia general, pasaré la noche en el hospital y me darán el alta al día siguiente. Debería estar bien, ¡será mejor que esté! Ya que estoy predicando todas las Misas del fin de semana del Domingo de Ramos, 27 y 28 de marzo.

¡Que tengan una bendecida última semana completa de Cuaresma!

*Padre Dan*

## EL NUEVO PACTO

La primera lectura de hoy es un paso muy importante, en la historia del pueblo judío y también para nosotros como discípulos de Jesús que ven en ella un anuncio de la dispensación cristiana. El profeta anuncia que Dios ha escogido perdonar al pueblo, y que como un signo del perdón divino se establecerá una nueva alianza. Contrastando la nueva alianza con la que Dios hizo con Moisés en el Monte Sinaí, Jeremías dice que el nuevo pacto será inscrito en el corazón del pueblo y no en tablas de piedra. Ya no será la tradición de la comunidad la única portadora de la alianza; a partir de ahora, Dios hablará directa y personalmente a cada individuo, perdonando el pecado y pidiendo un retorno a Él en fidelidad. Ya no bastará el mero cumplimiento de los dictados externos de la ley; a partir de ahora, Dios pide una obediencia que brota de lo más profundo de nuestro corazón.

Precisamente ese tipo de obediencia se destaca en la segunda lectura de hoy, donde el autor de la Carta a los Hebreos describe a Jesús como el mediador del nuevo pacto, cuya obediencia ha hecho de él la fuente de salvación para todos los que, a su vez, le obedecen.

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## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];  
Sal 23 (22):1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Martes: Nm 21:4-9; Sal 102 (101):2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

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

Jueves: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Sal 40 (39):7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lc 1:26-38

Viernes: Jer 20:10-13; Sal 18 (17):2-7; Jn 10:31-42

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

Domingo: Mc 11:1-10 o Jn 12:12-16 (procesión); Is 50:4-7; Sal 22 (21):8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Fil 2:6-11; Mc 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]



March 21, 2021

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34 | Heb 5:7-9 | Jn 12:20-33

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Recent news warned of a shortage of seeds this spring, as home gardeners carry on a hobby borne of the coronavirus pandemic. Even those of us not exactly known for our green thumbs jumped in, seeing home gardens as a way not only to stock our pantries, but to sow hope during a time of isolation and, for too many, mourning. In today's readings, we are reminded of an even larger hope – one that transcends optimism and feeling, and is centered in the theological virtue of Hope. God holds us close even on the most challenging of days. We see this in Jeremiah's prophecy of a new covenant, where all shall know God and our sins will be washed away. And today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus, like the grain of wheat, dies so that we may have new life. As we plant our seeds this spring, we will undoubtedly remember the people and things we have lost. Yet, as shoots break through with the warmth of spring, we can be reminded of Jesus, the source of all hope, and his promise that "I will draw everyone to myself."

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we approach Holy Week, the Gospel prepares us by reminding us that Jesus, like a grain of wheat, must die so that we may have new life: "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." I don't think that John is telling us to wallow in sadness or live joyless lives. Instead, perhaps he is encouraging us to "lose" those things that are not life-giving and instead focus on what draws us closer to Jesus – such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Perhaps as we continue our Lenten journey, we can identify the obstacles that get between us and Jesus, or that divide our families and communities. By letting those go, we free ourselves to be more like Christ, and to share the Good News of God's great love for us with others.

**ACTION** Buy a packet of seeds (if you can find one). Plant seeds in memory of loved ones who may have died this past year, or in remembrance of any type of loss you or your loved ones may have suffered. Offer prayers of thanksgiving for Jesus, the source of our hope.

## Celebrate God's Gift of Salvation with **RESURRECTION EGG KITS!!!**

Consider Holy Week as the quintessential time the Church gives us to reflect on the Great Story of God's Saving Love for us. Passion Palm Sunday and the Triduum- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are a journey with Jesus we are to befriend as His disciples. This journey is the great paradox of our Christian life. It is the paschal mystery in slow motion: a remembrance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

This particular walk with Jesus calls us to see with a child-like heart. What are we to experience? Our ultimate joy and meaning in life is born of His great love in us - a love that chooses to lay down our lives for others. This central mystery of our faith calls for nothing less than our life-long conversion to Jesus. It is only through our cooperation with God's grace each day that we are empowered to live as Christ's sacrificing love for one another.

One creative way to accompany your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) on this sacred journey is through use of a Resurrection Egg kit. **We would like to offer you a FREE kit.** The kit seeks to engage the whole family in coming to know the central story of our faith, and gradually, come to embrace it as our story to live. With the help of our friends from *Bible Games Central*, our **Resurrection Egg Kits include:**

- A colorful script of our sacred story offered in bite-size pieces with the Scripture citations for older students to find and share from their Bibles
- Pictures to help everyone remember each part of the story that get cut out and placed in each plastic egg
- Twelve colorful plastic Easter eggs.



You provide a re-useable carton of eggs for the plastic eggs, and of course, your guidance on **March 28, April 1, 2, & 4**. We would love for you and your family to experience this activity in your homes this year and in the years to come if it isn't already a household tradition.

We want to be sure your kit is ready and waiting for you this week of March 21 so that your family can begin to share our great story beginning on Passion Palm Sunday, March 28. **Please contact Jean Palasz** for your kit by phone (331- 707-5369), or by email ([jeanp@olmercy.com](mailto:jeanp@olmercy.com)). **All are welcome to request and pick up** a kit at our parish R.E. Office or arranged for outdoor delivery in our parking lot! Have a blessed Holy Week!



## EDGE Nights are meeting In-Person!

Our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

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.

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

### Walking to Jerusalem

Thank you to those who have reported their miles for week three from March 3 to March 9. Twenty-two participants have achieved 1,042 miles, reported as of March 12, at the time that this was written. We have accumulated 3,351.25 miles so far. That means we have 2,863.75 miles to go to get to Jerusalem. As we continue to journey during Lent, may you feel closer to our Lord and feel His love.

### St. Peregrine Prayer Service

There is a St. Peregrine Prayer Service planned for Saturday, March 27 at 1:00pm led by Deacon Tony Leazzo. The service will be livestreamed and not be an in-person service. Please check the social media platforms and the OLM website for information on how to watch the service and how to connect via ZOOM after the service for a gathering of support. If you have any questions, please call 331-707-5380.

### Grandparents Ministry

If you would like to join the Grandparents Ministry at Our Lady of Mercy, there will be a meeting on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00pm via ZOOM. Please connect with Jolene LeRoy at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com) or call 331-707-5380 for additional information and the ZOOM link for the meeting.

### National Nutrition Month®

For week three of National Nutritional Month®, the following suggestions are offered to focus on. Keep healthful ingredients on hand. Practice proper home food safety. Share meals with people you live with or virtually. Reduce food waste. Try new flavors.

Did you know that it is estimated that Americans throw away billions of pounds of food each year either at home or when eating out? Other food waste occurs when food goes uneaten at the grocery store or crops are left in farmers' fields. Reducing food waste can start in our kitchens. Suggestions are as follows. Plan meals based on the foods you have on hand. Buy only the amount of perishable foods that can be eaten or frozen within a few days such as fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products and seafood. Get creative with leftovers. Cut up leftover vegetables and cooked meats to put into soups, salads or sandwiches. Eat leftovers for lunch.

Practice food safety. If something looks or smells spoiled, don't risk eating or drinking it. Eat leftovers within three to four days or freeze for up to three to four months. If you would like to test your food safety knowledge – access the Foodkeeper App on [foodsafety.gov](https://foodsafety.gov). Store foods in the pantry with closer expired dates up front. Wait to wash produce just before serving. For additional food and nutrition information, visit [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

### Pastoral Care Needs

We experience many changes and transitions during our life. Your faith community and its ministries are available for support and resources. The pastoral care ministries support physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. If you are experiencing the loss of a loved one, feeling isolated or depressed, have questions about end-of-life issues, would like to make advanced funeral Mass plans or are homebound and would like to be connected to the faith community, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Director of Pastoral Care at 331-707-5380 or at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com).

*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



**stations of the CROSS**  
**FRIDAYS DURING LENT**

**7PM in English | 12PM in Spanish**

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### Join us Friday, April 2, 2021

The Respect Life Ministry invites you to stand and silently pray in the public right-of-way across from the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Aurora every First Friday. Prayer warriors are needed for one hour shifts 7 am - 3 pm to change hearts and save lives. Please prayerfully consider signing up via <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054FADAC23A3FA7-olmfirst1> or please call Lisa at (630) 258-0122. This First Friday is a special one, being Good Friday. Please visit link below for details of the Way of the Cross for Abortion Victims hosted by the ProLife Action League on Good Friday.

<https://prolifeaction.org/event/wotc2021/>

## 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](mailto:tonym@olmercy.com) or Jolene and Jeff LeRoy at [jolene@olmercy.com](mailto:jolene@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](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.*

**Our Lady of Mercy  
Weekend Masses  
March 27 & 28**

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

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

## Parish Sacrificial Giving

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (as of 03/07/21)

Actual Year-to-Date Collections:	\$	992,125
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget:	\$	979,200
<b>Amount in Excess of Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,925</b>

03/7/21 Sunday Collection:	\$	32,022
Weekly Sunday Goal:	\$	27,200
<b>Amount in Excess of Goal:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,822</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!!*

*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.*

Construction loan for building the Parish Life Center

April, 2009	\$1,950,000
January, 2021	\$ 733,800
February, 2021	\$ 721,687



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](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org) or text DONATE to (815) 205-1949.

## Plenary Indulgences Available for the Year of Saint Joseph

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree on December 8, 2020, formally announcing the decision of Pope Francis to celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph through December 8, 2021. Special opportunities to receive a plenary indulgence were also included, subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Holy See made provision in its decree that persons who are currently unable to go to Mass or confession because of public health restrictions may defer reception of those two sacraments until they are able to do so. Those who are sick, suffering, or homebound may also receive the plenary indulgence by fulfilling as much as they are able and by offering their sorrows and sufferings to God through Saint Joseph, consoler of the sick and patron saint for receiving a good death.

The following prayers and activities have been enriched with a plenary indulgence:

- meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father") or participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph;
- perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, inspired by the life and example of Saint Joseph;
- pray the Rosary together as a family or a couple, modeling the virtues of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph;
- dedicate with confidence their daily work to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker, including the efforts of those who are unemployed, underemployed, or seeking more dignified work;
- devoutly recite the Litany of Saint Joseph (from the Latin Church; available at [USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/litanies/litany-of-saint-joseph](https://USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/litanies/litany-of-saint-joseph)), some or all of the Akathistos hymn to Saint Joseph (from the Byzantine Churches), or another suitable prayer in each liturgical tradition, especially for the intentions of persecuted Catholics in the Church and around the world, and for the relief of all Christians who suffer persecution; or
- devoutly recite another approved prayer to Saint Joseph, for example the "To you, O blessed Joseph" (available at [USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-st-joseph-after-rosary](https://USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-st-joseph-after-rosary)), especially on various feasts of Saint Joseph: March 19 (his solemnity), May 1 (St. Joseph the Worker), the Sunday after Christmas (Holy Family), St. Joseph's Sunday (Byzantine Catholics), or on the 19th day of each month, or each Wednesday, traditionally dedicated to honor his memory with pious devotions.

To assist the faithful, [attached to this e-mail are] several prayers for Saint Joseph drawn from approved sources, including the recent Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* by Pope Francis, and the Roman Missal.

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 11, 2021

#### HOW TO FULFILL THE PLENARY INDULGENCE

To celebrate properly the Feast of Divine Mercy and to receive the forgiveness of all sins and punishment, you must do the following:

Go to Confession to a Catholic priest **within 20 days before or after** Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, 2021. So, go to confession between March 22, 2021 and May 1, 2021. Or if you are in the state of very serious or mortal sin, you must always confess them before receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

**ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021**, recite (pray) the Divine Mercy Chaplet **AND** perform either a Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy on the Feast Day. (I have often recommended to my group three Hail Mary's for COVID victims or for the intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or for Pope Francis.)

This year at OLM we will not be having any additional prayer services or confessions scheduled on Divine Mercy Sunday. We will recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet **BEFORE** all the Masses Divine Mercy weekend. Remember, you do not have to go to confession on Divine Mercy Sunday to receive the plenary indulgence.



## job postings

**St. Michael Parish in Wheaton, is seeking to hire a Parish Faith Formation Director.** The Parish Faith Formation Director shall work with the Pastor to cultivate a parish-wide environment that fosters deeper relationships with Jesus Christ and active intentional discipleship throughout our parish community. This position will be responsible for identifying and establishing the best means of “forming” all target groups including single adults, young parents, families, teens and young children whether they be in-pew Catholics, sacramentally inactive Catholics, or community members who do not know or are not in relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a full time, flexible 40-hour work week position. To view a full job description visit:

<https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/hr/jobdetail.php?id=651>

Interested parties need to email resume to:

[resumes@stmjchaelcommunity.org](mailto:resumes@stmjchaelcommunity.org)

**St. Irene Parish in Warrenville has an immediate opening for a full-time Director of Faith Formation.** This position will be responsible for the parish’s faith formation program from Baptismal catechesis through adult formation. Serving as a role model for the parish, the Director of Faith Formation will be a joyful disciple of Jesus Christ, passionate about the Catholic Faith and about living out the Gospel message with intention. The Director must be a creative and energetic individual with excellent communication and organizational skills, and a pastoral visionary. The Director of Faith Formation must have a Bachelor’s Degree and preferably a Master’s Degree in Theology, Divinity, Religious Studies, or related field. Experience in current theology, education, or pastoral ministry is desirable. Proficiency in Spanish is also a plus. To view a full job description, visit: <https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/hr/jobdetail.php?id=652>

Please send cover letter and resume to [parishoffice@st-irene.org](mailto:parishoffice@st-irene.org).

**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](http://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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