

*Joy*



OUR LADY *of* MERCY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*3rd Sunday*  
*of* *Advent*

## From The Pastor's Desk...

*Also Known as Chardonnay W(h)ines!*



Today is Gaudete Sunday. We rejoice that our Savior has come and will come again! We are called to be a people of joy. "Shout for joy." "Sing joyfully." "Be glad and exalt with all your heart." These are the words of Zephaniah in our first reading. "Rejoice!" I shall say it again, rejoice!" Paul adds helpfully, in case we haven't gotten the picture yet.

There is another reason to rejoice today as well. Today is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. However, because the feast falls on a Sunday, the Sunday takes precedence over the feast, so our Scripture readings and Mass prayers today are for the Third Sunday of Advent.

Every year, tens of thousands of pilgrims journey to the capital of Mexico in humble supplication before this heavenly image, miraculously imprinted on the cloak of Juan Diego in 1531. Nearly 500 years later, the tilma – made of the fiber of coarse-woven cactus, which would normally decompose after two decades – still evades corruption. The colors remain vibrant and the image captivating. What do we see when we look at this image? There is a woman in indigenous dress. Her head is bowed, her eyes cast downward toward us. She wears a mantle over her head and shoulders, and it is of deep turquoise – the color of royalty. Her robe is lined with gold and studded with stars, a symbol of the heavens. The woman is with child. She stands upon a crescent moon in front of the sun, reminiscent of the Lady in the book of Revelation whose child was "destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod." At Tepeyac, she speaks to Juan Diego in his native tongue, saying: "I am the ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the True, living God." When later asked to identify the woman, Juan Diego explained in his Aztec dialect that she was "Te Coatlazopeuh" – she who crushes the serpent.

Archbishop Jose Gomez has said, "The Church in this country, and every one of us, has the responsibility to continue the task that the Virgin gave to St. Juan Diego to "build a shrine" with our lives. To build a society that glorifies God and is worthy of the dignity of the human person." The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness of the Americas, Star of the New Evangelization, and the Protector of the Unborn – is a presence of hope, a light in the darkness, calling us to build a civilization of love and freedom here in the Americas.

To our OLM Hispanic Community and all of us, happy feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

Have a Blessed Advent!



## Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 13 - St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

- 8:00 am † Patricia McMahon, by The McKenna Family  
*(Live Streamed)*
- 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:00 pm Benediction
- 6:30 pm † Jose Tornero, by Family  
*(Live Streamed • Spanish Mass)*

### Tuesday, December 14 - St John of the Cross, Priest

- 8:00 am † Jose Tornero, by Family  
*(Live Streamed)*
- 6:30 pm † Samantha Campion, by Family
- 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until 8:00 PM)

### Wednesday, December 15 - Advent Weekday

- 8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 12:00 pm In Thanksgiving, by The Rajesekhjar Family  
*(Live Streamed)*

### Thursday, December 16 - Advent Weekday

- 6:30 am Int Fr James Altman, by Betsy Gallo
- 8:00 am † Larry Craven, by Family & Friends  
*(Live Streamed)*
- 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:00 pm Benediction

### Friday, December 17 - Advent Weekday

- 8:00 am † Joel Moen, by Family *(Live Streamed)*

### Saturday, December 18 - Advent Weekday

- 8:30 am † Maria Uy, by The Uy Family  
*(Live Streamed)*
- 9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)
- 1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)
- 4:00 pm **Vigil - Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
The People of Our Lady of Mercy  
† James W Ray & James W Ray, Jr.  
By Helean M Ray

### Sunday, December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family  
The People of Our Lady of Mercy
- 10:00 am † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer  
*(Live Streamed)*
- 12:00 pm † Frances Lang, by Budny & Paluch Family
- 5:30 pm † Estela & Alfonso Ramirez, by Family



## Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Poor               | 9. Dolores Ramos              |
| 2. The Sick               | 10. Ann Borberg               |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos        | 11. Special Intention-C.H.    |
| 4. Ashley Marie Sanchez   | 12. Alec Pilman               |
| 5. Rose Christine Sincora | 13. Reconciliation for Justin |
| 6. Charlotte Gucwa        | 14. Robin Pazos               |
| 7. Louis Sonetz, Sr.      | 15. Tristan Pazos             |
| 8. The Deceased           | 16. Prov Girls                |

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.

## Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses

***December 18 & 19***

**Father Don will preach at all Masses.**

<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio Dcn Tim Kueper
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 am	Fr James Guarascio Dcn Tony Martini
	10:00 am	Fr Don McLaughlin Dcn Tom Logue
	12:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio Dcn Art Tiongson
	5:30 pm	Fr Don McLaughlin Dcn Tony Leazzo



## We Pray

Please contact the Parish Office if you or your **immediate** family member wish to be added to the Sick List.

### ***For our sick, confined and their families.***

David Bakke  
Ailani Banulos  
Ann Borberg  
Robert Ciulla  
Michael Dandan  
Wayne Draper  
Mary Dunbar  
Pat Dunne  
Bridget Garry  
Connie Hegg  
Jim Hegg  
Nancy Higgins  
Mark Hoeksema  
Eric Hoerdemann  
Antoinette Humanski  
Steve Johnson  
Helen Joseph  
Michael Kuchinski

Maria Luna  
Kristen Manning  
Susan Massett  
Janice Melisi  
Tony & Letty Mendez  
Susan Mennenga  
Bill Morse  
La Moua  
Charlene Oates  
Flo Paprzycki  
Diane Pazos  
Valerie Plesha  
Julia Schremp  
Diane Singer  
Hedy Sterling  
Thomas F. Sterling  
John Swanston  
Rev. Gerald Tivy  
Kathy Walowski

***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.

Please let the Parish Office know of names which may be removed from the sick list.

***The Parish Offices will close for the Christmas holiday at noon on Thursday, December 23 and will re-open Tuesday, January 4.***

*Merry  
Christmas*

# Desde el Excritorio Del Pastor

*¡También conocido como Chardonnay W(h)ines!*



Hoy es domingo de Gaudete. ¡Nos regocijamos que nuestro Salvador ha venido y volverá de nuevo! Estamos llamados a ser un pueblo de alegría. "Griten de alegría." "Canten con alegría". "Alégrese y exáltense con todo su corazón". Estas son las palabras de Sofonías en nuestra primera lectura.

"¡Alégrese lo diré de nuevo, alégrese!" Pablo agrega amablemente, en caso de que aún no nos hemos enterado.

También hay otra razón para alegrarnos hoy día. Hoy es la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Sin embargo, debido a que la fiesta cae en domingo, el domingo tiene prioridad sobre la fiesta, por lo que nuestras lecturas de las Escrituras y las oraciones de la Misa de hoy son para el Tercer Domingo de Adviento.

Cada año, decenas de miles de peregrinos viajan a la capital de México en humilde súplica ante esta imagen celestial, impresa milagrosamente en el manto de Juan Diego en 1531. Casi 500 años después, la tilma, hecha de fibra de cactus, de tejido áspero, que normalmente se descompondría después de dos décadas, aún evade la corrupción. Los colores siguen siendo vibrantes y la imagen cautivadora. ¿Qué vemos cuando miramos esta imagen? Hay una mujer vestida de indígena. Su cabeza está inclinada, sus ojos miran hacia nosotros. Lleva un manto sobre la cabeza y los hombros, y es de un turquesa profundo, el color de la realeza. Su manto está bordado con oro y tachonado de estrellas, un símbolo de los cielos. La mujer está embarazada. Ella está de pie sobre una luna creciente frente al sol, que recuerda a la Señora del libro del Apocalipsis, cuyo hijo estaba "destinado a gobernar todas las naciones con vara de hierro". En el Tepeyac, le habla a Juan Diego en su lengua materna y le dice: "Yo soy la siempre Virgen María, Madre del Verdadero Dios vivo". Cuando más tarde se le pidió que identificara a la mujer, Juan Diego explicó en su dialecto Azteca que ella era "Te Coatlazopeuh", la que aplasta a la serpiente.

El arzobispo José Gómez ha dicho: "La Iglesia en este país, y cada uno de nosotros, tiene la responsabilidad de continuar la tarea que la Virgen le dio a San Juan Diego de "construir un santuario" con nuestras vidas. Construir una sociedad que glorifique a Dios y sea merecedora de la dignidad de la persona humana". La imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - Patrona de las Américas, Estrella de la Nueva Evangelización y Protectora de los No Nacidos - es una presencia de esperanza, una luz en la oscuridad, que nos llama a construir una civilización de amor y libertad aquí en las Américas.

Para nuestra Comunidad Hispana de OLM y para todos nosotros, ¡feliz día de la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe!

¡Que tengan un bendecido Adviento!

*Padre Don*



## Lecturas de la Semana

<b>Domingo</b>	Sof 3, 14-18; Is 12, 2-3. 4bcd. 5-6; Flp 4, 4-7; Lc 3, 10-18
<b>Lunes</b>	Nm 24, 2-7. 15-17; Sal 24, 4bc-5ab. 6-7bc. 8-9; Mt 21, 23-27
<b>Martes</b>	So 3, 1-2. 9-13; Sal 33, 2-3. 6-7. 17-18. 19 y 23; Mt 21, 28-32
<b>Miércoles</b>	Is 45, 6-8. 18. 21-25; Sal 84, 9ab-10. 11-12. 13-14; Lc 7, 19-23
<b>Jueves</b>	Is 54, 1-10; Sal 29, 2 y 4. 5-6. 11-12a y 13b; Lc 7, 24-30
<b>Viernes</b>	Gn 49, 2. 8-10; Sal 71, 2. 3-4ab. 7-8. 17; Mt 1, 1-17
<b>Sábado</b>	Jer 23, 5-8; Sal 71, 2. 7-8. 12-13. 17; Mt 1, 18-24
<b>Domingo</b>	Miq 5, 1-4a; Sal 79, 2ac y 3b. 15-16. 18-19; Heb 10, 5-10; Lc 1, 39-45

December 12, 2021

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

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

Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

### **ACTIONS** Remember the last time you felt unadulterated joy?

For me it was when my son smacked a game-winning goal at a hockey game. As we move through Advent, we can reawaken a sense of childlike joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ among us. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.



Getty Images/Blackphoto/KaterinaGondova

## Pastoral Care

### ***Coping with Grief and Loss during the Holiday Season***

The holidays are usually a time of joy and celebrating with family and friends. But for some, the holidays are difficult and not a time to celebrate as they are dealing with feelings of sadness, loss and emptiness. When you have lost a loved one, the holiday season can be a painful reminder of the loss that you are feeling.

If you are looking for support to help you cope with grief during the Christmas holiday season, please consider attending *Coping with Grief and Loss during the Holiday Season* on **Monday, December 13** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in Room 124 in the Parish Life Center. There will not be a support session on December 15 as previously scheduled. We will share ways to help give the holiday a new meaning and offer support.

If you have questions or would like to attend, contact Jolene LeRoy RN Parish Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care at 331-707-5380 or at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com).

### ***Open HEARTS Ministry***

There will not be a gathering in December for the Open HEARTS Ministry. If you are in need of emotional or mental health support or resources, please contact Janice Hurtado Aeppli at 321-217-7872 or at [olmopenhearts@yahoo.com](mailto:olmopenhearts@yahoo.com).

### ***St. Peregrine Prayer Service***

All are invited to attend the in-person St. Peregrine Prayer Service on Tuesday, December 14 in the church after 6:30pm Mass (at 7:00pm) with Deacon Tony Leazzo and Jolene LeRoy RN Parish Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care. St. Peregrine is the patron saint of the sick, especially those experiencing cancer, serious illness or chronic illness. Anyone experiencing physical, emotional, mental or spiritual health concerns would benefit from attending the prayer service. The relic of St. Peregrine will be present.

### ***Blue Christmas Prayer Service***

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

The longest night of the year is near or on the winter solstice which is December 21. It is the day with the shortest amount of light. Due to scheduling conflicts, a prayer service cannot be held on December 21, instead a special prayer service will be offered on Sunday, December 19 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm in the church. It will be a time to listen, pray and feel the love of God to offer peace, hope and healing.

### ***Third Sunday of Advent***

As you light the third candle on your Advent wreath, the pink candle is lit that represents JOY! It is called the "Shepherd's Candle" as a reminder of the shepherds and their joy when Jesus was born. Pink or rose is a liturgical color for joy. The Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday reminds us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Christ. May we spread the joy that we have in our hearts because of our relationship with Jesus to all the world today!

### ***Ladies' Advent Tea***

Thank you to the 55 ladies that attended the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Ladies' Advent Tea on the First Sunday of Advent on November 28. The theme was *Saying "Yes" to God – Joseph's "Yes"; Mary's "Yes" and Our "Yes"*. By reflecting on the importance and significance of both Joseph's and Mary's "Yes", we gained a deeper understanding of how each person has a role in bringing God into the world. Take a moment to reflect on the discussion questions that were at the table while ladies were enjoying refreshments and conversation: How can you

spend your life saying "yes" to God and loving those around you? How can you deepen the meaning of ordinary tasks that you do every day in your life? What will change in your life when you say "yes" to God? What will stay the same?

If you would like more insight into the presentation, look at the article *Saying "Yes" to God* by Catherine Wiecher Brunell on the Loyola Press website which served as inspiration for the speakers, Jolene LeRoy and her daughter, Stephanie Tanner. May you realize that Advent is a time of receiving – open your hands, eyes, ears, all of your senses and all of your heart to receive the Advent blessings that God wants to give to you!

### ***Do Not Grieve Alone***

Many challenges and changes affect each person in a different way. The loss of a loved one has an impact on one's mental, social, emotional, physical and spiritual health. There are more opportunities to be with others in person for funerals, counseling and support groups than last year, but we are still missing the way that things were done before the pandemic.

As you journey through grief, the following suggestions are offered to help. Allow yourself time to heal. Everyone grieves in their own way and in their own time. You may want to keep the memory of your loved one alive through a memorial fund, a scholarship or making a donation to a charity. If it is comfortable, talk about your loved one with others to share memories. Prepare for special days such as anniversary dates, birthdays, and holidays that will be more difficult to handle without your loved one. Reach out for professional grief counseling or a bereavement support group.

### ***Pastoral Care***

If you have physical, mental, emotional or spiritual health concerns, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Parish Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care for support and resources at [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com) or 331-707-5380.



## Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2021

### *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

The Virgin Mary is known by many titles in the Catholic Church. They represent her universal love and compassion to all her children. One of her beautiful and powerful titles is Our Lady of Guadalupe. Some may assume that because of this title, her appeal is limited to only Mexicans, since she appeared to St. Juan Diego at the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico in December of 1531.

However, since her apparitions, she has converted millions of people worldwide to her son, Jesus. For this reason, St. John Paul II proclaimed that she is not only the queen of Mexico, but formally declared her as the patroness of the Americas. In other words, as Pope Francis said, "She shares all the joys and hopes, the sorrows and troubles of God's People, which is made up of men and women of every race and nation."

As we are quickly approaching the quincentennial year of her appearances, her message continues to be more relevant than ever for all people. In a world filled with division, violence, murder, atheism, spiritual apathy and distrust, Our Lady of Guadalupe urgently desires us to know and love her son, Jesus. For it is through Jesus that we find true unity, peace and salvation.

As a priest, I led many trips of parishioners to visit a home for orphaned and abandoned children in Morelos, Mexico. As we toured the dormito-

ries and classrooms, most would notice that there was a picture, candle or statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in almost every room. I would share with the group that Guadalupe had a special place in the hearts of these children because they looked to her not only as the Mother of God, but also as their own mother. They took real comfort in knowing that even though they were no longer with their biological parents, she is their mother. Her presence beautifully reminds them that they are not alone or forgotten; instead, they are loved. She shares with them and us the same powerful words that she shared with St. Juan Diego, "Do not be afraid, am I not here, your Mother?"

As an added bonus to the trip to the orphanage, we would also spend a day in pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. On most of our visits, we would begin by exiting the bus and making a human chain, holding each other's hands so that we would not get separated in the vast crowds. My group would always be impressed with the level of faith and devotion they witnessed as many people approached their penitential journey to Our Lady on their knees and in deep prayer. Once inside the basilica, we would celebrate Mass and pray the rosary together in one of the many side chapels. No one ever had a doubt that we were on holy ground.

After Mass and the purchase of some religious souvenirs and gifts, it would be time to conclude our visit by walking behind the main altar and view up close the tilma of St. Juan Diego. It is the actual cloth that bears Our Lady of Guada-

lupe's beautiful image. On one of the visits, as we were walking back to our bus, one parishioner asked me, "Does the real tilma from 1531 still exist?" I replied, "Yes! We just looked at it behind the altar!" With shock and surprise, she raised her voice and exclaimed, "THAT was the real tilma? It's not a copy?" I assured her that it was the original, one and only, tilma. With that, she said, "I have to go back and see her again." Without hesitation, the whole group agreed to turn around and get another glimpse of the tilma bearing the image of the patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

When we realize and are convinced that Mary our mother is real, and she truly wants us to know and love her son, then our hearts, on fire, are naturally drawn to her. We feel a deep longing to see her, to talk with her and to celebrate her.

This year, as we return to this special feast day on Dec. 12, may Our Lady of Guadalupe continue to draw all her children close to her and to follow the Gospel of life and light of her son, Jesus. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, pray for us.



## Join the diocesan mission trip to the Navajo Nation in June

The Diocese of Joliet will resume its U.S. mission program in June with a two-week trip to the Navajo Nation located near Chinle, Arizona.

The June 4-17 trip will focus on construction projects for residents of the reservation, with volunteers helping with such jobs as framing a house, tearing down dilapidated buildings, repairing fencing, etc.

"It's not just going to work for the people, but to be with them and experience their life and culture," said diocesan missions coordinator Bruce Carlson.

The diocese has organized mission trips to the reservation since 2002, but paused the annual expeditions during the past two years because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Informational meetings on the trip will be held on Jan. 4 and 12 at the Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, Illinois. For more information, email [bcarslon@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:bcarslon@dioceseofjoliet.org) or call 815-221-6256.

## Únase al viaje misionero diocesano a la Nación Navajo en junio

La Diócesis de Joliet reanudará su programa misionero en los Estados Unidos en junio con un viaje de dos semanas a la Nación Navajo ubicada cerca de Chinle, Arizona.

El viaje del 4 al 17 de junio se centrará en proyectos de construcción para los residentes de la reserva, con voluntarios que ayudarán con trabajos como enmarcar una casa, derribar edificios en ruinas, reparar cercas, etc.

"No solo va a funcionar para la gente, sino también estar con ellos y experimentar su vida y cultura", dijo el coordinador de misiones diocesanas Bruce Carlson.

La diócesis ha organizado viajes misioneros a la reserva desde 2002, pero detuvo las expediciones anuales durante los últimos dos años debido a la pandemia de coronavirus en curso.

Las reuniones informativas sobre el viaje se llevarán a cabo el 4 y 12 de enero en el Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, Illinois. Para obtener más información, envíe un correo electrónico a [bcarslon@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:bcarslon@dioceseofjoliet.org) o llame al 815-221-6256.

## Around the Parish

### Christmas Flower Memorials

This Christmas we will decorate the church with poinsettias around the altar. Flowers can also be memorialized by using one of the flower envelopes found in the narthex. The recommended donation is \$10.00. Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make our church beautiful during the holiday season.

### Angel Giving: Be an Angel to a Family In Need

This year for Christmas we are partnering with the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry Hessed House and St. Vincent de Paul to assist families in need throughout the holidays. Donations will benefit those individuals who are currently receiving aid through SVDP in order to assist the families with rent and utility payments. Donations will also assist the purchase of Christmas meals through the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and Hessed House to benefit those families whom they currently assist. Parishioners may make donations via our online giving portal under "Angel Giving" or checks can also be made payable to Our Lady of Mercy with "Angel Giving" in the memo and placed inside of the bin in the Narthex after mass. Please contact Lydia Schmitt, in the main office, with additional questions at [lydias@olmercy.com](mailto:lydias@olmercy.com) or 331-707-5377.

### Filling a Stocking for a Family In Need

Visit the Ministry Room after all the Masses to grab a stocking to fill for a family in need! Stockings will benefit families receiving assistance through the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and Hessed House. Each stocking will come with a list of suggested items to purchase and stuff your stocking with! Purchase a red Christmas stocking at a local store and fill it with goodies for children. You can find a list of suggested items in the Narthex to stuff your stocking with! Once you have filled your stocking with suggested "stocking stuffers," please return it to our table in the Ministry Room after any of the Sunday masses OR return it to the main office during office hours by no later than **Tuesday, 12/14**. Please contact Lydia Schmitt, at [lydias@olmercy.com](mailto:lydias@olmercy.com) or 331-707-5377, with additional questions.

### Simbang Gabi

The Simbang Gabi Filipino tradition of celebrating devotional Mass in preparation for the coming of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ will be held on Saturday 12/18 at 6pm with fellowship and light refreshment after Mass. Come and join the Filipino community at the Simbang Gabi Mass which invites all of us to nurture the spirit of Advent not only as individual preparation but to prepare as a community, a family of God united in worship and in prayer. We bring our families and friends to the Eucharist, joining the entire community in waiting, and being strengthened by God's Spirit in preparing for the birth of Jesus.



Parish Sacrificial Giving		
Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	602,919
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	630,000
<b>Amount Short of Budget</b>	\$	<b>(27,081)</b>
11/21/21 Sunday Collection	\$	25,445
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	30,000
<b>Amount Short of Goal</b>	\$	<b>(4,555)</b>
<b><i>Thank you for your generosity!!</i></b>		
For the Budget Year 2021/22 we have increased the Parish Sunday goal by 10%, to \$30,000/week, due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.		



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

Parish Life Center (Construction Loan)		
April, 2009	\$	1,950,000
September, 2021	\$	643,911
October, 2021	\$	<b>632,712</b>

Parish Goal	\$	154,400
Amount Pledged	\$	166,791
Amount Paid	\$	163,435
Remaining Balance	\$	3,356
Rebate Amount	\$	6,325
# of Families Pledged		530



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.**

## Christmas Flower Offerings

This Christmas we will decorate the church with poinsettias around the altar. If you wish to make a gift towards the flowers please go to our website at [www.olmercy.com](http://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. Flowers can also be memorialized by using one of the flower envelopes found in the narthex. The recommended donation is \$10.00. Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make our church beautiful during the holiday season.

# Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

701 S. Eola Road † Aurora, IL 60504

[www.olmercy.com](http://www.olmercy.com)

## Parish Office

Tel: (630) 851-3444 • FAX: (630) 851-3468

Monday-Thursday ..... 8:30am-4:00pm

Friday ..... 8:30am-1:00pm

## Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ..... 8:00am

Monday (Spanish Mass) ..... 6:30pm

Tuesday ..... 8:00am, 6:30pm

Wednesday ..... 12:00pm

Thursday ..... 6:30am, 8:00am

Saturday ..... 8:30am

Saturday (Anticipated for Sunday) ..... 4:00pm

Sunday ..... 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, and 5:30pm

## Holy Days of Obligations

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

Wednesdays ..... 8:00am-12:00pm

First Friday of the Month ..... 12:00pm

## Benediction

Monday & Thursday ..... 6:00pm

### 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.

### 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.

# Parish Directory

## Parish Priests

**Pastor** ..... Fr. Don McLaughlin  
630-851-3444, Ext. 228 ..... [frdon@olmercy.com](mailto:frdon@olmercy.com)

**Parochial Vicar** ..... Fr. James Guarascio  
630-851-3444, Ext. 226 ..... [frjames@olmercy.com](mailto:frjames@olmercy.com)

## Transitional Deacon

Rev. Mr. Tom Logue ..... [tlogue@rcdoj.org](mailto:tlogue@rcdoj.org)

## Permanent Deacons

Dcn Tim Kueper ..... [tkueper5@yahoo.com](mailto:tkueper5@yahoo.com)

Dcn Tony Leazzo ..... [tonyl@olmercy.com](mailto:tonyl@olmercy.com)

Dcn Tony Martini ..... [tonym@olmercy.com](mailto:tonym@olmercy.com)

Dcn Phil Rehmer ..... [deaconphil@rehmer.com](mailto:deaconphil@rehmer.com)

Dcn Art Tiongson ..... [hope2640@yahoo.com](mailto:hope2640@yahoo.com)

Dcn Lupe Villarreal ..... [lupev@olmercy.com](mailto:lupev@olmercy.com)

## Pastoral Staff

**Director of Music Ministries** ..... Frank Sauter  
331-707-5379 ..... [franks@olmercy.com](mailto:franks@olmercy.com)

**Parish Nurse/Pastoral Care** ..... Jolene LeRoy, RN  
331-707-5380 ..... [jolenel@olmercy.com](mailto:jolenel@olmercy.com)

**Evangelization & Communications** ..... Zara Tan  
331-707-5381 ..... [zara@olmercy.com](mailto:zara@olmercy.com)

## Family Evangelization & Catechesis

**Director (Pre K-5) & RCIC** ..... Mary Jo Trapani  
331-707-5378 ..... [maryjot@olmercy.com](mailto:maryjot@olmercy.com)

**Director (6-12)** ..... Dave Miserendino  
331-707-5371 ..... [davem@olmercy.com](mailto:davem@olmercy.com)

**RE Secretary** ..... Jean Palasz  
331-707-5369 ..... [jeanp@olmercy.com](mailto:jeanp@olmercy.com)

## Administrative Staff

**Business Manager** ..... Bob Gancarz  
331-707-5370 ..... [robertg@olmercy.com](mailto:robertg@olmercy.com)

**Parish Secretary** ..... Diane Reiter  
630-851-3444 ..... [dianer@olmercy.com](mailto:dianer@olmercy.com)

**Business Office Assistant** ..... Lydia Schmitt  
331-707-5377 ..... [lydias@olmercy.com](mailto:lydias@olmercy.com)

**Buildings & Grounds** ..... Len Eickhoff  
630-631-1676 ..... [lene@olmercy.com](mailto:lene@olmercy.com)

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

630-851-3444 ..... Voicemail-ext. 400

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