



OUR LADY of MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 18, 2022

4th
Sunday of Advent

News from P.I.T. (Pastor in Training)



Have you ever had a dream for yourself or family and saw it realized; whether it be personal, spiritual, or vocational? It's usually an unforgettable moment filled with great joy. I have been blessed to be able experience this in my own life on various occasions: from running a marathon with my sister two years after my last chemo, to desiring

to hear the Lord's voice in prayer, to responding to the Lord's calling in my ordination to the priesthood. All were unforgettable and joyful moments where dreams were fulfilled!

St. Matthew's Gospel is known as the fulfillment Gospel. Throughout his Gospel, St. Matthew writes, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet..." St. Matthew is preparing his readers to receive the dream given to all of humanity—the dream to be once again reunited with our God and creator.

For St. Joseph, this dream was literally his own. An angel of the Lord explained to St. Joseph in his dreams what was soon to come and the role that he was invited to play. Although it took great courage, St. Joseph answered the call to participate in this dream. He knew that the very same God who freed Israel from slavery in Egypt, who fed His people in the desert, and who promised to once again deliver His people from bondage, was reaching out him in this dream.

That dream can be ours as well—and not only a dream, but the fulfillment of that dream! It takes great courage to follow God's lead, even if His promises seem hard to believe, but for those who follow it, they will know the greatest dream of all to come true in their own lives. Let us unite ourselves with St. Joseph this week as prepare for Christmas. For on Christmas day, we receive Emmanuel anew—God with us—the greatest dream to ever come true!

Father Michael



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, December 19 - Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

6:30 pm + Pola Acebedo, by Ed Badillo

(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, December 20 - Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am † Gorgonia Naguit, by Edgar & Mara Cuartero 6:30 pm † Bernard Punt, by Tom & Margaret Mary Powers

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, December 21 - St Peter Canisius, Priest 8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm Int Terry Cummisky, by Betty Vavra 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, December 22 - Late Advent Weekday

6:30 am Int Fr Don McLaughlin, by The Heying Family

8:00 am † Souls in Purgatory 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, December 23 - St John of Kanty, Priest

8:00 am In Thanksgiving, by the Buendicho Family

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

3:00 pm + Sharon Spitzer, by Tom Spitzer

PLC

3:00 pm Emmanuel Masangcay, by Shirley Staples

Church

5:00 pm Feldman, Robin, Ernsting, Sanders & Prasse

Families by Angie Vanaria

7:00 pm Colleen Keefe, by Cheryl and Mike

Sunday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

Midnight † Catherine Dodd, by Family

(Live Streamed)

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† Lindsay Willis, by Cheryl & Ron Lohse

10:00 am † Victoria Tiu Lo, by Elizabeth Lo

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm Int Helen Joseph, by Audrey Harris

No 5:30 pm Mass



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- 1. Charlie Damore
- 2. Caron & Thompson Families 10. Charles E Thompson
- 3. Whalen & Jirasek Families
- 4. Baby Riley Chick
- 5. Ailani Banuelos
- Baby Cerina Skye
- 7. Teresa Ginnelly
- **Robin Pazos** 8.

- Reid Family
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. Glenn L Heywood
- 13. Edwin Garcia
- 14. Helen O'Brien
- 15. Stella Sharkey
- 16. Tristan Pazos
- 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 Pray

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

Bill Morse

For our sick, confined and their families.

David Bakke Alfredo Chavez Baby Riley Chick Robert Ciulla Michael Dandan Mary Dunbar **Bridget Garry** Connie Hegg Jim Hegg **Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Cera Horste Antoinette Humanski Steve Johnson Helen Joseph Baby Penelope Keene Kristen Manning Susan Massett Rev. Don McLaughlin

Susan Mennenga

La Moua Charlene Oates Flo Paprzycki Diane Pazos Valerie Plesha Jim Pluskota Julia Schremp **Diane Singer Hedy Sterling** Thomas F. Sterling John Swanston Rev. Gerald Tivy Bernice Tokarski

Kathy Walowski

Judy Wiltgen

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.

Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses

December 24 & 25

Each Presider will preach at Mass.			
Saturday	3:00 pm Fr Michael Kearney Church Dcn Tim Keuper		
	3:00 pm PLC	Fr James Guarascio	
	5:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney Dcn Doug McIlvaine	
	7:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio Dcn Art Tiongson	
	Midnight	Fr Michael Kearney Fr James Guarascio Dcn Doug McIlvaine	
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr James Guarascio TBD	
	10:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney Dcn Art Tiongson	
	12:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio TBD	



Noticias del P.I.T. (Párroco en Formación)



¿Alguna vez has tenido un sueño para ti o tu familia y lo viste realizado? ya sea personal, espiritual o vocacional? Suele ser un momento inolvidable lleno de gran alegría. He tenido la bendición de poder experimentar esto en mi propia vida en varias ocasiones: desde correr una maratón con mi hermana dos años después de mi última quimioterapia, hasta desear escuchar la voz del Señor en oración, responder al llamado del Señor

en mi ordenación al sacerdocio. ¡Todos fueron momentos inolvidables y alegres donde los sueños se cumplieron!

El Evangelio de San Mateo es conocido como el Evangelio del cumplimiento. A lo largo de su Evangelio, San Mateo escribe: "Todo esto sucedió para que se cumpliese lo que el Señor había dicho por medio del profeta..." San Mateo está preparando a sus lectores para recibir el sueño dado a toda la humanidad: el sueño de reunirse una vez más con nuestro Dios y creador.

Para San José, este sueño era literalmente suyo. Un ángel del Señor le explicó a San José en sueños lo que pronto estaba por venir y el papel que él estaba invitado a desempeñar. Aunque tomó mucho valor, San José respondió al llamado de participar en este sueño. Sabía que el mismo Dios que liberó a Israel de la esclavitud en Egipto, que alimentó a Su pueblo en el desierto y que prometió liberar a Su pueblo una vez más de la esclavitud, lo estaba alcanzando en este sueño.

Ese sueño también puede ser nuestro, y no solo un sueño, ¡sino el cumplimiento de ese sueño! Se necesita mucho coraje para seguir la dirección de Dios, incluso si Sus promesas parecen difíciles de creer, pero para aquellos que las siguen, sabrán que el sueño más grande de todos se hará realidad en sus propias vidas. Unámonos a San José esta semana mientras nos preparamos para la Navidad. Porque el día de Navidad, recibimos a Emmanuel nuevamente, Dios con nosotros, ¡el sueño más grande que jamás se haya hecho realidad!

Padre Michael



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo Is 7, 10-14; Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-

6; Rom 1, 1-7; Mt 1, 18-24

Lunes Ju 13, 2-7. 24-25; Sal 70, 3-4a. 5-

6ab. 16-17; Lc 1, 5-25

Martes Is 7, 10-14; Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-

6; Lc 1, 26-38

Miércoles Can 2, 8-14; Sal 32, 2-3. 11-12.

20-21; Lc 1, 39-45

Jueves 1 Sam 1, 24-28; 1 Sam 2, 1. 4-5. 6

-7. 8; Lc 1, 46-56

Viernes Ml 3, 1-4. 23-24; Sal 24, 4bc-5ab.

8-9. 10 y 14; Lc 1, 57-66

Sábado 2 Sm 7, 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16; Sal 88,

2-3. 4-5. 27 y 29; Lc 1, 67-79

Domingo Is 62, 1-5; Sal 88, 4-5. 16-17. 27.

29; Hch 13, 16-17. 22-25; Mt 1, 1

-25 o Mt 1, 18-25

Medianoche: Is 9, 1-3. 5-6; Sal 95, 1-2a. 2b-3. 11-12. 13; Ti 2, 11-14;

Lc 2, 1-14

Aurora: Is 62, 11-12; Sal 96, 1 y 6. 11-12; Ti 3, 4-7; Lc 2, 15-20 **Día:** Is 52, 7-10; Sal 97, 1. 2-3ab.

3cd-4. 5-6; Hb 1, 1-6; Jn 1, 1-18 o

Jn 1, 1-5. 9-14



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24



In our family's department-store Nativity set, Joseph blends into the background: Mary and the infant Jesus steal the scene, she in her blue robes and looking over the sweet, tiny and vulnerable Son of God. Even the Magi stand out more than humble Joseph. Yet today's Gospel focuses on Jesus' earthly father, whom many of us Catholics grew to know a little better during the Year of St. Joseph in 2021. Imagine Joseph's shock at learning Mary was pregnant! Rather than quietly divorcing her, he accepts the angel's words at face value: "For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Joseph takes Mary into his home and embraces her and the child Jesus she bears. As we celebrate this fourth Sunday of Advent, we can all do well to follow Joseph and Mary's example by saying "yes" to God, even though it may turn our lives upside down. We can dust off our Nativity scenes and ask the Lord to help us prepare our hearts and homes for Jesus.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I remember our first trip to the pediatrician with our newborn. Our job as parents, he said in so many words, was to raise him so that he'd be ready to leave us at 18. As our youngest approaches that milestone, I'm having a hard time letting go. In his apostolic letter Patris Corde, Pope Francis holds up St. Joseph as an example of what it means to be a father (and I think this applies to mothers, too): "Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care." Joseph and Mary loved Jesus in this way, accepting that Jesus did not "belong" to them but to all of us. Whether or not we are parents, we can learn from their example, entrusting our lives and those of our loved ones to God. As St. Paul reminds us, we "belong to Jesus Christ."

ACTION "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" As you light the Advent candles or say evening prayers this week, reflect on the ways Jesus has made his presence known to you today and give thanks.



Pastoral Care

Grief and Loss

The monthly grief support session is Monday, December 19 from 11am to 12:30pm in Room 114 in the Parish Life Center. It will be a time to share stories and pray together. We will discuss ways to honor the memory of loved ones while being open to ways that may help cope with grief especially during the Christmas season. If you have any questions or would like support please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Parish Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care at jolenel@olmercy.com or call 331-707-5380.

Healing Hearts Ministry

The next gathering of the Healing Hearts Ministry will be on Monday, December 19 from 7pm to 8:30pm in Room 114. The ministry promotes the health of the mind, body and soul by providing a safe and sacred space to share, pray together and participate in a self-care activity. The faith community at Our Lady of Mercy works to decrease the stigma of mental illness and promote mental health and wellness. For any questions about the ministry, please contact Janice Hurtado Aeppli at 312-217 -7872 or at olmopenhearts@yahoo.com.

Managing Stress and Taking Care of Your Mental Health During the Holidays

The songs that we hear during the holiday season tell us to be merry and filled with joy yet the holiday season can be stressful and an overwhelming time of year. There is more to do and events to attend which leads to worrying how to get everything done as well as the finan-

cial stress that occurs during the holidays. The following tips are offered to help manage your mental health and holiday stress levels.

Plan Ahead. Take the time to set aside specific days for shopping, baking, connecting with friends or family and other activities. Planning ahead helps to give you peace of mind, be organized and stay calm. By taking one task at a time, it will lessen holiday stress. Be Realistic. Holiday celebrations do not need to be perfect or the same as last year. Life changes over the past year may lead to decisions of celebrating different this year or not at all. You may not have time or energy to decorate, bake, send cards or shop like you did in the past and that is okay. Do not stress about trying to create the perfect holiday season - be openminded to changes.

Stay Active. Exercise helps to deal with holiday stress, anxiety and depression. Endorphins are released that act as natural painkillers and reduce stress levels. Take a walk, dance to your favorite song or do some stretching. Don't Be Afraid to Say No. You may want to please everyone during the holidays, but you need to think about your mental health and stress levels. Be honest and let others know what you can and cannot do so that you do not have too much on your plate.

Acknowledge Your Feelings. The holidays may not be a happy time for you this year. Trying to force yourself to be happy during the holidays will make your mental health and stress levels worse. It is important to express and acknowledge your feelings of sadness if you cannot be with your loved one who has passed away. Treat yourself with kindness. Don't Worry About the Small Stuff. Try to keep things in perspective. If you do not complete everything on your list, do not worry

about it. Remember the focus of Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus!

If you find yourself struggling during the holiday season by feeling persistently sad or anxious, by experiencing many physical issues, are unable to sleep, are irritable and hopeless and unable to face routine chores – you may consider talking to your doctor or a mental health professional. Being honest with yourself, reaching our for help when indicated, planning ahead and thinking positive, may help you find some peace and joy during the holidays.

Pastoral Care Needs

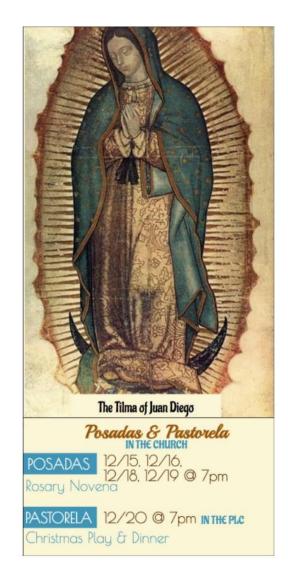
If you are homebound and unable to come to Mass and would like Holy Communion brought to you by trained Ministers of Care or if you need resources and support during a time of transition, loss or challenges, please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Parish Nurse and Director of Pastoral Care at 331-707-5380 or at jolenel@olmercy.com. If pastoral care is needed in an emergency after office hours, please call 630-851-3444 to connect with the emergency line and talk with the priest on call. God bless you and keep you in His care!

May the peace, joy and love of the Lord be in your heart as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child! Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!!!













Saturday January

8:00am - 12:00pm

Helpful tip: Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Photo ID is required.

Call (630) 723-2589 with eligibility questions.

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For information or to make a reservation contact:

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Around the Parish

Free Throw Contest

It's that time again to sharpen up your free throw skills. We will hold our annual Free throw contest on Thursday January 15th in the PLC Gym. Registration will start at 6:45 and the contest at 7:00. This even it open to boys and girls aged 9 - 14 (prior to Jan1, 2023). This is always a fun night with prizes for the participants. Make plans to attend! For additional information call (630) 957-7559.

Thinking of becoming a Knight?

We will be holding an information meeting on Sunday 1/29 after the 10:00am Mass in room 114 to explain who the Knights of Columbus are and how to become a member. We will show a short video and provide refreshments. Interested practicing Catholic Men and their families are invited to join us. Membership is open to all practicing Catholic men aged 18 and up, 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 to help us make a difference! For information reach out to Jeff LeRoy, Grand Knight, at jleroy53@hotmail.com or call 630-336-7728.

Becoming Catholic (O.C.I.A.)

Are you curious about becoming Catholic? Are you Catholic but haven't yet received all your sacraments? O.C.I A., the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, is the amazing journey of entering into the fullness of the Catholic faith. We will help you to learn, grow, find community, and prepare for the fullness of life that God desires for us all!

Even if you're unsure with where you're at regarding becoming Catholic or receiving all your sacraments, please visit our website at www.olmercy.com, under Becoming Catholic. You are also welcome to reach out to Fr. James at friames@olmercv.com

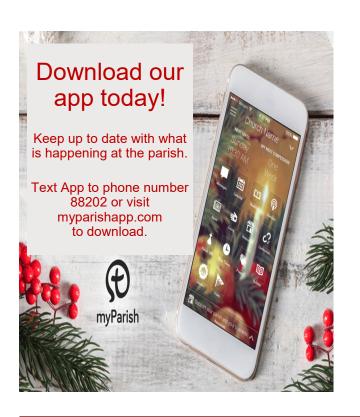
Parish Sacrificial Giving **Actual Year-to-Date Collections** 639,911 \$ 673,200 Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget \$ **Amount Short of Budget** (33,289)\$ 41,202 12/04/22 Sunday Collection \$ Weekly Sunday Goal 30,600 \$ **Amount in Excess of Goal** 10,602

For the Budget Year 2022/23 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 2%, to \$30,600/week, to help expand our various Ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Parish in your will and estate planning.

Parish Life Center (Construction Loan)			
April, 2009	\$	1,950,000	
October, 2022	\$	445,954	
November, 2022	\$	433,954	





CMAA Pledge Report

We are excited to share that Our Lady of Mercy will receive \$8,935 for achieving our goal for the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal.

Thank you for being so generous with the gifts God has bestowed upon you and entrusting them to us. We, too, promise to be good stewards of these gifts.

May God bless you and your loved ones, and may you continue to be *devoted to the works of the Lord* through all you do in His name.

Online Giving

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.

Look for this icon



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

701 S. Eola Road † Aurora, IL 60504 www.olmercy.com

	Off	

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
Sunday8:00am, 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

Onon wookday	/S	7.00am 0.00nm
Obell Weekual	/5	/.UUaiii-o.UUbiii

Adoration

Monday & Thursday	8:30am-6:00pm
Wednesdays	8:00am-12:00pm
First Friday of the Month	12:00pm

Benediction

Monday	/ & ·	Thursday	/	6:00p	m
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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.

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.

scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirement Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

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

Parish Priests
PastorFr. Michael Kearney630-851-3444, Ext. 228 frmichael@olmercy.com
Parochial VicarFr. James Guarascio 630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frjames@olmercy.com
050 051 5444, Ext. 220 Hjulles@olllercy.com
Permanent Deacons Dcn Tim Kuepertkueper5@yahoo.com Dcn Tony Leazzotonyl@olmercy.com Dcn Tony Martinitonym@olmercy.com Dcn Doug McIlvainedougm@olmercy.com
Dcn Phil Rehmer deaconphil@rehmer.com Dcn Bugsy Sindac bugsys@olmercy.com Dcn Art Tiongson hope2640@yahoo.com
Pastoral Staff Director of Music Ministries Frank Sauter 331-707-5379 franks@olmercy.com
Parish Nurse/Pastoral Care Jolene LeRoy, RN 331-707-5380 jolenel@olmercy.com
Evangelization & Communications Zara Tan 331-707-5381zara@olmercy.com
Family Evangelization & Catechesis Director (Pre K-5) & RCIC
Director (6-12) Dave Miserendino 331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com
RE Secretary Karen Schwartz 331-707-5369karens@olmercy.com
Principal of All Saints Catholic Academy 630-961-6125Margie Marshall
Administrative Staff
Business Manager Bob Gancarz 331-707-5370 robertg@olmercy.com
Parish Secretary Diane Reiter 630-851-3444 dianer@olmercy.com
Business Office Assistant Lydia Schmitt 331-707-5377 lydias@olmercy.com
Buildings & Grounds Len Eickhoff 630-631-1676 lene@olmercy.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society 630-851-3444Voicemail-ext. 400





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1120 S. Broadway Road Montgomery, IL 60538





Henry Zehnal

Real Estate Broker | Parishioner 630.788.9090 henry@victoriatanteam.com



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