

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



The Heisman trophy is awarded to an individual college football player for his outstanding performance on the field. The trophy is a bronze figure of John Heisman with arm extended (a stiff-arm) to ward off any person getting to the football. Sometimes I think this trophy represents more than just a great football player but also a common image of how we can tend to live the Christian life.

For better or for worse, relationships have the ability to change us. For that reason, we can often carry the same stance as the Heisman trophy: a stiff-arm that wards off potentially life-changing encounters. However, the Lord is constantly inviting us to relationship—both with him and his Body, the Church. Although keeping others at arm's length can seem more comfortable, it also means that we could be keeping Our Lord at a distance as well.

The Magi offer us a good example. Instead of avoiding new relationships, they sought them out! They went on a long and arduous journey to enter into a new relationship with the King of the Jews. Unsure of what their meeting would mean, they stepped out of their comfortable lives as kings in search of something even greater. What is more, they had the humility to seek wisdom from others on their journey, leading to their eventual discovery of a little child with his mother, and a new King who was worthy of all their gifts. The last line in this narrative is subtle but profound: "They departed for their country *by another way*." Their lives were changed!

As we begin a new year, I encourage you to be open to new relationships. To put away our Heisman stance and open ourselves to the Lord and his Body at Our Lady of Mercy. May I even encourage you further by taking part in the many places of encounter especially where you haven't had a chance to take part in, here at Our Lady of Mercy. From encountering the Lord through those in need by helping out at PADS, the Mobile Food Pantry, the funeral and homebound ministries, to diving deeper into profound intimacy with the Lord through the upcoming CRHP Men's and Women's Retreats, the next Bible Study on the Chosen, or the upcoming powerful gatherings in the Rescue Project. May our encounter of the Lord, in these places of encounter or on our own seeking of Him, have the same result as it did for the Magi, that our lives be changed!

Father Michael



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, January 9 - The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am † William Gardaphe 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

6:30 pm † Special Intention, by Juliana Hepburn

(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, January 10 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Jerry Hospodka, by Mary Nemetz

6:30 pm † Margaret Fountain, by Don & Eloise Andrews

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, January 11 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm † Michael Kotecki, by Family

12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, January 12 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am Int Stefania Chase, by Bonnie Ramirez

8:00 am † James Weber, by The Weber Family

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, January 13 - St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of Church

8:00 am † Donald Nevinski, by The Guarascio Family

Saturday, January 14 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Int The Bersamin Family

9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)

1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)

4:00 pm Vigil - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

† George Durante, by The LoGioia Family

† Joseph Wagner, by The Jesse Family

Sunday, January 15 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† Janice Melisi, by Mike & Lori Coit

10:00 am † Stanley Gorski, by Helen Gorski

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm † Tanguy Torck, by The Scowins Family

5:30 pm The People of Our Lady of Mercy



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- 1. ALR-MBF-JF Happy Healthy '23
- 2. NHBL-Happy Healthy 2023
- 3. LML-Happy Healthy 2023
- 4. First Responders
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Baby Cerina Skye
- 8. The Deceased

- The Feldman Family
- 10. Pope Benedict XVI
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. Vocations
- 14. Anthony M. Loquercio Jr.
- 15. Frank Rostan
- 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.

Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses

January 14 & 15

Father James will preach at all Masses.				
Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio TBD		
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney Dcn Art Tiongson		
	10:00 am	Fr James Guarascio Dcn Tony Martini		
	12:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney Dcn Doug McIlvaine		
	5:30 pm	Fr James Guarascio TBD		



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 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

Rev. Don McLaughlin Susan Mennenga

Kristen Manning

Susan Massett

Bill Morse 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.

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 LTJG Marion Bautista, US Navy SSG Karla Venegas, US Army SSG Jeremy Norris, US Army Capt. Carmen Lockett, US Army PO3 Joshua San Diego, US Navy LT Daniel Moran, US Army

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



El trofeo Heisman se otorga a un jugador individual de fútbol americano universitario por su destacada actuación en el campo. El trofeo es una figura de bronce de John Heisman con el brazo extendido (un brazo rígido) para evitar que cualquier persona se acerque al balón. A veces pienso que este trofeo representa más que a un gran jugador de fútbol, sino también una imagen común de cómo podemos inclinarnos a vivir la vida Cristiana.

Para bien o para mal, las relaciones tienen la capacidad de cambiarnos. Por esa razón, a menudo podemos tener la misma postura que el trofeo Heisman: un brazo rígido que evita encuentros que potencialmente pueden cambiar la vida. Sin embargo, el Señor nos invita constantemente a la relación, tanto con él como con su Cuerpo, la Iglesia. Aunque mantener a los demás a distancia puede parecer más cómodo, además significa que también podemos mantener a Nuestro Señor a distancia.

Los Reyes Magos nos ofrecen un buen ejemplo. En lugar de evitar nuevas relaciones, ¡las buscaron! Hicieron un largo y arduo viaje para entrar en una nueva relación con el Rey de los Judíos. Inseguros de lo que significaría su reunión, abandonaron sus cómodas vidas como reyes en busca de algo aún más grande. Es más, tuvieron la humildad de buscar la sabiduría de otros en su viaje, lo que los llevó a descubrir finalmente a un niño pequeño con su madre y un nuevo Rey que era digno de todos sus regalos. La última línea de esta narración es sutil pero profunda: "Partieron para su país por otro camino". ¡Sus vidas fueron cambiadas!

Ahora que comenzamos un nuevo año, los animo a estar abiertos a nuevas relaciones. Dejar de lado nuestra postura Heisman y abrirnos al Señor y su Cuerpo en Our Lady of Merc y. ¡Que nuestro encuentro con el Señor tenga el mismo resultado que tuvo con los Reyes Magos, que nuestras vidas sean cambiadas!

Padre Michael



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo Is 60, 1-6;

Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13;

Ef 3, 2-3a. 5-6; Mt 2, 1-12

Lunes Is 42, 1-4. 6-7 o Hch 10, 34-38;

Sal 28, 1a y 2. 3ac-4. 3b y 9b-10; o Sal 103, 1-2a. 2b-4. 24-25. 27-

28. 29-30; Mt 3, 13-17

Martes Heb 2, 5-12;

Sal 8, 2ab y 5. 6-7. 8-9;

Mc 1, 21-28

Miércoles Heb 2, 14-18;

Sal 104, 1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8-9;

Mc 1, 29-39

Jueves Heb 3, 7-14;

Sal 94, 6-7c. 8-9. 10-11;

Mc 1, 40-45

Viernes Heb 4, 1-5. 11;

Sal 77, 3 y 4bc. 6c-7. 8;

Mc 2, 1-12

Sábado Heb 4, 12-16;

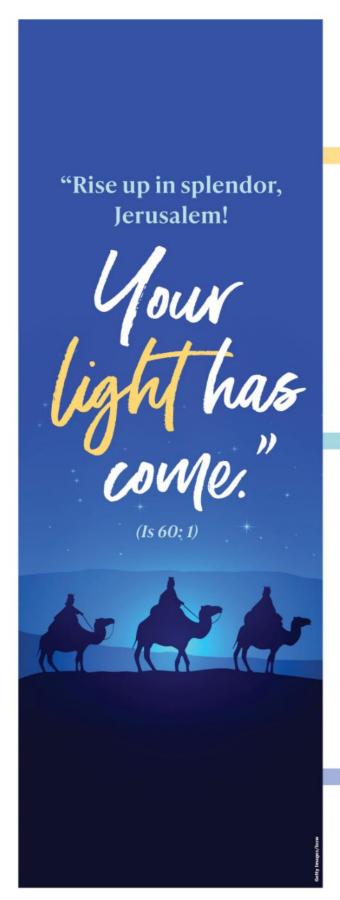
Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 15;

Mc 2, 13-17

Domingo Is 49, 3. 5-6;

Sal 39, 2 y 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10; 1

Cor 1, 1-3; Jn 1, 29-34



January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

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

It's easy to stay inside and cozy up on the couch these winter months. Having just gotten through the winter solstice, many of us crave light and warmth. The language of Isaiah may resonate with us even more deeply this time of year: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory." In today's Gospel, in the dark of night, the Magi follow a bright star to pay homage to Jesus, whom they recognize as the newborn king of the Jews. On the Epiphany, which means "manifestation," we celebrate this moment when Christ's light shone forth to the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives: "The key point is this: The wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to pay homage to the Christ Child, each of us journeys every day toward a fuller life in Christ. Just as the Magi followed the light to discover Christ, so does the light of Christ serve as our constant beacon, reorienting us toward God and his holy path. After worshiping the Christ Child at Christmas, let us move forward and pay homage to the Savior through our words and actions. Although Epiphany signifies the official "end" of the Christmas season, it is fitting that it falls at the beginning of a new calendar year because it allows us to reexamine, among our traditional "New Year's resolutions," how we live our lives in the light of Christ. "The wise men from the east are a new beginning,' the pope said. May their journey and experience inspire us to "begin anew" however we must, and offer Jesus our gifts of love and devotion, considering how his light may shine through us to others.

PRAY "Dear Jesus, as you led the Wise Men to you by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to you by the light of faith. Help us to desire you as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from you. May we, like them, have something to give you when we appear before you. Amen."





Profits will support:

Teen Mission Trip



MEET OUR NEW SEMINARIAN ncent Otieno

BIRTHDAY November 4, 1987 PLACE OF BIRTH Siaya, Kenya

GRADUATE Bachelor's Degree in Theology, Saint Joseph's Theological

Institute NPC Cedara South Africa

UNDERGRADUATE Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, Consolata Institute of

Philosophy Nairobi, Kenya

LANGUAGES English, Swahili, and Luo (Nilotic Kenyan language)

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE Proverbs 3:5 -trust in the Lord with all your hearts and do not lean on your own understanding.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM JESUS John 14:1 - Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me

FAVORITE OLD TESTAMENT FIGURE Abraham

FAVORITE SAINT St. Teresa of Calcutta

FAVORITE MARIAN DEVOTION Rosary

PERSON THAT HELPED YOU

DISCOVER YOUR VOCATION My Grandmother and also Sr. Constance, a Franciscan sister in Kenya

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO FOR FUN Watching wrestling, volleyball and listening to music

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE,

WHERE WOULD IT BE United States of America

FAVORITE FOOD Pizza

ARE YOU INSPIRED BY ANY AUTHOR,

ACTOR, SINGER OR ATHLETE Eliud Kipchoge, a long distance runner from Kenya

FAVORITE BAND OR SONG The Magnificat of Mary

WERE YOU AN ALTAR SERVER Yes I was

PRIEST ASPIRATION Rev. Fr. Clive Otieno

HOW CAN OUR LADY OF MERCY

PARISHIONERS PRAY FOR YOU That God help me in my vocation discernment, to become a good priest and to serve God's people faithfully.

WHAT MADE YOU SAY "YES" TO THE CALLING OF BECOMING A PRIEST

I am the sixth born in a Catholic family of nine. My now-deceased parents played a great role in my faith formation as a Catholic. The importance of commitment to God through active participation in the Church was instilled in my siblings and me. Sunday school and youth services were compulsory at home and I picked up strong Catholic values that helped shape me from a very young age and these became part of my life. I joined various youth groups within the church such as Altar Servers, and Parish youths among others.

I had an elderly grandmother, who received her baptism as an adult on her deathbed and who had lost her vision due to her advanced age. I loved my grandma and was sympathetic to her blindness. I decided to go and live with her and help my parents take care of her. Even though young, I took the responsibility seriously becoming her guide and companion for the next two years till she passed. This whole experience taught me how to be gentle and considerate to those in need especially the destitute, the sick, the elderly, and the disabled. My closeness to a dying and blind grandmother influenced my vocation as a servant to become a priest.

After high school, I joined Oblates Missionaries and began my religious formation in March 2008 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religious Studies in 2012. I also took an introductory course in African Studies at the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies (MIASM). I completed my Novitiate year in Germiston, South Africa, and took my first temporary Vows as an Oblate Missionary in 2014. I was assigned in a parish for pastoral work experience for one year. In 2018, I completed my Theological studies and graduated with a B.A in Theology (BTH). After graduation, I discerned out of formation with the Oblates Missionaries.

Even though I discerned out from my religious community, I never gave up on my desire to pursue a religious vocation as a priest. I met Father Clive (a priest of the Diocese of Joliet who was on vacation in Kenya) and I shared with him my story and desire to become a priest. He encouraged me to keep on pursuing my vocation and invited me to consider applying to the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. After a rigorous application process through the Diocesan vocation office, I was accepted, and I am grateful to God that I am here today to journey on with my discernment.

Justice and Peace Ministry

The Justice & Peace Ministry had a very successful growing season in the Community Garden of Hope, Love & Mercy in 2022. We were able to provide fresh produce to many who utilize the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora through the summer and fall. Next season we hope to double the number of beds and increase the produce. Much thanks to the following for their participation in building, planting, watering, weeding and delivering the produce: Ida Phillips; Kim and Tom Karas; Silverio Perez; Jacob Olef; Chris Cullen; Heather Stockley; Sabrina, Brian and Anicka Molinari; Katie Hrad; Chris Riley; Kayla Jacobs; Deacon Tim; and Len Eickhoff and Doug and Theresa Tyk for their support and lastly, thank you to Fr. Don for his support in this endeavor. If you are interested in participating in the next growing season we welcome all volunteers. Watch for start dates in April bulletins.

Recently we collected household items - Welcome to America Pack- for a refugee family due to arrive very soon. The family scheduled for last week has been delayed but they should be arriving before end of the month. Thank you to all who donated to this very worthy cause. Your generosity was overwhelming- we have all the needed items from the list supplied by Exodus World Services. And we have many items to fulfill a second Pack. If you are interested in donating contact Chris Harvey or watch for the list of needed items in an upcoming bulletin.

The ministry continues to collect toiletries, etc and assemble "Blessing Bags" for the homeless. We use hotel/ travel size shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, soap; toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, floss; combs, disposable razors, washcloths, socks, and granola bars or other small snacks (peanut butter crackers, nuts). A collection bin is in the lobby near the desk. Thank you for your generosity.

Our second annual Green Fair will be held in April. More details to come. We also will be looking at ways to be a more green parish. If you are interested in joining this ministry and assisting with the various projects and/or the planning of the Green Fair please contact Chris Harvey at 631-561-9722 or chrisharveyny@gmail.com

Thank you.

Around the Parish

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 ileroy53@hotmail.com or call 630-336-7728.



Poinsettia Remembrances for Christmas

In Memory/Honor of:

Dcd Cardenas Family Members Dcd Prisco Family Members Ryba and Ciombor Families Katevie Rajendra Babu

Given By:

Rob & Georgette Prisco Rob & Georgette Prisco Richard & Marylou Ciombor Rozi Katuri

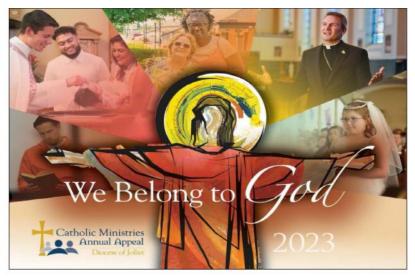




Parish Sacrificial Giving			
Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	735,546	
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	765,000	
Amount Short of Budget	\$	(29,454)	
12/25/22 Sunday Collection	\$	24,780	
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	30,600	
Amount Short of Goal	\$	(5,820)	
For the Budget Year 2022/23 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 2%, to \$30,600/week, to help expand our various Ministries.			
Christmas Collection	\$	39,508	
Christmas Budget	\$	64,000	
Amount Short of Budget	\$	(24,492)	

Parish Life Center (Construction Loan)			
April, 2009	\$	1,950,000	
November, 2022	\$	433,954	
December, 2022	\$	421,834	





The 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal is now underway As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are asking all parishioners to pledge their support to this important effort for our community of faith.

This year's CMAA theme is *We Belong to God.* Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we help the poor and vulnerable, increase vocations and educate people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities in the faith. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own.

Our parish's goal for the 2023 CMAA is \$141,900 and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us. Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet this month and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

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

sday, Friday .	8:00am
)	6:30pm
	8:00am, 6:30pm
	12:00pm
	6:30am, 8:00am
	8:30am
r Sunday)	4:00pm
.8:00am, 10:	00am,12:00pm, and 5:30pm
	or Sunday)

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 weekday	/S	7:00am 8:00am
Open weekday	/S	. / .UUam-8.UUbm

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
<i>Pastor</i> Fr. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228 frmichael@olmercy.com
Parochial VicarFr. James Guarascio
630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frjames@olmercy.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
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 Mary Jo Trapani
331-707-5378maryjot@olmercy.com
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 ManagerBob Gancarz
331-707-5370robertg@olmercy.com
Parish SecretaryDiane Reiter
630-851-3444 dianer@olmercy.com
Business Office Assistant Lydia Schmitt
331-707-5377 lydias@olmercy.com
Buildings & Grounds Len Eickhoff
630-631-1676lene@olmercy.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society

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Bridgette Oester Funeral Director (630) 897-1196

1120 S. Broadway Road Montgomery, IL 60538





Henry Zehnal

Real Estate Broker | Parishioner 630,788,9090 henry@victoriatanteam.com



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