

OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
February 12, 2023



6th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

"AGAIN, YOU HAVE HEARD
IT WAS SAID TO YOUR
ANCESTORS, 'DO NOT
TAKE FALSE OATH, BUT
MAKE GOOD TO THE LORD
ALL THAT YOU VOW.'"

Matthew 5:33



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



When I was in college, I had a college sweet heart; her name was Katie and we met through our involvement at the Newman center at the University of Illinois. When it came to my own spiritual growth, Katie played a very important role in my life challenging me to grow closer in my relationship to the Lord. Katie and I dated for over year and during that time we were making plans for our engagement and wedding.

Clearly the Lord had other plans!

I learned many things about myself during that relationship. One great spiritual lesson I learned was the following: “rules without relationship leads to rebellion.” I learned as I was dating that rules necessarily come with relationships. I had to learn to communicate, to inform my decision-making not just based on myself but on her needs and perspectives as well, and to make various sacrifices for the sake of the relationship. When the relationship was going well, the rules were easy and simple to follow!

However, when difficulties arose in the relationship, I started reevaluating at the *all* of the rules. For example, *why can't* I spend time with my other friends on the weekend? Can I *not* decide to do with my free time as I wish? ...you can probably sense the rebellious nature in the very questions themselves.

It is no different in our faith. What is clear in our readings—including in our Gospel—is that the law and commandments are part of what is required to follow Christ. It's when we focus *solely* on the rules that we have a tendency to want to rebel. Thus, when I experience temptations towards rebellion springing up in my heart, I have to stop and ask myself: How *is* my relationship with the Lord? My relationship with his Bride, the Church?

Lent quickly approaches us, and the Church will be asking us to make the sacrifices of increased fasting, praying, and almsgiving. To some, this might feel like just another set of rules to remember, but I would like to challenge you to remember that rules without relationship inevitably lead to rebellion! Let's keep our hearts fixed first and foremost on our relationship with the One without which these rules wouldn't make sense!

Father Michael



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, February 13 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am † Nancy Basten, by Katherine & Robert Vail
- 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:00 pm Benediction
- 6:30 pm † Victor Varela, by Juliana Hepburn
(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, February 14 - Sts Cyril, Monk & Methodius

- 8:00 am † Victoria Tiu Lo, by Elizabeth Lo
- 6:30 pm Int The Minardi Family, by The Lozano Family
- 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, February 15 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 12:00 pm † Alejandro & Nora Caceres, by Family
- 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, February 16 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 6:30 am Int Bill
- 8:00 am † Cornelio P. Reformina, Sr.
- 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, February 17 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am † Joy Rinon, by Sharon Fernandez

Saturday, February 18 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 8:30 am † Sheldon Macy, by Friend of the Family
- 9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)
- 1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)
- 4:00 pm **Vigil - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
† Anthony M. Loquerico, by Family
† Jim Weber

Sunday, February 19 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
† Jim Weber, by Family
- 10:00 am † Virginia Sillasen, by Dcn Phil & Jean Rehmer
(Live Streamed)
- 12:00 pm † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer
- 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. Joan Kubicki | 9. Fr Michael Kearney |
| 2. Escobedo Family | 10. Fr James Guarascio |
| 3. Special Intention | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Baby Riley Chick | 12. The Sick |
| 5. The Pluskota Family | 13. Louie Sonetz |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Mike Prokell—RIH |
| 7. Baby Cerina Skye | 15. Fr Don McLaughlin |
| 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.

Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses

February 18 & 19

Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr James Guarascio
	10:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney
	12:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio
	5:30 pm	Fr Michael Kearney

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
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
Penelope Keene
Michelle Maeirs
Kristen Manning
Susan Massett

Rev. Don McLaughlin
Susan Mennenga
Bill Morse
La Moua
Charlene Oates
Flo Paprzycki
Diane Pazos
Valerie Plesha
Jim Pluskota
Jackie Schiable
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.



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



Cuando estaba en la universidad, tenía una novia universitaria; su nombre era Katie y nos conocimos a través de nuestra participación en el centro Newman de la Universidad de Illinois. Cuando se trataba de mi propio crecimiento espiritual, Katie desempeñó un papel muy importante en mi vida y me desafió a acercarme más a mi relación con el Señor. Katie y yo salimos durante más de un año y durante ese tiempo estábamos haciendo planes para nuestro compromiso y boda. ¡Claramente el Señor tenía otros planes!

Aprendí muchas cosas sobre mí durante esa relación. Una gran lección espiritual que aprendí fue la siguiente: “las reglas sin relación conducen a la rebelión”. Aprendí mientras salía con ella que las reglas vienen necesariamente con las relaciones. Tuve que aprender a comunicarme, a informar mi toma de decisiones no solo en función de mí mismo, sino también de sus necesidades y perspectivas, y de hacer varios sacrificios por el bien de la relación. Cuando la relación iba bien, ¡las reglas eran fáciles y sencillas de seguir!

Sin embargo, cuando surgieron dificultades en la relación, comencé a reevaluar *todas* las reglas. Por ejemplo, ¿por qué *no puedo* pasar tiempo con mis otros amigos el fin de semana? ¿*No puedo* decidir hacer con mi tiempo libre lo que deseo? ... ustedes probablemente puedan sentir la naturaleza rebelde en las preguntas mismas.

No es diferente en nuestra fe. Lo que está claro en nuestras lecturas, incluso en nuestro Evangelio, es que la ley y los mandamientos son parte de lo que se requiere para seguir a Cristo. Es cuando nos enfocamos *únicamente* en las reglas que tendemos a querer rebelarnos. Por eso, cuando experimento tentaciones de rebeldía brotando en mi corazón, tengo que detenerme y preguntarme: ¿Cómo *está* mi relación con el Señor? ¿Mi relación con su Novia, la Iglesia?

La Cuaresma se acerca rápidamente, y la Iglesia nos pedirá que hagamos los sacrificios de aumentar el ayuno, la oración y la limosna. Para algunos, esto puede parecer simplemente otro conjunto de reglas para recordar, ¡pero me gustaría desafiarlos a recordar que las reglas sin relación conducen inevitablemente a la rebelión! ¡Mantengamos nuestros corazones fijos ante todo en nuestra relación con Aquel sin el cual estas reglas no tendrían sentido!

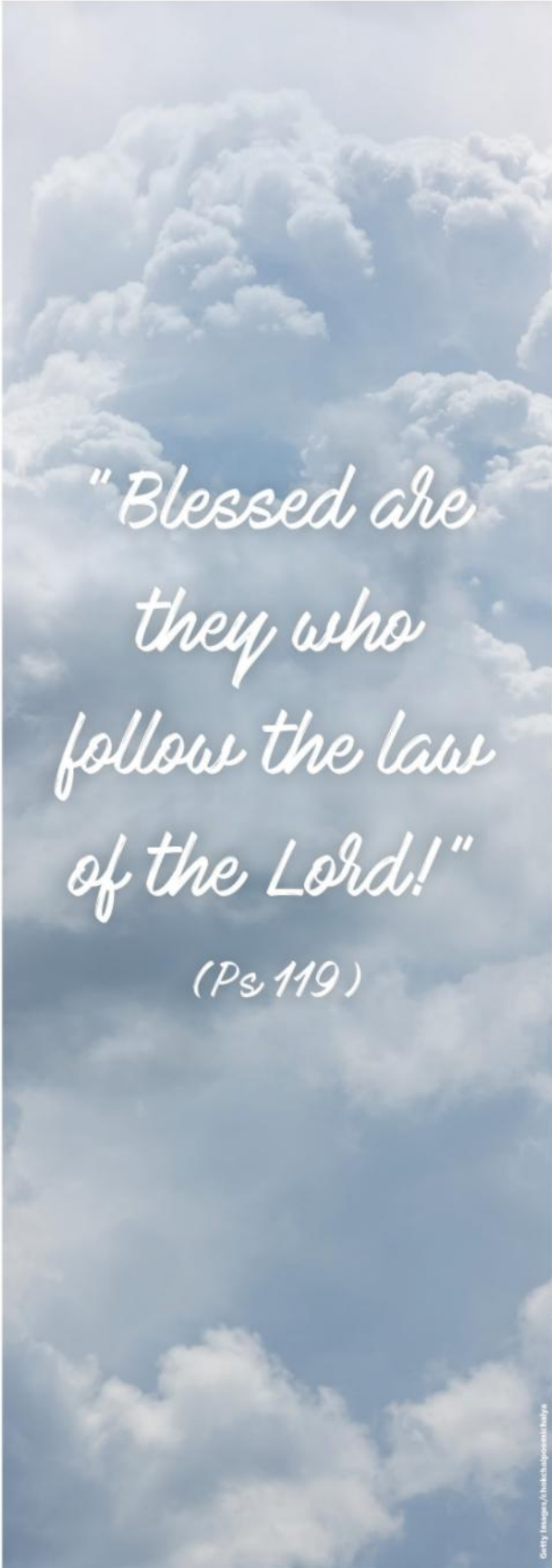
Padre Michael

“Digan
simplemente
sí; cuando
es sí;

y no,
cuando
es no”.

Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo	Sir 15, 16-21; Sal 118, 1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34; 1 Cor 2, 6-10; Mt 5, 17-37 o Mt 5, 20-22, 27-28. 33-37
Lunes	Gn 4, 1-15. 25; Sal 49, 1 y 8. 16bc-17. 20-21; Mc 8, 11-13
Martes	Gn 6, 5-8; 7, 1-5. 10; Sal 28, 1a y 2. 3ac-4. 3b y 9b-10; Mc 8, 14-21
Miércoles	Gn 8, 6-13. 20-22; Sal 115, 12-13. 14-15. 18-19; Mc 8, 22-26
Jueves	Gn 9, 1-13; Sal 101, 16-18. 19-21. 29 y 22-23; Mc 8, 27-33
Viernes	Gn 11, 1-9; Sal 32, 10-11. 12-13. 14-15; Mc 8, 34—9, 1
Sábado	Heb 11, 1-7; Sal 144, 2-3. 4-5. 10-11; Mc 9, 2-13
Domingo	Lv 19, 1-2. 17-18; Sal 102, 1-2. 3-4. 8 y 10. 12-13; 1 Cor 3, 16-23; Mt 5, 38-48



February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Just the other day some of my friends agreed on a new way to approach the new year: Select one word, a kind of mantra for 2023. Ironically, even though I am indecisive to a fault, I had no trouble deciding on mine: “Choose.” I often get stuck, whether it’s deciding which online clothing purchases to return, what to order on the menu ... and don’t get me started on major life decisions. Today’s reading from Sirach reminds us of the choice that matters most: If we *choose* to keep the commandments, they will save us. “Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.” We are well into 2023, but it bears reminding that each day we have an opportunity to choose anew: To follow God’s law, fulfilled in the words and example of Jesus. He will show us the way. “If you trust in God, you too shall live.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We’ve probably all heard the term “quiet quitting” by now. It’s a workplace phenomenon where employees do the bare minimum rather than going above and beyond. I thought of that phrase when reading Matthew’s Gospel today. How many of us Christians have “quietly quit,” doing the minimum required – going to Mass on Sunday, being faithful to our spouse, not resorting to violence when we get angry with someone. Jesus challenges us to go above and beyond the Ten Commandments. You shall not kill, but you should not stay angry either. You shall not commit adultery, but you shall also love your spouse with your whole heart. Today’s readings challenge us to rediscover God’s law and challenge ourselves to go “above and beyond” in our daily lives.

PRAY Pray today’s psalm (119): “Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!” How might you specifically follow the law of the Lord just a little bit better, or above and beyond, today? Each day?

Getty Images/Markus Spiske/Getty



January 2023

Dear Parishioner,

Many people spend their whole lives searching for a sense of belonging. As baptized missionary disciples, we need only to look to the Bible to know exactly Who we belong to: "I have called you by name: you are mine" (Is 43:1).

What a comfort — a joy — to know, without doubt, that *we belong to God!*

We cannot keep this joy to ourselves. We must put our joy — our faith — into action and help further God's Kingdom here on earth. In the Diocese of Joliet, the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) allows us to demonstrate our faith and bring greater assistance to those in need. Together, we invest in our future priests, catechize through Catholic education, promote social justice, and reduce the suffering of those in need.

Because of your generosity to the CMAA, you truly live out the Gospel as well as the theme for this year's CMAA, *We Belong to God*.

As we launch the 2023 annual appeal, I ask that you prayerfully reflect on the love God has for you, as well as Christ's Church, by making a gift or pledge this year. And if you are able, please consider increasing your gift this year. You may find inspiration in the stories in the enclosed brochure, which shares how the CMAA impacts your brothers and sisters in Christ. Please return the enclosed pledge card by February 20 or go to jolietdioceseappeal.org to give online.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

Peace,

+ Ronald A. Hicks

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet



Diocese of Joliet | Development Office | 16555 Weber Road | Crest Hill, Illinois 60403 | (815) 838-8515

Ash Wednesday Scripture Service & Simple Supper



**COME TO GATHER AS A PARISH FAMILY
FOR THE 5:30PM ASH WEDNESDAY
SCRIPTURE SERVICE FOLLOWED BY
A SIMPLE MEATLESS SUPPER IN THE MPR (GYM)**

WHEN: ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 @ 5:30 P.M.

**WHERE: BEGIN IN CHURCH FOR SCRIPTURE
SERVICE & RECEIVE ASHES (NOT A MASS)
FOLLOWED BY A SIMPLE SUPPER IN THE GYM**

**WHO: FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, GRANDPARENTS,
GODPARENTS, SINGLE ADULTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS
ALL OLM RELATIVES & FRIENDS!**

**LENTEN TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES &
FRIENDS WILL BE AVAILABLE**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR SIMPLE SUPPER
(NOT NEEDED FOR CHURCH SERVICE)**



**OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Please contact Karen Schwartz
karens@olmercy.com*

Justice & Peace Ministry Update

Thank you again to all who donated items for the Welcome to America Pack in December. On January 10 our **Welcome Pack** was delivered to an apartment in Rogers Park and the apartment was set up - ready for the family who arrived that evening from Guatemala. Mom, her teenage brother, her preteen son and two year old daughter were so thankful to all at Our Lady of Mercy who helped to make them feel welcomed with your gifts. A few days later, on January 12, I visited the family to officially welcome them on your behalf. They are grateful to all who were instrumental in the refugee resettlement process and especially loved all the household items and toiletries, etc.

We have many items for our next Welcome Pack. Once we have all the items needed we can provide the beginnings for another refugee family from another country. These are the items needed: set of mixing bowls, set of pots and pans, baking pans, set of cooking utensils, cutting board, set of sharp knives, tall trash can and trash bags, tea kettle, broom and dust pan, alarm clock, 4 sets of towels, small trash cans, 8 rolls of toilet paper, fan, small tool kit, 4 light bulbs. Also needed are comforters but the sizes would be given at a later date. If you are interested in donating any of these items or wish to make a monetary donation for our ministry to purchase needed items and basic ethnic foods please contact me, Chris Harvey, at 631-561-9722 or chrisharvey@olm.com

Thank you for caring and sharing.

If you are interested in more information about Exodus World and their work with refugee families and/or wish to volunteer go to exodusworldservice.org or call 630-307-1400 / 312.REFUGEE

Around the Parish

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a group of men and women, inspired by gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships and service to our neighbors in need. In 2022, we provided rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance to 72 households. This assistance helped over 185 men, women and children to remain in their homes or apartments in time of financial need.

We thank you for your generous donations and support. In fiscal 2022, your kind financial generosity and giving was used to provide \$38,000 in rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance to our neighbors in need. We look forward to your continuing support as the need continues to grow in these challenging economic times.

We welcome new members who are interested in growing in spirituality, friendship, and service to join our ministry of caring individuals. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Gary Stercay, at OLMSVDP@gmail.com

Magnify

Magnify will be on February 15th this month due to Ash Wednesday falling on February 22. Come offer glory to God through adoration, praise and worship.

Mobile Food Pantry

The next Mobile Food Pantry is on Weds 2/15th from 4:30pm to 6pm in the parking lot at OLM. The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Mobile Food Pantry provides healthy food to people in need. This event is open to anyone in need of food! Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. The Mobile Food Pantries take place rain or shine!

The Rescue Project

The Rescue Project is an experience of the gospel surrounded by food, conversation and prayer. It seeks to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way over eight weeks in a small group format. This experience is imbued with beauty, authentic humanity, and accompaniment. The Rescue Project starts February 23 at 6:30 pm in the MPR. For more information or to register, please visit www.olmercy.com or contact Zara Tan at 331-707-5381.

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

Register now for the Renewal Weekend! Men's weekend is February 25 & 26 and the Women's weekend is March 4 & 5. Christ Renews His Parish, or CRHP, is designed to help us renew our Christian faith by bringing members of the Our Lady of Mercy community together in Christ. It is a break from your busy schedule so that you can refresh yourself spiritually and renew your heart. You will be meeting with and listening to the experiences of other men or women from our Parish in an informal and relaxed environment of reflection, fellowship and fun.

<https://www.crhpatolm.com/registration>



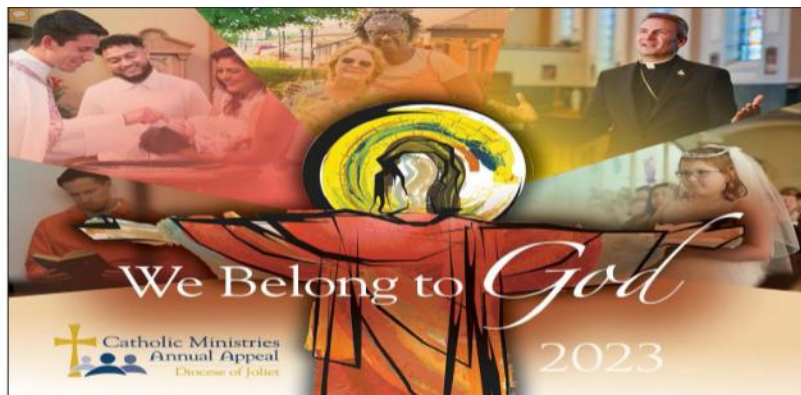
Parish Sacrificial Giving

Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	894,255
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	918,000
Amount Short of Budget	\$	(23,745)
01/29/23 Sunday Collection	\$	32,904
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	30,600
Amount in Excess of Goal	\$	2,304

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.



Your gift to the CMAA makes a difference. The opening report for the 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) in today's bulletin reflects how we belong to God because we are part of Christ's Church.

Through the CMAA, we care for the most vulnerable members of our community. We also benefit, as a parish, from the many ministries the CMAA supports, like vocations, Catholic education and faith formation.

Our parish's goal for the 2023 CMAA is \$141,900. The diocese will return 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal to us. You should have received a packet about the CMAA, including a pledge card, in January. Please review this information and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's CMAA.

Parish Life Center (Construction Loan)

April, 2009	\$	1,950,000
December, 2022	\$	421,834
January, 2023	\$	410,545

Stay connected with our parish with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more.

Some of our favorite tools on the app are:

MESSAGES. Stay plugged-in instantly with message blasts on Holy Day and Special Event reminders, Parish Update postings, and important messages and alerts from the pastor.

CONFESSION. The Sacraments of the Church are a sign of God's love for his people. With myParish app Confessions, you can find out when our parish confession times are, access a handy how-to guide, prepare with an examination of conscience and set a reminder for your next confession.

READINGS. You can nourish your spiritual life and plug in with the life of the Church by spending just a few minutes each day with the daily Mass readings. myParish features each day's readings as provided by the USCCB from the NABRE New American Bible Revised Edition.

PRAYERS. Grow in your faith and prayer life. myParish puts the prayers of the Church in the palm of your hand. Timeless traditions accessible in a new way. View prayers, set reminders to keep your prayer life on track, and send out prayer requests to your parish community.



DOWNLOAD OUR APP

myparishapp.com

OR TEXT "APP" TO 88202

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

701 S. Eola Road † Aurora, IL 60504

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. 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. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228 .. frmichael@olmercy.com

Parochial Vicar Fr. James Guarascio
630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frjames@olmercy.com

Permanent Deacons

Dcn Tim Kueper tkueper5@yahoo.com

Dcn Tony Leazzo tonyl@olmercy.com

Dcn Tony Martini tonym@olmercy.com

Dcn Doug McIlvaine doug@olmercy.com

Dcn Phil Rehmer deaconphil@rehmer.com

Dcn Buggy 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
331-707-5380 jolenel@olmercy.com

Evangelization & Communications Zara Tan
331-707-5381 zara@olmercy.com

Family Evangelization & Catechesis

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

Director (6-12) Dave Miserendino
331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com

RE Secretary Karen Schwartz
331-707-5369 karens@olmercy.com

Principal of All Saints Catholic Academy

630-961-6125 Margie 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

630-851-3444 Voicemail-ext. 400



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