



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



Hopefully we all know that we are called to be Christ to others. We see this subject come up in the letters of St. Paul: "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1), as well as in the popular prayer attributed to St. Theresa of Avila which was taken up by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

"Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours..."

This, of course, is quite challenging to live out as a Christian. A similar challenge came to me while I was praying with our First Reading from Isaiah, the same reading Jesus will proclaim before starting his ministry in Luke's Gospel today:

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners..." (Isaiah 61:1)

If these words, which are proclaimed by Christ, are to be fulfilled by us I have a few questions to ask first: How am I to heal the brokenhearted? How am I to proclaim liberty to the captives & release to the prisoners?

As a priest, a person ordained to be *In Persona Christi Capitas* ("in the person of Christ the head"), you can imagine the various encounters I have regularly in my priestly ministry. You can imagine the broken hearts I encounter in the Church, in hospitals, the jail and in funeral homes. How do I bring healing?

But of course, this challenge isn't just for me! This includes all of us; we are all called to bring healing and hope to our loved ones. You may find yourself asking the same question: how? The Gospels give us insight. St. John the Baptist was a man, a fore-runner to Christ, but also an example for you and me. When asked if he was the Messiah, the one to bring healing, his response was to point everyone to Jesus Christ. We are called to do the same.

As a priest, it's not me who comforts or consoles, it is the Lord who does it through me. Advent is not only a time of preparation to receive the Lord ourselves, but to point others to the Lord and his coming. Let us ask the Lord for the strength to unite ourselves to him who can "bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners"

Father Michael

Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18 - Weekday in Advent

8:00 am † Ronickam

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction 6:30 pm † Joan Pritzl

(Spanish Mass)

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until 8:30 pm)

Tuesday, December 19 - Weekday in Advent

8:00 am † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer

6:30 pm In Thanksgiving, by The Rajasekhar Family

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until 8:30 pm)

Wednesday, December 20 - Weekday in Advent

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm † Stanley Gancarz, by Jolene & Jeff LeRoy

12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until 8:30 pm)

Thursday, December 21 - St Peter Canisius, Priest

6:30 am † Florencia DeCastro

8:00 am Int Dcn Art & Babes Tiongson

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until 8:30 pm)

Friday, December 22 - Weekday in Advent

8:00 am Int Ray & Dechie Doligosa

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until 8:30 pm)

Saturday, December 23 - Weekday in Advent

8:30 am † David Jenkins, Jr.

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

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

4:00 pm Vigil - Fourth Sunday in Advent † Jim & Jane Darby, Mary Campos

Int The People of Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† Nancy Basten, by Rick Basten

10:00 am † Margaret Lorenz, by The Liazowski Family

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm No Mass

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm † Cathy Dodd, by Family

Church

3:00 pm † James Krcmarik, by Mary Krcmarik

MPR

5:00 pm [†] Feldman, Robin, Ernsting, Sanders & Prasse Families

7:00 pm † Lillian Weaver, by Kevin & Lisa Hayes

Midnight † Emmanuel Masangcay, by Shirley Staples



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- 1. George Durante
- 2. Good Health for M.M.
- 3. Reunite Family
- 4. Micah Ginsberg
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Baby Cerina Skye
- 8. The Deceased

- 9. Fr Don McLaughlin
- 10. Matthew C.
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. Anthony M Loquercio, Jr.
- 14. Good Health for D.R.
- 15. Lillian Weaver
- 16. The Homeless

If you wish to have a candle burning for your intention in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, you will find envelopes on the shelf in the Narthex near the Priest's Sacristy or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

We Pray

David Bakke Michael Butler Alfredo Chavez Baby Riley Chick Robert Ciulla Michael Dandan Mary Dunbar Anna Falcon **Bridget Garry** Patricia Gebhardt Jim Gray Kelly Greenwood **David Griffins Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Cera Horste Helen Joseph Baby Penelope Keene Nina Keehn Keith Kuchinski Michelle Maeirs **Kristen Manning** Susan Massett

Susan Mennenga Bill Morse La Moua Charlene Oates Flo Paprzycki Valerie Plesha Jim & Carol Pluskota Diane Reiter Jackie Schiable Julia Schremp Christopher Shea 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.

Weekend Masses

December 23 & 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Deacons will preach at all Masses.

Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr Frank Pusateri
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney
	10:00 am	Fr Frank Pusateri

No Mass

Christmas Eve Masses

12:00 pm

December 24

3:00 pm	Fr. Frank Pusateri
3:00 pm	Fr. Michael Kearney
5:00 pm	Fr. Frank Pusateri
7:00 pm	Fr. Matt Alexander
Midnight	Fr. Michael Kearney
	3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses

December 25

Church	8:00 am	Fr. Matt Alexander
Church	10:00 am	Fr. Frank Pusateri
Church	12:00 pm	Fr. Michael Kearney



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



Ojalá todos sepamos que estamos llamados a ser Cristo para los demás. Vemos surgir este tema en las cartas de San Pablo: "Imítenme como yo imito a Cristo" (1 Cor. 11:1), así como en la oración popular atribuida a Santa Teresa de Ávila que fue retomada por la Santa Madre Teresa de Calcuta:

"Cristo no tiene cuerpo, sino el tuyo, No tiene manos, ni pies en la tierra, sino los tuyos..."

Esto, por supuesto, es bastante difícil de vivir como Cristiano. Se me ocurrió un desafío similar mientras oraba con nuestra Primera Lectura de Isaías, la misma lectura que Jesús proclamará hoy antes de comenzar su ministerio en el Evangelio de Lucas:

"El espíritu del Señor DIOS está sobre mí, porque el SEÑOR me ha ungido; me ha enviado para anunciar la buena nueva a los pobres, para sanar a los quebrantados de corazón, para proclamar la libertad a los cautivos y la liberación a los prisioneros..." (Isaías 61:1)

Si queremos que cumplamos estas palabras, que son proclamadas por Cristo, primero tengo que hacer algunas preguntas: ¿Cómo puedo sanar a los quebrantados de corazón? ¿Cómo voy a proclamar la libertad a los cautivos y la liberación a los prisioneros?

Como sacerdote, persona ordenada para ser *In Persona Christi Capitas* ("en la persona de Cristo la cabeza"), pueden imaginar los diversos encuentros que tengo regularmente en mi ministerio sacerdotal. Pueden imaginar los corazones quebrantados que encuentro en la Iglesia, en los hospitales, en la cárcel y en las funerarias. ¿Cómo consigo sanación?

Pero claro, ¡este desafío no es sólo para mí! Esto nos incluye a todos nosotros; todos estamos llamados a llevar sanación y esperanza a nuestros seres queridos. Es posible que te encuentres haciéndote la misma pregunta: ¿cómo? Los evangelios nos dan una idea. San Juan el Bautista fue un hombre, un precursor de Cristo, pero también un ejemplo para ti y para mí. Cuando se le preguntó si él era el Mesías, el que traería sanación, su respuesta fue señalar a todos hacia Jesucristo. Estamos llamados a hacer lo mismo.

Como sacerdote, no soy yo quien conforta o consuela, es el Señor quien lo hace a través de mí. El Adviento no es sólo un tiempo de preparación para recibir nosotros mismos al Señor, sino también para señalar a otros al Señor y su venida. Pidamos al Señor fortaleza para unirnos a Él quien puede "anunciar la buena nueva a los pobres, sanar a los quebrantados de corazón, proclamar libertad a los cautivos y liberación a los prisioneros".

Padre Michael



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo Is 61, 1-2. 10-11;

Lc 1, 46-48. 49-50. 53-54;

1 Ts 5, 16-24; Jn 1, 6-8. 19-28

Lunes Jr 23, 5-8;

Sal 71, 2. 7-8. 12-13. 17;

Mt 1, 18-24

Martes Jc 13, 2-7. 24-25;

Sal 70, 3-4a. 5-6ab. 16-17;

Lc 1, 5-25

Miércoles Is 7, 10-14;

Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-6;

Lc 1, 26-38

Jueves Can 2, 8-14 o Sof 3, 14-18;

Sal 32, 2-3. 11-12. 20-21;

Lc 1, 39-45

Viernes 1 Sam 1, 24-28;

1 Sam 2, 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8;

Lc 1, 46-56

Sábado Ml 3, 1-4. 23-24;

Sal 24, 4bc-5ab. 8-9. 10 y 14;

Lc 1, 57-66

Domingo 2 Sam 7, 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16;

Sal 88, 2-3. 4-5. 27 y 29;

Rom 16, 25-27; Lc 1, 26-38



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 | 1 Thes 5:16-24 | Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." Such simple words from today's second reading. And yet it is not always easy to put them into practice. It is difficult to rejoice if we or people we love are hurting. It can be hard to pray when life is pulling us in a thousand different directions. But on this Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, we are asked to focus on a truth that can make both rejoicing and praying easier: Jesus entered humanity in flesh and blood to save us from our sins. This truth means that even if we don't feel like there is much gladness or joy in our lives today, we can rejoice in the knowledge that we all have the chance to spend eternity in a place where pain, disappointment and suffering will be no more. With our eyes focused on that prize, praying can become a natural part of our days.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, I can make everything so complicated. I want to create charts and checklists to ensure that I am doing everything just right. But St. Paul's words today make me realize that living well is really not that complicated. He writes: "Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." That's it! Of course, while this is not complicated, it does require us to make prayerful, faithful efforts toward this end - and it is an end for which God has given us his grace, the help of the Church, and the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ. This includes St. Paul, who prays for us, "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." This is what is good in these dark days of Advent: the light of Christ is coming into our world. The Gospel says that John the Baptist testified to this truth - to the light. We can too! Let us continue to pray, to rejoice and to give thanks for God's gifts, especially the gift of his Son.

SING Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim. Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

GAUDETE SUNDAY 3rd Sunday of Advent

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, which is Latin for "rejoice: On this day, we recognize the joyful anticipation of the season of Advent that will culminate in the birth of Christ on Christmas by changing the liturgical color to rose.

Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and symbolizes joy and gladness in our promised redemption.

For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus could be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a heightened sense of rejoicing. This is reflected in our liturgical environment. You may notice flowers in the Advent wreath, trumpets preparing to announce Christ's birth, and stars preparing to guide the faithful to Bethlehem.



DEC 17







Epiphany Gospel Story Enactment

Calling ALL Kindergarten through Grade 5 Students of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Hold fast to the meaning of the Christmas season, and come to Enact this beautiful story of the three kings visiting the King of Kings,

JESUS!

WHEN? Epiphany Sunday, January 7, following the 10:00 A.M. Mass!

REHEARSAL: IN CHURCH SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 10:30—11:30

PARENTS:

For more information or to sign-up, email maryjot@olmercy.com by Monday, January 1!

PARISH FAMILY
Join our children as we pray and sing our joyous faith story!



YOUTH MINISTRY BULLETIN NEWS



High School teens (Grades 9-12)

LIGHT webpage here: https://olmercy.com/formation/light/

Chosen Confirmation Program Update

The next Chosen Sunday session for Teens will be on January 7th! Please contact Dave in the Faith Formation Office with questions.

Teen Mission Trip 2024 Update: Our trip is to Winchester, KY on July 7-13! We still have a few open spots for teens—please contact Dave in the Faith Formation Office for information.

Teen Mission Trip Parent and Teen Meeting is TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH at 7pm in the PLC. All high school teens and at least 1 parent are asked to attend this very important kick-off meeting.

Teens can Sign-up for Service and Discipleship opportunities here: https://olmercy.com/formation/light/service-discipleship-projects/



for Middle School teens (Grades 6-8)

EDGE Nights meet twice a month on Monday evenings from 6:30pm-8pm. in the Parish Life Center. <u>Upcoming EDGE Nights</u>: Dec. 4th and 18th.

To register for EDGE and for more information go to https://olmercy.com/formation/edge/





Tutor Volunteers Needed

The Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora, celebrating its 30th year, has just received The Best Practices Award from the National Library of Congress. The Center will be training new tutor volunteers for its literacy program in January. Female volunteers (with high school diploma) are trained to help women students learn to read, write, and speak English. Tutoring sessions are 90 minutes, once a week, from Sept. to May, at 260 Vermont St., Aurora (behind St. Therese Church). Tutors do not need to speak Spanish or have teaching experience, but all volunteers must attend 7 hours of training in addition to viewing several training videos online. The next training date is Saturday, January 20, from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. Tutors will begin with their new student the following week. To volunteer, email Alison Brzezinski at Alison@dominicanliteracycenter.org.

For more information, visit www.dominicanliteracycenter.org or call 630-898-4636. The Center is not handicap accessible.

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 \$20.

Spanish Ministry

Posadas will be celebrated on December 17 & 18 at 7:00 pm in the Church. The Pastorela Christmas play and potluck dinner will take place on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Mobile Food Pantry

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be in the OLM parking lot Wednesday, December 20 at 4:30pm to distribute meat, produce and nonperishable items. Please share this information with those who may be in need.

Christmas Concert

Come listen to the OLM Adult Choir, Chamber ensemble, string quartet and trumpet as they perform The Glory of Christmas at 11:15 pm before the midnight mass on December 24.

PADS/Hesed House

The OLM PADS/Hesed House Board is now on display in the Atrium (Door B Entrance). The board contains a "wishlist" of items used to prepare meals for 250 guests at the Hesed House homeless shelter, on the first Tuesday of each month. Drop-off for all items are before all Masses on the weekend of December 30th and 31st, 2023. Monetary donations can be made via the OLM Online Giving Portal (please specify donation is for Hesed House), or make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy Church, and write on the memo "Hesed House-PADS". Thank you for supporting our mission of mercy.

Solemnity of Mary

Monday, January 1st Mass honoring Mary, Mother of God will be at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.

Free Throw Championship

On Saturday 1/18/2024 at 7pm is the Robert H. Weaver Knights of Columbus #12005 Free Throw Championship in the gym at the Parish Life Center. Registration begins at 6:45pm. All boys and girls aged 9 to 14, as of 1/1/2024, are invited to participate, please present proof of age during registration with written parental consent. Participants will compete in their respective age divisions, with the winners advancing to the district, region, and state competitions. The District competition will take place in February at a to be determined location. For additional information call (630) 957-7559.

Parish Sacrificial Giving		
Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	642,733
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	682,000
Amount Short of Budget	\$	(39,267)
12/03/23 Sunday Collection	\$	40,486
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	31,000
Amount in Excess of Goal	\$	9,486

For the Budget Year 2023/24 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 1.3%, to \$31,000/week, to help expand our numerous varied Ministries.

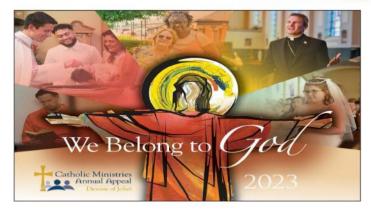
Thank you for your generosity!!

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



He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit

MATTHEW 3:11



CMAA Pledge Report

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. 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 amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs.

Parish Goal	\$ 141,900
Amount Pledged	\$ 179,582
Amount Paid	\$ 174,895
Remaining Balance	\$ 4,687
Rebate Amount	\$ 23,096
# of Families Pledged	496

Donate Online Through OSV

Whether you are a registered parishioner with us or visiting, we are set up to receive donations online!





OSV is an online website that makes contributions faster, easier, and accessible at anytime for donors.

Website

www.osvhub.com/olmercy



Scan this code to start donating online!

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

day, Friday	8:00am
	6:30pm
8:00ar	m, 6:30pm
	. 12:00pm
6:30aı	m, 8:00am
	8:30am
· Sunday)	4:00pm
8:00am, 10:00am,12:00pm, ar	nd 5:30pm
r	6:30ar 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 Friday of the Month	8:30-9:15am
Last Wednesday of the Month at Ma	agnify7:30-8:20pm
Or by Appointment	

Prayer Chapel

Adoration

Monday & Thursday	8:30am-6:00pm
Wednesdays	8:00am-12:00pm
1st Friday of the Month	12:00pm
Last Wednesday of the Month at Magnify	7:00-8:30nm

Benediction

Monday & Th	nursday	6:00pm
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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.

Baptisms

Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must complete a parent workshop. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent. Contact Lydia Schmitt at 331-707-5377.

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 Theresa Simeo at 331-707-5374.

Parish Directory

Parish Priests

Pastor Fr. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228frmichael@olmercy.com
Parochial Vicar Fr. Frank Pusateri
630-851-3444, Ext. 226frfrank@olmercy.com
Permanent Deacons
Dcn Tim Kuepertkueper5@yahoo.com
Dcn Tony Leazzotonyl@olmercy.com
Dcn Tony Martinitonym@olmercy.com
Dcn Doug McIlvaine dougm@olmercy.com
Dcn Phil Rehmerdeaconphil@rehmer.com
Dcn Bugsy Sindacbugsys@olmercy.com
Dcn Art Tiongsonhope2640@yahoo.com
Pastoral Staff
Director of Music Ministries Frank Sauter
331-707-5379 franks@olmercy.com
Asst. to Pastor & CommunicationsTheresa Simeo
331-707-5374theresas@olmercy.com
Dir. of Evangelization & Communications Zara Tan
331-707-5381 zara@olmercy.com
Family Faith Formation
Director (Pre K-5) & OCIC Mary Jo Trapani
331-707-5378 maryjot@olmercy.com
Director (6-12) Dave Miserendino
331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com
FFF Secretary Karen Schwartz
331-707-5369 karens@olmercy.com
Principal of All Saints Catholic Academy
630-961-6125Margie Marshall
Administrative Staff
Business Manager Bob Gancarz
331-707-5370robertg@olmercy.com
Parish Secretary Diane Reiter
630-851-3444 dianer@olmercy.com
Business Office AssistantLydia Schmitt
331-707-5377lydias@olmercy.com
Buildings & Grounds Phil Zwick
312-339-6943 philz@olmercy.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society

630-851-3444 Voicemail-ext. 400







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