

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



For our comprehensive exam in seminary, we were given a pastoral scenario, and we were asked to write a homily responding to it. After we had submitted the homilies, we decided to see what the artificial intelligence bot, ChatGPT, would come up with. The homily it generated started pretty well: "In this reading, Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor." But things went downhill pretty quickly. "And you, as sinners, are in direct violation of the Church's teachings." The AI-generated homily might have been correct in

essentials, but it lacked any sense of hope in God's mercy.

In the First Reading, we hear about Jonah's preaching mission to the people of Nineveh. After he runs from God's command to preach repentance, is swallowed, and spit up by a great fish, he preaches a hopeless sermon: "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed." But astonishingly, this pagan city repents before Jonah can even finish preaching, and God shows them mercy.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be fishers of men. Biblical scholar John Bergsma says that this is a fulfillment of a prophecy of Jeremiah: "I will send many fishermen to catch them. After that, I will send many hunters to hunt them out from every mountain and hill and rocky crevice" (Jer 16:16). The context of the original prophecy is judgment on Israel's idolatry. But in Jesus' fulfillment, something surprising happens. Rather than condemning sinners, the fishermen are sent to preach repentance.

So what changes an oracle of judgment into an oracle of mercy? It is our response. We don't change God, but He sends His messengers to preach repentance in order to change us. In both readings, we see people responding to the calls to repentance almost instantly. What moves them to respond in this way?

It is the virtue of hope. Hope looks to the future good of our eternal happiness and believes it is possible. This hope is what leads the Ninevites and the apostles to believe that God wants to show them mercy and wants a relationship with them. But how can we live the same hope in our lives?

We often think of hope as wishful thinking. But Pope Benedict XVI tells us that hope comes from the objective fact that God has come into our lives, making that future hope take root in our present. We have probably already accepted God into our lives. But this can always grow deeper so that we can truly believe that if we also turn to God in repentance of our sins, He will change us.

Unlike the Al-generated homily of my classmates, today's readings call us to new hope in God's mercy, not only that God wants to forgive us, but that He is longing to forgive us when we repent of our sins. It might seem impossible, but if we open our hearts to God in repentance, then He will help us the rest of the way.

Father Frank



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, January 22 - Day of Prayer for the Unborn

8:00 am † Jacqueline Rootes, by Scott Sowizrol

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

6:30 pm † James Krcmarik, by Mary Krcmarik

(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, January 23 - St Vincent & St Marianne Cope

8:00 am † Austin Chase, by Family

6:30 pm † Ernesto S. Garin, by Hancel Roxas

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, January 24 - St Francis de Sales, Bishop

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm Int Ty & Kathleen Gorman,

by Joe & Mary Rita Gorman

12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, January 25 - The Conversion of St Paul

6:30 am † Jose Antonio Clemente, by the Uy Family

8:00 am † Nick Furibondo, by the Kobal Family

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, January 26 - St Timothy & St Titus, Bishops

8:00 am † Dorothy Waszak, by Carolyn Kerkla

Saturday, January 27 - St Angela Merici, Virgin

8:30 am † Paul & Angela Abuah, by Patricia Wabomner

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

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

4:00 pm Vigil - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Ron Peterson, by Patsy Peterson

† Florence Hybiak, by the Rigitano Family

Sunday, January 28 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

Int Jolene LeRoy, by Bonnie Ramirez

10:00 am † Paz Dagang, by Children (Live Streamed)

12:00 pm Int of the Tommy Riley Family

5:30 pm † Rosamma Joseph

Int of 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. Anthony M Loquercio Jr
- 2. Frank Rostan
- 3. Vocations
- 4. Sam Bernier
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Leonardo Cayetano
- 8. The Deceased

- Fr Don McLaughlin
- 10. Matthew C.
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. Special Intention-T.Z.
- 14. Ann Borberg
- 15. Anne Heckel
- 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 27 & 28

Deaco	on's will prea	ch at all Masses.
Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney
	10:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney
	12:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
	5:30 pm	Fr Chris Langkford



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 Michael Butler Alfredo Chavez Baby Riley Chick Robert Ciulla Michael Dandan Mary Dunbar **Bridget Garry** Patricia Gebhardt Jim Grav Kelly Greenwood **Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Cera Horste Helen Joseph Baby Penelope Keene Nina Keehn Keith Kuchinski Michelle Maeirs

Kristen Manning

Susan Mennenga Bill Morse La Moua Charlene Oates Flo Paprzycki Valerie Plesha Jim & Carol Pluskota Jackie Schiable Julia Schremp **Christopher Shea** Diane Singer **Hedy Sterling** Thomas F. Sterling John Swanston Rev. Gerald Tivy Bernice Tokarski Kathy Walowski Judy Wiltgen

Susan Massett

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 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. (Sacerdote en formación)



Para nuestro examen integral en el seminario, se nos dio un escenario pastoral y se nos pidió que escribiéramos una homilía respondiendo a esto. Después de enviar las homilías, decidimos ver qué se le ocurría al robot de inteligencia artificial (IA) ChatGPT. La homilía que generó comenzó bastante bien: "En esta lectura, Jesús nos llama a amar a Dios y a nuestro prójimo". Pero las cosas fueron cuesta abajo bastante rápido. "Y ustedes, como pecadores, están en violación directa de las enseñanzas

de la Iglesia". La homilía generada por IA podría haber sido correcta en lo esencial, pero carecía de cualquier sentido de esperanza en la misericordia de Dios.

En la Primera Lectura escuchamos sobre la misión de predicación de Jonás al pueblo de Nínive. Después de huir del mandato de Dios de predicar el arrepentimiento, ser tragado y escupido por un gran pez, él predica un sermón desesperado: "Dentro de cuarenta días Nínive será destruida". Pero, sorprendentemente, esta ciudad pagana se arrepiente antes de que Jonás pueda terminar de predicar, y Dios les muestra misericordia.

En el Evangelio, Jesús llama a Pedro, Andrés, Santiago y Juan a ser pescadores de hombres. El biblista John Bergsma dice que esto es el cumplimiento de una profecía de Jeremías: "Enviaré muchos pescadores para pescarlos. Después enviaré muchos cazadores que los saquen de todo monte, colina y peñasco" (Jeremías 16,16). El contexto de la profecía original es el juicio sobre la idolatría de Israel. Pero en el cumplimiento de Jesús sucede algo sorprendente. En lugar de condenar a los pecadores, los pescadores son enviados a predicar el arrepentimiento.

Entonces, ¿qué transforma un oráculo de juicio en un oráculo de misericordia? Es nuestra respuesta. No cambiamos a Dios, pero Él envía a Sus mensajeros a predicar el arrepentimiento para cambiarnos. En ambas lecturas, vemos personas respondiendo a los llamados al arrepentimiento casi instantáneamente. ¿Qué los mueve a responder de esta manera?

Es la virtud de la esperanza. La esperanza mira al bien futuro de nuestra felicidad eterna y cree que es posible. Esta esperanza es la que lleva a los Ninivitas y a los apóstoles a creer que Dios quiere mostrarles misericordia y quiere tener una relación con ellos. Pero ¿cómo podemos vivir la misma esperanza en nuestras vidas?

A menudo pensamos que la esperanza es una ilusión. Pero el Papa Benedicto XVI nos dice que la esperanza surge del hecho objetivo de que Dios ha entrado en nuestras vidas, haciendo que esa esperanza futura se arraigue en nuestro presente. Probablemente ya hayamos aceptado a Dios en nuestras vidas. Pero esto siempre puede profundizarse para que podamos creer verdaderamente que, si también acudimos a Dios arrepentidos de nuestros pecados, Él nos cambiará.

A diferencia de la homilía de mis compañeros de clase generada por la inteligencia artificial (IA), las lecturas de hoy nos llaman a una nueva esperanza en la misericordia de Dios, no solo que Dios quiere perdonarnos, sino que El anhela perdonarnos cuando nos arrepentimos de nuestros pecados. Puede parecer imposible, pero si abrimos nuestro corazón a Dios con arrepentimiento, Él nos ayudará en el resto del camino.

Padre Frank



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo Jon 3, 1-5. 10;

Sal 24, 4-5ab. 6-7bc. 8-9;

1 Cor 7, 29-31; Mc 1, 14-20

Lunes 2 Sm 5, 1-7. 10;

Sal 88, 20. 21-22. 25-26;

Mc 3, 22-30

Martes 2 Sm 6, 12-15. 17-19;

Sal 23, 7. 8. 9. 10; Mc 3, 31-35

Miércoles 2 Sm 7, 4-17;

Sal 88, 4-5. 27-28. 29-30;

Mc 4, 1-20

Jueves Hch 22, 3-16 o Hch 9, 1-22;

Sal 116, 1bc. 2; Mc 16, 15-18

Viernes 2 Tm 1, 1-8 o Ti 1, 1-5;

Sal 95, 1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 10;

Mc 4, 26-34

Sábado 2 Sm 12, 1-7. 10-17;

Sal 50, 12-13. 14-15. 16-17;

Mc 4, 35-41

Domingo Dt 18, 15-20;

Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9;

1 Cor 7, 32-35; Mc 1, 21-28



January 21, 2024

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10 | 1 Cor 7:29-31 | Mk 1:14-20

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

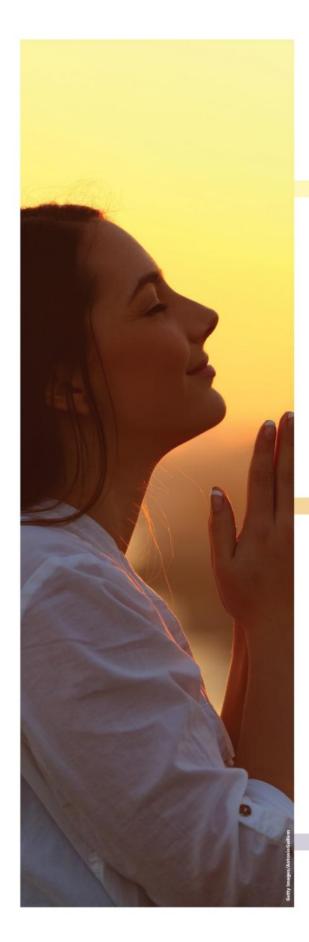
Sometimes I feel like I need a Jonah in my life: someone who will come along and shake things up; someone who will nudge me and say, hey, you're doing it wrong! No one wants to be criticized, but I know I need loving guidance to help me when I am not at my best. It's easy to get caught up in the swirl of life and neglect (even if unintentionally) what's important. Jonah was given the unpleasant task of pointing out to the people of Nineveh their failings. Unlike many communities who resisted God's words, by the end of the first day of Jonah's anticipated three-day trek across the city, "the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth." For all the evil they had done, and the rebellion they had demonstrated, the people there weren't irredeemable. They simply needed Jonah to point out how they had gone astray, and the grace of open ears and hearts to receive the message. Who has the Lord placed in our lives in the role of Jonah? How has he blessed us with the ability to receive, and repent where necessary?

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We don't seem to have obvious prophets like Jonah nowadays, but that doesn't mean God has left us without guides. We have the Church, Christ's body on earth, and the ever-present help of the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus selected his first followers: men who would become the Twelve Apostles, anointed to spread his word and speak in his stead even after Jesus left the earth. We know that there were other followers: men, women and children who became his disciples; Jews and Gentiles who were baptized. We are part of that apostolic tradition, each one of us baptized into the common priesthood "exercised by the unfolding of baptismal grace - a life of faith, hope, and charity, a life according to the Spirit." (CCC 1547) The call to holiness can be hard to hear in the din of today's busy and secular world, but it is not impossible. We can pray for the grace to hear how God is asking each of us to live out his commands and proclaim the Good News to the world.

PRAY Today's psalm (Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9) is a wonderful way to ask God for this favor. Make it part of your morning or evening prayer for the next week. "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."









Jail Ministry Volunteers

Dedicated volunteers are needed to tangibly show the love of Jesus to men and women that society had tossed away and labeled as unworthy, broken, dangerous, or beyond help. Through Jail Ministry, prisoners are reminded that God does not label them—He loves them. Please pray about heeding the call in Hebrews 13:3 (or Matthew 25:34-46) and connect with Sharon Smagala for further details at tweeter4811@gmail.com



OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH PADS/HESED HOUSE MINISTRY



OUR LADY of MERCY



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 February 3rd and 4th, 2024.

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.

Are You, or Someone You Know, Widowed?

If you have been recently widowed and are still struggling with the loss, or if you have been widowed for some time and need something to get you "over the hump" because you seem stuck in one spot, this program is designed to help you move on with life while still treasuring your past and its precious memories.

This unique retreat/workshop will be held at St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois. The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life. All are welcome.

What:

Retreat/workshop for Widowed Men & Women

When:

April 13 & 14, Sept. 20 & 21, 2024 (2-day program-overnight encouraged)

Where:

St.Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois 60439 (Commute or stay overnight.)

For further information , call: 708-354-7211.

Email us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com

Website: www.joyfulagain.org



Holy Angels School Open House

Preschool – 8th grade Sunday, January 28th 10:30am-12:30pm

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Information Meeting January 17, 2024

Mission Trip June 1 to 14, 2024



The Diocese of Joliet will return to Navajo Nation for a two-week mission focused on construction and outreach from June 1 to 14, 2024.

The Diocese of Joliet has been putting faith into action—through intentional service and solidarity with the poor—in Chinle, Arizona, for 20 years.

The Office of Mission is seeking parishioners (18+) willing to help local area families with light construction work. No experience is necessary, but a heart willing to serve is required! Missionaries stay on the campus of Our Lady of Fatima, and the trip will include a pilgrimage to New Mexico's Loretto Chapel and it's "miraculous staircase."

An informational meeting on the mission trip will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill (16555 Weber Road).

Questions?

Alex Buldak Mission Lead abuldak@dioceseofjoliet.org (815) 221-6256

Parish Sacrificial Giving		
Actual Year-to-Date Collections		807,926
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget		806,000
Amount in Excess of Budget		1,926
01/07/24 Sunday Collection		33,265
Weekly Sunday Goal		31,000
Amount in Excess of Goal		2,265
Christmas Collections	\$ \$	65,156
Christmas Budget		62,000
Amount in Excess of Goal		3,156

Thank you for your generosity!!

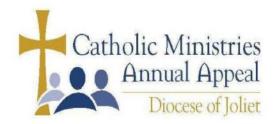
Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Parish in your will and estate planning.



2023 Tax Statements

Tax Statements for 2023 will be <u>mailed out no</u> later than January 31, 2024 to anyone who donated \$250 or more for the 2023 calendar year.

If you do not receive a statement and would like one to be mailed out, please email Lydia Schmitt at lydias@olmercy.com or call 331-707-5377.



The 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

As the Diocese of Joliet launches the 2024 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we are humbly asking all parishioners to pledge their support for this important effort, as together we can make a profound difference.

This year's CMAA theme is For the Glory of God. Through our support, we ensure that the mission and ministries of Christ's Church are available to everyone. Together, we can help provide safe shelter for the homeless, feed the physical and social needs of those who are hungry, inspire those discerning a life of vocation, and aid in the education of our next generation of Catholics. Our parish could not accomplish all of this on its own, but together through the appeal we can do so much more.

Our parish's goal for the 2024 CMAA is \$140,000 and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us and used fruitfully within our own parish. 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.

Thank you!

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, Friday8:00am
6:30pm
8:00am, 6:30pm
12:00pm
6:30am, 8:00am
8:30am
Sunday) 4:00pm
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 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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