



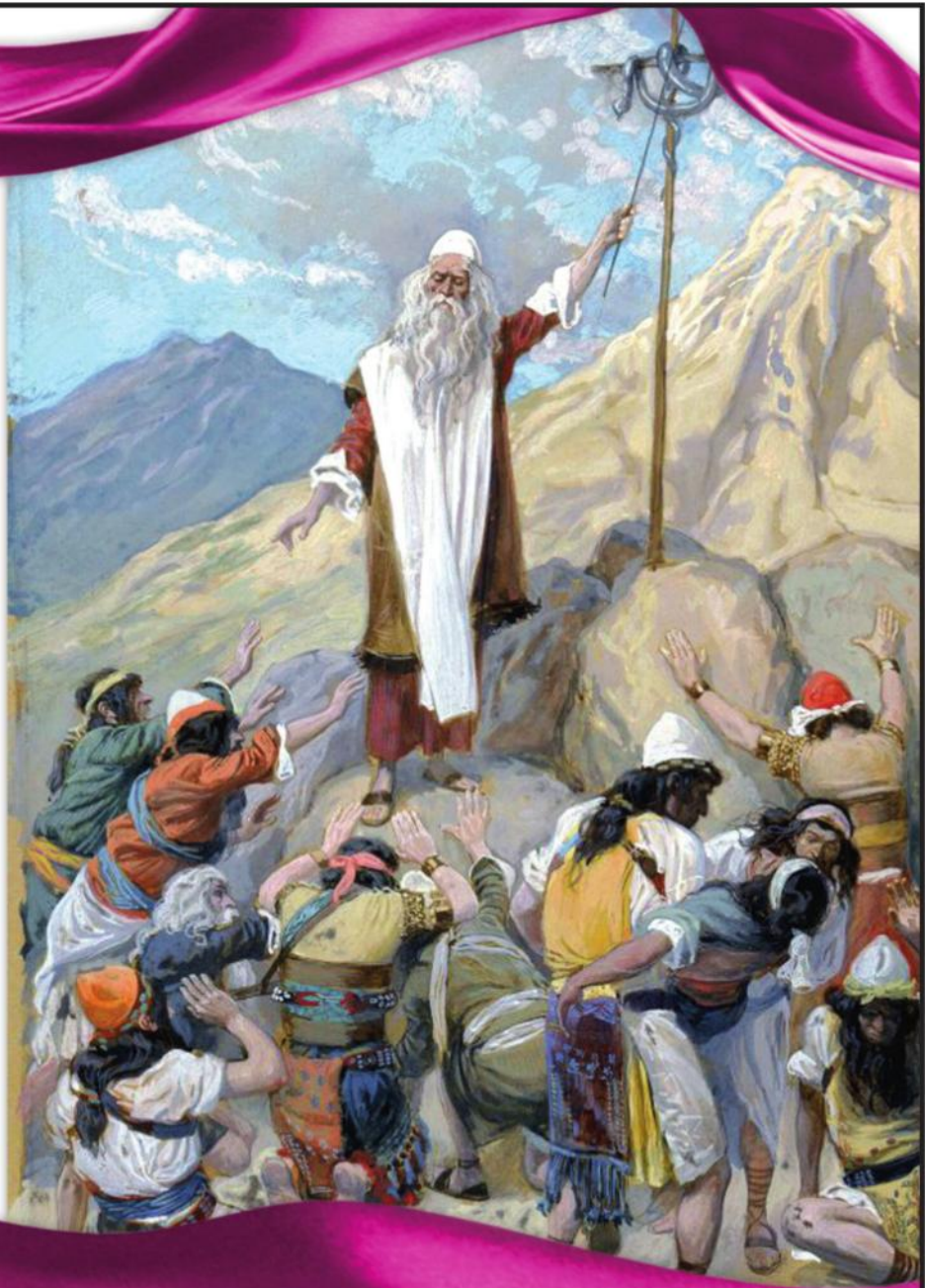
OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 10, 2024
Lent

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

John 3:14,15

The Brazen Serpent
by James Tissot, circa 1899



4TH SUNDAY OF
LENT

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



You can find many statistics and studies pointing to the fact that faith in first world countries is in decline. The question “why is this happening?” can be asked. How could the cultures and countries that were instrumental in the spread of the Catholic faith now be lacking in faith? One thing I would propose is that we are going too fast. These countries and peoples, which include us, are not taking time to recollect, reflect, and pray.

Have you ever tried to recall an event that happened suddenly in your life, such as an accident? Many times, we struggle to put all the details together. Or have you ever tried to capture information while traveling down a highway? If you aren't giving your complete attention, you will miss all the details as you go by.

In our first reading, in the midst of the sorrow and sadness of being in exile, King Cyrus issues a decree allowing the Jewish people to return to their land and rebuild their temple. Here the Lord is acting through a world leader. As the Jewish people return to rebuild, they still mourn because the new temple would never measure up to the glory of Solomon's original temple. The people were failing to see God's hand in it, despite the fact that he had freed them from years of captivity and oppression.

In our second reading, St. Paul asks the people of Ephesus to recall God's Mercy in Christ. In a way, they had forgotten about it, maybe due to the busyness of their lives. How many times have we been so caught up in our busyness that we fail to recall God's Mercy in our lives? Do we fail to reflect on what Christ has done for you and me?

Finally, in our Gospel today Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night, a sign that he was searching for the true Light of the World. It was also at a time when there was nobody else around. Nicodemus went to encounter Christ when the world was sleeping; he went to seek him in the silence. This first encounter would lead to Nicodemus's conversion, and eventually to his acceptance of Christ's sacrifice, as he would help bury our Lord's body after the Crucifixion.

What can we do to grow in our faith, especially in the season of Lent? May I encourage us to slow down, take time to recollect, and reflect on the way the Lord has worked, is working, and continues to work in our lives? May we never get too busy to miss the workings of the Lord and his presence in our lives, thanking him for all the good he has done for us.

Father Michael



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, March 11 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am † Cathy Donn, by Family
6:30 pm † Bob Dietz, by Family (*Spanish Mass*)

Tuesday, March 12 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am † Walter Soltysik, by Family
6:30 pm † Joan Pauley, by Gerri Frey
7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, March 13 - Lenten Weekday

12:00 pm † Jimmy Alley & Mary Riley, by The Gormans
12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, March 14 - Lenten Weekday

6:30 am † Ricardo Arias, by Elizabeth Navas
8:00 am † George Durante, by Willie Durante

Friday, March 15 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am † Gerald Broadhurst, by Jeannine Malone

Saturday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 am † Rogelio Tanquilut, by Family
9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)
1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)
4:00 pm **Vigil - Fifth Sunday of Lent**
† James W. Ray Family by Nancy Ray
Int Joe & Mary Rita Gorman

Sunday, March 17 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
† Micah Ginsberg, by Friends
10:00 am † Steven Henning, by Mary Krcmarik
(*Live Streamed*)
12:00 pm † John & Jeanne Gorman, by Kathy Allen Family
5:30 pm † Mikey Cullen by The Tan Family

*Silent adoration takes place in
the Adoration Chapel
Monday through Friday
8:30 am to 10:00 pm.*



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. George Durante | 9. Fr Don McLaughlin |
| 2. Good Health for M.M. | 10. Matthew Carson |
| 3. Lord, Be With The Sick | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Mia Dusek | 12. The Sick |
| 5. The Pluskota Family | 13. John McCloskey |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. The Unemployed |
| 7. My Health (Louise) | 15. Anthony M. Loquercio Jr. |
| 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

March 16 & 17

Father Frank 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
	12:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
	5:30 pm	Fr Frank Pusateri

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
Michael Butler
Alfredo Chavez
Baby Riley Chick
Robert Ciulla
Michael Dandan
Mary Dunbar
Bridget Garry
Patricia Gebhardt
Jim Gray
Kelly Greenheck
Nancy Higgins
Eric Hoerdemann
Cera Horste
Bob Jones
Helen Joseph
Baby Penelope Keene
Nina Keehn
Keith Kuchinski
Michelle Maeirs
Kristen Manning

Susan Massett
Susan Mennenga
Bill Morse
La Moua
Don O'Reilly
Tim O'Reilly
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
Jason Toledo
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
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)



Se pueden encontrar muchas estadísticas y estudios que señalan el hecho de que la fe en los países del primer mundo está en declive. La pregunta “¿por qué está sucediendo esto?” puede ser formulada. ¿Cómo es posible que las culturas y los países que contribuyeron decisivamente a la difusión de la fe católica carezcan ahora de fe? Una cosa que yo propondría es que vamos demasiado rápido. Estos países y pueblos, entre los que nos incluye a nosotros, no se toman el tiempo para recordar, reflexionar y orar.

¿Alguna vez han tratado de recordar un evento que ocurrió repentinamente en su vida, como un accidente? Muchas veces nos cuesta reunir todos los detalles. ¿O alguna vez han intentado capturar información mientras viajaban por una autopista? Si no prestas toda tu atención, te perderás todos los detalles a medida que pases.

En nuestra primera lectura, en medio del dolor y la tristeza del exilio, el rey Ciro emite un decreto que permite al pueblo judío regresar a su tierra y reconstruir su templo. Aquí el Señor está actuando a través de un líder mundial. Mientras el pueblo judío regresa para reconstruir, todavía está triste porque el nuevo templo nunca estaría a la altura de la gloria del templo original de Salomón. El pueblo no veía la mano de Dios en ello, a pesar de que Él los había liberado de años de cautiverio y opresión.

En nuestra segunda lectura, San Pablo pide al pueblo de Éfeso que recuerden la Misericordia de Dios en Cristo. En cierto modo, lo habían olvidado, tal vez debido al ajeteo de sus vidas. ¿Cuántas veces hemos estado tan atrapados en nuestras ocupaciones que no logramos recordar la Misericordia de Dios en nuestras vidas? ¿No reflexionamos sobre lo que Cristo ha hecho por ti y por mí?

Finalmente, en nuestro Evangelio de hoy Nicodemo viene a Jesús por la noche, señal de que estaba buscando la verdadera Luz del Mundo. También fue en un momento en el que no había nadie más alrededor. Nicodemo fue al encuentro de Cristo cuando el mundo dormía; fue a buscarlo en el silencio. Este primer encuentro conduciría a la conversión de Nicodemo y, finalmente, a su aceptación del sacrificio de Cristo, ya que ayudaría a enterrar el cuerpo de nuestro Señor después de la Crucifixión.

¿Qué podemos hacer para crecer en nuestra fe, especialmente en el tiempo de Cuaresma? ¿Puedo animarnos a reducir el ritmo, tomarnos tiempo para recordar y reflexionar sobre la forma en que el Señor ha obrado, está obrando y continúa obrando en nuestras vidas? Que nunca estemos demasiado ocupados para perdernos las obras del Señor y su presencia en nuestras vidas, agradeciéndole por todo el bien que ha hecho por nosotros.

Padre Michael



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo	2 Cr 36, 14-16. 19-23; Sal 136, 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6; Ef 2, 4-10; Jn 3, 14-21
Lunes	Is 65, 17-21; Sal 29, 2 y 4. 5-6. 11-12a y 13b; Jn 4, 43-54
Martes	Ez 47, 1-9. 12; Sal 45, 2-3. 5-6. 8-9; Jn 5, 1-16
Miércoles	Is 49, 8-15; Sal 144, 8-9. 13cd-14. 17-18; Jn 5, 17-30
Jueves	Ex 32, 7-14; Sal 105, 19-20. 21-22. 23; Jn 5, 31-47
Viernes	Sab 2, 1. 12-22; Sal 33, 17-18. 19-20. 21 y 23; Jn 7, 1-2. 10. 25-30
Sábado	Jer 11, 18-20; Sal 7, 2-3. 9bc-10. 11-12; Jn 7, 40-53
Domingo	Jer 31, 31-34; Sal 50, 3-4. 12-13. 14-15; Heb 5, 7-9; Jn 12, 20-33

March 10, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday in Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 | Eph 2:4-10 | Jn 3:14-21

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

“The floor is lava!” We used to play this game as children, and it still seems popular today: you arrange furniture and other objects in such a way as to make it from point to point, and even room to room, without touching the floor. There may be more than one way to go, but the crux of the matter is that you have to use these waypoints to stay alive in the game. Following Jesus is somewhat similar, although obviously infinitely more serious and important! He himself, through his sacrifice on the cross, opened the doors of salvation to us – he has provided the ways and means to live free from death. His sacrifice is the only thing that makes it possible for us to enter heaven. In other words, he has arranged the spiritual furniture, made clear those waypoints, and, differing from children who play the lava game, is ready and willing to help us at any time to move safely and confidently along the journey. St Paul writes, “we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

St. Paul also writes, “by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.” And in today’s Gospel, St. John writes these words we know so well. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Both testaments include words of comfort, but John here also includes a call to action. Notice the word “might.” Like “may,” which is found in other translations, it indicates possibility, probability, and contingency. In other words, it is offered – freely given! – but we must accept. And acceptance means, just as the prophets shared with the Israelites, we need to follow God’s commands. It means that in our words and deeds we act from and in love of God and love of one another. For “whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

ENGAGE Today we are about halfway through Lent. If you haven’t yet taken advantage of the rich opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross with your family, do so this week. Most parishes pray the stations on Fridays during Lent, and perhaps other days as well. This ancient tradition of our Church is a beautiful and meaningful way to walk the Way of the Cross with our Lord.

We adore you, O Christ, and bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the whole world.

“
The light came
into the world, but
people preferred
darkness to light.

(Jn 3:19)

”

Getty Images/Lumen_Im

The Extraordinary Graces & Gifts of the Divine Mercy Devotion



You're invited to discover, "The Extraordinary Graces and Gifts of the Divine Mercy Devotion," in special seminars Tuesday, March 12, at 9 a.m. or Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. Both seminars will be held in PLC Room 208.

After examining the relationship between the Passion of Christ and Divine Mercy, each 90-minute seminar will delve into the direct words of Jesus as our "King of Divine Mercy," as revealed in Saint

Faustina's Diary, "Divine Mercy in My Soul." Most prominent are the following words of Jesus, which today are revered as His Extraordinary Promise and among His greatest acts of mercy for those souls who trust in Him:

"On that (Divine Mercy) Feast Day, the depths of My mercy will be open to all...The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

In addition to preparing participants for OLM's celebration of the Divine Mercy Feast Day on Sunday, April 7, in the Church, the seminars will cover many facets of Divine Mercy that Jesus, through St. Faustina, made available to us for each day of the year:

- Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- Reciting His Novena of Chaplets
- Contemplating His Divine Mercy Image
- Daily Observance of the 3 p.m. Hour of Mercy
- Practicing Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

A highlight of each seminar will be a group recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Pamphlets featuring both the Chaplet and Jesus's Novena of Chaplets will be available for all. No registration is needed, but please be sure to bring your Rosary! For more details, e-mail trollerw@live.com or call (630) 585-1865.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING DRIVE

March 23-24, 2024

The **St. Vincent dePaul** truck will be in our parking lot the weekend of **March 23-24** for our **Clothing Drive!!**

Donations may be dropped off before and after the 4:00 mass on Saturday and on Sunday until noon. No early drop off's please.

We will accept.....

Clothing, shoes, linens and books in good or bad condition. Unusable clothing, shoes, linens and even books generate income for the needy because they are sold for rags or in bulk.

No baby equipment such as cribs, walkers, strollers, playpens, etc.

ALL BABY CLOTHES ACCEPTED

Small housewares and electronics – dishes, glassware, utensils, toasters, blenders, coffee makers, radios, cd players etc. **SORRY NO TV's.**

Your donations go to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shops where much of your donations are given away free to needy families in the community. Some are sold at reasonable prices at the thrift shops so that needy families can shop with dignity.

**Thanks for your generous donations!
Society of St. Vincent dePaul**

OUR LADY of MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH
2024 PARISH MISSION
 MONDAY 3/18 & TUESDAY 3/19
 FROM 7PM TO 8:30PM

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH

WITH FR. SEAN GRISMER

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“THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH” is the theme for our Parish Mission with Fr. Sean Grismer on Monday 3/18 and Tuesday 3/19 from 7pm to 8:30pm.

In 2016, Fr. Grismer was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Rockford. Presently, he is the Assistant Principal and Spiritual Director at Aurora Central Catholic High School, Aurora. Fr. Grismer has led several pilgrimages to Lourdes, Rome, and serves as a parish retreat leader. He is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes North American Volunteers. He holds a License in Sacred Theology with a focus on Dogmatic Theology from Rome’s Pontifical Angelicum University.

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.

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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.

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Parish Sacrificial Giving

Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	1,036,208
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	1,023,000
Amount in Excess of Budget	\$	13,208
02/25/24 Sunday Collection	\$	27,306
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	31,000
Amount Short of Goal	\$	(3,694)

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.

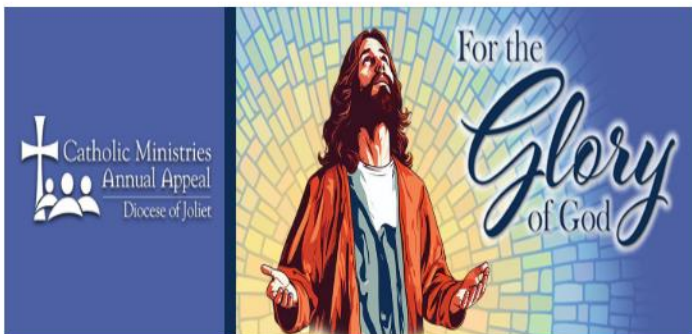
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If you have already pledged your support to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we sincerely thank you! If we all join together, we can meet our parish's goal of \$140,500 and every gift, regardless of size, truly matters and makes a difference.

If you still plan on making your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how best you can support the CMAA this year to help those in need throughout our diocese, *For the Glory of God*. Pledge envelopes are still available in the Narthex, or you can use the envelope you received in the mail from the diocese. We also welcome online gifts at jolietdioceseappeal.org.

Remember, if we raise more than our goal, the diocese will return 70 percent of the amount over goal to us to reinvest in our own parish. This is an incredible opportunity and blessing!



Donating Made Easy!

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

OSV is a secure online website that makes contributing to Our Lady of Mercy faster, easier, and accessible at anytime for donors.

**Please visit the website at:
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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 Friday of the Month 8:30-9:15am

Last Wednesday of the Month at Magnify 7:30-8:20pm

Or by Appointment

Prayer Chapel

Open weekdays 7:00am-8:00pm

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 7:00-8:30pm

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. 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. 228 frmichael@olmercy.com

Parochial Vicar Fr. Frank Pusateri
630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frfrank@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

Asst. to Pastor & Communications Theresa Simeo
331-707-5374 theresas@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

630-961-6125 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 Phil Zwick
312-339-6943 philz@olmercy.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

630-851-3444 Voicemail-ext. 400



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 3. repair fence
 4. grocery shopping

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