

April 14, 2024 3rd Sunday of Easter



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



From our daily confessions, which are many, to our week long confessions during the 5th week of Lent, our long Holy week confession lines, and our Divine Mercy service confessions, you would think that as a priest I would say, "Ok, no more confessions please!" However, I know that I will always both promote, and seek out the beautiful Sacrament myself. This is not only because it has a tremendous

impact on my life, or because I've been consecrated as a priest of Jesus Christ to offer the Sacrament and forgiveness of sins. At an even more fundamental level, our Gospel today points out that repentance and forgiveness of sins is the foundation of our Church, and needs to be proclaimed to the whole world (cf. Luke 24:47).

In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter recounts our Lord's Passion to the crowds gathering after he performed a healing in the temple. He recalls the Israelite people choosing Barabbas, a murderer, over Jesus. What was St. Peter doing? He was encouraging those listening to "repent so that there can be forgiveness of sins" (cf. Acts 3:19). Barabbas has an interesting meaning in Scripture. Bar means "son of" and Abba means "father." Hence, Israelite people were making a choice: which son of the father they would follow. Will they follow Barabbas, who followed his selfish passions, or Jesus, who surrenders himself completely as a self-gift?

This same choice is offered to us every day. How many of us choose our own selfish desires over that of a sacrificial love like our Lord? And if we choose selfishness, what should our response be? Well, as the readings and Gospel point out, we need to repent (again) and receive the forgiveness of our sins (again)!

As we journey in our faith together, can I encourage you to see the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a gift that the Lord desires you to receive? It is not a punishment, but a reception of great joy and love. The Lord is patient with us and always merciful. He is moving us by His grace to grow ever closer to him in this Sacrament. In receiving his mercy and love, we are able to respond in mercy and love to the world. Even with all our scheduled confessions times, as your pastor, I will always be open to finding more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be celebrated and received.

Father Michael



### Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

#### Monday, April 15 - Easter Weekday

8:00 am † Tekla & Walter Kunach, by Family 6:30 pm Int Miroslava Manzanares, by Family (Spanish Mass)

#### Tuesday, April 16 - Easter Weekday

8:00 am † Joe Lescher, by Carol Fernandez 6:30 pm Int Kathryn Accettura, by Mom 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

#### Wednesday, April 17 - Easter Weekday

12:00 pm † Lauren Zink, by Mom & Dad 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

#### Thursday, April 18 - Easter Weekday

6:30 am † Bebe Lucas, by Tolly Alegre 8:00 am † Providence Brencic, by Cindy Conte

#### Friday, April 19 - Easter Weekday

8:00 am † Barbara Saurer, by Roy Saurer

#### Saturday, April 20 - Easter Weekday

8:30 am † David Jenkins, Jr.

9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM) 1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM) 4:00 pm Vigil - Fourth Sunday of Easter

> † Florence Hybiak, by Cathy & Robert Zurek † Anthony M. Loquercio, Jr., by Family

#### Sunday, April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† David Jenkins, Jr.

10:00 am † David Jenkins, Jr.

#### (Live Streamed)

12:00 pm † Steven Henning, by Bernadine & Julia Gonda
 5:30 pm † Daniel Kaczorowski, by Marty Kadziela
 Int The People of Our Lady of Mercy

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
- 2. Lord, Be With The Sick
- 3. James Krcmarik
- 4. Alison Perry
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Leonardo Cayetano
- 8. The Deceased

- 9. Fr Don McLaughlin
- 10. My Health (Louise)
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. Aunt Barbara Jose
- 14. Anthony M Loquercio Jr
- 15. Special Intention-TR
- 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

April 20 & 21

Father Frank will preach at all Masses.			
Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr. Michael Kearney	
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	



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 Greenheck **Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Anya Horste 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 **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)



De nuestras confesiones diarias, que son muchas, hasta nuestras confesiones semanales durante la quinta semana de Cuaresma, nuestras largas colas de confesión de Semana Santa y nuestras confesiones del servicio de la Divina Misericordia, uno pensaría que, como sacerdote, yo diría: "¡Ok, no más confesiones por favor!" Sin embargo, sé que siempre promoveré y buscaré el hermoso Sacramento. Esto no es sólo porque

tiene un impacto tremendo en mi vida, o porque he sido consagrado como sacerdote de Jesucristo para ofrecer el Sacramento y el perdón de los pecados. A un nivel aún más fundamental, nuestro Evangelio de hoy señala que el arrepentimiento y el perdón de los pecados es el fundamento de nuestra Iglesia y debe ser proclamado al mundo entero (cf. Lucas 24:47).

En nuestra primera lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, San Pedro relata la Pasión de nuestro Señor a la multitud que se reunió después de realizar una curación en el templo. El recuerda que el pueblo Israelita eligió a Barrabás, un asesino, en lugar de Jesús. ¿Qué estaba haciendo San Pedro? Estaba animando a los que escuchaban a "arrepentirse para que haya perdón de los pecados" (cf. Hechos 3:19). Barrabás tiene un significado interesante en las Escrituras. Bar significa "hijo de" y Abba significa "padre". Por lo tanto, el pueblo Israelita estaba tomando una decisión: a qué hijo del padre seguirían. ¿Seguirán a Barrabás, que siguió sus pasiones egoístas, o a Jesús, que se entrega completamente como el don de sí mismo?

Esta misma elección se nos ofrece todos los días. ¿Cuántos de nosotros elegimos nuestros propios deseos egoístas en lugar de un amor sacrificial como el de nuestro Señor? Y si elegimos el egoísmo, ¿cuál debería ser nuestra respuesta? Bueno, como señalan las lecturas y el Evangelio, inecesitamos arrepentirnos (nuevamente) y recibir el perdón de nuestros pecados (nuevamente)!

Mientras caminamos juntos en nuestra fe, ¿puedo animarlos a ver el Sacramento de la Reconciliación como un regalo que el Señor desea que recibamos? No es un castigo, sino una recepción de gran alegría y amor. El Señor es paciente con nosotros y siempre misericordioso. Él nos está moviendo por Su gracia a acercarnos cada vez más a él en este Sacramento. Al recibir su misericordia y amor, podemos responder con misericordia y amor al mundo. Incluso con todos nuestros horarios de confesiones programados, como su pastor, siempre estaré abierto a encontrar más oportunidades para celebrar y recibir el Sacramento de la Reconciliación.

Padre Michael



### Lecturas de la Semana

**Domingo** Hch 3, 13-15. 17-19;

Sal 4, 2. 7. 9; 1 Jn 2, 1-5a; Lc 24, 35-48

**Lunes** Hch 6, 8-15;

Sal 118, 23-24. 26-27. 29-30;

Jn 6, 22-29

Martes Hch 7, 51—8, 1;

Sal 30, 3cd-4. 6ab y 7b y 8a. 17 y 21ab;

Jn 6, 30-35

Miércoles Hch 8, 1-8;

Sal 65, 1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a;

Jn 6, 35-40

**Jueves** Hch 8, 26-40;

Sal 65, 8-9. 16-17. 20;

Jn 6, 44-51

Viernes Hch 9, 1-20;

Sal 116, 1. 2; Jn 6, 52-59

**Sábado** Hch 9, 31-42;

Sal 115, 12-13. 14-15. 16-17;

Jn 6, 60-69

**Domingo** Hch 4, 8-12;

Sal 117, 1 y 8-9. 21-23. 26 y 28cd y 29;

1 Jn 3, 1-2; Jn 10, 11-18





## Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 | 1 Jn 2:1-5a | Lk 24:35-48

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

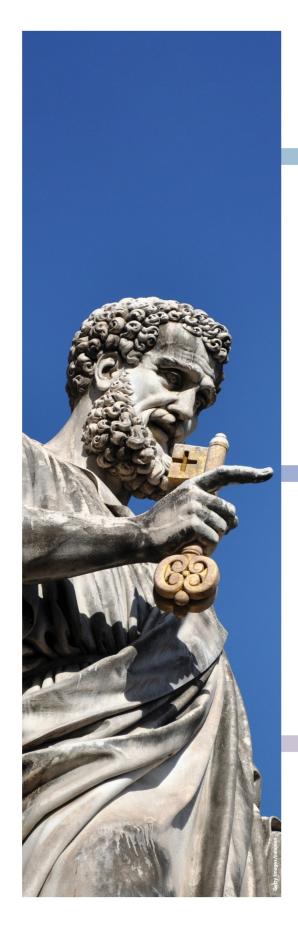
It's only been two weeks since Easter, but already the holiday can seem like another item checked off our to-do lists. It's easy to get complacent as we go about our busy lives - marking celebrations, important dates and gatherings on the calendar. Today's readings remind us that the Resurrection is not just a story or a metaphor about something ordinary that happened more than 2,000 years ago. It was so different and so shocking that it trembled the very earth, and nothing has been the same since! Luke describes the confusion the disciples felt when they first saw Jesus in his resurrected body. Here was their Lord and teacher, back from the dead, but not as a ghost or spirit as they might have expected: He was just as real as before. He was eating, speaking, touching, and interacting. And yet he was different. He could arrive in a locked room without using the door, pass among people unnoticed (as on the way to Emmaus), and give gifts of wisdom and insight directly to the disciples. Today's Gospel offers Jesus' explanation that these things were done to fulfill the promises God made to the prophets.



#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus, and his death and resurrection, was not meant to benefit only a few people. We, as his disciples, must spread the Good News that sin and death don't have the last word. St. Peter gives us an inspiring example today when he speaks to the people. Look at how different he is from the man who denied Jesus three times! He boldly goes into the crowd – the same crowd that condemned Jesus to death – and preaches on what a gift we all have been given by Jesus' sacrifice. Peter knows, and we know, that Jesus' defeat of death means everything. We are freely offered salvation through Christ's saving action. Like the members of that crowd, we're invited to be witnesses to this great act of love, and to re-align our lives with God's will. Like Peter, we can speak the Good News without fear.

**ACCOMPANY** How can we imitate Christ in the way he reached out to his disciples who were wracked with fear and doubt? Perhaps we know somebody who feels trapped by sin, or unworthy of good things, or a constant failure. Let's be honest, sometimes that person is us! We all need encouragement and accompaniment from time to time. Find a way to be that encouragement for someone this week who's having a tough time. You don't have to fix their problems; just listen, let them know you care, and offer a sincere and hopeful encouragement that brighter days lie ahead.



# **Bishop Hicks' Column**

April 2024

#### **FAITH-INSPIRED MOVIES**





CONTEMPORARY MOVIES are challenging to watch and often dubious to recommend. It seems so many contain agenda-laden themes, disturbing violence, immorality, and obscene language. I keep hoping to uncover that diamond in the rough that is worth watching—either in the theater or streaming live in the comfort of my home.

When I worked as the vicar general in the Archdiocese of Chicago, I had a colleague who would thoughtfully alert me to the latest Catholic, faith-inspired movie. In 2019, he recommended *Love and Mercy: Faustina*. A few days later, I invited a group of seminarians and priests to join me at a movie theater in downtown Chicago to enjoy this movie together. We were all inspired by the life of Sister Maria Faustina, an uneducated nun in Poland who allowed God to do extraordinary things through her.

Here's what was so inspiring: Helena Kowalska entered the convent in 1925 and took the name of Sister Maria Faustina. She toiled at menial tasks to fill her day in the kitchen or garden but was not always treated kindly by others. Yet throughout her humble existence and faithfulness, she experienced mystical encounters with Jesus that clearly revealed God's forgiveness, mercy, and boundless love for humanity. These experiences prompted her to pen her now-famous diary, *Divine Mercy In My Soul*.

She also was gifted with a beautiful vision of Jesus, that most of us now recognize as the Divine Mercy image (*above*). It touchingly portrays Jesus with His right hand raised in a gesture of blessing. His left hand is touching His chest, emanating rays of red and white light. These rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side, which signify the graces of mercy and forgiveness. Of course, the rays also represent the sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism. The bottom of the image is inscribed with the spiritual words of surrender: *Jesus, I Trust in You*.

Saint John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina in 2000—the first saint of the new millennium. He affectionately named her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Every year on the second Sunday of Easter we, as the Catholic Church, celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a good reminder to focus our attention on God's sacrificial love. On this particular Sunday, we especially pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer invoking God's mercy. Most of us would agree our world, our society, and our very souls are in such need of God's grace these days.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we pray to turn away from division, hate, and vindictiveness, so we can refocus our gaze and actions on God's mercy, forgiveness, and love.

I love the collect prayed at the beginning of Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, which boldly proclaims:

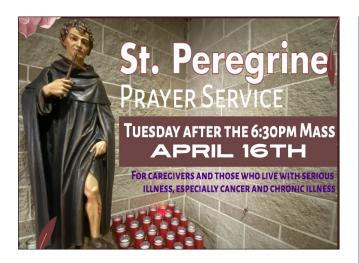
God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast, kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Recently, my "movie whisperer" colleague from the Archdiocese of Chicago emailed and encouraged me to see the movie, *Cabrini*. He informed me that it is about an Italian immigrant, Francesca Cabrini, who fights the odds to help the poor and orphans, and ultimately becomes the first American saint. I immediately told him, "Based on your recommendation, I am determined to see it soon!"

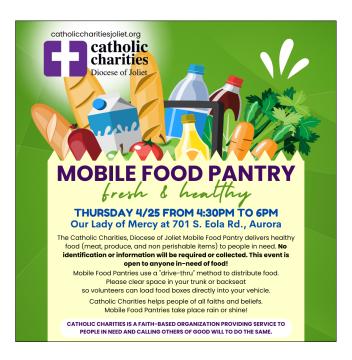
When you see a good, faith-based movie which you enthusiastically give two thumbs up, I encourage you to recommend it to your family and friends. Your endorsement may be a simple way for you to evangelize and help spread the good news of our faith.

Saints Frances Xavier Cabrini and Maria Faustina Kowalska, pray for us, and may the Divine Mercy of God bless you today and always.











#### Our Lady of Mercy St. Vincent de Paul Society

We are a parish group of men and women who are called to follow Jesus Christ through service to our neighbors.

#### Who are the neighbors assisted?

- They are parishioners and non-parishioners who experience a temporary financial set back.
- They are single mothers who have missed a paycheck due to a child's illness.
- They are people living paycheck to paycheck where one unexpected expense, like a car repair or medical bill can cause them to get behind on rent or utility payments.

#### How does the society help them?

- We visit them in their homes and listen to their needs and concerns.
- We help them with rent or mortgage payments, utility payments or food certificates.

#### How can you help?

- You can donate to the St Vincent de Paul Society, either with a monthly envelope or through online giving.
- You can join our society. We need your help. Our next meeting is Wednesday April 17 at 7pm.

Last year, with God's grace and parish donations, the Our Lady of Mercy's St. Vincent de Paul Society assisted 79 families! That is 79 families who were able to stay in their home, have their electricity or water service restored.

Thank you again for your continued support. Please keep our society and those we help in your prayers.

## Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Join the Knights for a delicious pancake breakfast

Sunday, April 14th

8:00 am to Noon in the Gym.

#### **Ticket Prices**

(at the door-no advance sales)

Adults: \$6.00

Children: \$3.00 (12 & under) Children under 3: no charge

Dine in MPR or Take Out Available

#### Menu:

Pancakes

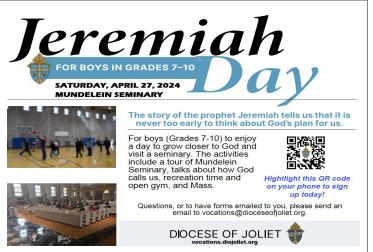
Eggs

Sausage Fruit Cup Coffee, Tea

& Juice

All Profits will support: OLM's Seminarians











Parish Sacrificial Giving			
Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	1,167,420	
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	1,147,000	
Amount in Excess of Budget	\$	20,420	
3/31/24 Easter Sunday Collection	\$	60,822	
Easter Sunday Goal	\$	65,000	
Amount Short of Goal	\$	(4,178)	

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.



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. Each 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. 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!

Parish Goal	\$ 140,500
Amount Pledged	\$ 127,957
Amount Paid	\$ 87,508
Remaining Balance	\$ 40,449
Rebate Amount	\$ 0
# of Families Pledged	419





## **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: www.osvhub.com/olmercy or scan the QR code to get started



### Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

# 701 S. Eola Road † Aurora, IL 60504 www.olmercy.com

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Tel: (630) 851-3444 • FAX: (630) 851-3468	
Monday-Thursday	8:30am-4:00pm
Friday	8:30am-1:00pm

#### **Mass Schedule**

Monday, Tuesday, Thurso	day, Friday8:00am
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 Ma	agnify7:30-8:20pm
Or by Appointment	

#### **Prayer Chapel**

Open weekday	/S	7:00am-8:00nm
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#### **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 & Thursda	ıy	6:00	pm
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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**

<i>Pastor</i> Fr. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228frmichael@olmercy.com
Parochial Vicar Fr. Frank Pusateri
630-851-3444, Ext. 226frfrank@olmercy.com
030-031-3444, Ext. 220
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
331-707-5371davem@olmercy.com
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FFF Secretary Karen Schwartz
331-707-5369 karens@olmercy.com
Principal of All Saints Catholic Academy
630-961-6125Margie Marshall
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Business Office AssistantLydia Schmitt
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