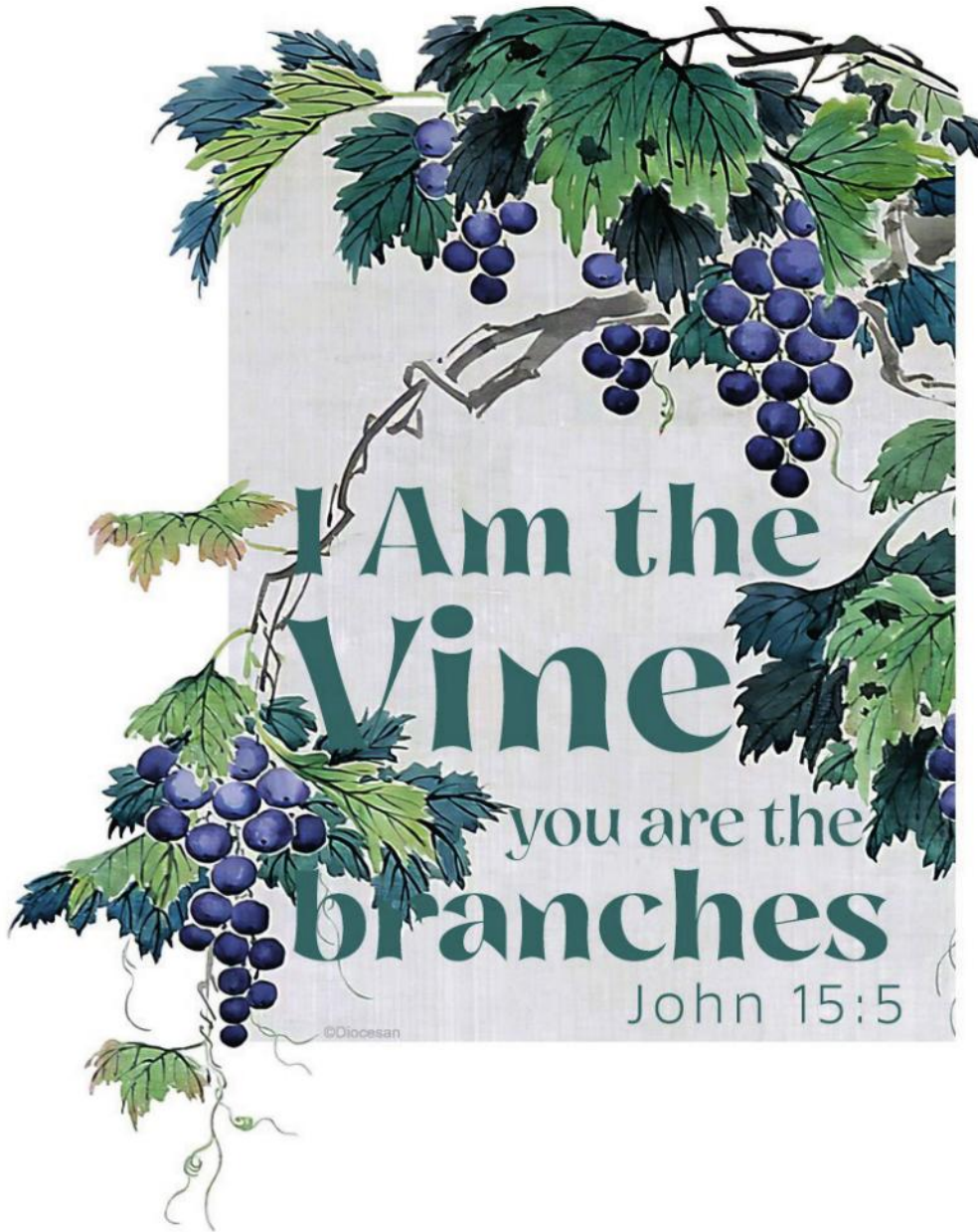




OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter



News from S.I.T. (Seminarian in Training)



What does it mean to be a disciple? In today's first reading, it is Saul's boldness in Christ that makes the other Christians finally acknowledge him as a disciple. That boldness is a quality we are also called to have.

In the second reading, we hear of Jesus' commandment to believe in him and love one another as he commanded us. This commandment has two features, which we might be tempted to separate into two commandments, but it is a singular directive. We are told that our faith should bear fruit in our works, especially in the way we love others. Our faith should find expression in our actions. To believe in Christ is to entrust yourself to Christ. It would be odd to believe in Christ and not obey him. Rather, to not obey would shed light on an area in yourself that Christ needs to be brought into, and that other brothers and sisters should be consulted about. Therefore, the disciples of Christ obey his commandments, and that obedience is proof of their faith.

The Gospel continues with the imagery of vines, branches, fruit, and pruning. Jesus makes the point through this imagery that it is impossible to grow in holiness without also producing good fruit for others. The Gospel takes a frightening turn when it says that anyone who does not remain in Christ will be thrown into a fire like dead branches! As previously mentioned, faith and works go together as one. Thus, believing in Christ but refusing to do anything he asks us to do for our own good is the same as rejecting Christ. Perhaps we are not rejecting him entirely, but the invitation is to completely surrender ourselves to Christ and trust in him. In the same respect, he has already given himself entirely to us. The disciple is, therefore, dependent on Jesus and his grace. This leads to a deep unity, which bears much fruit.

As a man who has committed himself to Christ, is seeking to be his disciple, and strives to make others his disciples, this Gospel reminded me of many of the fears I had when surrendering to God and entering priestly formation. One of the fears I had was that in configuring myself to Christ, I would become a different person. Perhaps I would become a priest who prays abundantly, but has little personality left afterwards. While I have changed in many respects, the Lord has pruned certain aspects of my life to make me more fruitful. All those moments of pruning and letting go of things has resulted in deep happiness. I am becoming who God truly created me to be. It is when I begin to reach for that which has been pruned away, that I often lose my peace. My invitation today is to ask Jesus a hard question: "Jesus, are you asking me to do something in order to love you more?"

Jonathan Hernandez



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, April 29 - St Catherine of Siena

8:00 am † Wayne Leckey, by Family
6:30 pm Int Allen and Family
(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, April 30 - St Pius V

8:00 am † Laura Flagg-Pitts, by Carl & Mary Anne Marker
6:30 pm † Aloysius Nwosisi, by The Hepburn Family
7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, May 1 - St Joseph the Worker

12:00 pm Int Fr Michael Kearney, by The Heying Family
12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, May 2 - St Athanasius

6:30 am In Thanksgiving, by Rojasekhar & Family
8:00 am † Monica Cohetzaltitla, by The Reyna Family

Friday, May 3 - Sts Philip and James

8:00 am † Andres Llanes, by Edgar & Maria Cuartero
12:00 pm † Steven Henning, by Bernadine & Julia Gonda

Saturday, May 4 - Easter Weekday

8:30 am † Patrice Klasinski
9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)
1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)
4:00 pm **Vigil - 6th Sunday of Easter**
† James W Ray Family, by Nancy Ray
† Alberto Martinez, by Sally

Sunday, May 5 - 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
The People of Our Lady of Mercy
10:00 am † David Jenkins, Jr. *(Live Streamed)*
12:00 pm Int Jeff & Jolene LeRoy
5:30 pm Int Mathew & Grace, by 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. Louis Sonetz, Sr. | 9. Anthony M Loquercio, Jr |
| 2. Special Intention-K.C. | 10. Frank Rostan |
| 3. The Ellensohn Family | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Alison Perry | 12. The Sick |
| 5. The Pluskota Family | 13. Special Intention-T.Z. |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Douglas Joseph McIlraith |
| 7. My Health (Louise) | 15. Noreen Thayer |
| 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

May 4 & 5

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
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
Diane Reiter
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 S.I.T. (Seminarista en formación)



¿Qué significa ser un discípulo? En la primera lectura de hoy, es la audacia de Saulo en Cristo lo que hace que los demás Cristianos finalmente lo reconozcan como discípulo. Esa audacia es una cualidad que también estamos llamados a tener.

En la segunda lectura, escuchamos el mandamiento de Jesús de creer en él y amarnos unos a otros como él nos mandó. Este mandamiento tiene dos características, que podríamos sentirnos tentados a separar en dos mandamientos, pero es una directiva singular. Se nos dice que nuestra fe debe dar fruto en nuestras obras, especialmente en la forma en que amamos a los demás. Nuestra fe debe encontrar expresión en nuestras acciones. Creer en Cristo es confiarse a Cristo. Sería extraño creer en Cristo y no obedecerlo. Más bien, no obedecer arrojaría luz sobre un área en usted a la que es necesario traer a Cristo y sobre la cual se debe consultar a otros hermanos y hermanas. Por tanto, los discípulos de Cristo obedecen sus mandamientos, y esa obediencia es prueba de su fe.

El Evangelio continúa con las imágenes de la vid, ramas, frutos y podas. Jesús señala a través de estas imágenes que es imposible crecer en santidad sin producir también buenos frutos para los demás. ¡El Evangelio da un giro aterrador cuando dice que cualquiera que no permanezca en Cristo será arrojado al fuego como ramas muertas! Como se mencionó anteriormente, la fe y las obras van juntas como una sola. Por lo tanto, creer en Cristo, pero negarnos a hacer cualquier cosa que Él nos pida que hagamos por nuestro propio bien es lo mismo que rechazar a Cristo. Quizás no lo estemos rechazando del todo, pero la invitación es a entregarnos completamente a Cristo y confiar en él. Del mismo modo, Él ya se ha entregado enteramente a nosotros. El discípulo depende, por tanto, de Jesús y de su gracia. Esto conduce a una unidad profunda, que da muchos frutos.

Como hombre que se ha comprometido con Cristo, busca ser su discípulo y se esfuerza por hacer de otros sus discípulos, este Evangelio me recordó muchos de los temores que tuve al entregarme a Dios y entrar en la formación sacerdotal. Uno de los temores que tuve era que al configurarme con Cristo me convertiría en una persona diferente. Quizás me convertiría en un sacerdote que ora abundantemente, pero al que le queda poca personalidad después. Si bien he cambiado en muchos aspectos, el Señor ha podado ciertos aspectos de mi vida para hacerme más fructífero. Todos esos momentos de podar y soltar cosas han resultado en una profunda felicidad. Me estoy convirtiendo en quien Dios realmente me creó para ser. Es cuando empiezo a alcanzar por lo que ha sido podado, que a menudo pierdo la paz. Mi invitación hoy es a hacerle a Jesús una pregunta difícil: "Jesús, ¿me estás pidiendo que haga algo para amarte más?"

Jonathan Hernandez
Seminarian



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo	Hch 9, 26-31; Sal 21, 26b-27. 28 y 30. 31-32; 1 Jn 3, 18-24; Jn 15, 1-8
Lunes	Hch 14, 5-18; Sal 113 B, 1-2. 3-4. 15-16; Jn 14, 21-26
Martes	Hch 14, 19-28; Sal 144, 10-11. 12-13ab. 21; Jn 14, 27-31
Miércoles	Hch 15, 1-6; Sal 121, 1-2. 3-4a. 4b-5; Jn 15, 1-8
Jueves	Hch 15, 7-21; Sal 95, 1-2a. 2b-3. 10; Jn 15, 9-11
Viernes	1 Cor 15, 1-8; Sal 18, 2-3. 4-5; Jn 14, 6-14
Sábado	Hch 16, 1-10; Sal 99, 2. 3. 5; Jn 15, 18-21
Domingo	Hch 10, 25-26. 34-35. 44-48; Sal 97, 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4; 1 Jn 4, 7-10; Jn 15, 9-17



April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31 | 1 Jn 3:18-24 | Jn 15:1-8

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

“Where do they get their energy!” Maybe you’ve said that about your children as they run around the yard while you’re trying to wrangle them inside for bedtime. Jokes about how sugar and caffeine are what keep most adults going, but we know it’s proper nutrition, exercise, and rest that enable us to do well whatever it is we do. That is all relevant to us physically. What about spiritually? Bishop Barron, writing on the Gospel, says, “Jesus declares that he is the vine and we are the branches. He is the power and energy source in which we live.” (*Word on Fire Bible*, 548) Just as we see the effects of sugar and caffeine on people, we see the supernatural effects of Jesus’ love on, and in, people. As he nurtures us with his perfect love, and that flows into us who are grafted onto him, it changes us. It transforms us and converts us away from sin and toward God. We fill up on that spiritual fuel in the sacramental life of the Church and become a witness to it in how we go about our days – loving one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” These words from John in our second reading provide the perfect bridge between the ministry of Paul, about whom we heard in the first reading, and Christ’s message in the Gospel. With Jesus as “the power and energy source in which we live,” we not only can profess the truth, but live it. We not only give our own account of Christ working in us, as Paul did, who came to them speaking out “boldly in the name of the Lord,” but we stand beside one another, as Barnabas did, vouching for Paul to the Apostles. We are united in baptism, in love, in profession of faith, and in communion with one another. When we consistently act in a Christian manner toward others and keep God’s commandments, John says, we “remain in him, and he in [us], and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.” In other words, those who remain in Christ “will bear much fruit” – a tangible sign that easily answers the question, “where does he/she get her energy?”

PRAY Is there anything in your life that is an obstacle to Jesus being the power and energy source in which you live? Are your days fueled more by anger, frustration, or ambition than his love? Pray this week in thanksgiving to God for where he has given you conversion of heart, and ask him for the grace to see where improvement is needed and the will to make it happen.

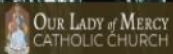


Vacation Bible School at Our Lady of Mercy!

August 5-8, 9:00 to 12:00 &
 Friday, August 9, 9:00-12:30, Picnic with Parents!!
 Dive Deep into an Amazing Undersea Adventure
 of GOD'S NEVER-ENDING LOVE!!!

REGISTER TODAY!





OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Living With Grief

Experiencing the loss of a loved one is a difficult journey. Our Lady of Mercy is offering a supportive place for participants ages 18 and older living with grief to be together in a faith community to find healing and hope.

Grief topics will vary each month. Come to the one that would be of support to you.

What We Can Learn From Mary While Grieving

Tuesday, May 7th
1-2:30pm
in Room 217

REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED- CONNECT WITH JOLENE LEROY AT 331-707-5380 TO RSVP OR FOR QUESTIONS




Donut & Coffee Sunday

IN THE PLC AFTER THE 8AM & 10AM MASS

May 5th

On Sunday 5/5 after the 8am & 10am Mass is Donuts & Coffee Sunday

Have a delicious donut, good coffee, and stay for fellowship.

Hope to see you then!



Hosted by the Green Fair Ministry



ILLUMINATE
JOHN 1:9

JYD
JOLIET

JOLIET YOUTH DAY

June 1, 2024

LEARN MORE AT
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sonar



katie prejean mcgrady



oscar rivera



bishop ronald hicks

Deadline to Sign-Up:
 Sunday, April 21st

Contact:
 Davem@olmercy.com
 JoanaL@olmercy.com
 Adolf@olmercy.com



All graduating 7th-12th graders are welcome to attend the Joliet 1-Day Steubenville Conference, an unforgettable day dedicated to transforming the lives of teens into passionate and joyful disciples.

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HIGH SCHOOL 9-10

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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.

An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40)

WHAT:

Through prayer, reflection, and discussion we will become familiar with the social teachings of the Catholic Church

WHEN:

Part 1: Wednesday, May 8th from 6:30-8:30pm
Part 2: Wednesday, May 15th from 6:30-8:30pm

WHERE:

Room 114 of the PLC

HOW:

Please register by May 1st by emailing Amy Millet at mt.al.miller@gmail.com



This event is open to anyone who is interested. Sponsored by the OLM St. Vincent de Paul Society and the OLM Peace & Social Justice Ministry



AN EVENING WITH

mother MARY

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF OUR HEAVENLY MOTHER

SATURDAY MAY 11
AFTER THE 4 PM MASS,
5:15-6:45PM IN THE GYM
WITH SUPPER. RSVP:



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Lead with faith—Serve others—Protect your family—Defend your values



Parish Sacrificial Giving

Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	1,223,791
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	1,209,000
Amount in Excess of Budget	\$	24,791
04/14/24 Sunday Collection	\$	28,089
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	31,000
Amount Short of Goal	\$	(2,911)

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.

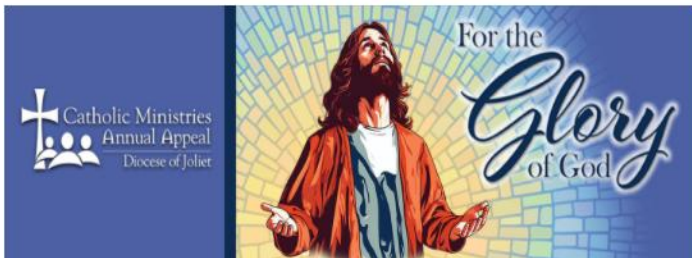
Thank you for your generosity!!

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

Donating Made Easy!



Thank you for supporting
Our Lady of Mercy!!



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	\$	139,489
Amount Paid	\$	97,139
Remaining Balance	\$	42,349
Rebate Amount	\$	0
# of Families Pledged		462



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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2. haircut
3. repair fence
4. grocery shopping

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