THE CHURCH OF

Our Lady of Mercy

Phone...........401-884-4968       Fax..............401-884-1415
Parish Email........................................parish@olmparish.org
Parish Website.........................................www.olmparish.org

Sixty-Five Third Street   *   East Greenwich, Rhode Island  02818

† MASS SCHEDULE †

Weekend
Saturday Mass of  Anticipation.........4:00 PM
Sunday Mass.........7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM (Sept—May)

Daily
Monday - Friday.................................7:30 AM
& during Lent at 12:05PM
Saturdays & Legal Holidays..........8:30 AM

Holy Day
Vigil Mass..............................................5:00 PM
Holyday Masses........7:30 AM & 7:00 PM

The Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time * February 23, 2020

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Mondays at 6:00 PM or by appointment.
Monday thru Friday during Lent at 11:45AM.
Saturdays at 3:00 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Second Sunday of the month. Preparation Class is required. Please contact the parish prior to birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Please contact one of the parish priests one year prior to the proposed date of your wedding.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
Please contact one of the parish priests if you are shut-in, sick, homebound or hospitalized and before surgery.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS
Please contact one of the parish priests or the Office of the Director of Vocations at 401-331-1316 or www.catholicpriest.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday.......................................8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mrs. Sandra A. Demers, Parish Secretary
Email: parish@olmparish.org    Phone: 401-884-4968

Our Lady of Mercy School

Mr. Patrick H. McNabb
School Principal
55 Fourth Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Phone .....................401-884-1618
Email................................office@olmschool.org
Web........................................www.olmschool.org

The Very Reverend Bernard A. Healey, S.T.L., J.C.L., Pastor
The Reverend Joshua A. Barrow, S.T.L., Associate Pastor
The Reverend Ryan W. Connors, S.T.D., In Residence

Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.
William K. Wray
Parish Trustees

Parish Founded 1853   *   *   *   *   Parish Incorporated 1867
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 23, 2020

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
Mass of Anticipation for The 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time
4:00PM  William & Catherine Pearson—Memorial

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
The Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
7:30 AM  Charles O’Connell—1st Anniversary
9:00 AM  Thomas Cavanagh—Memorial
10:30AM  Thomas F. Fay—Month’s Mind
5:00PM  The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Weekday
7:30AM  Kevin F. Healey—Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Weekday
7:30AM  Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26—ASH WEDNESDAY
Ash Weekday
7:30AM  Marie McGlynn—Memorial
9:00AM  Christopher J. Connelly—Month’s Mind
12:05PM  John Stetkiewicz—Memorial
7:00PM  The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Thursday after Ash Wednesday
7:30AM  Martha Eberhardt—Birthday Remembrance
12:05PM  Fr. Lucien Bernard LaMontagne—Memorial

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
Friday after Ash Wednesday
7:30AM  Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary—Mem.
12:05PM  Carmine DiChiaro—3rd Anniversary

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
Saturday after Ash Wednesday
8:30AM  Eraclio Iacobucci—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for the 1st Sunday of Lent
4:00PM  George C. Ingalls—50th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
The First Sunday of Lent
7:30 AM  Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
9:00 AM  Alfred & Jennie Cotham—Memorial
10:30AM  The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
5:00PM  Vivian Hanson Meehan—Memorial
Dear Parishioners:

Tuesday is *Mardi Gras* or as it is also known, Fat Tuesday. Traditionally a day that finds us feasting on pancakes, chocolates, donuts, beer, whiskey, wine or even a cigar or two! I presume you don’t need much encouragement from me to celebrate *Mardi Gras* or make this Fat Tuesday a feast!

So, allow me to direct your attention to Ash Wednesday. There was a time, and it’s still the case in many places, when Ash Wednesday would see lines of people streaming into churches to be signed with a cross of ashes on their foreheads.

My experience, however, tells me that the Ash Wednesday crowds are getting smaller than the regular weekend numbers. Granted, some folks go to Ash Wednesday services near their work places, but my guess is that a number of Catholics no longer count Ash Wednesday as the important day their parents and grandparents did.

Happily this week is not school vacation so families are not away skiing in the snow or swimming in the sun. We have an Ash Wednesday School Mass at 9:00am, so our students and their families can prayerfully begin the Lenten Fast of forty days.

Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation but nonetheless it’s a unique day on the church calendar. It is truly a powerful way to begin the Lenten season. I encourage you, wherever you may be on Wednesday, to make an effort to go to Mass and to be marked with the sign of the Cross by which we are saved.

There are particular days of fast and abstinence in Lent when the whole Church participates in the Lenten practice. Ash Wednesday should be a day of fasting from eating between meals, and also abstinence from the eating of all meat. Fridays in Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

We take up the cross of Christ with our ashes and are told to “Repent and believe in the Gospel” and “Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.” The ashes we receive are a reminder to us of three things in our lives as disciples.

First they are a sign of our mortality, that we are dust and unto dust we shall return. Lent reminds us that we all die and so, like at the beginning of creation, we need to be infused with the breath of life, with God’s life. Yes we all die, but God wants to raise us, even now. Lent is not just about a minor course correction in our life, but about a death and resurrection, Christ’s and ours in him.

Second, as seen in the prophets of the Old Testament ashes are a sign of repentance. They are a summons to repent and believe in the Gospel. And third, they are a means of supplication and prayer for others and their salvation. We wear ashes for all three purposes.

Lent is about returning to the Lord with our whole heart, helped by him to make it clean. It’s a time of conversion as we repent and believe in the Gospel. It’s a grace we should not receive in vain, but act on with urgency in order to be reconciled to God.

So take up the cross of Lent, by praying more, fasting more and giving more alms to the poor and needy.

We have added an extra daily Mass at 12:05 in addition to the 7:30am Daily Mass. Going to Daily Mass during Lent is a venerable tradition. I encourage you to do it as it makes Lent more prayerful, meaningful and can even change your life for the better!

We have scheduled daily Confession, Monday thru Friday, before the Lenten 12:05 Mass. There is an extra guest Confessor visiting during Lent at Monday Confessions at 6pm. In addition, All Day Confessions take place on Saturday, March 21st! And Confessions every night of the Mission. Ample opportunity for Confession this Lent to get reconciled with God and neighbor!

Stations of the Cross are every Friday in Lent at 7:00pm. It is a beautiful spiritual devotion and I encourage every parish family to come on Fridays. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat and a time of penance as we recall our Lord’s crucifixion on Good Friday.

Next weekend we begin our Lenten Mission with a terrific young priest and dynamic preacher. Fr. Tom Macdonald from Boston. It’s a great way to begin Lent! So make the Mission!

What are you giving up for Lent? Make Lent a fruitful forty days of conversion! Pray, fast and give alms! Be well. Do Good! God Bless.
Why no Gloria in Lent?

We begin the Season of Lent on Wednesday, and as with every Lent there are several liturgical changes to the Mass. Just as in Advent we do not sing or say the Gloria during Lent (except if a feast of solemnity takes place during either season). The Gloria is a song of exaltation and joy, whereas Lent and Advent are penitential and fasting seasons. When we think about fasting we should expand it our concept of it to include not only abstaining from food or drink, but other things which will train us to understand in body and mind the meaning of Lent.

The other recommended liturgical changes during Lent are: no purely instrumental music (there must always be a vocalist for music in Lent), the priest wears violet (purple) vestments, no singing or saying the Alleluia at the Gospel, no flowers in the sanctuary (except on Laetare Sunday), scriptural readings during Mass focus on repentance, the practice of virtue, and the growing opposition to Christ, during the Triduum the holy water fonts are emptied (to prepare for the blessing of water at the Easter vigil), and after the Fifth Sunday of Lent statues and crosses are veiled and covered.

Lent is a season in which we gradually enter into Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Through the liturgy the Church helps us to prepare for the celebration of Easter.
Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, February 24:** School resumes! Welcome back students and faculty!
- **Wednesday, February 26:** Ash Wednesday OLM School Mass at 9:00am

OLM Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food times especially during the winter season. Please drop your donations in the Food Box located in the vestibule of Church. Thank you for your support.

**For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

Our Lady of Mercy Church

LENTEN MISSION

February 29-March 4

**Taking up the Battle of Lent:**
**Persevering with Christ in the Desert**

*Father Thomas Macdonald, Mission Preacher*

Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1
Father Macdonald will preach at all weekend Masses

- **Monday, March 2 at 7:00PM**
  “Overcoming the World”

- **Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00PM**
  “The Spirit and the Flesh”

- **Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00PM**
  “Resisting the One who Scatters”

Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration & Benediction will be offered during the Mission on Wednesday night.

Confession each night of the Mission beginning at 6:00PM with four priests.

Father Thomas Macdonald is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston and currently serves as Vice-Rector of St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA. He grew up in Westford, MA and is an alumnus of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. His preparation for the priesthood took place at St. John's Seminary and the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Ordained a priest in 2013, Father Macdonald began his ministry at the parishes of St. Ann and St. Brendan in Dorchester. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Prior to his assignment to St. John's Seminary, he served as the administrator of St. Rose Parish in Topsfield and St. Agnes Parish in Middleton.

Join us for the Lenten Mission

The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated this week in memory of *Eraclio Iacobucci*. In your charity, please remember him in your prayers.
GUIDELINES FOR
Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations

Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older) is required by Church law. Also, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting: those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less, meaning, take no solid food between meals and only one full meal that day. Serious health conditions excuse a person from these precepts. Parents are encouraged by the law of the Church to ensure that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated nonetheless in an authentic sense of penance.

OLM Lenten Book Rack: There is a selection of spiritual, theological and informative books and pamphlets are available for Lent on our OLM Book Rack. Feel free to stop and browse and take one home.

OLM Lenten Table: During the Season of Lent a table is placed in the vestibule with an assortment of religious articles, both new and old. These items are free to take by anyone. They have been generously donated by OLM parishioners. Stop by and check them out!

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, parishes in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different countries each year. 25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly $300 million.

Please take a Rice Bowl home for Lent and return your sacrificial gift on Palm Sunday. Thank you for your generous support and sacrifice for the hungry.
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