

LENT

PRAYER PENANCE ALMSGIVING

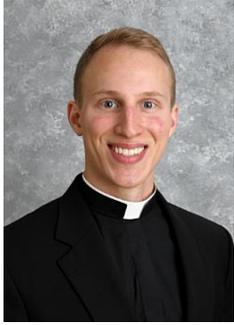


1st Sunday
of Lent

OUR LADY *of* MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 26, 2023

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



Perhaps you remember some of my subtle comments from my last Sunday homily, as well as my last article where I quoted from St. Justin Martyr, writing in AD 151: “*We call this food Eucharist, and no one else is permitted to partake of it, except one who believes our teaching to be true and who has been washed in the washing which is for the remission of sins and for regeneration and is thereby living as Christ enjoined.*” At every funeral and wedding I make a similar announcement: “If you are Catholic and properly prepared to receive Communion this day—which means you’ve been to confession within the last year—we’ll

form two lines... If you’re not Catholic, I invite you to receive a blessing by crossing your arms *like so* because receiving Communion in our faith tradition is an outward profession of the Catholic faith and an acceptance of everything the Church teaches as being true. Thank you for respecting our religion!” Why say such a thing? Isn’t it exclusive?

Well, yes, yes it is, but with good reason. First of all, I don’t want anyone who doesn’t actually believe Church teaching to unconsciously outwardly profess what they don’t actually believe! For many Protestants, communion is an expression of welcoming and loving one’s neighbor no matter who they are. For Catholics, Communion is *just that*: a consummation of communion with Jesus and His Body, His Bride, our Mother, the Church. Thus, if one isn’t *actually* in communion with Jesus or his Church—whether by deed or belief—there’s a grave contradiction between one’s life and the meaning and content of the Sacrament.” (Feingold’s *The Eucharist*) St. Thomas refers to this as “*lying to the sacrament.*” The Church calls this “*sacrilege*”.

Those are strong words! Why?? Secondly, because Communion isn’t *just* a symbolic action: *it is also Jesus Himself!* It contains what it signifies. Thus St. Paul tells us: “*Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and only then eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying.*” (1 Cor 11:27-29) St. Paul literally claims that people are getting sick and *dying* because they are receiving Communion when they shouldn’t! That’s a weird conclusion if Communion were just a symbol of God’s love for all people, but a perfectly understandable conclusion if Communion is our reception of Jesus Christ crucified for our sins.

Think of it this way: imagine a spouse who is discovered to be cheating on his wife, and then presumes to enter into the marital act with his wife without first apologizing. How insulting! You broke communion and seek bodily union without first owning your sin and seeking reconciliation?! How much more disrespectful if we do that to our infinitely good God! That’s what we do if we presume to receive Communion if we’ve committed serious sins and not first gone to the sacrament of reconciliation. This is why the Church enjoins us as one of her five precepts: “*You shall confess your sins at least once a year.*” (CCC 2042) Jesus *wants* to forgive us our sins, and He gave us a sacrament for that too! Like a good parent, He wants us to humble ourselves, take responsibility for our sins, explicitly name them and ask for pardon, and only then presume to become *one-flesh* with Him. There are many reasons why someone wouldn’t receive Communion at Mass—maybe they accidentally broke the Eucharistic fast, don’t feel sufficiently recollected, arrived late, etc. Better that we care about offending God than worrying about what others might think of us if we don’t receive Communion every Mass! Remember my homily: Mass is more than just getting Communion. Taking Communion more seriously will seriously increase the amount of grace we receive when we *do* receive Him! May God bless you. Father James



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, February 27 - St Gregory of Narek

- 8:00 am † Saramma Philip
- 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:00 pm Benediction
- 6:30 pm Special Intention
(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, February 28 - Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 am † Drew Toshak, by Family
- 6:30 pm † Judith Rupp, by Gebhardt Family
- 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, March 1 - Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 12:00 pm Int Carl & Mary Anne Marker, by Shirley Staples
- 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, March 2 - Lenten Weekday

- 6:30 am † Charlotte McGill, by Corpus Christi Friends
- 8:00 am † Nathaniel Centeno, Jr, by Family
- 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, March 3 - St Katharine Drexel

- 8:00 am Int Glorino Gallardo
- 12:00 pm Int Daren Alan Buendicho

Saturday, March 4 - St Casimir

- 8:30 am † Patrice Klasinski
- 9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)
- 1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)
- 4:00 pm **Vigil - 2nd Sunday of Lent**
† Dcn Bob Vavra, by Family
† Jim & Jane Darby, by Mary Campos

Sunday, March 5 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
† Anthony Mendoza by Maria Ocana
- 10:00 am † Paula Couch, by Phyllis Anderson
(Live Streamed)
- 12:00 pm † Francisco Uy by Uy Family
- 5:30 pm 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. Ldquercio Jr. | 9. The Feldman Family |
| 2. Gary Showalter | 10. Fr Don McLaughlin |
| 3. Robert Murphy | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. Baby Riley Chick | 12. The Sick |
| 5. The Pluskota Family | 13. Emma Duran |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Juanita Roco |
| 7. Baby Cerina Skye | 15. Barb |
| 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 4 & 5

Father Michael will preach at all Masses.

Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr James Guarascio
	10:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney
	12:00 pm	Fr James Guarascio
	5:30 pm	Fr Michael Kearney

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
Alfredo Chavez
Baby Riley Chick
Robert Ciulla
Michael Dandan
Mary Dunbar
Bridget Garry
Connie Hegg
Jim Hegg
Nancy Higgins
Eric Hoerdemann
Cera Horste
Antoinette Humanski
Steve Johnson
Helen Joseph
Baby Penelope Keene
Michelle Maeirs
Kristen Manning
Susan Massett
Rev. Don McLaughlin

Susan Mennenga
Bill Morse
La Moua
Charlene Oates
Flo Paprzycki
Diane Pazos
Valerie Plesha
Jim Pluskota
Jackie Schiable
Julia Schremp
Diane Singer
Hedy Sterling
Thomas F. Sterling
John Swanston
Rev. Gerald Tivy
Bernice Tokarski
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
SPC Mason Webber, US Army
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)



Tal vez Uds. recuerden algunos de mis comentarios sutiles de mi última homilía dominical, así como mi último artículo donde cité a San Justino Mártir, escrito en el año 151 dC: *“Llamamos a este alimento Eucaristía, y a nadie más se le permite participar de esto, excepto aquel que cree que nuestra enseñanza es verdadera y que ha sido lavado en el lavamiento que es para la remisión de los pecados y para la regeneración y por lo tanto está viviendo como Cristo ordenó”*. En cada funeral y boda hago un anuncio similar: “Si eres católico y estás debidamente preparado para recibir la Comunión este día, lo que significa que te has confesado durante el último año, formaremos dos filas... Si no eres Cató-

lico, te invito a recibir una bendición cruzando los brazos *así* porque recibir la Comunión en nuestra tradición de fe es una profesión externa de la fe Católica y una aceptación de todo lo que la Iglesia enseña como verdadero. ¡Gracias por respetar nuestra religión!” ¿Por qué decir tal cosa? ¿No es exclusivo? Bueno, sí, si lo es, pero con razón. En primer lugar, ¡no quiero que nadie que en realidad no crea en las enseñanzas de la Iglesia profese inconscientemente lo que en realidad no cree! Para muchos protestantes, la comunión es una expresión de acoger y amar al prójimo, sea quien sea. Para los Católicos, la Comunión es solo eso: una consumación de la comunión con Jesús y Su Cuerpo, Su Esposa, nuestra Madre, la Iglesia. Por lo tanto, si uno no está *realmente* en comunión con Jesús o su Iglesia, ya sea por obra o creencia, "hay una grave contradicción entre la vida de uno y el significado y el contenido del Sacramento". (*La Eucaristía* de Feingold) Santo Tomás se refiere a esto como “mentir al sacramento”. La Iglesia llama a esto “*sacrilegio*”.

¡Esas son palabras fuertes! ¿Por qué? En segundo lugar, porque la Comunión no es solo una acción simbólica: ¡es también Jesús mismo! Contiene lo que significa. Así San Pablo nos dice: *“Por tanto, quien coma el pan o beba la copa del Señor indignamente, tendrá que responder por el cuerpo y la sangre del Señor. Una persona debe examinarse a sí misma, y solo entonces comer el pan y beber la copa. Porque cualquiera que come y bebe sin discernir el cuerpo, come y bebe juicio sobre sí mismo. Es por eso que muchos de ustedes están enfermos y débiles, y un número considerable se está muriendo”*. (1 Corintios 11:27-29) ¡San Pablo afirma literalmente que las personas se enferman y mueren porque reciben la Comunión cuando no deberían! Esa es una conclusión extraña si la Comunión fuera solo un símbolo del amor de Dios por todas las personas, pero una conclusión perfectamente comprensible si la Comunión es nuestra recepción de Jesucristo crucificado por nuestros pecados.

Piénselo de esta manera: imaginen a un cónyuge al que se le descubre que está engañando a su esposa y luego presume de entrar en el acto marital con su esposa sin disculparse primero. ¡Qué insultante! ¿Rompiste la comunión y buscas la unión corporal sin reconocer primero tu pecado y buscar la reconciliación?! ¡Cuánto más irrespetuoso si le hacemos eso a nuestro Dios infinitamente bueno! Eso es lo que hacemos si nos atrevemos a recibir la Comunión si hemos cometido pecados graves y no hemos ido primero al sacramento de la reconciliación. Por eso la Iglesia nos manda como uno de sus cinco preceptos: *“Confesarás tus pecados al menos una vez al año”*. (CCC 2042) ¡Jesús quiere perdonarnos nuestros pecados, y nos dio un sacramento para eso también! Como buen padre, Él quiere que nos humillemos, asumamos la responsabilidad de nuestros pecados, los nombremos explícitamente y pidamos perdón, y sólo entonces presumamos de convertirnos en una sola carne con Él. Hay muchas razones por las que alguien no recibiría la Comunión en la Misa, tal vez rompió el ayuno eucarístico sin querer, no se siente lo suficientemente recogido, llegó tarde, etc. Es mejor que nos preocupemos por ofender a Dios que preocuparnos por lo que los demás puedan pensar de nosotros. si no comulgamos cada Misa! Recuerda mi homilía: La Misa es más que simplemente recibir la Comunión. ¡Tomar la Comunión más en serio aumentará seriamente la cantidad de gracia que recibimos cuando lo recibamos a Él! Que Dios los bendiga. Padre James

‘No sólo de pan vive el hombre, sino también de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios’.

Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo	Gn 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7; Sal 50, 3-4. 5-6a. 12-13. 14 y 17; Rom 5, 12-19 o Rom 5, 12. 17-19; Mt 4, 1-11
Lunes	Lv 19, 1-2. 11-18; Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 15; Mt 25, 31-46
Martes	Is 55, 10-11; Sal 33, 4-5. 6-7. 16-17. 18-19; Mt 6, 7-15
Miércoles	Jon 3, 1-10; Sal 50, 3-4. 12-13. 18-19; Lc 11, 29-32
Jueves	Es 14, 1. 3-5. 12-14; Sal 137, 1-2a. 2bc-3. 7c-8; Mt 7, 7-12
Viernes	Ez 18, 21-28; Sal 129, 1-2. 3-4ab. 4c-6. 7-8; Mt 5, 20-26
Sábado	Dt 26, 16-19; Sal 118, 1-2. 4-5. 7-8; Mt 5, 43-48
Domingo	Gn 12, 1-4a; Sal 32, 4-5. 18-19. 20 y 22; 2 Tm 1, 8b-10; Mt 17, 1-9

February 26, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Rom 5:12-19 | Mt 4:1-11

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

Superbowl Sunday was two weeks ago, and many of us were more likely interested in the commercials than the actual game. After all, companies pay a ton of money to have their products paraded in front of us, and – in theory at least – take the time to make these particular ads memorable and funny. If we can be convinced that we will be better people, or our social outings greater and filled with more laughter, we will buy what they are selling. It's the modern version of the words of the serpent in today's first reading: if you eat this, "you will be like gods"! Today's readings are a reminder that we are all sinners and burdened by being vulnerable to false promises – but also that we are relieved of this burden through one man: Jesus Christ. If we tend to forget that the most important part of our salvation story is that it is full of more grace and forgiveness than we can comprehend, this first Sunday of Lent is a good time to prayerfully ponder this. If God seems far away or distant, let us recall that he loved us so much that he breathed our very life into us, and then gave his only begotten Son to us that we might have life eternally. All he asks in return is for us to accept this gift and follow in his footsteps. Lent is the time to be mindful of grace-filled opportunities that draw us closer to God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Let's think about these 40 days. In addition to allowing us to grow in understanding of God, this time is also an opportunity to grow in our understanding of how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world and help to build the kingdom right here and now. How can we keep God at the center of our lives and resist worldly temptations to push him aside? Perhaps today's psalm can help us here: Ask for God's mercy, acknowledge our offenses, seek a "clean heart," renew a "steadfast spirit" within us, and ask God to grant us a "willing spirit" to give him praise. And remember Christ's words from the Gospel: Depend on "every word that comes forth from the mouth of God," which is love and mercy.

PRAY Pray today's psalm: "Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise."



Getty Images/Jennifer Perreault



Knights News: Knights of Columbus Council 12005

Blood Drive: We were able to collect 18 units of blood at our last drive on 1/7! Thanks to all who came and gave so others can live – you saved 42 lives! Our next drive will be Saturday May 20th from 8 – 12.

Mobile Food Pantry: We served 125 families at our January pantry and 160 families this past Wednesday (2/15). Thanks to all who volunteered. Our next pantry will be 3/15 and will start at 4:00. If you would like to help, please plan to arrive by 3:30.

Pancake Breakfast: We were able to raise \$1,000 for the summer Mission Trip thanks to your generous contributions and profits from the breakfast. Thank you to all who came and donated to this great cause. Our next breakfast will be Sunday May 21st with profits benefiting our OLM Seminarians.

Scholarship Program: We are proud to announce our College Scholarship Program again this year available to all graduating Seniors who will be attending a 2 or 4 year college in the fall. Information and applications can be found on the Knights of Columbus link on the Parish web-site. All applications are due back by Saturday June 17th, 2023.

Free Throw Contest: Congratulations to our age group winners! Gabby Curcio, Olivia Kaminski, Grace Grunloh, Leonard Medina, Juan Pablo Cordero and Jaymes Taylor. They will all advance to the next round of competition. Good luck to all!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt: We will hold our 2023 Easter Egg Hunt in the PLC on Saturday April 1st at 10:00 for all kids aged 0 – 10. This is a great family event and will feature refreshments, face painting a balloon artist and yes plenty of colorful Easter Eggs filled with goodies to find! Mark your calendars and join us for all the fun!

Thinking of becoming a Knight? Are you ready to make a difference in your Parish, local community and the world, then consider joining the Knights of Columbus. We meet once a month and are involved in countless activities promoting the Catholic Faith and strong family values. Membership is open to all practicing Catholic men aged 18 and up, it will only take 30 minutes of your time and you can become part of the largest Catholic Men’s service organization in the world. Our guiding principle is Charity and we need you to help us make a difference! For information reach out to Jeff LeRoy, Grand Knight, at jleroy53@hotmail.com or call 630-336-7728.

Ed Slott, America’s IRA Expert, presents
Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning



Ed Slott, CPA is a nationally recognized speaker, television personality & best-selling author known for his unparalleled ability to turn advanced tax strategies into understandable, actionable and entertaining advice. Ed combines current research, in-depth expertise, and humor to teach viewers about the ins and outs of their retirements and distribution planning information.

You are invited to join our free virtual webinar featuring Ed Slott. Ed specializes in the latest retirement planning strategies and opportunities for 2023. Register today to reserve your spot.

March 7, 2023 7:00 PM CST
Date Time/Time Zone

<https://tinyurl.com/KofCSlottMarch7> 

RSVP Scan here

No purchase is necessary. This event is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, tax or legal advice. Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



Knights of Columbus



FRIDAY LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Parish

3/10 & 3/17
5:30pm - 8pm

FISH DINNER PLATES & PRICE
Jumbo Shrimp (6pcs) \$15
Cod (Fried) \$15
Salmon (6oz) \$15

Fish dinner consists of potatoes, dinner roll, dessert, & beverage (soda or water).

This Fundraiser supports the Teen Mission Trip

Purchase tickets after Mass in PLC Lobby area, at the Parish Office, or online www.olmercy.com

Volunteering a little of your time or talent can make a significant difference in the lives of those who are in need or suffering a hardship.

To learn more contact the parish office at 630-851-3444 or email us at olmsvdp@gmail.com



volunteers needed




Society of St. Vincent de Paul
ORLEANS OF MERCY

SPIRITUALITY FRIENDSHIP SERVICE

**Installation Mass of
Fr Michael Kearney**
As pastor of  **OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Officiated by
Bishop Ronald Hicks

SATURDAY MARCH 11
4pm

WELCOME RECEPTION
Immediately following the Mass

LIVESTREAM
OLMERCY.COM  

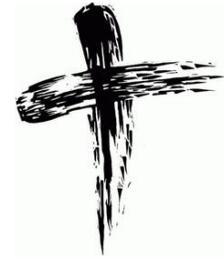
PRAY THE NOVENA FOR FR. MICHAEL
www.bit.ly/NovenaForFrMichael
sign up to receive the email in your inbox

Care for Creation Corner

“Many things have to change course” Pope Francis, Laudato Si (202)

Pope Francis, in his second encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, explores our ecological crisis and its roots in over-consumption and current models of economic development. He calls us to protect and regenerate our common home. He says we do not stand separate from the planet we share with other life; we are intimately related to it and responsible for its care. This truth must be recognized in order to meet the challenges of this critical point in history. What is at stake is nothing less than our children’s rights to a safe climate, clean water and air, sufficient food, physical security, and the wonders of a planet rich with life. We must move beyond an exploitative relationship to our planet towards one based on stewardship and care. While such a transformation has already begun, the gravity of the situation demands greater action. As much as this is a moment of crisis, it is also one of opportunity: we can renew our relationship with our planet so that we can not only sustain ourselves, but also thrive and flourish.

In this **Care For Creation Corner** we will explore each week ways that we as individuals, families, and as a parish community can do our part to be the solution to the problems. This week let us take a few moments each day to look around us, take notice and be thankful for some of the wonders of God’s Creation.



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Parish Mission - March 20 & 21

7:00-8:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

7:00-8:30 pm - March 27-31

Magnify 7:00-8:30 pm - March 29
Multiple priests available

Also regular reconciliation times

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7
12:00 pm in Spanish
7:00 pm in English

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday - April 6

Morning Prayer 8:00 am
Mass of Lord’s Supper 7:00 pm
Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 pm to midnight

Good Friday - April 7

Morning Prayer 8:00 am
Spanish Stations of the Cross 12:00 pm
Living Stations by Teens 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday - April 8

Morning Prayer 8:00 am
Blessing of Baskets 12:00 pm
No Reconciliations
No 4:00 pm Mass
Easter Vigil 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday - April 9

Mass in Church - 8:00a, 10:00am & Noon
Mass in the Multi Purpose Room - 10:00 am
No 5:30 pm Mass

LENTEN GUIDELINES

Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois

Fast and Abstinence Regulations

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and all the **Fridays of Lent**.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast and to abstain on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.
3. On **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year; all, in addition to following the Lenten regulations, are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.



Around the Parish

Respect Life

Prayer warriors are needed to stand and silently pray in the public right-of-way across from the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Aurora on March 3, 2023 for one hour shifts 7 am - 7 pm. Our peaceful, prayerful, public witness is needed now more than ever. Please prayerfully consider signing up via <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054FADAC23A3FA7-olmfirst2> or call Lisa at (630) 236-3310.

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

Register now for the Renewal Weekend! The Women's weekend is March 4 & 5. Christ Renews His Parish, or CRHP, is designed to help us renew our Christian faith by bringing members of the Our Lady of Mercy community together in Christ. It is a break from your busy schedule so that you can refresh yourself spiritually and renew your heart. You will be meeting with and listening to the experiences of other men or women from our Parish in an informal and relaxed environment of reflection, fellowship and fun. <https://www.crhpatolm.com/registration>

PADS/Hesed House

The board is now on display in the Atrium (Door B Entrance). The board contains a "wish-list" of items used to prepare meals for 235 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 March 4 & 5, 2023. 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.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training

Training for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will take place in the Church on Sunday, March 12 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Registered, participating parishioners age 16 or older who have been confirmed and attend mass regularly are eligible to become an Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In addition, a refresher training for existing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will also take place in the Church on Sunday, March 12 from 2:00-3:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Harris at kimharris73@yahoo.com.



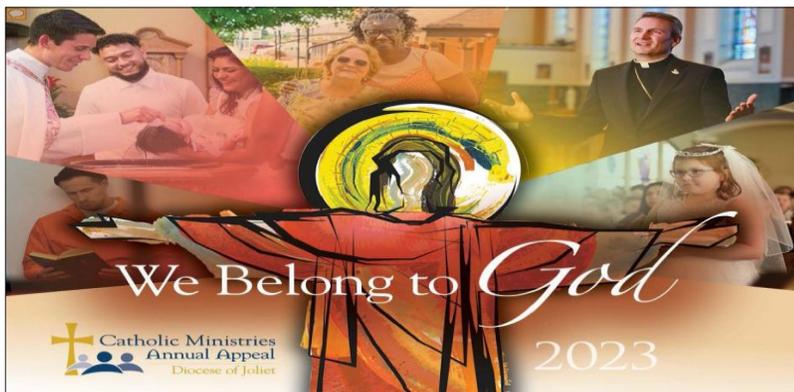
Parish Sacrificial Giving

Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	960,197
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	979,200
Amount Short of Budget	\$	(19,003)
02/12/23 Sunday Collection	\$	29,101
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	30,600
Amount Short of Goal	\$	(1,499)

For the Budget Year 2022/23 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 2%, to \$30,600/week, to help expand our various Ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!!

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



Pledge your gift to CMAA. This is Commitment Weekend for the 2023 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), when we commit our support for the mission and ministries of the Diocese of Joliet.

This year's CMAA theme is *We Belong to God*. We must work together to ensure all feel included in our community of faith. Through our annual appeal, our parish joins with the other parishes in the diocese to help the poor and vulnerable, form our children in the faith and strengthen vocations. We could not accomplish these and the many other ministries the CMAA supports on our own.

Seventy percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us, which is a wonderful opportunity for our parish. Please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support our annual appeal and help our parish reach its \$141,900 goal. To make a gift, complete and return one of the pledge envelopes in church today. In advance, thank you for your support!

Parish Life Center (Construction Loan)

April, 2009	\$	1,950,000
December, 2022	\$	421,834
January, 2023	\$	410,545



The **Diocese of Joliet's Department of Catechesis and Evangelization - Ministries of Mercy** is accepting applications for **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) grants**, beginning Feb. 13 and continuing through May 1, and is opening up the process to parish-based projects for the first time.

As the anti-poverty initiative of the U.S. bishops, CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty and improve communities. Grants of up to \$3,500 are available to applicant organizations and parishes.

For more information or to request an application, contact Ministries of Mercy Advisor Tanya Singh at tsingh@dioceseofjoliet.org or 815-221-6128.

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 Fridays of the Month 8:30-9:15am

Or by Appointment

Prayer Chapel

Open weekdays 7:00am-8:00pm

Adoration

Monday & Thursday 8:30am-6:00pm

Wednesdays 8:00am-12:00pm

First Friday of the Month 12:00pm

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.

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 Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

Parish Directory

Parish Priests

Pastor Fr. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228 .. frmichael@olmercy.com

Parochial Vicar Fr. James Guarascio
630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frjames@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

Pastoral Care Jolene LeRoy
331-707-5380 jolenel@olmercy.com

Evangelization & Communications Zara Tan
331-707-5381 zara@olmercy.com

Family Evangelization & Catechesis

Director (Pre K-5) & RCIC Mary Jo Trapani
331-707-5378 maryjot@olmercy.com

Director (6-12) Dave Miserendino
331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com

RE 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 Len Eickhoff
630-631-1676 lene@olmercy.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

630-851-3444 Voicemail-ext. 400



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