OUR LADY of MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH March 26, 2023

I am the RESURRECTION and the FE

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



When discussing our Catholic faith with one of my friends, he'll usually respond, "Wow, you actually believe this?" He says it in jest and sarcasm, as he too is a practicing Catholic. The statement is more to point out where we are in our society when it comes to understanding and living out our faith, as it seems to go against our cultural norms.

Over the last 4 and half weeks of Lent, I have been going to various parishes, schools, and homes to bring people the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and that doesn't include the increased hours of the Sacrament Reconciliation this coming week from 7-8:30PM, Monday through Friday, March 27th-31st offered at our parish.

The Sacrament is a beautiful gift Jesus gave the Church (Jn 20:21-23; 2 Cor 5:11-21), and I've seen the power of the Sacrament through my own vocation. Fr. James has preached on the precept of the Church that a Catholic is required to go to confession at least once a year. One can respond, like my friend, "You actually believe this?" Of course my answer is "Yes" and our Gospel this weekend continues to reveal it.

There are many beautiful insights with the story of raising Lazarus, but I'll point to one in particular. Death was a result of sin, so when Jesus says to the people as Lazarus comes out of the tomb, "Unbind him and let him go," Jesus is revealing his authority to free people not only from death, but sin as well. Jesus desires to do the same in our lives. He desires to call us from death to new life; He desires to free us from sin that binds us. Let us take advantage of this gift the Lord has given us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Father Michael



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, March 27 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am ⁺ Judith Rupp, by Gebhardt Family
8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 pm Benediction
6:30 pm Souls in Purgatory
(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, March 28 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am ⁺ John Grubisic, by Kim Harris 6:30 pm ⁺ Catalino Trinidad, by Gemma Paras 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, March 29 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration 12:00 pm ⁺ Thomas Stunteback, by Susan & Jude Zwick 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, March 30 - Lenten Weekday

6:30 am ⁺ Sr. Regina Dubickas, by Peter & Virginia Trusiak
8:00 am ⁺ John Addison, by Family
8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, March 31 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 am + Bob Humanski, by Toni Humanski

Saturday, April 1 - Lenten 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 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord † James W. Ray & James W. Ray Jr., by Helean Ray People of Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 am + Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

⁺ Rufina & Fabian Lanuza, by Family

- 10:00 am ⁺ Patricia Kramer Daugherty, by Shirley Staples (*Live Streamed*)
- 12:00 pm ⁺ Anthony Mendoza, by Maria Ocana
- 5:30 pm + Fabian Lanuza, by Family

2 VISION: To offer every person a life-changing encounter with Jesus, grow disciples, and send them on mission.



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- 1. Peace & Trust in Our Hearts 9.
- 2. John McCloskey
- 3. Special Intention-R.D.
- 4. Baby Riley Chick
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Baby Cerina Skye

8. The Deceased

- 10. John McCloskey
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.

The Feldman Family

- 12. The Sick
- 13. Joan Seifrid
- 14. Jack Silva
- 15. Stephanie Follin
- 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

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. (Párroco en Formación)



Cuando hablo de nuestra fe Católica con uno de mis amigos, el generalmente responde: "Vaya, ¿realmente crees esto?" Lo dice en broma y sarcasmo, ya que él también es un Católico practicante. La declaración es más para señalar dónde estamos en nuestra sociedad cuando se trata de comprender y vivir nuestra fe, ya que parece ir en contra de nuestras normas culturales.

Durante las últimas 4 semanas y media de Cuaresma, he estado yendo a varias parroquias, escuelas y hogares para llevarles a las personas el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, y eso no incluye el aumento de horas del Sacramento de la Reconciliación esta próxima semana de 7:00 a 8:30p.m., de lunes a viernes, del 27 al 31 de marzo ofrecido en nuestra parroquia.

El Sacramento es un don hermoso que Jesús le dio a la Iglesia (Juan 20: 21-23; 2 Corintios 5: 11-21), y he visto el poder del Sacramento a través de mi propia vocación. El Padre James ha predicado sobre el precepto de la Iglesia de que un Católico debe confesarse al menos una vez al año. Uno puede responder, como mi amigo, "¿Realmente crees esto?" Por supuesto mi respuesta es "Sí" y nuestro Evangelio de este fin de semana sigue revelándolo.

Hay muchas ideas hermosas en la historia de la resurrección de Lázaro, pero señalaré una en particular. La muerte fue el resultado del pecado, así que cuando Jesús le dice a la gente cuando Lázaro sale de la tumba: "Desátenlo y déjenlo ir", Jesús está revelando su autoridad para liberar a las personas no solo de la muerte, sino también del pecado. Jesús desea hacer lo mismo en nuestras vidas. Él desea llamarnos de la muerte a la vida nueva; Él desea liberarnos del pecado que nos ata. Aprovechemos este regalo que el Señor nos ha dado en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación.

Padre Michael



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo	Ez 37, 12-14; Sal 129, 1-2. 3-4ab. 4c-6. 7-8; Rom 8, 8-11; Jn 11, 1-45 o Jn 11, 3-7. 17. 20-27. 33b-45
Lunes	Dn 13, 1-9. 15-17. 19-30. 33-62 o Dn 13, 41-62; Sal 22, 1-3a. 3b-4. 5-6; Jn 8, 1-11
Martes	Nm 21, 4-9; Sal 101, 2-3. 16-18. 19-21; Jn 8, 21-30
Miércoles	Dn 3, 14-20. 49-50. 91-92. 95; Dn 3, 52. 53. 54. 55. 56; Jn 8, 31-42
Jueves	Gn 17, 3-9; Sal 104, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9; Jn 8, 51-59
Viernes	Jer 20, 10-13; Sal 17, 2-3a. 3bc-4. 5-6. 7; Jn 10, 31-42
Sábado	Ez 37, 21-28; Jer 31, 10. 11-12ab. 13; Jn 11, 45-56
Domingo	ls 50, 4-7; Sal 21, 8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24; Flp 2, 6-11; Mt 26, 14—27, 66 o Mt 27, 11-54

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church • Aurora, Illinois



March 26, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Lent Ez 37:12-14 | Rom 8:8-11 | Jn 11:1-45

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

In today's Gospel, we see so clearly the fully human nature of Jesus even in the midst of him revealing his divine nature in raising Lazarus from the dead. On hearing that his friend Lazarus had died, Jesus "wept," and he became "perturbed and deeply troubled." We see his love for Martha and Mary, and the freedom he gives them to love him fully in return, and to expect things of him. Each of them confronts Jesus, exasperated: Had you come earlier, our brother would not have died! Yet in the same breath, they express their faith that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. As we continue our Lenten journey, we can rest assured that Jesus is never far from us and that he understands our human longings, struggles and pain. Like Martha and Mary, we can place our faith in Jesus here, now and for eternity.

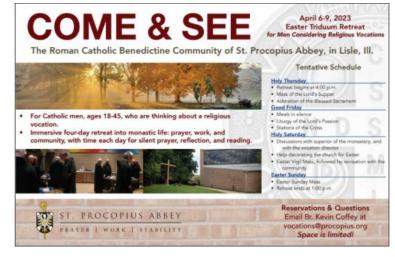
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The raising of Lazarus foreshadows Christ's death and resurrection and reminds us of God's enduring power over death. That can, at times, seem a small comfort as we confront our own mortality or mourn the loss of those dear to us. Yet, just as Jesus showed his love for Lazarus, Martha and Mary, we, too, can extend our love and support for others in their grief. We can show our love through our simple presence, a thoughtful card or an offer to pray for the deceased person and their family. In these ways, we can strengthen our own faith and that of others. As we hear in today's Gospel, "Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him."

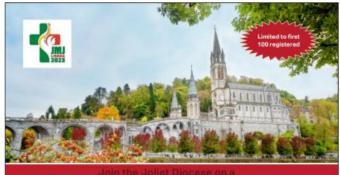
ACTION As we grow closer to Holy Week, now is a good time to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. Has it been a while? The U.S. Bishops provide a helpful guide on their website: usccb.org.







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> With optional Pre-Tour to Madrid July 25-29, 2023



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UPCOMING EVENTS



April 21: Royal Ramp Up for 7th Graders 8:30 to 10:30 am. Learn all about Rosary High School.



April 26: Sneak Peek Open House 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Come Visit Us! What is the difference of a Rosary Education? Why an all-girl high school? Find out more.

Full details at www.rosaryhs.com

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The Extraordinary Graces and Gifts of the Divine Mercy Devotion

You're invited to discover, "The Extraordinary Graces and Gifts of the Divine Mercy devotion," by attending either of our special Divine Mercy seminars Tuesday, March 28, at 9 a.m. or Wednesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. Both seminars will be held in PLC 208.

After examining the relationship between the Passion of Christ and Divine Mercy, both 90-minute seminars will delve into the direct words of Jesus as "King of Divine Mercy" as revealed by Saint Faustina in her Diary entitled, *"Divine Mercy in My Soul.*" Most prominent will be these profound words of Jesus, which today are revered as His Extraordinary Promise and among His greatest acts of mercy for 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 previewing OLM's celebration of the Divine Mercy Feast Day on Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m., the seminars will explore the many facets of the Divine Mercy devotion that Jesus, through St. Faustina, made available for us each day of the year:

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

A closing highlight will be a group recitation of the Chaplet. Pamphlets with the Chaplet and Novena will be available. No registration needed, but be sure to bring your Rosary!

Call Bill Troller at (630) 585-1865 or e-mail trollerw@live.com for more information.





LENTEN SCHEDULE

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. 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

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church • Aurora, Illinois

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*.
- 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.

Care for Creation Corner

This week we suggest creating a backyard garden or growing vegetables in pots on your patio or deck. Planting a garden is very good for many reasons. It helps you eat more fresh fruits and vegetables. You decide what kinds of fertilizers and pesticides come in contact with your food. It lets you control when to harvest your food. Vegetables that ripen in the garden have more nutrients than some store-bought vegetables that must be picked early. Start simple with one or two vegetables that are easy to grow. And then expand as you become more proficient and knowledgeable. Gardens are good for the environment and us. Gardening can build selfesteem, is good for your heart, boosts Vitamin-D, reduces stress and is a great family activity. Gardening can also be good for our spiritual wellbeing when we experience the wonders of nature God has created. We also become more aware and caring. Here are some helpful resources: https://www.bhg.com/garden-care https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-start-abackyard-garden.

Around the Parish

Magnify

Come offer glory to God and thanksgiving at a Lenten themed Magnify on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 pm. This is an adoration, praise and worship event with a scriptural reflection by Father Michael. There will also be an opportunity for reconciliation.

PADS/Hesed House

The board is now on display in the Atrium (Door B Entrance). It contains a "wishlist" 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 April 1st and 2nd, 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Knights of Columbus are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for kids 0-10 on Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 am in the PLC. Grab your basket, hop on over and join us. The Easter Bunny might even make an appearance!

Blessing of Easter Baskets

You and your family are invited to bring your family Easter basket to church on Holy Saturday, April 8 at 12:00 pm in the Church for a brief service.

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Opportunity

Applications for the 2023 Robert H Weaver Knights of Columbus College Scholarship program are now being accepted through Saturday, 6/17/23. A total of \$2,000 will be awarded to students graduating from High School in 2023 and attending a 2 or 4 year University program starting in the fall of 2023. Applications can be found by visiting our link on the Parish Website. Awards will be made in July. Good luck to all applicants. Questions, please reach out to Jeff LeRoy, Grand Knight at jleroy53@hotmail.com.



Parish Sacrificial Giving

Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	1,093,036
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget		1,101,600
Amount Short of Budget		(8,564)
03/12/23 Sunday Collection	\$	34,282
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	30,600
Amount in Excess of Goal		3,682

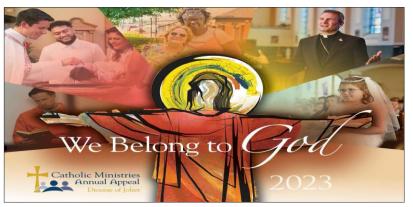
For the Budget Year 2022/23 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 2%, to \$30,600/week, to help expand our various Ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!!

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

Parish Life Center (Construction Loan)		
April, 2009	\$	1,950,000
January, 2023	\$	410,545
February, 2023	\$	400,049





If you have already pledged your support to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), thank you! If we all participate, we can meet our parish's CMAA goal of \$141,900. Each and every gift, large or small, makes a difference.

If you still need to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support the CMAA this year and ensure all in our diocese know that *we belong to God*. There are many options for giving, from pledging to monthly recurring gifts. Pledge envelopes are still available in the church, or you can return the pledge card you received in the mail from the diocese or make a gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org.

Remember, if we raise more than our goal, the diocese will return to us 70 percent of the amount over goal. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Online Giving

Online Giving is a great way to help your parish staff while supporting Our Lady of Mercy. Signing up is easy! Just go to our church website at <u>www.olmercy.com</u> and click "Give" located in the menu at the top of the page, then look for the Online Giving logo to get started. If you need assistance, directions can be found on the parish website listed under the Online Giving Link. There is also a help video located on the Online Giving website. It can be found at the top of each page.

Note: If you are giving online and would no longer like to receive envelopes in the mail, please inform the parish office.

Look for this icon



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church • Aurora, Illinois

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, Fr	iday8:00am
Monday (Spanish Mass)	6:30pm
Tuesday	8:00am, 6:30pm
Wednesday	12:00pm
Thursday	6:30am, 8:00am
Saturday	8:30am
Saturday (Anticipated for Sund	ay) 4:00pm
Sunday8:00ai	m, 10:00am,12:00pm, and 5:30pm

Holy Days of Obligations

Schedule varies. Consult the Mass Schedule in the bulletin or website.

Confessions

Tuesday	
Saturday	9:00-10:00am, 1:30-2:30pm
1st Fridays of the Month	
Or by Appointment	

Prayer Chapel

Adoration

Monday & Thursday	8:30am-6:00pm
Wednesdays	8:00am-12:00pm
First Friday of the Month	12:00pm

Benediction

Monday &	k Thursday	6:00pm
wonday &	¿ mursuay	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	dougm@olmercy.com
Dcn Phil Rehmer	. deaconphil@rehmer.com
Dcn Bugsy Sindac	bugsys@olmercy.com
Dcn Art Tiongson	hope2640@yahoo.com

Pastoral Staff

Director of Music Ministries	s Frank Sauter
331-707-5379	franks@olmercy.com

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

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

Family Evangelization & Catechesis

Director (Pre K-5)	& RCIC	Mary Jo Trapani
331-707-5378	ma	aryjot@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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