

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



I hate vocation stories...or at least I used to. I always struggle with the fact that so many of these stories, after dealing with the twists and turns of that person's vocational journey, seemed to end with seminary as if it were the solution to all their problems. But I have to tell you that that is not the case, as I learned the hard way.

As I entered seminary, I believed that it would be like my past experiences of college, but

when I tried to joke and be myself, it was badly received, so I pulled back and was quiet. I was told that my theology degree would help me get out of introductory classes, but I found myself fighting tooth and nail to prove that I knew anything. And an irrational fear of the human pillar of seminary formation—of being told I wasn't human enough—was quickly realized in my first formation meeting. I felt like Jeremiah in the First Reading, who said, "You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped."

In a similar way, in the Gospel we heard last week, Peter has just heard that Jesus would "give [him] the keys to the kingdom of heaven." But then in today's Gospel, Jesus turns around and predicts His Passion, which seems to go completely counter to what Jesus had just said to him about the Kingdom of God. So it's no wonder that he says, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

As I continued through seminary, I continued to feel this heaviness, and whenever it became too overwhelming, I would find myself saying to myself: "I don't want to be here." The last time I preached, I talked about listening for God's voice in the silence. But when we listen for God's voice, there is the risk also of hearing our own or the enemy's voice. When I brought the situation to my spiritual director, he very simply and bluntly said, "And whose voice do you think that is?"

When I was able to recognize that that voice was not from God, this did not remove the sufferings, but allowed me to see this as part of God's Plan. Instead of being a passive participant in my life, I felt God calling me to take an active role in my spiritual life. Jesus tells us, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

We are also called to take an active role in our spiritual lives, taking up the crosses that God allows to come into our lives. However, as we carry our crosses, we do not do this alone, but always following after Jesus. I don't hate vocation stories anymore because I know that it's only part of the story, that discerning our vocation is part of the Cross, but a Cross that ultimately leads to the Resurrection.

Father Frank



# Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

#### Monday, September 4 - Labor Day

9:00 am Int Jimmy Uy, by Uy Family No Eucharistic Adoration

No Benediction

6:30 pm Int The People of Our Lady of Mercy

(Spanish Mass)

#### Tuesday, September 5 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † James Krcmarik, by Edgar & Maria Cuartero

6:30 pm + Jim Weber, by Family

7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

#### Wednesday, September 6 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm † Lindsay Willis, by Jenni Sirios 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

#### Thursday, September 7 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am † Lucila Agustin, by Family 8:00 am † Rose Carto, by Family 8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

#### Friday, September 8 - Nativity of Mary

8:00 am † Anita Chua, by Neeny & Nicky Marquez

#### Saturday, September 9 - St Peter Claver, Priest

8:30 am † Maria Hames, by Guarascio Family

9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)

1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM) 4:00 pm Vigil - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Int Fr. Lad, by Ida Phillips

† Stephanie Follin, by Crowe Family

#### Sunday, September 10 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† Lindsay Willis, by Diane & Tim Reiter

10:00 am † Timothy Savoie, by Family

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm Int of the People of Our Lady of Mercy

5:30 pm <sup>†</sup> Bobby Casteneda, by Neeny & Nicky Marquez



# Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- 1. George Durante
- 2. Tom & Janice Grady
- 3. James Krcmarik
- 4. Special Intention K.S.
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Baby Cerina Skye
- 8. The Deceased

- 9. Lindsey Donlan
- 10. Mary Couri
- 11. Special Intention C.H.
- 12. Ss. Grace Ann Kalafut SSC
- 13. Louise Special Intention
- 14. Anthony M Loquercio Jr
- 15. Gary Ramsey
- 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

September 9 & 10

| Father M | lichael will p | reach at all Masses. |
|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| Saturday | 4:00 pm        | Fr Michael Kearney   |
| Sunday   | 8:00 am        | Fr Frank Pusateri    |
|          | 10:00 am       | Fr Michael Kearney   |
|          | 12:00 pm       | Fr Frank Pusateri    |
|          | 5:30 pm        | Fr Michael Kearney   |



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

Patricia Gebhardt

Jim Gray David Griffins

Nancy Higgins

Eric Hoerdemann

Cera Horste

Steve Johnson Helen Joseph

Baby Penelope Keene

Michelle Maeirs

Kristen Manning

Susan Massett
Susan Mennenga

Bill Morse

La Moua

Charlene Oates

Flo Paprzycki

Diane Pazos

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

Kathy Walowski

Judy Wiltgen



The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th in honor of Labor Day.

# Noticias del P.I.T. (Sacerdote en formación)



Odio las historias de vocaciones... o al menos antes lo hacía. Siempre lucho con el hecho de que muchas de estas historias, después de abordar los giros y vueltas del camino vocacional de esa persona, parecían terminar en el seminario como si fuera la solución a todos sus problemas. Pero tengo que decirles que ese no es el caso, como aprendí por las malas.

Cuando entré al seminario, creí que sería como mis experiencias pasadas en la universidad, pero cuando intenté bromear y ser yo mismo, fue

mal recibido, así que me aparté y me quedé callado. Me dijeron que mi título en teología me ayudaría a salir de las clases de introducción, pero me encontré luchando con uñas y dientes para demostrar que sabía algo. Y un miedo irracional al pilar humano de la formación en el seminario (a que me dijeran que no era lo suficientemente humano) se hizo realidad rápidamente en mi primera reunión de formación. Me sentí como Jeremías en la Primera Lectura, quien dijo: "Tú me engañaste, OH SEÑOR, y yo me dejé engañar".

De manera similar, en el Evangelio que escuchamos la semana pasada, Pedro acaba de escuchar que Jesús "le daría las llaves del reino de los cielos". Pero luego, en el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús se da vuelta y predice Su Pasión, lo que parece ir completamente en contra de lo que Jesús acababa de decirle sobre el Reino de Dios. Por eso no es de extrañar que él diga: "¡Dios no lo permita, Señor! Nunca te sucederá tal cosa".

A medida que avanzaba en el seminario, seguí sintiendo esta pesadez, y cada vez que se volvía demasiado abrumadora, me encontraba diciéndome a mí mismo: "No quiero estar aquí". La última vez que prediqué, hablé de escuchar la voz de Dios en el silencio. Pero cuando escuchamos la voz de Dios, existe el riesgo de escuchar también la nuestra o la del enemigo. Cuando le comenté la situación a mi director espiritual, él muy simple y sin rodeos me dijo: "¿Y de quién crees que es esa voz?"

Cuando pude reconocer que esa voz no era de Dios, eso no me quitó los sufrimientos, pero me permitió ver esto como parte del Plan de Dios. En lugar de ser un participante pasivo en mi vida, sentí que Dios me llamaba a tomar un papel activo en mi vida espiritual. Jesús nos dice: "El que quiera venir en pos de mí, debe negarse a sí mismo, tomar su cruz y seguirme".

También estamos llamados a tomar un papel activo en nuestra vida espiritual, tomando las cruces que Dios permite que vengan en nuestras vidas. Sin embargo, al cargar nuestras cruces, no lo hacemos solos, sino siempre siguiendo a Jesús. Ya no odio las historias de vocaciones porque sé que es sólo una parte de la historia, que discernir nuestra vocación es parte de la Cruz, pero una Cruz que finalmente conduce a la Resurrección.

Padre Frank



#### Lecturas de la Semana

**Domingo** Jer 20, 7-9;

Sal 62, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9;

Rom 12, 1-2; Mt 16, 21-27

**Lunes** 1 Tes 4, 13-18;

Sal 95, 1 y 3. 4-5. 11-12. 13;

Lc 4, 16-30

**Martes** 1 Tes 5, 1-6. 9-11;

Sal 26, 1. 4. 13-14;

Lc 4, 31-37

Miércoles Col 1, 1-8;

Sal 51, 10. 11; Lc 4, 38-44

**Jueves** Col 1, 9-14;

Sal 97, 2-3ab. 3cd-4. 5-6;

Lc 5, 1-11

**Viernes** Mig 5, 1-4 o Rom 8, 28-30;

Sal 12, 6ab. 6cd; Mt 1, 1-16. 18-23 o

Mt 1, 18-23

**Sábado** Col 1, 21-23;

Sal 53, 3-4. 6 y 8;

Lc 6, 1-5

**Domingo** Ez 33, 7-9;

Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9; Rom 13, 8-10;

Mt 18, 15-20

#### **JUSTICE & PEACE MINISTRY**

Season of Creation 2023

The Season of Creation began on September 1 and ends on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4. We are called to continually renew our relationship with God our Creator and all creation through celebration and commitment. We have opportunities everyday to reflect on the wonderful and awesome work of God, the Creator of all things when we see the sunrise or sunset, beautiful flowers, a rainbow, the change of seasons, a newborn baby, hear a beautiful story or song.... And hopefully we then take time to recognize the need for our cooperation in the care of our natural resources, our world and the universe.

With God's help we have made use of the resources for life giving and life saving inventions but we have also contributed to the negative impact on the environment that we see around us - on the vegetation, the water, the air, etc. Scientists, clergy and many caring lay people have been warning the world about climate change, global warming, the effects of pollution, the accumulation of massive amounts of discarded trash that mounts in landfills and will take more years than a person's lifetime to decompose. It is time to seriously address these issues and do our part to improve the situation. Every little bit helps. Let us pray and act during this season and commit to continue in the future.

The life of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, encourages us to try to take time to evaluate our efforts to reduce, reuse/repurpose, recycle and recover.

Pope Francis has offered a powerful encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Sí*, which not only addresses the effects of the misuse of the resources of the earth on our environment but how this affects the poorest and most vulnerable of peoples on the globe.

"Let Justice and Peace Flow", the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, is inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness, as water is essential for our physical survival.

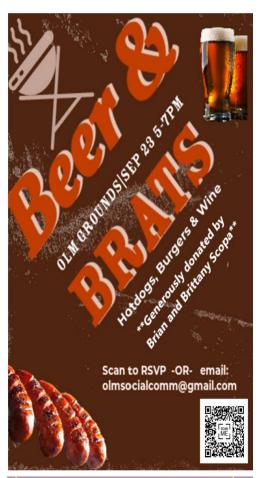
How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christians, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We can do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator

Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles. Pope Francis stated: "let us repent of our "ecological sins", as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has urged. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well."

Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice.

Coming next - some practical ideas. And if you have suggestions, we will include them. Please send them to <a href="mailto:chrisharveyny@gmail.com">chrisharveyny@gmail.com</a> Thank you.













#### How can I resist evil?

Oscar Wilde said, "I can resist everything except temptation!" Where does temptation come from? What about addictions-where do they come from? Can we be set free? What about all we read in the news and on social media? Do we just accept it or is this just how life is? Or is there anything we can do to make a difference. Want to find out? Consider Alpha. Reach out to Zara for more information at 331-707-5381 or zara@olmercy.com. #TryAlpha.







the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life.

Join Chris Stefanick, an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and TV host, for a life-changing evening. Hear the Good News that the Lord has for ALL of us, and learn how to live out this JOY in your everyday life.

Whether you're a lifelong Church goer, just rediscovering your faith, or have never heard of Jesus before, this is THE event for you!

Make the commitment to have more JOY in your life today.

Grab a ticket for yourself, your friends, your family.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 9/27th @ 7pm!



REGISTER NOW AT OLMERCY.COM

for High School teens (Grades 9-12)

**Chosen Confirmation Program for Teens!** Chosen will start on Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm in the Church with a Parent/

Teen Kick-Off Night. All teens who have registered for the program should attend this night. Go here for Information and Online Sign-up: https://olmercy.com/formation/light/

**Teen Mission Trip 2024** is to Winchester, KY on July 7-13. More information & sign-up will be coming soon!

Teens can Sign-up for Service and Discipleship opportunities here: <a href="https://olmercy.com/formation/light/">https://olmercy.com/formation/light/</a> service-discipleship-projects/



For middle School teens (Grades 6-8)

**EDGE Nights** meet twice a month on Monday evenings for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please sign-up for EDGE & get additional information by going to our webpage here: https://olmercy.com/formation/edge/









mother at each gathering! We meet community service projects at a local parishioner's home! We gather locally 2 Thursdays a month; September 7th and September 21st @

an opening song, a short video about a Saint and the letter of the day! Kids will participate in a craft and service project that reflects the life of our weekly Saint! September 6th and 20th @ 9:15AM

PLEASE REGISTER FOR ANY EVENTS AT LYDIADSCHMITT@GMAIL.COM WWW.OLMERCY.COM/AMOTHERSHEART

AHEAD OF TIME SO WE CAN PLAN TO WELCOME YOU!

#### Altar Server Training

Around the Parish

Training for boys and girls who wish to become Altar Servers will take place in the Church on Sunday, September 10 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Boys and girls that are registered in the parish and are in 5th grade or higher are eligible to become Altar Servers. Training for current Altar Servers who wish to become Senior Servers will take place in the Church on Sunday, September 17 from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Current Altar Servers that are in 8th grade or higher are eligible to move to Senior Server. Any current server who would like a "refresher course" on Altar Serving is encouraged to attend as well. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish office or Pat Heraty at pat.heraty@opcpolymers.com.

# **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast**



z fellowship

play groups

prayer

Join the Knights for a delicious pancake breakfast Sunday Sept. 17th from 8:00am to Noon in the PLC Gym.

Ticket Prices (at the door – no advanced sales)

Adults: \$6.00

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

Dine in the PLC or Take Out Available

# All Profits will support:

**Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" Charity Campaign** 

# **Donations Gladly Accepted**

#### Menu:

**Pancakes** Eggs Sausage Fruit Cocktail Coffee, Tea & Juice



# Parish Sacrificial Giving Actual Year-to-Date Collections \$ 230,068 Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget \$ 248,000 Amount Short of Budget \$ (17,932) 08/20/23 Sunday Collection \$ 29,381 Weekly Sunday Goal \$ 31,000

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.

**Amount Short of Goal** 

\$

(1,619)

Thank you for your generosity!!

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

| Parish Life Center (Const | ruci | tion Loan) |
|---------------------------|------|------------|
| April, 2009               | \$   | 1,950,000  |
| July, 2023                | \$   | 331,183    |
| August, 2023              | \$   | 319,294    |

# Are you, or someone you know, widowed?

If you have been recently widowed and are still struggling with the loss, or if you have been widowed for some time and need something to get you "over the hump" because you seem stuck in one spot, this program is designed to help you move on with life while still treasuring your past and its precious memories.

This unique retreat/workshop will be held at St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois. The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life. All are welcome.

What: Retreat/workshop for Widowed

Men & Women

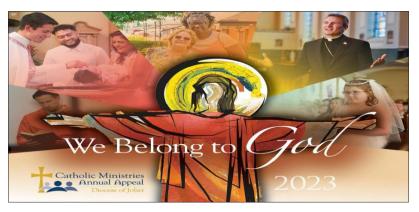
When: Sept. 20 & 21, 2023

(2-day program-overnight encouraged)

Where: St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, IL

(Commute or stay overnight.)

For further information, call: 708-354-7211.



# **CMAA Pledge Report**

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid so that our parish will reach our goal. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs.

| Parish Goal           | \$<br>141,900 |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Amount Pledged        | \$<br>169,051 |
| Amount Paid           | \$<br>153,516 |
| Remaining Balance     | \$<br>15,535  |
| Rebate Amount         | \$<br>8,131   |
| # of Families Pledged | 484           |

# 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 <a href="www.olmercy.com">www.olmercy.com</a> 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

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

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|  |  |      |
|  |  |      |

| Tel: (6 | 30) 851-3444 • FAX: (630) 851-3468 |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Monda   | ay-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                |
| Sunday8:00am, 10:00am             | n,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 I | Magnify7:30-8:20pm        |
| Or by Appointment                |                           |

#### **Prayer Chapel**

| Open weekday | /S  | 7:00am-8:00ni    | m |
|--------------|-----|------------------|---|
| Opcii wcckaa | / 3 | 7.000aiii 0.00pi |   |

#### Adoration

| Monday & Thursday                      | 8:30am-6:00pm  |
|--|----------------|
| Wednesdays                             | 8:00am-12:00pm |
| First Friday of the Month              | 12:00pm        |
| Last Wednesday of the Month at Magnify | 7:00-8:30pm    |

#### **Benediction**

| Monday & Th | ursday | 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.

scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirement Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

#### 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**

| <i>Pastor</i> Fr. Michael Kearney  |
|--|
| 630-851-3444, Ext. 228frmichael@olmercy.com  |
| Parochial Vicar Fr. Frank Pusateri   |
| 630-851-3444, Ext. 226 frfrank@olmercy.com   |
| 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  |
| Director (Pre K-5) & OCIC Mary Jo Trapani 331-707-5378 maryjot@olmercy.com   |
| Director (Pre K-5) & OCIC  |
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| Director (Pre K-5) & OCICMary Jo Trapani331-707-5378maryjot@olmercy.comDirector (6-12)Dave Miserendino331-707-5371davem@olmercy.comFFF SecretaryKaren Schwartz331-707-5369karens@olmercy.comPrincipal of All Saints Catholic Academy630-961-6125Margie MarshallAdministrative StaffBusiness ManagerBob Gancarz331-707-5370robertg@olmercy.comParish SecretaryDiane Reiter630-851-3444dianer@olmercy.comBusiness Office AssistantLydia Schmitt331-707-5377lydias@olmercy.com                              |
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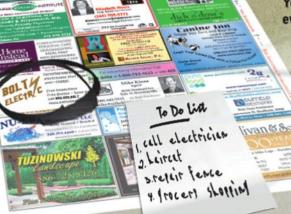
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