



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



Because my dad's name is Joseph and my mom's name is Maria, they would always joke that we were the "holy family." This joke developed over time. Because Jesus is God and Mary is without sin, if there were any problems, she would joke that it was St. Joseph's fault. In the same way, since my dad is a permanent deacon and I am a priest, if there were any problems, it was her fault. Of course, she was joking, but as we see in the Gospel, the suffering that affects the Holy Family is not all caused by St. Joseph.

Very often, we are tempted to see the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as distant from us. If they are so holy, how can they possibly relate to the problems that take place in our family? But this attitude is the exact opposite of the purpose of the Holy Family.

The Word became flesh and dwelt in a human family, not in order to distance Himself, but to draw closer to us. During the thirty years of His hidden life, Jesus chose to live as part of a family in order to show us how important the family is, and in order to make it holy.

But the fact that the life of this family was holy doesn't mean that they got a free pass from everyday human life or even from suffering. At what should have been a joyful celebration of the birth of her son, Mary hears these words that no mother wants to hear, first, that her son will be a sign of contradiction, and second, that a sword will pierce her soul.

So why does the Holy Family still experience suffering? They do it for us. In all our sufferings, we can turn to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, knowing that they know what it's like. They are the Holy Family not in spite of their family life, but because of it.

At this time of year, we often experience both the joys and the sufferings of family life. And maybe we feel that because our families aren't perfect, because there are family members who have strayed from the faith, family members who like to fight, family members who won't speak to us, that this disqualifies us from being a holy family. But far from being obstacles to this, they can be opportunities for us to become holy families.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph experienced the sufferings of family life, so we can turn to them for help and companionship. They did this for the sanctification of the family and the world, so when we unite our sufferings to Christ's, it can make us—and the world—holy. We shouldn't worry about being the "St. Joseph" of the family, but should instead strive to be like him in always being attentive to God's plan for his family even though he isn't perfect.

Father Frank



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

9:00 am † Marie Klasinski

No Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 pm † Shirley Carpenter, by Sharon Exline

† Simplicio Naguit, by Edgar & Maria Cuartero

Tuesday, January 2 - St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen

8:00 am † Joel Moen

6:30 pm † Jean Kittoe, by Booker Family 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, January 3 - Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 am Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 pm † Alice Toschak, by Daughters 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, January 4 - St Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

6:30 am Int Miraculous Gorman, by Ty & Kathleen

8:00 am Int Lois Jeppson, by Bonnie Ramirez

8:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm Benediction

Friday, January 5 - St John Neumann, Bishop

8:00 am † James Pe, by The Cuarteros

12:00 pm † Alberto Llanes, Jr., by Edgar & Maria Cuartero

Saturday, January 6 - St Andre Bessette, Religious

8:30 am Int Giorgio Reyes, by Family

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

1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)

4:00 pm Vigil - The Epiphany of the Lord

Int of the People of Our Lady of Mercy † James W. Ray Family, by Nancy Ray

Sunday, January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† David Jenkins, Jr., by Family

10:00 am Int Brian & Kim Cancio, by OLM CRHP

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm † Johnny Joseph Riley, by Ty & Kathleen

5:30 pm † Edward & Ida D'Silva, by Maybird D'Silva



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

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

- 1. George Durante
- 2. Good Health for M.M.
- 3. The Family of A.P.
- 4. The People of OLM
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Reunite Family
- 8. The Deceased

- 9. Fr Don McLaughlin
- 10. Matthew C.
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. James Krcmarik
- 14. Anthony M Loquericio, Jr
- 15. Frank Rostan
- 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

January 6 & 7

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 Frank Pusateri
	12:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
	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 Michael Butler Alfredo Chavez Baby Riley Chick Robert Ciulla Michael Dandan Mary Dunbar Anna Falcon **Bridget Garry** Patricia Gebhardt Jim Gray Kelly Greenwood **David Griffins Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Cera Horste

Helen Joseph

Nina Keehn

Keith Kuchinski

Baby Penelope Keene

Kristen Manning Susan Massett Susan Mennenga Bill Morse La Moua Charlene Oates Flo Paprzycki Valerie Plesha Jim & Carol Pluskota Diane Reiter Jackie Schiable Julia Schremp Christopher Shea Diane Singer **Hedy Sterling** Thomas F. Sterling John Swanston Rev. Gerald Tivy Bernice Tokarski Kathy Walowski

Judy Wiltgen

Michelle Maeirs

Please note: Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that person, or in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to their medical care, calls to give permission.

Please let the Parish Office know of names which may be removed from the sick list.

Those in service to our country

TSgt Leah Harvey, USAF Airman Melanie Hodges, US Navy Nicholaus Laurie, US Marines SSG Sean Murphy, USMC Capt. Tara Trammell, US Army Roberto Ramos, US Army Lt. Joshua Puscas, US Navy SSG Gina Maro, USAF Juan Gabriel Sindac, USAF Aaron Godinez, US Marines LC/Cprl Ryan Ludwig, US Marines Capt. Brian Strohmaier, US Army Elizabeth Pattermann, US Marine LTJG Marion Bautista, US Navy SSG Karla Venegas, US Army SSG Jeremy Norris, US Army Capt. Carmen Lockett, US Army PO3 Joshua San Diego, US Navy LT Daniel Moran, US Army

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



Como mi papá se llama José y mi mamá se llama María, siempre bromeaban diciendo que éramos la "sagrada familia". Esta broma se desarrolló con el tiempo. Como Jesús es Dios y María no tiene pecado, si hubiera algún problema, ella bromeaba diciendo que era culpa de San José. De la misma manera, como mi papá es diácono permanente y yo soy sacerdote, si había algún problema era culpa de ella. Por supuesto, ella estaba bromeando, pero como vemos en el Evangelio, el sufrimiento que afecta a la Sagrada Familia no es todo causado por San José.

Muy a menudo nos sentimos tentados a ver a la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José como distante de nosotros. Si son tan santos, ¿cómo es posible que se relacionen con los problemas que ocurren en nuestra familia? Pero esta actitud es exactamente lo contrario del propósito de la Sagrada Familia.

El Verbo se hizo carne y habitó en una familia humana, no para distanciarse, sino para acercarse a nosotros. Durante los treinta años de su vida oculta, Jesús eligió vivir como parte de una familia para mostrarnos cuán importante es la familia y para santificarla.

Pero el hecho de que la vida de esta familia fuera santa no significa que tuvieran una excepción de la vida humana cotidiana o incluso del sufrimiento. En lo que debería haber sido una alegre celebración del nacimiento de su hijo, María escucha estas palabras que ninguna madre quiere escuchar: primero, que su hijo será un signo de contradicción, y segundo, que una espada traspasará su alma.

Entonces, ¿por qué la Sagrada Familia sigue sufriendo? Lo hacen por nosotros. En todos nuestros sufrimientos, podemos recurrir a Jesús, María y José, sabiendo que ellos saben cómo es. Son la Sagrada Familia no a pesar de su vida familiar, sino por ella.

En esta época del año, a menudo experimentamos tanto las alegrías como los sufrimientos de la vida familiar. Y tal vez sentimos que porque nuestras familias no son perfectas, porque hay familiares que se han desviado de la fe, familiares a los que les gusta pelear, familiares que no nos hablan, que eso nos descalifica para ser una familia santa. Pero lejos de ser obstáculos para ello, pueden ser oportunidades para que nos convirtamos en familias santas.

Jesús, María y José experimentaron los sufrimientos de la vida familiar, por eso podemos acudir a ellos en busca de ayuda y compañía. Hicieron esto para la santificación de la familia y del mundo, de modo que cuando unimos nuestros sufrimientos a los de Cristo, podamos hacernos santos a nosotros y al mundo. No deberíamos preocuparnos por ser el "San José" de la familia, sino que debemos esforzarnos por ser como él y estar siempre atentos al plan de Dios para su familia, aunque él no sea perfecto.

Padre Frank



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo Sir 3, 3-7. 14-17a o Gn 15, 1-6;

Gn 21, 1-3;

Sal 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5 o

Sal 104, 1b-2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9; Col 3, 12-21 o Col 3, 12-17 o Heb 11, 8. 11-12. 17-19 o Lc 2, 22-40 o Lc 2, 22. 39-40

Lunes Nm 6, 22-27;

Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8;

Gal 4, 4-7; Lc 2, 16-21

Martes 1 Jn 2, 22-28;

Sal 97, 1. 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1, 19-28 o Jn 2, 22. 39-40

Miércoles 1 Jn 2, 29—3, 6;

Sal 97, 1. 3cd-4. 5-6;

Jn 1, 29-34

Jueves 1 Jn 3, 7-10;

Sal 97, 1. 7-8. 9;

Jn 1, 35-42

Viernes 1 Jn 3, 11-21;

Sal 99, 2. 3. 4. 5;

Jn 1, 43-51

Sábado 1 Jn 5, 5-13;

Sal 147, 12-13. 14-15. 19-20; Mc 1, 7-11 o Lc 3, 23-38 o Lc 3, 23. 31-34. 36. 38

Domingo Is 60, 1-6;

Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13;

Ef 3, 2-3a. 5-6; Mt 2, 1-12



December 31, 2023

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3 | Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 | Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, "If we love, naturally we will try to do something. First in our own home, our next door neighbor, in the country we live, in the whole world." In this quote we see a shift from the idyllic to a hard dose of reality: love means sacrifice and service. Perhaps it's worth asking ourselves: Does our family always get our best self? None of us is perfect, so the honest answer is probably no. If it's tempting to think, "well, the Holy Family was perfect, so what does this feast have to do with our family?" let's remember we are celebrating the Feast of the HOLY Family, not the feast of the perfect family. Yes, they were holy. They embodied this in their faith and devotion in those expanding circles of which St. Teresa spoke. They gave to God first - in today's Gospel we see the family travel to Jerusalem to present Jesus in the temple. They then returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew strong and was "filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What does this feast mean for us today? It means that being a holy family is not unattainable. St. John Paul II once said: "The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth." (2001) In other words, God's will was fulfilled in the simplest and most ordinary of human circumstances when Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in a stable. He sanctified what had been profaned by sin. Are our families perfect? No. But are we holy? That is our baptismal vocation and is within our reach each and every day. With the dawn of the new year, let's make an effort to place Christ at the center of our lives. Let's try to love our family members with all our heart, and bear witness in our actions and words. And finally, and most importantly, we must pray with and for one another.

PRAY Family prayer is powerful and transformative, uniting and equipping us to go out into the world each day and bear witness. Pray together: *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.*



January

Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED.



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Located at Our Lady of Mercy Parish Catholic Church in Rooms 114 & 110, 701 S Eola Rd, Aurora

Appointments appreciated; walk-ins welcome!

To schedule, go to www.versiti.org/IL, load the Versiti Donor app, call (800) 7TO-GIVE, or scan the QR code below.

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Donate blood and be entered for a chance to win an SUV!*





Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast



Join the Knights for a delicious pancake breakfast Sunday, January 14th from 8:00 am to Noon in the Gym.

Ticket Prices

(at the door-no advance sales)

Adults: \$6.00

Children: \$3.00 (12 & under)

Children under 3 no charge

Dine in MPR or Take Out Available

Menu:

Pancakes

Eggs

Sausage

Fruit Cup

Coffee, Tea & Juice

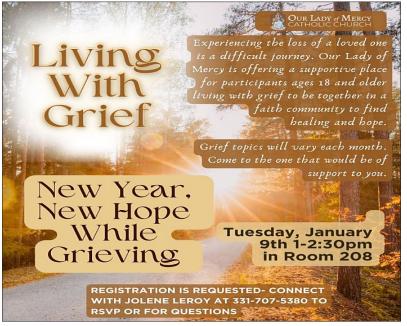
All Profits will support: **OLM's Teen Mission Trip**



Tutor Volunteers Needed

The Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora, celebrating its 30th year, has just received The Best Practices Award from the National Library of Congress. The Center will be training new tutor volunteers for its literacy program in January. Female volunteers (with high school diploma) are trained to help women students learn to read, write, and speak English. Tutoring sessions are 90 minutes, once a week, from Sept. to May, at 260 Vermont St., Aurora (behind St. Therese Church). Tutors do not need to speak Spanish or have teaching experience, but all volunteers must attend 7 hours of training in addition to viewing several training videos online. The next training date is Saturday, January 20, from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. Tutors will begin with their new student the following week. To volunteer, email Alison Brzezinski at Alison@dominicanliteracycenter.org.

For more information, visit www.dominicanliteracycenter.org or call 630-898-4636. The Center is not handicap accessible.







Family Faith Formation News

Epiphany Gospel Story Enactment

Calling ALL Kindergarten - through Grade 5 students of Our Lady of Mercy Parish! Hold fast to the meaning of the Christmas season and come to enact this beautiful story of the three kings visiting the King of Kings, on Epiphany Sunday, January 7, following the 10:00 am Mass. Rehearsal will take place in the church on Saturday, January 6 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. For more info or to sign-up, email maryjot@olmercy.com by Mon. January 1!

LIGHT High School teens (Grades 9-12) https://olmercy.com/formation/light/

Chosen Confirmation Program Update

The next Chosen Sunday session for Teens will be on January 7th! Please contact Dave in the Faith Formation Office with questions.

Teen Mission Trip 2024 Update:

Our trip is to Winchester, KY on July 7-13! We still have a few open spots for teens—please contact Dave in the Faith Formation Office for information.

Teen Mission Trip Parent and Teen Meeting is TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH at 7pm in the PLC. All high school teens and at least 1 parent are asked to attend this very important kick-off meeting.

Teens can Sign-up for Service and Discipleship opportunities here: https://olmercy.com/formation/light/service-discipleship-projects/

EDGE for Middle School teens (Grades 6-8)

EDGE Nights meet twice a month on Monday evenings from 6:30pm-8pm. in the Parish Life Center. To register for EDGE and for more information go to https://olmercy.com/formation/edge/





Robert H. Weaver Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

All boys and girls aged 9 to 14, as of January 1, 2024, are invited to participate in the Robert H. Weaver Knights of Columbus #12005 Free Throw Championship. This local event will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, 7:00pm in the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Life Center. Registration begins at 6:45pm

Participants will compete in their respective age divisions, with the winners advancing to district, region and state competitions. All contestants at this local event will be recognized for their participation. The District competition will take place in February at to be determined location.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent on the registration form available at the event. For additional information call (630) 957-7559.

Around the Parish

Solemnity of Mary

Monday, January 1st Mass honoring Mary, Mother of God will be at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.

Holy Hour Devotion

You are invited to the Holy Hour Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the First Friday of each month at 10:30 am in English (crying room) and Spanish. The Holy Hour is an Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heat of Jesus to offer in reparation for sins and which had its origin in the apparitions of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray-le-Monial in France.

St. Peregrine Prayer Service

All are invited to attend the in-person St. Peregrine Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 16 in the church after the 6:30pm Mass (at 7pm). St. Peregrine is the patron saint of the sick, especially those experiencing cancer, serious illness, or chronic illness. Anyone experiencing physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual health concerns would benefit from attending the prayer service. The relic of St. Peregrine will be present.

Mobile Food Pantry

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be in the OLM parking lot Wednesday, January 17 at 4:30pm to distribute meat, produce and nonperishable items. Please share this information with those who may be in need.

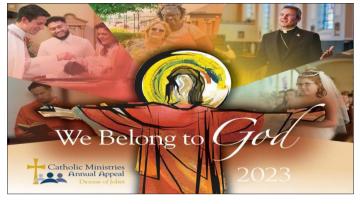


Parish Sacrificial Giving		
Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	171,280
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	744,000
Amount Short of Budget	\$	(26,720)
12/17/23 Sunday Collection	\$	38,492
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	31,000
Amount in Excess of Goal	\$	7,492

For the Budget Year 2023/24 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 1.3%, to \$31,000/week, to help expand our numerous varied Ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!!

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



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	\$ 141,900
Amount Pledged	\$ 183,199
Amount Paid	\$ 179,352
Remaining Balance	\$ 3,847
Rebate Amount	\$ 26,216
# of Families Pledged	505

Christmas/Year End Donations

It is a great blessing that all of the funds donated as part of the Christmas Collection stay with Our Lady of Mercy and will help us meet our Sunday Collection. If you wish to donate to the Christmas Collection, please use one of the following three methods:

- 1. Give online using the QR code in the box below or at www.olmercy.com/give look for the online giving portal and use the drop-down arrow to select "Christmas".
- 2. Give during Mass using your Christmas envelope, by putting cash or a check.
- 3. Give during Mass using a blank envelope labeled "Christmas Collection," also include "Christmas Collection" on the memo line of your check.

PLEASE NOTE: Only donations received (or post-marked) on or before December 31 will appear on your 2023 tax statement that will be sent out by the end of January 2024.

Donate Online Through OSV

Whether you are a registered parishioner with us or visiting, we are set up to receive donations online!





OSV is an online website that makes contributions faster, easier, and accessible at anytime for donors.

Website

www.osvhub.com/olmercy



Scan this code to start donating online!

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

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

Parish Office

Tel: (630) 851-3444 • FAX: (630) 851-34	68
Monday-Thursday	8:30am-4:00pm
Friday	8:30am-1:00pm

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Th	ursday, Friday	8:00am
Monday (Spanish Ma	ss)	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, 10:00a	am,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 Ma	agnify7:30-8:20pm
Or by Appointment	

Prayer Chapel

Open weekday	/S	7:00)am-8:00pm

Adoration

Monday & Thursday	8:30am-6:00pm
Wednesdays	8:00am-12:00pm
1st Friday of the Month	12:00pm
Last Wednesday of the Month at Magnify	7:00-8:30pm

Benediction

Monday & Th	ursday	6:00pm
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New Parishioners

We welcome you! Please register by visiting our website at www.olmercy.com. Click on "New Here" and choose "Join OLM" to fill out the online registration form.

Sick and Homebound

Contact the Parish Office so we may help you in any way possible.

Hospitalization

If you anticipate a hospitalization or are admitted to an area hospital and would like a visit from a priest or Eucharistic Minister, please notify the parish office.

Baptisms

Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must complete a parent workshop. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent. Contact Lydia Schmitt at 331-707-5377.

Weddings

The bride, groom or either set of parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Weddings may be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. Contact Theresa Simeo at 331-707-5374.

Parish Directory

Parish Priests

PastorFr. Michael Kearney630-851-3444, Ext. 228frmichael@olmercy.com
Parochial Vicar Fr. Frank Pusateri 630-851-3444, Ext. 226frfrank@olmercy.com
Permanent Deacons
Dcn Tim Kueper tkueper5@yahoo.com
Dcn Tony Leazzotonyl@olmercy.com
Dcn Tony Martinitonym@olmercy.com Dcn Doug McIlvainedougm@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
331-707-5379franks@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
331-707-5378 maryjot@olmercy.com
Director (6-12) Dave Miserendino
331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com
FFF Secretary Karen Schwartz
331-707-5369 karens@olmercy.com
Principal of All Saints Catholic Academy
630-961-6125Margie Marshall
Administrative Staff
Business Manager Bob Gancarz
331-707-5370robertg@olmercy.com
Parish Secretary Diane Reiter
630-851-3444 dianer@olmercy.com
Business Office Assistant Lydia Schmitt
331-707-5377lydias@olmercy.com
Buildings & Grounds Phil Zwick
312-339-6943 philz@olmercy.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society

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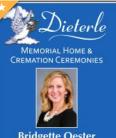
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