



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Website: www.olmnh.org
424-3757; 424-4477; Fax: 424-1780

Mass Schedule

Saturday - 4:30pm
Sunday - 8:30am and 10:30am
Monday, Tuesday, Wed, & Friday - 8:30am
Holy Days - 8:30am and anticipated 7:00pm

Parish Staff

Rev. Msgr. Paul Bouchard, Pastor
Email: FrPaul@olmnh.org
Mr. John Castelot, Deacon
deaconjohn@olmnh.org
Mrs. Marie Dancy Pastoral Associate
Email: mdancy@olmnh.org
Mrs. Catherine Guman, Business Manager
Email: cguman@olmnh.org
Mrs. Laura Paison, Director of Parish Religious Education Program
Email: lpaison@olmnh.org
Ms. Mackenzie Murphy, Youth Minister
Email: mmurphy@olmnh.org
Mrs. Kathleen Rush, Administrative Assistant for Religious Education
Email: kjrush1@olmnh.org
Mrs. Alyce Bolduc, Receptionist/Secretary
Email: alemae@olmnh.org
Mrs. Nancy King, Director of Music
Email: nking@olmnh.org

Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757

Religious Education Office: 424-4477

Fax: 424-1780

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, founded in 1954, is a Roman Catholic community that shares in the life of Jesus Christ, obedient Father, and guided by the Holy Spirit. As a faith community, our mission is: to celebrate the sacraments and to proclaim the Word of God; to minister the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish through prayer, works of charity, personal witness, education, and evangelization; to welcome all people to active participation in our parish community; and to preserve the faith of the church amidst a changing world and diverse social climate. We commit ourselves to this mission, under the patronage and protection of Mary, Mother of Mercy, with faith, hope and love in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May 1999

Welcome New Parishioners!

All new parishioners should formally register with the parish by visiting the Parish Office and filling out a registration form. If you move away, please notify the Parish Office.

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism for infants is usually celebrated on the last Sunday of each month. All parents must attend a parent enrichment session prior to the Baptism of their child. Please contact the Pastoral Minister, Marie Dancy, at the Parish Office to sign up for the class. It is recommended that parents attend these sessions during pregnancy. Preparation of all parishioners for Confirmation and First Communion is an integral part of living the Catholic Life. Please call the Parish Office for more information and assistance.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Confession

Parishioners are encouraged to experience sacramental forgiveness on a regular basis. Confession is available on Saturdays at 3:00pm and by appointment. If you wish to set up an appointment please call the office to speak with Father Paul. Special communal reconciliation services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

Weddings

The policy of all Catholic parishes in the state of New Hampshire is that couples must contact their parish priest at least 6 months prior to the intended wedding date. Couples should never make any final arrangements (especially for the wedding reception hall) prior to meeting with the parish priest. A Marriage Preparation Program is also required. A parish Wedding policy brochure is available upon request.

Sacrament of the Sick

If possible, please do not wait until a critical moment to call a priest for the Sacrament of the Sick. Anyone who is seriously ill may receive this sacrament of healing and hope. It is recommended that family members be present for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick.

Hospital Visitation

A Catholic Chaplain is available at all our local hospitals. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish a parish priest to visit a family member of the parish who is hospitalized.

Outreach and Home Ministry

Please call the Rectory to inform us in the event you are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist or the Sacrament of the Sick or that you need other ministry.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, September 9th

Vigil: Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Walter R. Fariole Jr req by his family

SUNDAY, September 10th

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Edgar Begin req by Pauline Begin and
for all parishioners

10:30AM: Eloi Lantiegne req by his wife Barbara

MONDAY, September 11th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:10AM: For the victims of Hurricane Harvey

TUESDAY, September 12th

The Most Holy Name of Mary

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Barbara Belushko req by Bob Bergin &
Sylvia White

WEDNESDAY, September 13th

St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For the intentions of the celebrant

THURSDAY, September 14th

NO MASS

FRIDAY, September 15th

Our Lady of Sorrows

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For the deceased members of our parish

SATURDAY, September 16th

Vigil: Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Daniel H. Raby req by his brothers & sisters

SUNDAY, September 17th

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Marguerite Ryan req by her family

10:30AM: Grace Savard req by her daughter Barbara
and for all parishioners

The Eyes of a Child

I frequently see signs on churches inviting everyone to come. Often they advertise that they are a contemporary, casual church. One thing that concerns me is that they do not add "challenging" to that description. Some people try to teach that since Jesus is risen from the dead, we should also be able to live that way: Rejoicing, but never sorrowing. But if we preach resurrection without the cross, we are acting like Peter in the Gospel.

Peter had just proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah, but he failed to understand that Jesus' mission was not to bring wealth and glory to Israel. Jesus knew that being messiah required him to give his life for all people. In a sense, Peter was tempting Jesus to avoid the painful death and use his divine power to bring prosperity. Like Satan's temptations in the desert, he wanted Jesus to take the easy way to glory.

Instead, Jesus challenges us to deny ourselves. Today this phrase is not very popular with those who say we should be free to satisfy all our desires, or with motivational speakers who say that everyone is able to achieve financial success and live a comfortable life. As long as we center our lives on our own pleasure and comfort, we are rejecting the cross. To deny oneself means to choose God's will over our own. It means to be willing to suffer for being honest. It means giving God the first place in our lives. It means we get more joy from serving others than serving ourselves. This is what Paul is talking about in the second reading when he says to offer ourselves as a "living sacrifice." Or as Jesus says, we lose our life for his sake, only to find it in loving and serving him.

That is one reason I like the image of God as father. Parents will lose much of their freedom--and much sleep--when they bring a child into the world. But they find a new joy in the eyes of that child. We are all called to lose our selfish lives and find the joy of living for Jesus.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

120 Club Winners - Congratulations

Week #5: Larry Shower & Bob L'Heureux

Parish Stewardship

Week of September 3rd: \$4730.00

Catholic University: \$1562.00

Online donations for August: \$7534.50



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of September 9th through September 15th is lit in memory of **Alvin Popovsky**.

If you would like to have the Sanctuary Lamp lit in memory of or for the intentions of a loved one, please call the parish office at 424-3757.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

For more and more Catholics the image for the Sacrament of the Sick is Changing. We picture a parish gathered on a Sunday afternoon with 50 people—some visibly ill, some apparently perfectly healthy—coming up the aisle to be anointed, some with their spouses or caregivers. On Sunday afternoon, September 24th at 2:00 pm we will have such a celebration. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick and you are all invited to attend. Who should receive this sacrament? Should I be anointed?

The answer is simple...

- Any person of any age who is suffering from physical, mental or emotional illness may be anointed. You do not need to wait until the illness becomes so grave that you are hospitalized to celebrate this sacrament.
- Any person dealing with fears, isolation and physical limitations of older age may come for the healing and comforting touch of Christ in this sacrament.
- Any person who will undergo surgery in the near future.
- All healthy Catholics who want to thank God for the gift of their good health and want to pray for those who are celebrating this sacrament.

A light reception will follow downstairs

Baked goods are needed for the reception. If you are able to help out by baking a finger dessert, please call Muriel Gelinas at 424-5717.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Bishop Libasci invites all couples who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or beyond wedding anniversary (anytime during the year 2017), to attend a Special Anniversary Mass. on **October 15, 2017** at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. If you are celebrating one of these anniversaries, please contact the parish office at 424-3757 by **September 10, 2017**. By calling the parish office you will be registered and receive an invitation from the Diocese.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion needed to assist the Catholic Faithful in Hospital Ministry

The area Catholic parishes are in need of volunteers to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion and ministry to the sick and injured at Southern N H Medical Center. To be eligible you must be a current EM in your parish, have a love of the Eucharist, a sense of joy and the ability to comfort our Catholic family members in the hospital. The goal is to secure enough ministers to provide Holy Communion 7 days a week.

If you are interested in helping in this wonderful ministry, please call Diane at 424-4979 or email her at twindidi@comcast.net.

Red Cross Blood Drive

September 14, 2017



Nearly 21 million blood products are transfused each year. One donation can potentially help more than 1 patient. Blood donations help millions of people in need. Please consider making a blood donation at our next blood drive. Please call 1-800 Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment. Walk ins are always welcome. Appointments are encouraged.

End of Life Planning Workshop

Join your fellow parishioners for an informative workshop on end of life planning and decisions makers. Hear from our presenters on estate planning, medical advance directives and decision making, charitable giving, hospice options and making your own funeral arrangements. Learn how to take charge of your own affairs, and not leave the burden to your loved ones.

Saturday, **September 23rd, from 9:00 – 11:30** in the Church Hall. There will be a Q&A period and refreshments will be served.

Wednesday Group—On Wednesday, Sept 13 at 7 PM those people who often gather on Wednesday evenings to explore the Sunday readings will break open the readings for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary time. We will speak of God's lavish and generous love. You are welcome to join us. We gather in the Parish office. The readings are: Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35.

September 10, 2017

Annual Boy Scout Yard Sale

Troop 424, sponsored by OLM, will be holding its Annual Yard sale Fundraiser at the Tractor Supply's parking lot on Friday, September 15th (5 pm -9 pm) and Saturday, September 16th (8 am -2 pm). We are collecting donations for saleable items on Thursday 9/7 (6-8pm), Saturdays 9/2 and 9/9 (8 am- 12 pm), at the Tractor Supply in Merrimack. Pickup is available for large quantities/items. For information call 603-485-4310.

37th Annual Scout Retreat

All Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts in grades 6-12 along with adult leaders are invited to the Annual High Adventure Scout Retreat on Friday, September 15th through Sunday, September 17th at Camp Fatima in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH. Cost is \$10 per child and \$7 per adult. For more information or to register go to www.catholicnh.org/scout or email FrRay3@gmail.com.

ADULT CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Are you an adult (18 years or older) who has received Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Communion, but are not Confirmed in the Catholic Faith? Would you like to be Confirmed? Our parish is planning an Adult Confirmation process beginning in October. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Marie Dancy at 424-3757.

LADIES GUILD—INSTALLATION

Please join the OLM Ladies Guild installation of officers after the 8:30 am Mass on **Tuesday, September 19th**. It will be followed by a full breakfast provided by Castle Caterers and a brief meeting. This is a great opportunity for new members of the parish to learn about the Guild. A headcount for the caterer is needed by **September 17th**. Please call Irene Jenness at 424-2362 to RSVP or for more information. All ladies of the parish are invited.

The next regular meeting of the Guild will be on October 17 at 1:00 pm in the church hall.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Our High School Youth Group (Gr 9-12) will be meeting again on Sunday evening, September 17th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Please join us and have some fun!!! For more information or any questions, please contact Mackenzie Murphy at mmurphy@olmnh.org.

**Upcoming Faith Formation Dates
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Meetings

Sept 12: Gr 1-6 Teacher Meeting 7pm PC
Sept 14: Gr 7-10 Teacher Mtg 7pm PC
Sept 19: 1st Reconciliation Teacher Mtg 7pm PC
Sept 24: Gr 7-9 Parent Mtg 6:15pm CH
Sept 26: 1st Reconciliation Parent Mtg 7pm PMR
Oct 7: Gr 1-6 (Sat) Parent Meeting 8:15am PC
Oct 18: Gr 1-6 (Wed) Parent Mtg 5:00pm TBA

Classes Begin...

Saturday Classes.....Sept 30th 8:15-9:30 am
Sunday Classes.....Sept 24th 6:15-7:45 pm
Wednesday Classes....Oct 4th 4:15-5:30 pm

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT—CLASSES WILL BEGIN SOON...We are still in need of teachers and aides for all programs. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and faith with the children of our parish.

All teaching materials and supplies are provided. Teacher manuals are easy to follow and the staff is always here to support you and answer any questions. Please call the office at 424-4477 and speak with either Laura or Kathy if you would like more information on volunteering .

YOUNG ADULT MUSIC GROUP



We're looking for some talented teens and young adult musicians (Gr 7-12 or college age) to join our Youth Music Group. If you play an instrument or like to sing, please let us know! Music ministry is a great way to get involved in the parish, and also meet other fellow musicians. We rehearse on Mondays from 6 to 8 pm. Our first rehearsal will be on September 11th in the Church. Please reach out to Nancy King, director of music ministry at nking@olmnh.org . Hope to see you there as we grow this exciting new musical chapter at Our Lady of Mercy!

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER???

Do you love kids? Are you looking for ways to get more involved in the Church? Have you ever wanted to share your faith with others or those younger than you? Do you love to plan events?

Our High School Youth Ministry is currently up and running and we are seeking energetic adults to join us on our Core Team as we are looking to expand our Youth Ministry and create a Middle School Youth Group. If interested, please contact Mackenzie Murphy at mmurphy@olmnh.org.

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
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Merrimack, NH 03054

Contact Person: Kathleen Rush

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Fax: (603) 424-1780

Email Address: kjrush1@olmnh.org

Bulletin for September 10, 2017

Kathy