

**We come together as a community of faith to celebrate with praise and joy!**

## The Celebration of the Sacraments

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30-4:15 PM and Eve of Holydays 4:00-5:00 PM in the Church

Anytime by appointment-please call and speak with a priest.

### On Becoming A Catholic

R.C.I.A. welcomes those interested in becoming a Catholic and/or anyone seeking to further their education in the Catholic Faith. Please leave your name and telephone number at the Rectory Office.

### Parish Membership

All new families and individuals are welcome to our parish. We request that you register in the rectory when you move into our community so that we can be of service to you. Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. The priests and ministers are here to serve your needs, to share your joy, and to help lighten your burdens.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Communal Celebrations of Baptism are on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30 PM. Beginning as of Sept 25th, 2016 All arrangements for Baptism must be made at the rectory.

### Sacrament of Marriage

The Sacrament is celebrated on: Fridays: to be arranged.  
Saturdays: 10:30 AM, 12:30 and 2:30PM

Sundays: to be arranged. Arrangements must be made by personal appointment with one of the priests. Couples should make an appointment with the priest at least six months to a year in advance of the marriage date. Nuptial Masses as well as ceremonies are available on Friday and Saturday. Ceremonies only are available on Sunday.

### Marriage Preparation Program at OLM

All engaged couples who plan to get married in the Catholic Church are required to complete **Pre Cana Program**. Our Program is offered twice a year. The Fall program meets once a week for 4 weeks: and the Spring program runs for an entire weekend. FOCCUS, a communication study, is administered twice a year and is required for all couples.

### Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament for the seriously ill and elderly can be arranged by contacting one of the priests or at any time in an emergency. The Sacrament is also celebrated communally during the year.

### Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

Parish priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist regularly visit those who are ill or homebound. Please call the rectory to arrange for home visitation

### Pastoral Council Members

Raymond Badra

Nick Perrotta

Timothy Snee

Donna Varney

To contact: [pastoralcouncil@olmrcc.com](mailto:pastoralcouncil@olmrcc.com)

### Parish Finance Committee

John Beaudette (Chairperson)

Daniel Pisani (Trustee)

Joseph Vacca (Trustee)

Carmine Serravalli (Business Mgr.)

Lorraine & Fred Anderson

Richard Faccio, Jr.

Timothy Snee

Serena Perrotta

### Maintenance Staff

Mr. Larry Burns

Mr. Kevin McAvoy

Mr. David Mullan

### Rectory Cook

Michelina Gambale

### Convent Cook

Susan Bennett



**Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us**

**Masses for the Week**

**Monday, April 3,**

7:00 AM Daniel Roche  
 9:00 AM Frank Bromberg (1st Ann)  
 Mary Casertano  
 Barbara Moody



**Tuesday, April 4,**

7:00 AM Christina DelGroco  
 9:00 AM Philip Williams  
 Mary Martin  
 Carmela Calandrea

**Wednesday, April 5,**

7:00 AM Lugo Sanchez  
 9:00 AM Mary Caertano  
 Lorraine O'Connor  
 Timothy Lynch

**Thursday, April 6,**

7:00 AM Carmela Moncada  
 9:00 AM Mario Vona  
 Edith Spocht  
 Matthew Tanck

**Friday, April 7,**

7:00 AM Christopher Iavarone  
 9:00 AM Frank Meehan  
 Vincent Gagliardo & Fam  
 William T. Heenan

**Saturday, April 8,**

8:00 AM John Mauro, Sr.  
 Eleanor Bergherr  
 Phyllis Dowd  
 The Smith Fam  
 Adam Ivicic  
 Paul Manetta

**4:30 PM Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy**

**Sunday, April 9,**

7:30 AM Lena Perrotta  
 9:00 AM Antonio Guerrieri  
 10:30 AM Patrick J. Looney  
 12:00 PM Dominick Risolo  
 5:30 PM James Purdie (1st Ann)



**Loving Memory— You Rest In Peace—  
 Richard Villani, Antonina Amato**  
 the unborn and the victims of natural  
 disasters throughout our country and the  
 world.

**Remember Our Sick** Mary Lou Haggerty,  
 Christopher Cucci, John Lombardi, Christine Henry,  
 Robert DeMarco, Grace DeSalvo, Christine Opløj,  
 Infants Hollis and Anderson Miller, Anne Eggar,  
 MargeHeenan, Kathleen Donato, Peter Manetta,  
 Dorothy Blank, Thomas Dunleavy, William Kranak,  
 Rose Hartmann, Elaine Marzoli, Barbara Murphy

**Long Term Illness:** Please pray for our war  
 casualties, all our sick, their caretakers, especially Sr.  
 Joanne Deegan, Sr. Patricia O'Connell, Frances &  
 Anthony Linoli, Vincent Perrone, Olivia Mannion,  
 Louis Venditto, Gerry McNamee, Allison Miller,  
 Sebastian DeLuca, Adrian Keenan, John Pascullo,  
 John O'Sullivan and all homebound and in nursing

**WEEK OF APRIL 9TH TO APRIL 15TH, 2017**

**U.C. Sanctuary Lamp  
 In Memory of  
 Katherine Ricchiuti  
 Donated By  
 Nancy Ricchiuti**



**L.C. Sanctuary Lamp  
 In Memory of  
 Conrad & Bing Felix  
 Donated By  
 Camnze**



**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

**FIRST TIME**

Jose Castillo - St. Martin of Tours & Allison Marie  
 Amato St. Martins of Tours

Joseph Andrei Char—St. Michael's Flushing, &  
 Chen I. Chen - Flushing

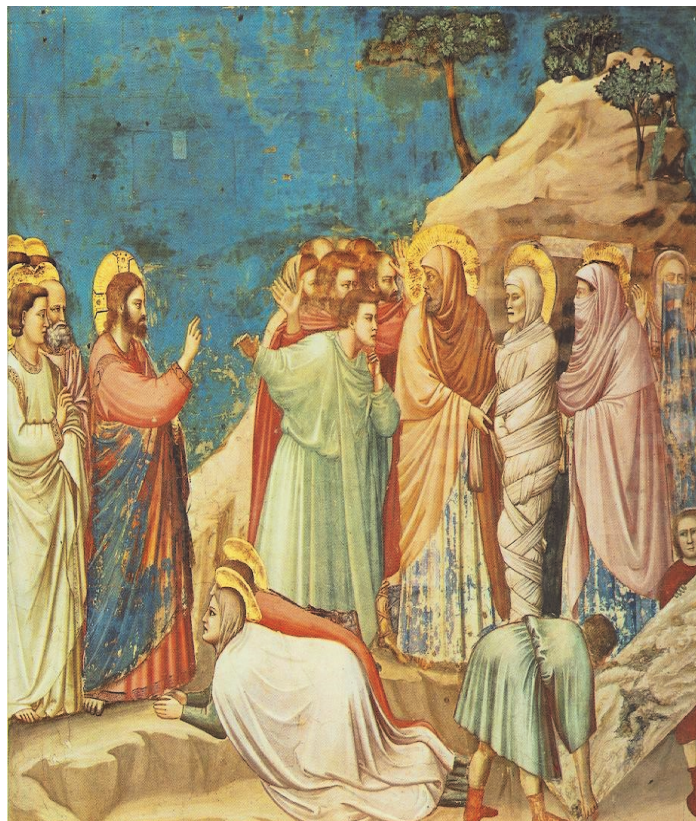
Mario Fazzari - OLM & Theresa Tattoli—OLM

## Fifth Sunday of Lent



### Release Us by Your Spirit

God of all life,  
 who raised Lazarus from the dead,  
 and released the poor from their suffering;  
 you who lead us in the land of the living;  
 bless us and give us your Spirit,  
 your Spirit of generosity and holiness,  
 of life and of creative energy.  
 Lift us from our graves of sinfulness  
 and raise us from our dry and wasteful ways.  
 May our sins be left behind  
 and our life in your Spirit bring us joy.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
 Spirit,  
 one God, forever and ever. Amen.



April 2, 2017

### Spirit Dwelling Within

*Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12–14; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; Romans 8:8–11; John 11:1–45.* The Spirit of God gives life. The Spirit, given by God, is all about life. Today's readings emphasize the role of the Spirit in those apparently dead. Ezekiel emphasizes this quite vividly: graves will be opened and we will rise from them. That is only the beginning, though. God will settle us in our land by putting his Spirit within us.

Have you already died, buried in a grave of apathy or disillusionment or sinfulness? Have you allowed a negative attitude or an overly judgmental nature to cut you off from God? If so, you have dug your own grave. If the Spirit of God is within you, now is the time to release that Spirit, for it is the spirit of life. The First Reading reminds us that God's Spirit is in us that we might live; and we are not just to live, but live and "settle" in the land of the living.

We who have been baptized carry within us the Spirit of Christ, as St. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading, and therefore have life—Christ's life—dwelling in us. That is not just a calling, but a reminder that we are sustained by our baptismal graces throughout our ups and downs, our joys and our failings. We do not need to remain in the graves we have dug. We must settle in the land of the living.

Belief in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life is at the heart of today's Gospel passage about the raising of Lazarus. In the dialogue between Jesus and Martha, Jesus states clearly, "Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." Martha, Mary, and Lazarus had lived the life of the Spirit of God. They not only believed that Jesus was the Messiah, they lived that daily. Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead, then, is an affirmation that the grave had no power over a life lived in the Spirit.

**Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us**



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent at Home with the Word



**Monday, April 3**

**In the Dark Valley I Fear No Evil**

Today, both readings from the Old and New Testaments speak to ancient punishments for women, but they also speak of Daniel and Jesus going beyond first-glance assumptions, and finding justice that is built on faith and truth, not first impressions. If anything, we often need to look two, three, four, or more times at people and situations before deciding where God is in the experience or relationship. *Today's Readings: Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; John 8:1–11.*

**Tuesday, April 4**

**St. Isidore of Seville**

Isidore was from a family that had many bishops. He was known for his vast knowledge and his use of that knowledge to guide the priests under his charge in Seville, Spain, in the early seventh century. He wrote the first complete compilation of knowledge, and is now patron of the Internet. His gift was the ability to use what he knew to guide laity and clergy alike in how they were to live their faith devoutly. *Today's Readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

**Wednesday, April 5**

**St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest**

A Dominican priest, Vincent Ferrer was a gifted preacher. Living in the late fourteenth century, he was caught up in the Great Schism of the Church, a time when disagreements were so volatile that more than one pope reigned at the same time. St. Vincent, however, preached Christ, and evangelized throughout Europe, drawing people to the faith through the Paschal Mystery and not politics. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

**Thursday, April 6**

**Abraham's Covenant**

The use of the word *covenant* in today's readings might seem ancient and impractical to some. Yet our Baptism is a type of covenant. Each year during Easter Time, we renew our baptismal promises, saying *I do* to our commitment to a life of faith to which we continually strive. During this Lent, take to time prepare for that renewal, thinking of the place of that covenant in your life. *Today's Readings: Genesis 17:3–9; Psalm 105:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 8:51–59.*

**Friday, April 7**

**St. John Baptist de la Salle, Priest**

Known for his tireless work educating the poor, St. John Baptist de la Salle built schools. He founded the Christian Brothers and the first school to train future teachers. He called his work an outpouring from God, who “guides all things with wisdom and serenity.” He died on Good Friday 1719, in his native France. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

**Saturday, April 8**

**I Will Be Their God**

If we are not careful, the unity expressed in today's readings can elude us. The unity is of “the dispersed,” of a land previously divided into two kingdoms. How do we work for unity among the wide diversity of peoples, neighborhoods, and faiths that we know? As we approach Holy Week, let us focus on the Cross as our symbol of unity among peoples, as well as between earth and heaven. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*



**On Stewardship Spirituality**

**Living Stewardship**

**Accountability**

**Sacrificial Giving  
Offertory**

Weekly Offering for the Fifth  
Sunday in Lent:

- ◆ March 26, 2017: \$16,222
- ◆ March 13, 2016: \$17,753

Thank you for your generous  
support of our Parish.

*~Consider This ~*

Your gift to the Catholic  
Ministries Appeal is a way  
to do the Corporal and Spir-  
itual Works of Mercy—the  
cornerstone of our Parish.  
Your CMA gift helps those  
in need of food, clothing,  
shelter & counsel.  
Your CMA gift means YOU  
are helping build His King-  
dom here on earth—right  
here on Long Island.

**Make the commitment!  
Belong More Deeply**

*“I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.”—John 5:30*

*Spring is officially here—though it is hard to tell! If you look closely you might see flowers and trees are starting to bloom—well, in between the snowfalls. And if we cant see them yet, we can anticipate the colors of Spring. But anyone with a beautiful garden knows that those flowers don't just magically appear. Beautiful flowers and lush gardens are the result of a gardener's hard work.*

**Springtime and Stewardship**

Imagine you have a basket full of seeds; all different types of flowers and plants. If you bury them at random and leave them on their own, rain will fall and likely some seeds may bloom. But this will hardly make for a gorgeous garden. If you really want beautiful flowers, you must cultivate the ground, plan so that each has good space, plant your seeds with care, water and fertilize them. You need to think about what they need; you need to care for them. Only then will you see the proper fruit these seeds were made to bear.

God has given each of us a multitude of gifts so that we can better serve Him and bring others to Him. Do we notice the hidden potential of our gifts: like the seed—seemingly small, yet so full of fruit? Do we notice the potential in others? Do we nurture it?

Everything we are and have — our time, talents, and treasure — are gifts from God. Do we accept gifts in gratitude, then put them to use by cultivating and nourishing them so they will bear the proper fruit? Do we use our gifts in service to others?

Like those seeds, if we treat our gifts carelessly, we may see some blooms here and there. But we are called to so much more. We are called to build a beautiful garden. We are called to offer God the most beautiful flowers of all.

This season, as we look at all the beautiful flowers around us and enjoy God's creation, consider the seeds in our own lives. Have you encouraged growth in others, served them as Christ served? Ask yourself if you have accepted the gifts God has given you and cultivated and cared for them properly. Or, do they just sit dormant within you, yearning to bloom?

*~Want to learn more about stewardship? Email us at [SerenaOnStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:SerenaOnStewardship@gmail.com)!*



*Some in the crowd  
who heard these  
words said, 'This is  
truly the Prophet.'*  
—John 7:40

**Pray about what God  
may be asking of you.**

Make the Commitment  
to Belong More Deeply  
to Christ and His church



*Lenten Offering*

- ◆ *Pray a decade a day of the Rosary.*
- ◆ *Contemplate the Mysteries.*
- ◆ *Be forgiving and be reconciled to God.*
- ◆ *Pray & meditate on what God asks of you.*

**Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us**



Our Lady of Mercy School  
Faith ~ Academics ~ Service



As part of Holy Week, OLM students participate in, what we call, a mini Seder experience. Students share in eating some matzo (unleavened bread), radish (bitter herb), lettuce (greens), and grape juice (wine) while viewing a 15 minute video enacted by some of our fifth grade students.

Following this, the children go to the school auditorium where they participate in a prayer service which involves song, prayer, and a liturgical dance. The prayer ends with the reminder that Jesus not only died for us; he also rose from the dead.

This year, we invite any parishioner who would like to share this Holy Week prayer experience to join us.

If you would like to come, please **contact the school at 433-7040**. This will enable us to **set up chairs and prepare the foods** so you can **fully participate** in the experience.

Guests are asked to be in school at **9:30 AM on Wednesday, April 12th**. The entire prayer experience should be completed by **11:00 AM**.

**TGIF  
Winners**

- April 7: \$100 - Goodman Family (Grade 8)
- \$75 - Faderl Family (Grade 5)
- \$50 - Shea Family (Grade 7)

Committed to educating students to become Christ Centered, Academically Strong, Christian and Servant Leaders, Responsible Citizens

Our Lady of Mercy School thanks you for your continued financial and prayerful support.

**Parish Services**

**Serving with Mercy**

Mary Anne Scott

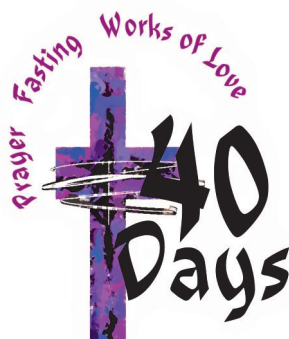
*Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the Lord's wounds at arm's length. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel)*

*Loving God, . . . When I see my neighbor struggling to put food on the table, when I see the stranger longing for a safe and welcoming place to call home, when I see the person held captive by fear, addiction, loneliness, human failings, I am looking directly into your face. You challenge me to let go of avoidance or the pretense of not seeing. You challenge me to recognize, name and welcome your body in the crucified people of our world. Amen.*

Pope Francis Living Lent with Love



**Easter Preparations**



**Thank you to the parishioners of all ages who served others this Lent by performing corporal works of mercy as they donated beautiful Easter baskets for children served by our food pantry, donated hams, turkeys and other food for Easter dinner or to restock our pantry and prepared Easter cards for the home-bound.**

**Families will be receiving their Easter baskets, food and supermarket gift cards this week letting them know that they have not been forgotten by Our Lady of Mercy Parish Family.**

**All Easter distributions will be concluded by Thursday, April 13 and the Food Pantry will be closed Good Friday, April 14.**

**Memorial Donations**

**If you are looking for a way to honor the life of a friend or family member for a birthday or anniversary or express sympathy, consider a memorial donation in any amount to Parish Services. Cards acknowledging the donation are available at Parish Services or can be mailed directly to the family.**

**Donations such as these make it possible for us to provide emergency financial assistance to families in our community. Monetary donations to Parish Services were used to purchase \$2,500 worth of ShopRite gift cards in \$25 denominations which are being distributed to families to supplement the foods available in our food pantry this Easter.**

**Food Pantry needs: Pancake mix, rice, toothpaste & shampoo. Thank you.**

<p><b>Parish Services</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>931-1306</b></span>  <b>Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30AM-12:00PM, 1:00-4:30PM</b>  <b>Pantry Hours: Tuesday &amp; Thursday 1:30-3:30PM</b>  <b>Wednesday &amp; Friday 9:30-11:30AM</b>  <b>Last Saturday of month 9:30-11:30AM—call to confirm date</b></p>
--

**Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us**



**Presider's Schedule for Weekend of April 8th – 9th, 2017**

<b>Presider</b>						
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>



**EAT, DRINK AND BE GIVING**

Saturday, April 22, 2017  
as we dine in honor of

Our Lady of Mercy School

\$45 person  
7:30 to 10:30 PM

All of the proceeds will be donated to  
Our Lady of Mercy School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email or Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of guests that will attend

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend, but would like to donate to this wonderful event and cause.

Amount being donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Please visit our website to purchase your ticket: <http://www.olmevents.org/taste-of-the-town.html>

Or

Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy School and send to:  
Our Lady of Mercy School  
500 South Oyster Bay Road  
Hicksville, NY 11803



Girl Scout Sunday

**THANK YOU GIRLSCOOTS**

Thank you to the many Girl Scouts who attended Girl Scout Sunday. During the Mass, 9 Girl Scouts were awarded the Ave Maria Medal. Congratulations to the following scouts in Troop 3536.

- Nicole Covino
- Erin Carney
- Emma Rose Filbry
- Alexandra Perino
- Emily Anne Faccio
- Isabella Calise
- Keelin Livingston
- Alyssa Lombri
- Xaria Talavera

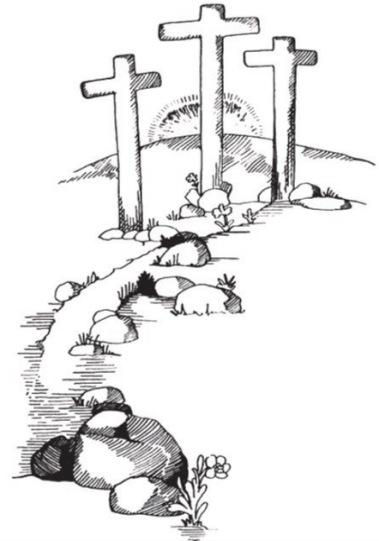
For information on Girl Scouts Religious awards please contact Nancy Heuser at 516/433-1469.

When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving, to be generous, to love others, we instill virtue in their souls and reveal the image of God within them. This, then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness; otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgment-seat?



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish

## Holy Week 2017



### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday, April 10th, 3:00 to 5:00PM and 7:00 to 9:00PM  
 Wednesday, April 12th, 7:00 to 9:00PM

***(Please Note: No Confessions on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday)***

### Palm Sunday

Celebrate with us the start of Holy Week as we recall  
 Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Saturday, April 8th, Upper Church - 4:30PM  
 Confessions - 3:00 to 4:15PM  
 Sunday, April 9th, Masses Upper Church - 7:30, 9:00, 10:30AM  
 12 Noon and 5:30PM

### Morning Prayer

The rich tradition of the Church has as part of its foundation the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. During the Triduum, (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) the Church only allows one Eucharistic celebration per day. Since daily Masses are not allowed on these days many parishes have opted to invite their parishioners to join in praying Morning Prayer which consists of the recitation of psalms and prayers. Please join us on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday for morning prayer in the main church at 9:00 AM.

### Holy Thursday

Morning Prayer 9:00 AM, Church  
 Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 PM, Church  
 Procession with the Blessed Sacrament to Our Lady's Chapel Immediately following Mass  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel till 11:00 PM

### Good Friday

Morning Prayer 9:00 AM Church  
 Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord and Holy Communion 3:00 PM, Church  
 Stations of the Cross 7:30 PM in the Church

### Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer 9:00 AM, Church  
 Blessing of Easter Foods immediately following Morning Prayer (Approx. 9:30 AM)  
 Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

### Easter Sunday

Masses for Easter Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM  
 There will be an additional Mass in Our Lady's Chapel (lower church) at 10:30 AM  
 Mass in Urdu 4:00 Upper Church

**There will be no 5:30 PM Mass on Easter Sunday Evening.**

*Please join us and celebrate God's abundant love for us!  
 A Happy and Blessed Holy Week and Easter to you and your family!*

**Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us**



# SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

*(Tuesday After Memorial Day – Make It An Extra Long Weekend!)*

**OUR LADY MERCY'S  
MSGR. JAMES BOESEL  
MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC**

SPONSORED BY THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY  
GOD BLESS YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR LADY OF MERCY  
PARISH & SCHOOL!

**TOWN OF OYSTER BAY GOLF COURSE  
WOODBURY NEW YORK**

- 9:00 AM REGISTRATION  
9:00 AM BREAKFAST  
9:00 AM DRIVING RANGE OPENS  
9:30 AM PUTTING CONTEST  
11:00 AM SHOTGUN START  
5:00 PM – COCKTAIL HOUR  
6:00 PM CHAMPION FOR LIFE DINNER,
- HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE
  - BARBECUE AT THE TURN
  - IMPRESSIVE RAFFLE PRIZES
  - AND MUCH MORE

**LIMITED NUMBER OF OPENINGS - ACT NOW!**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: OUR LADY OF MERCY R. C. CHURCH  
HOLY NAME SOCIETY - 500 SOUTH OYSTER BAY ROAD, HICKSVILLE, N.Y. 11801  
516.931.4351 • E-MAIL: FINANCE@OLMRCC.COM

**Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for us**



### Why do we genuflect in church?

In medieval Europe, one demonstrated respect for a king or noble by going down on one knee.



Building on that tradition, we bend on the right knee to show reverence for the Lord in the Eucharist when it is on the altar, in the tabernacle, or in the monstrance. (We also genuflect before the cross from Good Friday through the Easter vigil.)

*Note: While the right knee is reserved for Jesus, we genuflect on the left knee before the pope, cardinals, or bishops.*

### Why do we get ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

To ancient Jews, wearing sackcloth and covering themselves or sitting in ashes showed repentance and humility, and acted as a penance. Thus, the early Church adopted the practice of wearing ashes at the start of Lent to show repentance, too.

But as he places the ashes on our foreheads, the priest says, "Remember you are dust and unto dust you will return," to remind us that our time on earth will pass away but our life in Heaven will last forever.

### Why do Catholics give the Sign of Peace during Mass?

The first words Jesus said to his apostles after his Resurrection were, "Peace be with you" (John 20:21). After that their fear disappeared.

By offering each other the Sign of Peace at Mass, we share that peace with the entire Body of Christ.



Jesus also told us to reconcile with one another before approaching the altar of God (Matthew 5:23). Thus, the

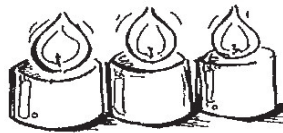
Sign of Peace is a gesture of Reconciliation with those around us before coming to the altar to receive Holy Communion.

### Why do we say "Amen" at the end of some prayers?

In Hebrew, the word "Amen" shares the same root as the word "believe." This root also expresses trustworthiness and faithfulness.

When you read the gospels, you'll see that Jesus sometimes used the word "Amen" twice in a row to emphasize the trustworthiness of his teaching. He wanted his listeners to pay special attention.

So when we say "Amen" at the end of a prayer, we reinforce our faith in what we just said. We also express our confidence that God will hear our prayers.



### Why do we light votive prayer candles in church?

A person can only pray for so long. Lighting a candle serves to prolong that prayer beyond our presence in the church. The candle remains behind and symbolizes the desire for the prayer to continue.

So when we light candles in prayer, our intentions remain present even when we are gone. Next time you pass a candle rack, help prolong others' prayers by offering one for the intentions of the people who lit them.

### Why do priests wear different colored vestments throughout the year?

The colors of the vestments help bring to mind the sacred mysteries we celebrate throughout the liturgical year. Each color highlights a particular aspect of the season or a specific

mystery of the faith.

For example, white and gold symbolize rejoicing and purity of soul. They are worn during Christmas and Easter. Red calls to mind Christ's blood and is worn on Good Friday and to commemorate those saints who were martyred for our faith.

Red also signifies the burning fire of God's love. Thus red vestments are worn on Pentecost.

### Why do we call our priests, "Father"?



According to Our Sunday Visitor Catholic Encyclopedia, those in the early Church who gave special witness to the faith were called "Father." In fact, St. Paul said, "For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (1 Corinthians 4:15-16).

The practice of addressing priests this way was brought to the U.S. in the 19th century by Irish immigrants who called their priests, "Father." Today this title reminds us that we are all united as family under Christ, his Gospel, his Church, and his representatives on earth.

### Why do Catholics baptize babies?

"Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Baptism is the gateway to life in the Spirit, the Church, and the other Sacraments. So it makes sense that it be conveyed as early as possible.

While a child obviously can't consciously choose Baptism, her parents can choose for her. In so doing, they accept for her the priceless gift of becoming a child of God.



**Our Lady of Mercy Church**  
For the Saints in the Pews



# LENT 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).</p>	<p><b>March</b></p>	<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Friday</b></p>
<p>5 After Mass, pick one thing that prevents you from loving God "with all your heart ... soul ... [and] mind" (Matthew 22:37). Resolve to conquer it this Lent.</p>	<p>6 Pick a charity to which you would like to donate and set up a donations jar in your home. Try to fill it by the end of Lent.</p>	<p>7 Make a list of ways to simplify your lifestyle to make more room for God.</p>	<p>8 Improve your spiritual vision: resolve to go the whole day without judging or criticizing anyone.</p>	<p>9 Despite suffering deep losses, St. Frances of Rome trusted God would work things out. Entrust your worries to God, knowing he will take care of them.</p>	<p>10 In today's busy world, older people who have become less active tend to be overlooked. Visit a senior you know, take them out to lunch and just listen.</p>	<p>11 Today, pick one or two things on your to-do list that you've been putting off and do them. Offer them up for your prayer intentions.</p>
<p>12 Offer going to Mass today for someone you know is going through a rough time or facing a difficult challenge.</p>	<p>13 Find an unfamiliar term in the glossary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and read about it until you explain it to someone else.</p>	<p>14 Support your parish's special Lent collections, whether it is the Bishop's Lenten campaign, Operation Rice Bowl or a mission collection.</p>	<p>15 Resolve to say (and think) only positive things about yourself today.</p>	<p>16 Consider making today a day of fasting between meals. When you feel tempted to snack, remind yourself of those for whom hunger isn't a choice.</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day – St. Patrick was influential in evangelizing Ireland. In his honor, evangelize by wearing a sign of your faith.</p>	<p>18 Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, taught to St. Faustina to help repair the hurt caused by sin. Find it at <a href="http://www.usccb.org">www.usccb.org</a>.</p>
<p>19 After Mass today, go out for coffee or breakfast with other parishioners from your parish.</p>	<p>20 St. Joseph was a man of action; what God said, he did. Resolve today to fulfill your responsibilities without complaining.</p>	<p>21 Deny yourself something you would like to buy. Give the money you have saved to the poor.</p>	<p>22 Read today's Gospel reading, Matthew 5:17-19. Write down two things you learned and keep it with you throughout the day.</p>	<p>23 Spread joy. Smile at everyone you meet, regardless of how you feel.</p>	<p>24 Attend a Stations of the Cross service if your parish offers one. If not, find them here: <a href="http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/devotionals/stations-of-the-cross/">www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/devotionals/stations-of-the-cross/</a></p>	<p>25 "Yes" to God, when she agreed to become the mother of Jesus. Pray for the courage to respond faithfully to whatever God asks.</p>
<p>26 <i>Laetare Sunday!</i> Make today special. Invite friends and neighbors over for a potluck brunch to celebrate the midpoint of Lent.</p>	<p>27 Take stock of your Lenten sacrifices and renew your commitment to them.</p>	<p>28 Do a thorough Examination of Conscience, using the Ten Commandments and the eight beatitudes as a guide.</p>	<p>29 Browse a Catholic bookshop and find a good book to read during the rest of Lent.</p>	<p>30 Clean your closet of clothes you no longer need. Donate gently used items that you no longer wear to charity.</p>	<p>31 Observe a reverential silence from noon to 3pm out of respect for the three hours Jesus hung on the Cross.</p>	<p><b>April 1</b> Attend a Reconciliation Service or go to Confession on your own. Make a sincere confession and experience God's forgiveness.</p>
<p>2 Read one of the seven penitential psalms (Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143) each day this week.</p>	<p>3 Pick a day this week and attend daily Mass. It may mean getting up earlier than usual, but it will be worth it.</p>	<p>4 Lent is a stressful time of year for priests. Offer to perform some act of service for your parish. Ask at the rectory for suggestions.</p>	<p>5 Instead of focusing on unanswered prayers, recall what God has already done for us. Make a list of all you're grateful for; it comes from God.</p>	<p>6 Fill a small Easter basket with treats and give to a friend. If appropriate, include a prayer card, a rosary, a religious book.</p>	<p>7 Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, waits for us in the tabernacle of every Catholic church. Make time to visit with him, if only for a little while.</p>	<p>8 Start spring cleaning for Easter. Vacuum, dust, and straighten the rooms of the house you use the most to prepare for Jesus' resurrection.</p>
<p>9 Today's Gospel narrates the important events of Holy Week. Place yourself in the scene and "walk through" Holy Week with our Lord.</p>	<p>10 Tonight and every night this week, say an extra prayer for those entering the Church this Holy Saturday</p>	<p>11 Take a walk and look for signs of new life.</p>	<p>12 Try to read an entire Gospel in one sitting.</p>	<p>13 Holy Thursday celebrates the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood. Celebrate by going to church tonight.</p>	<p>14 Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Read and compare all four Gospel accounts of the passion and death of Jesus.</p>	<p>15 Our Lenten sacrifices end with Lent, but our efforts to seek God don't have to. Pick an "Easter challenge" to continue to help grow closer to God.</p>





**SUPER BONANZA WINNERS 2016  
OUR LADY OF MERCY**



We are pleased to announce the following winners:

April 2, - \$25.00	Nancy Bollmann	Bethpage
April 3, - \$25.00	M/M Doug King	Bethpage
April 4, - \$25.00	Teresa Mirando	Plainview
April 5, - \$25.00	Magdalen Knehr	Baldwin
April 6, - \$25.00	M/M D. Flornce	Southport NC
April 7, - \$25.00	M/M R. Herder	Plainview
April 8, - \$25.00	Robert Paul	Plainview

**Congratulations to the winners, your ticket has been returned to the drum, and you have many more opportunities to win. Checks are being mailed to our winners this week**

**SUPER BONANZA CONTINUES FOR 2017**

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH  
800 SOUTH OYSTER BAY ROAD  
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801-3501  
TEL. NO: (516) 831-4351  
FAX: (516) 433-8702

**NEW SUPER BONANZA RAFFLE REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

TO REGISTER, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH A \$25.00 DONATION

FIRST DRAWING JANUARY 1ST, 2017

**If you need more cards you can find them in the plastic racks in the Church or you can pick them up in the Rectory. Thank you and Good Luck.**

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH  
800 SOUTH OYSTER BAY ROAD  
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801-3501  
TEL. NO: (516) 831-4351  
FAX: (516) 433-8702

**NEW SUPER BONANZA!!**

*A Gift for you... Congratulations!*

*has been enrolled in our*

*Super Bonanza by*

PRIZES AWARDED DAILY FROM JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> 2017

Daily.....	\$25.00	July 4 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$500.00
Monthly.....	\$100.00	Thanksgiving Day.....	\$500.00
January 1 <sup>st</sup> .....	\$500.00	Christmas Day.....	\$750.00
Feast of Our Lady of Mercy.....	\$800.00		

You can win 382 times! Winners will be posted weekly in our Parish Bulletin.

**WE WANT YOUR BOXTOPS!!**

Our Lady of Mercy School collects Box Tops year round to help support our education needs. We Thank you for your support. Collection bins are in the church for you to conveniently drop off your box tops when you come to mass. Please continue to bring in your box tops from the products you use at home or office. We appreciate your continued support for our school! Please keep them coming. For more information visit:

[www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) **THANK YOU!**



**EUCHARIST MINISTERS NEEDED**

We are in need of more Eucharistic Ministers especially for the Home Bound, Nursing Home and Hospital visits. It is necessary to take a course offered by the Diocese prior to participating in this Ministry.

If you are interested in becoming a Minister, please write a letter to Father Steve expressing your interest in this ministry. You will be contacted about your request and given further information.

If you are already serving as an EM on Saturday or Sunday Masses, please consider taking this course, so you can serve our elderly at home, in the nursing home or in the Hospital.



**JOHN THOMAS BAKE SALE**

**SPONSORED BY THE ANGELS OF MERCY**



**SATURDAY APRIL 22 & SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2017**

**SATURDAY @ 3:30 pm & AFTER 4:30pm MASS**

**SUNDAY @ 7:00am & AFTER ALL MASSESS TILL 1:30pm**

**THERE WILL BE >>>> A RAFFLE PRIZE & 50/50**

THERE WILL BE BAGELS / CAKES/ COOKIES AND SO MUCH MORE FOR PURCHASE. HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE SIT AND HAVE A BITE TO EAT WHILE MINGLING WITH MANY OF THE PARISH FAMILIES THAT WILL BE THERE!! WE PROMISE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME, WHILE SUPPORTING OUR ANGELS AND OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH.



WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US & GOD BLESS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN**

**OR CALL ~ ANGELA MANZI 938-8106**

**CAROL LEONE ~ 433-2653**



**OUR LADY OF MERCY MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION**

MANY OF OUR PARISH WOMEN AND MEN ARE PART OF THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY, TO HELP FAMILIES DURING THEIR TIME OF LOSS. TO BE THERE TO OFFER SUPPORT TO FAMILIES IN SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS WE FACE IN LIFE.

IF YOU HAVE READ THE LETTER FROM FATHER STEVE IN THE BULLETIN YOU WILL ALSO KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MINISTRY MEANS TO SO MANY FAMILIES AND HOW APPRECIATIVE THEY ARE FOR OUR SUPPORT.

WE INVITE YOU ALL TO BE PART OF THIS MINISTRY..

YOU DON'T NEED ANY EXPERIENCE EXCEPT A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.

THIS MINISTRY IS OPENED TO ANYONE IN OUR PARISH. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PART OF ANY OTHER GROUP OR MINISTRY TO SUPPORT THESE FAMILIES.

WHAT ROLES ARE NEEDED FOR THIS MINISTRY IS:

- 1 - WOMEN & MEN WHO CAN ACT AS USHERS & GREETERS.
- 2 - EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - "PARISH MINISTRY REQUIRED".
- 3 - LECTORS AT TIMES.
- 4 - ALTERS SERVERS.
- 5 - HOSPITALITY & CAKE BAKERS.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT ME AT THE NUMBER BELOW



THANK-YOU & MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!!

ANGELA MANZI (COORDINATOR MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION)

(516) 938-8106

**Our Lady of Mercy CYO Track**

**2017 SPRING REGISTRATION**

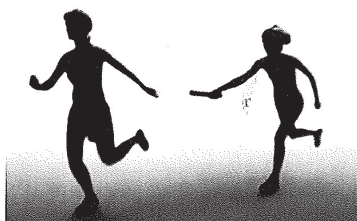
The mission of the Our Lady of Mercy CYO Track Program, located in Hicksville, is to provide a fun, relaxed environment where boys and girls, kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, can learn the basics of track and field while also developing sportsmanship and teamwork skills. No experience required.

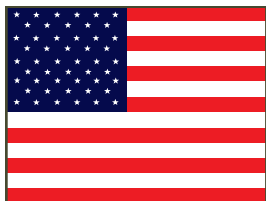
The 2017 Season runs from April-June. Track meets are held outdoors on weekends at fields throughout Nassau and Suffolk. All athletes competing in meets will receive medals and/or ribbons. At the conclusion of the season we will have a small celebration.

To register your child, contact Director Gynni Farrell at:

ourladyofmercytrack@gmail.com

Deadline to register is April 20th





**PRAYER FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

*As we live daily enjoying the freedom of this country, many loved ones are giving themselves with unselfish love in places of perilous action. Lord, hold in your loving hands our troops and all those who try to respond to the needs of the less fortunate throughout the world. Bless them and their families for the unselfish acts they perform as they attempt to alleviate many global concerns. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. AMEN.  
(follow with Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)*

**SUPERMARKET GIFT CERTIFICATES  
Thank You!**

**To All Parishioners: GIFT CERTIFICATES** may be purchased in the rectory during the week at regular office hours. Sales this past week were \$.00, of this the Parish earned \$, **If you do not use supermarket dollars, please give it a try! Ask those who use it, how convenient it is!**

**Unclaimed Supermarket Gift Ticket**  
as of: 4-3-2017

8016                      4/3/17\*  
Won by:                      \*



**Helping the Poor  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Our Lady of Mercy Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's sole purpose is to help the poor of our community. Every dollar received goes toward help for those in need, there are no administrative expenses, all members of the conference are volunteers. Currently, poor box and candle contributions are used to support our efforts. Please consider a gift to our conference so that we may continue to provide support to those in need.

Make checks payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and mail them to the Rectory or deposit them in separate envelopes in the collection baskets at Mass.

If you, or someone you know, needs assistance please contact us at (516) 931-4351, X 326. All contact with St. Vincent de Paul is held in strict confidence. Thank you.

## Organizations

### Music Ministries

**OLM Adult Chamber Choir:** Meets Tuesday afternoons at 5:00 to 6:30 PM in the Upper Church.

**OLM Children's Choir:** Meets Wednesday afternoons at 2:45-3:30 PM in the School Music Room.

**OLM Folk Group:** Meets Sundays after the 9:00 AM Mass in the Lower Church.

**OLM Rock Group:** Meets Monday evenings at 8-10 PM in the Upper Church.

### Parish Organizations

**Angels of Mercy:** Meet on every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in Our Lady's Chapel with refreshments served. Corporate Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:00 AM for more information please e-mail, [JUSTKKAUZE@AOL.COM](mailto:JUSTKKAUZE@AOL.COM) or call Angela Manzi at 938-8106

**Hicksville/OLM Senior Club:** Meets on Mondays 11:00AM-3 PM at the Bethpage Senior Center. For information contact Joan at 938-4261.

**Holy Name Society:** Corporate Mass and Communion on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 AM Mass. Membership meetings on the following Monday at 7:30 PM in the Lower Church Meeting Room. Phone: (516)405-OHNS(0467). Email: [olmholyname@aol.com](mailto:olmholyname@aol.com) Web: [www.olmholyname.org](http://www.olmholyname.org)

**Knights of Columbus: The Our Lady of Mercy Joseph F. Lamb Council # 5723 Knights of Columbus** meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM in the School Cafeteria. For information contact Jim Raber, Grand Knight, at 516/695-1022, or Kevin McAvoy, Deputy Grand Knight at 516/996-3489

**Legion of Mary:** Meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM in the Lower Church. First Saturday **Fatima Devotions:** 7:40 AM.

**Nocturnal Adoration:** First Friday of the Month - 8 to 9 PM (Exposition & Group Prayer and /or 9 PM to 10 PM (Silent Prayer and Benediction) in Our Lady's Chapel.

**OLM Ushers:** If interested in becoming an Usher, please contact Jim Decker at 516/933-8143 or email at [jimdecker@verizon.net](mailto:jimdecker@verizon.net)

**OLM Prayer Group:** Meets every Tuesday night 7:30 PM in Lower Church Contact Maureen Decker 516/933-8143

**OLM Youth Council for Parish Sport.** Contact Chris Fox at [cfox411@icloud.com](mailto:cfox411@icloud.com)

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Contact the Rectory for information (931-4351 X 326).

**The Men of St. Joseph:** Meets every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in Lower Church Meeting Room.

**Thrift Boutique:** Mon-Sat 9:30 AM — 1:00 PM located in The Trailer Building

### Support Groups

#### Alcoholics Anonymous Groups

##### First Things First:

Open Meeting every Friday: 8:00-9:00 PM in the Convent Basement.

Closed Meeting every Sunday: 7:00-8:00 PM in the Convent Basement.

##### Our Own Group:

Closed Meeting every Monday: 4:30-5:30 PM in the Convent Basement.

Step Meeting every Thursday: 4:30-5:30 PM in the Convent Basement.

##### Al-Anon:

Adult Children meet on Friday evenings: 7:30-10:00 PM in the School Cafeteria.

##### Emotions Anonymous:

Meets on Thursdays at 8-10 PM in the Convent Basement.

##### Families Anonymous:

Meets on Wednesdays at 7:30-9:30 PM. Convent Basement.

