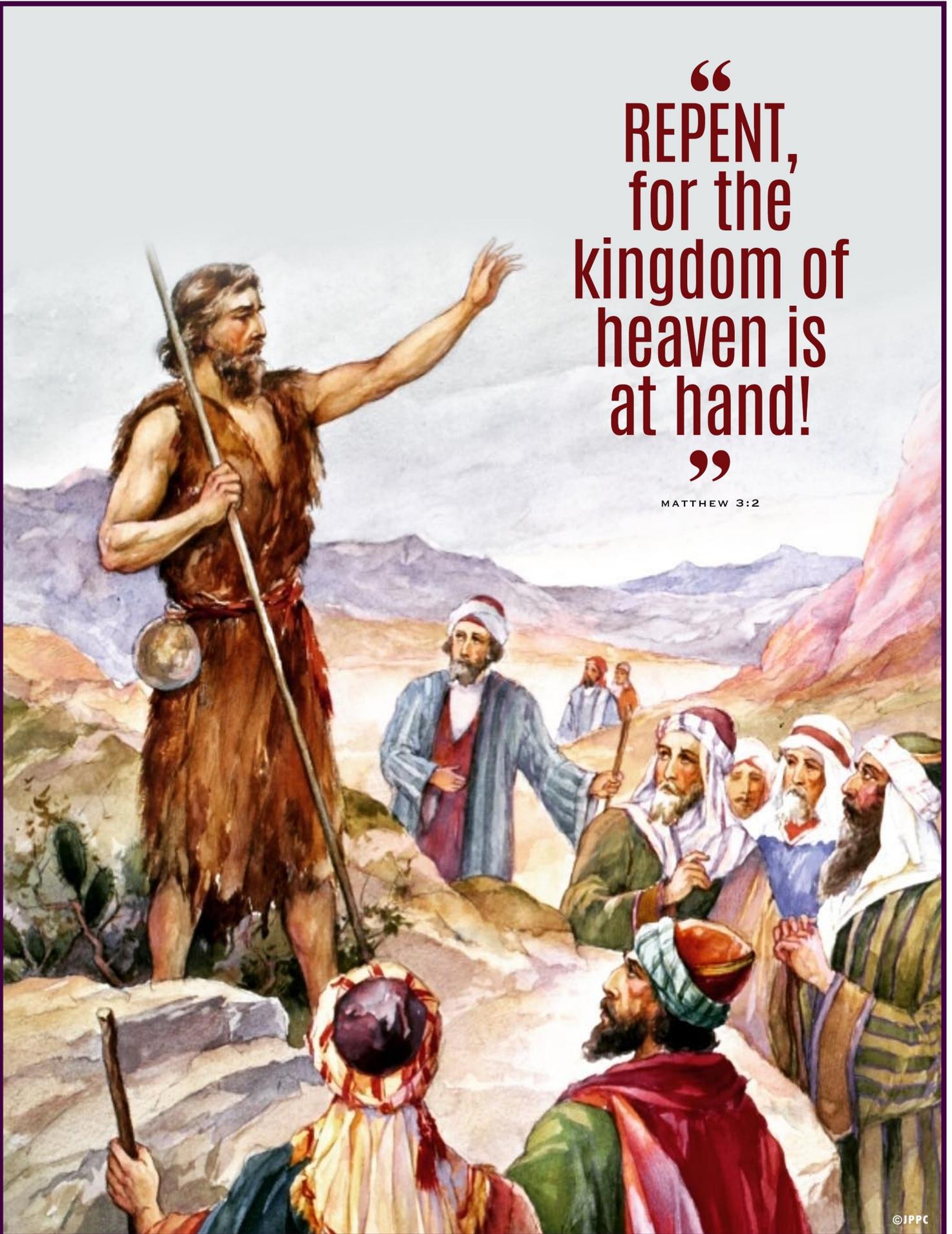


“  
REPENT,  
for the  
kingdom of  
heaven is  
at hand!  
”

MATTHEW 3:2





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# *Mass Intentions* for the Week

©JPPC

## **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 8, 2019**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

*Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Advent*  
 4:00PM Isabelle & Nickolas Ruggiero—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00 AM Laurea & Leo Hackett—Memorial

10:30AM Frank Chase—Memorial

5:00PM Jackie Picchione—Memorial

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9**

*The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM*

7:30AM Rita McGoff—Memorial

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

*Advent Weekday*

7:30AM Margaret B. Devlin—44th Anniversary

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

*Advent Weekday; St. Damasus I, Pope*

7:30AM Theresa Pearson—12th Anniversary

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

7:30AM Hak-Jin Pyun—Memorial

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

*St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

*St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

8:30AM Arpemio Manansala, Jr—Memorial

*Mass of Anticipation for 3rd Sunday of Advent*

4:00PM Lorraine Kane—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Peter & Gloria Monti—Memorial

9:00 AM Joyce Honour—4th Anniversary

10:30AM Kate Bedard—10th Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

We continue the Season of Advent and with it our prayerful and joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ. It is a time for us to be more patient, more prayerful, more charitable and more hopeful.

As we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas this year, let's live Advent well and remember why we're supposed to be joyful and hopeful. In the end, Christmas is not about the gifts, the carols or the parties, as joyful as these might be for us. Christmas is about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who brings meaning and hope to a world that needs redemption. In Christ, and only in Him, is our hope

Last week Pope Francis visited the town of Greccio, Italy. It is the site of the first Nativity Scene, first instituted by St. Francis of Assisi. While there the Holy Father offered a brief reflection in which he called on the faithful to be like Mary and to let Jesus transform us and our ways of thinking. He said: *"Let us identify ourselves with Mary, who places her Son in the manger, because there was no room in a house. With Her and with Saint Joseph, her husband, we have our gaze turned to the Child Jesus."*

Also while there, the Holy Father signed and issued a wonderful Apostolic Letter on the Nativity Scene, entitled *Admirabile Signum*, meaning "A Wonderful Sign" in Latin. In the letter, the Pontiff encourages all people to set up the nativity at home as a family, but also to set them up in schools, workplaces, hospitals, prisons and town squares. We know that it is now

legally prohibited to put up the crèche at government buildings, so all the more reason for us to be sure to set up a nativity in our homes, on our front lawns and at our own businesses for all the world to see what we celebrate at Christmas!

I recommend reading the Holy Father's letter about the tradition of St. Francis and the nativity and its importance for our faith. It is a beautiful reflection on the meaning of the crèche. In it, Pope Francis reminds us: *"In front of the crib we discover how important it is for our life, so often frenetic, to find moments of silence and prayer — the silence to behold the beauty of the face of the Baby Jesus, the Son of God, born in a lowly stable."*

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent which is also known as *Bambinelli* Sunday. It was St. Pope John Paul II who first began a tradition of inviting the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home and then the Pontiff would bless the images of the baby Jesus.

It is a beautiful Advent tradition, one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous and hopeful event. The tradition continues in Rome with Pope Francis, and we also mark the *Bambinelli* Blessing at OLM next weekend.

We ask all parishioners to bring the baby Jesus figurine from the manger scene in their home to Mass next weekend. At

the end of Mass, the blessing of these sacred images of Jesus is offered as they are held aloft in the Church. *"May the Infant Jesus, present in the Crib of your home, be the concrete sign of a clear and sincere faith, which will enlighten, guide and direct your life and that of your dear ones."*

While this Sunday is December 8th, it is also the Second Sunday of Advent. So the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been moved to Monday, December 9th and is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Therefore, there is only the 7:30am Mass on Monday, but I invite you to attend as we honor our parish patroness during this Advent Season.

Again I offer my sincere thanks to those parishioners who have been so generous in supporting the Our Faith, Our Future Campaign. We are over the \$1 Million mark and moving towards our final goal. It can only happen if every parish family makes a sacrificial pledge over four years in support of this vital effort for our parish. Thank you for your support.

This week I am away on retreat at St. Joseph's Trappist Monastery in Spencer, MA. I ask for your prayers during this time as I also pray for you and your intentions. Have a Blessed Advent, prepare the way! Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats! *Oremus pro invicem!*

*Father Healey*



**How Much Did Mary Know**

To summarize what we know from scripture Mary knew: (1) what she heard from Gabriel at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38), (2) what the angel told Joseph in his dream, presumably (Matthew 1:18–25); (3) what Elizabeth told Mary by the Holy Spirit at the Visitation (Luke 1:39–56); (4) what Gabriel told Zechariah about his own son John, (Luke 1:5–23); (5) what the shepherds told Mary at the Nativity they heard from the heavenly host (Luke 2:8–20); and (6) what Simeon and Anna told Mary at the Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–38). We read: “[She] pondered what sort of greeting this might be.” This is a key theme for Mary’s life: pondering deeply the message of the Angel, the message of God, the Word of God.

We have a song called “Mary did you know,” and it asks whether Mary knew everything that would take place. For instance the song asks if Mary knew that “[her] Baby Boy would one day walk on water?” Did Mary know that Jesus would perform miracles? Being a pious Jew she knew the prophecies. She knew that the Messiah would perform healing miracles: cure the blind, heal the sick, have dominion over the powers of nature. All Jews knew this and it is why when Jesus started doing these things Peter said: “you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

The song asks: “Did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?” Mary knew from the revelation of the angel that Jesus would be the Messiah, the incarnate God, the savior of the world who would die for our sins. The angel told her: “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High...” Elizabeth greeted her with “the mother of my Lord” which refers to Jesus’ divinity. She also knew the Suffering Servant prophecy of Isaiah: “But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep. Like a lamb led to slaughter...” Finally Simeon told her: “and you yourself a sword will pierce,” to indicate the sorrow she would bear at his crucifixion.

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ and the best person to imitate is Mary; to ponder in our hearts what this all means and so when Christmas day arrives, to truly understand what takes place; the incarnation, the coming of God in the flesh for the salvation of the world.



*Weekly Collection*

**November 24, 2019**

Weekly.....	\$10,757.00
EFT.....	\$2,495.00
	<b>Total=\$13,252.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$453.00
CCHD.....	\$2,886.00

**December 1, 2018**

Weekly.....	\$19,386.00
EFT.....	\$1,772.00
	<b>Total=\$21,158.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$6,187.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$3,246.00
Annual (to date).....	\$90,087.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

**Thank You for Your Support!  
May God Bless Your Generosity!**

**Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.**

**Second Collections  
This Week: Retired Religious Collection**



**Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000  
Pledged To Date=\$1,140,907**

**Total Number of OLM Parishioners=2,120  
Total Number of Pledges=262  
Average Pledge=\$4,356**

The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated this week in memory of *Kevin Durnin*. In your charity, please remember him in your prayers.



Religious Education  
NEWS

- **Sunday, December 8th:** All RE Classes meet as scheduled.
- **Sunday, December 15th:** Only Grades 1 and 2 have morning class. Grades 3-5 do NOT have morning classes as they are to make their Advent Confession at 6:00pm that evening. Please report to the school for an Advent Meditation and then we will go to the church for Confession. Parents should plan on picking up their Grade 3-5 children after 6:30. Grades 6-8 will make their Confessions during the regular class time.

*St. Andrew  
Christmas Novena Prayer*

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

*Amen.*




Outreach  
Update

- **OLM Bereavement Group meets Thursday, December 19th at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those experiencing grief or loss are welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and support. • **This is the Christmas Support Group Meeting please RSVP to Doug at 884-4410 if you are planning to attend.** • **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org



- **Tuesday, December 10:** School Mass at 8:15am; Report Cards to be distributed
- **Wednesday, December 11:** OLM School Band Winter Concert at 8:25am for students and at 7pm for school parents and families
- **Thursday, December 12:** 4th and 5th grade field trip to The Nutcracker
- **Friday, December 13:** Annual School Christmas Pageant at 6pm in Church
- **Volunteers needed:** Any parishioners interested in judging our OLM Middle School Science Fair on January 16, 2020 please contact Dr. Deb Husak at dhusak@olmschool.org We are in need of those with a background in the sciences.

[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)

*Striving to be Saints & Scholars!*



We offer our prayerful condolences to the families of **Teresa Romano, Barbara Shanno and Alfred J. Incera** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated at OLM last week.



PREPARE  
A WAY FOR THE LORD  
LUKE 3:4

# 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A



**A**s we celebrate this second Sunday of the new liturgical year, we note that this is an A year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. In A years, we concentrate on the Gospel of Matthew. In B years, we read Mark, and in C years, we delve into Luke.

Matthew was a Jewish Christian writing for a similar audience. His Gospel emphasizes Jesus as promised Messiah, is filled with references to Jewish life, and is even divided into five sections reflecting the Pentateuch of Moses.

Matthew's Gospel is always listed first because it used to be believed that it was the first of the four Gospels to be written. Scholars now know that Mark's was earlier and that Matthew probably used it as his primary source.

It is from Matthew's Gospel that we get our familiar forms of the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer.



*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*



## OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23**

6:00PM - 8:00PM · Two priests available

### *Christmas Mass Schedule*

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00PM

Concert of Christmas Music at 11:30PM

Mass of Christmas Night at 12:00AM Midnight

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Masses of Christmas Day at 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 10:30AM

*No 5:00PM Mass on Christmas Day*

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

#### *New Year's Eve*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

Vigil Mass at 4:00PM

#### *New Year's Day*

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020**

Masses at 8:30AM and Noon

