



"FOR ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE HIDDEN THESE
THINGS FROM THE WISE AND THE LEARNED
YOU HAVE REVEALED THEM TO LITTLE ONES."

MATTHEW 11:25



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THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 5, 2020

SATURDAY, JULY 4—INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mass of Anticipation for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00PM Mary & James Winsper—Memorial

SUNDAY, JULY 5

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM Thomas J. Brescia—8th Anniversary
10:30AM Raoul Roberts—5th Anniversary

MONDAY, JULY 6

Weekday; St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr
7:30AM Thomas J. Brescia—8th Anniversary

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Weekday
7:30AM Fr. Matthew J. Strumski—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Weekday
7:30AM Patricia Gosselin—Memorial

THURSDAY, JULY 9

Weekday; St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest & Companions, Martyrs
7:30AM Carmine DiChiaro—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Weekday
7:30AM Joseph Di Stefano—12th Anniversary

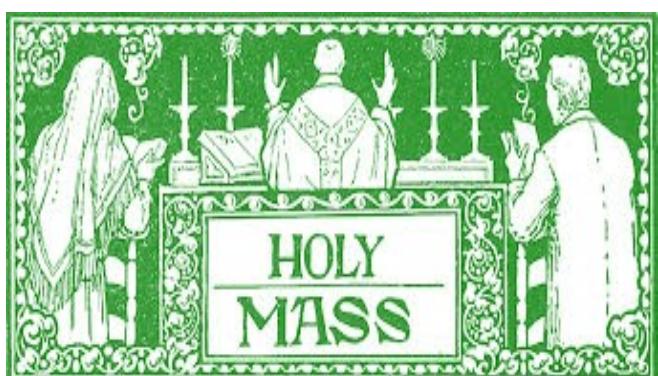
SATURDAY, JULY 11

St. Benedict, Abbott
8:30AM Ann Serapiglia—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00PM William & Margaret Ahern—Memorial

SUNDAY, JULY 12

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM Jean Ingraham—3rd Anniversary
10:30AM Alice Filippi Bleuze—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

We celebrate our national holiday of the Fourth of July as we mark our independence from the British Imperial Empire. It is customarily a day for all Americans to joyfully celebrate with family and friends. Typically there are picnics and cookouts, trips to the beach, and in the night, beautiful displays of fireworks.

Sadly our celebration is very muted this year due to several factors. First, we are still amid the COVID 19 Pandemic. The restrictions on our gatherings and activities have limited our celebrations.

In many places, parades and fireworks are called off. Families cannot travel, and the number of people allowed to gather at festivities is limited. This situation certainly dampens the spirit of celebration, usually associated with Independence Day.

Our world continues to deal with this plague of the Coronavirus, and we continue to pray for it to end. Many still suffer from the virus, and many are even dying from it. Perhaps then our celebrations should be a bit muted and restrained this year.

I believe this holiday is overshadowed this year not only by the pandemic but by the great spirit of unrest and unease across our nation. In the last weeks, we've witnessed the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. With this terrible event, we began to see peaceful protests that turned into violent and destructive riots very quickly.

Over the last weeks, heated discussions about racism, inequality, poverty, and injustice

have filled our nation. The proper role of the police and the justice system has been attacked and questioned.

We've also seen statues toppled and destroyed. Historical figures like Christopher Columbus, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln, once esteemed and revered for their accomplishments and leadership, face new scrutiny and ridicule.

As I reflect upon what has taken place over the last month, it gives me great pause and at times real sadness. Vitriolic attacks and rash judgments now replace all thoughtful debate and civil discourse. Many in our nation are tragically growing intolerant of any rational disagreement or reasoned dialogue.

It is helpful to pray in times such as these. We must turn to the Lord in prayer in times of trouble and seek his guidance. It is also vital that all of us, no matter our personal opinion, carefully and prayerfully reflect upon the current situation of our nation as Catholic disciples.

I recently reread the U.S. Bishop's 1979 Letter on Racism. It reminds us to work to combat the evil of racism. They state: *"To the extent that racial bias affects our personal attitudes and judgments, to the extent that we allow another's race to influence our relationship and limit our openness, - to that extent we are called to conversion and renewal in love and justice."*

We must pray in solidarity for all those hurt and pained by racism. We must also work for the conversion from

this grave sin of racism in our lives, community and nation.

I also pray for the police. Theirs is a difficult job, that is now more challenging in light of recent events. The vast majority of police officers are honest and decent people. Are reforms needed? I'm sure there are some required; what institution doesn't need to reevaluate and reform itself.

However, some of the attacks on police and the call to defund the police are callous and reckless. As a Police Chaplain, I know many officers personally. They are kind, hard-working, and just men and women. I am proud to know them.

Over eighty years ago, my late Grandfather, Providence Police Patrolman Michael Devlin, was killed in the line of duty. Much has changed for the better in our nation since his death. Sadly some things have not changed. Racism, hatred, inequality, and injustice remain. So do poverty, ignorance, violence, and crime.

However, we know that even in the face of sin and evil, virtuous men and women always arise to do good. God guides us to be His instruments of faith, hope, and charity in a world in great need of these virtues. Love and truth unite. Sin and evil divide. Pray that our nation might unite in love and truth. Happy Independence Day! God Bless America! Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good! God Bless. *Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!*

Father Healey

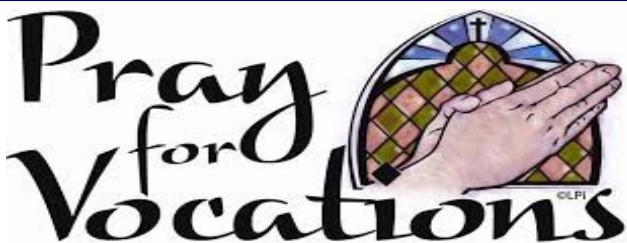
Ask Father

What is Iconoclasm?

Iconoclasm pops up throughout history in many different forms. Well before our current iconoclasm involving the removal of statues and the multiplicity of pronouns, in the 8th and 9th centuries the Eastern part of the Catholic Church experienced its own iconoclasm. Iconoclasm, properly speaking, is a heresy that rejects as superstition the use of religious images and advocates their destruction. Generally speaking, the term may also refer to the destruction of images, music, literature, and culture deemed offensive or "sacrilegious." In the 8th and 9th centuries, Iconoclasm began with the order of the Eastern Roman Emperor. Images, statues, and shrines were destroyed. Monasteries were destroyed, monks put to death, tortured, or banished. At the Second Council of Nicaea, the council fathers declared that images may be lawfully displayed and venerated. The respect shown to them is really given to the person they represent rather than the object itself.

Iconoclasms in various forms and degrees would appear in subsequent years (notably with the Protestant Reformation). The greatest proof against the Iconoclast heresy is the Incarnation itself. As at the beginning of Creation, God's taking to Himself human nature, declares the created world "good."

Every heresy begins with good intentions. Iconoclasm intends to combat idolatry. Unfortunately, the logic of iconoclasm begins with an implicit denial of the goodness of some part of creation or the material world. Such logic may lead to the denial of many important parts of the faith such as the intercession of the saints, the importance of prayer, the necessity of the sacraments, and the reality of the Incarnation. Iconoclasm is a dangerous heresy because, as history shows, it quickly becomes destructive. In 1821 the German poet, Heinrich Heine wrote: "Where they burn books, they will, in the end, burn people too." George Orwell's *1984* dystopia paints a more dire picture: "Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right." Iconoclasm rears its head throughout history and with each appearance we remember the words in the book of Genesis: "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good."



Weekly Collection

**Due to Holiday Print Deadline
collection results are unavailable.**

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



Thank you for your contribution - big and small!



OLM Parish Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00am –4:00pm

**Closed on Fridays during
June, July & August**

Due to Covid-19 safeguards, public admittance to the OLM Parish Office is limited. Please call ahead for Mass cards and spiritual bouquets. Thank You.



Outreach Update

- OLM Food Pantry is in urgent need of food and paper goods for many members of our local community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. *Thank you for your support!*
- If you are need of food or financial assistance please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 (leave a message if not in) or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



OLM School Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00am— 1:00 pm

Telephone: 401-884-1618

www.olmschool.org

*Striving to be
Saints & Scholars!*

(6 feet apart of course)



Confessions at OLM

Mondays: 6:00PM—6:45PM

Confessions on Saturdays have been suspended until further notice to allow for Church cleaning and sanitizing.

For Confession by appointment please call the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 to contact a priest to schedule an appointment.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain. The power of pray is tremendous and many successful results have been reported back. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain as a caller, or simply as one who prays for others and their intentions, please call Mary Hart at 884-5629 or email directly at 2hart@cox.net. If you know someone in need of prayers due to illness, infirmity, surgery, hospitalization or any serious reason please call us!

The power of prayer at work!



**PRAY
For America**

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Happy
the nation
whose God
is the Lord,
the people
chosen as his
very own.**

PSALM 33:12



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