

*Happy
Columbus Day*





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**THE TWENTY-EIGHTTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 OCTOBER 11, 2020**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Mass of Anticipation for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM John "Jack" Headley—Memorial

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Charles McGowan—Memorial
 9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 10:30AM Bishop William A. Hickey—87th Anniversary

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12—COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

Weekday
 8:30AM Hak-Jin Pyun—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Weekday
 7:30AM Jane Daly—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Weekday; St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr
 7:30AM Fr. Donald J. Bouessa—2nd Anniversary

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Maria DiChiaro—18th Anniversary

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Weekday; St. Hedwig, Religious: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
 7:30AM Dr. Samuel J. Ianancone—38th Anniversary

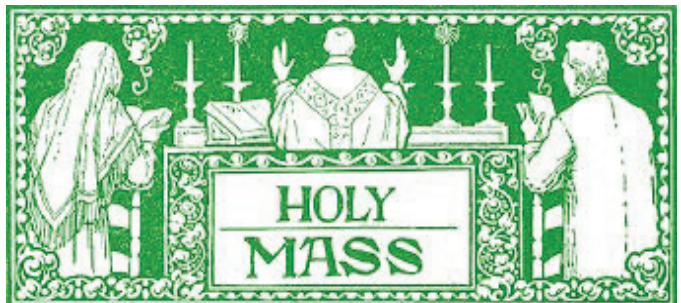
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr
 8:30AM Fr. John J. Rainone—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM Jeanne Scott—2nd Anniversary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 10:30AM Andrew Rockett—2nd Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

In the bulletin today, you will find an abbreviated copy of the Annual Parish Financial Report for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. In September, our parish auditors and parish finance council reviewed the report. The parish trustees approved it, and it's been duly sent to Bishop Tobin.

It reports that our parish budget revenue declined \$86,500, which is about 11% of our annual budget revenue. From March 15 through June 30, the weekly collection fell over \$50,000. This decline is directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. It also reports that we've reduced our expenses by \$98,000.

Our parish school report shows a loss of \$60,000 due partly from the lost revenue from the extended day program due to the closing of school during the lockdown. As a result of the COVID-19 Crisis, we also had to cancel the school's chief fundraiser, the Annual OLM School Spring Fling. This fundraiser annually raises nearly \$100,000 for the school.

Thankfully, we could participate in the Paycheck Protection Program when the Trump Administration allowed non-profits and church organizations to seek this assistance. We received a \$120,000 loan for the Church and a \$281,000 loan for the school.

These PPP loans are only to cover the expense of payroll, pension, medical and utility costs. They are listed on the balance sheet as liabilities as of

June 30. We intend to seek forgiveness for these loans, and we are currently in the process of completing the required application.

Our weekly budget is decreasing, but I am optimistic that the more people returning to weekly Mass will help stem this loss. We are thankful for those parishioners who continue to support the parish. Also, we thank the additional fifty parish families who signed up for online giving. In a parish of some 2,000 registered families, only about 500 regularly contribute to the parish.

The good news is that our faithful parishioners continue to support OLM generously. Over \$50,000 was raised for the school by the recent raffle. These funds help tremendously with our increased expenses and health and safety upgrades for the school.

I am grateful to the many families who have so generously responded to the Annual Parish Collection. As of this week, we have raised just over \$50,000. Annually we raise over \$100,000 for this vital collection. I am confident that we will reach that amount with your generosity and support once again this year.

Please take the report home and review it. If you have questions or concerns, please contact either myself or our OLM Business Manager, David Cote. I offer my thanks to David for his expert assistance in preparing these reports and managing the parish and school. I also wish to thank our parish auditors, finance council, and trustees for their support and invaluable input and advice on fiscal matters.

The report highlights that fewer people practice the Faith, and thus fewer people financially support the parish. Meanwhile, our maintenance costs, along with insurance, utilities, and other fixed expenses, continue to rise. Therefore I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the Faith and your continued weekly support of the parish.

Moving forward amid the Pandemic, I remain hopeful that more people may return to the regular practice of their Catholic Faith. We've added the 9:00am Mass to our weekend schedule, and I encourage those who can safely attend to please join us for weekly Mass.

On Monday we celebrate Columbus Day. It is a holiday that has become controversial for some people. Many suggest he is not worthy of such an honor, and his statues have been attacked and removed. There is much misunderstanding about the historical record of Columbus.

I encourage you to read a new book, *Columbus and the Crisis of the West* by Robert Royal. It reveals the scholarly truth about Christopher Columbus. Royal, the director of the Faith and Reason Institute, also wrote the excellent book *1492 and All That*. It, too, is worth a read to learn more about Columbus. Happy Columbus Day!

Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good! God Bless. Go Pats!!!! See you at Monday Devotions!

Ask Father

Does a person always have to follow their conscience?

The short answer to this question is: yes, but with some qualification. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1778: "Conscience is a judgment [emphasis added] of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is performing, or has already completed." Another way to understand the conscience is as an act of applying our knowledge of good and evil to what we do or will do. A person must always follow his or her conscience. The Vatican Council II document *Dignitatis humanae* states: "He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters... [if he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself]." A person would sin when acting against his conscience.

Properly speaking, the act of following your conscience, involves performing an act that your conscience has determined to be the good act. When you do not follow your conscience it means that you perform an act that your conscience has determined to be the evil act. This is part of the reason why the Church stresses the need to follow one's conscience; it means that you are doing the good act freely and knowingly instead of being forced to do it. We erroneously think that to "follow one's conscience" simply means performing the act, whether good or evil. Following your conscience does not just mean that you are doing an act that you have decided to do; it means doing what you have determined to be the good act. There is a big difference.

Furthermore, following one's conscience is a necessary condition for decision making and acting, but it is not the sufficient condition for decision making. People mistakenly think that so long as a person follows their conscience they are free from error and sin. Rather, someone can follow their conscience, perform what they think is a good act and commit sin. This is because there are two stages to the moral act. One stage is performing the good act determined by your conscience. But the essential first stage is forming one's conscience. A conscience is formed by learning about Christ, his Gospel, the teachings of the Church, the Natural Law, and so on. If someone has not formed their conscience, but follow it by performing an act they incorrectly think is good, but are in fact committing an evil act, then they have sinned. One must follow one's conscience, but one must also form it.

Monday, October 12, 2020

Columbus Day Holiday

Mass at 8:30 am

The OLM Parish Office is closed for the holiday.



Weekly Collection

October 4, 2020

Weekly.....\$10,566.00
 EFT.....\$5,609.00
Total=\$16,175.00

Outreach.....\$681.00
 Annual Collection (to date).....\$75,289.00
 Building & Grounds Collection.....\$971.00

Weekly for last year on October 6, 2019

Weekly.....\$14,765.00



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



**OLM 2020 PARISH
 GOAL=\$200,000
 PLEDGED TO DATE=\$123,646
 DONORS TO DATE=274**

**OLM 2019 PARISH GOAL=\$200,000
 OLM 2019 FINAL=\$210,028
 OLM 2019 DONORS TOTAL=484
 PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING YOUR PLEDGE TODAY ONLINE AT
<https://dioceseofprovidence.org/cca>**



In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of whose **Emily Carroll** Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last week.

October
Devotions



MONDAYS AT 7 PM
ADORATION & ROSARY



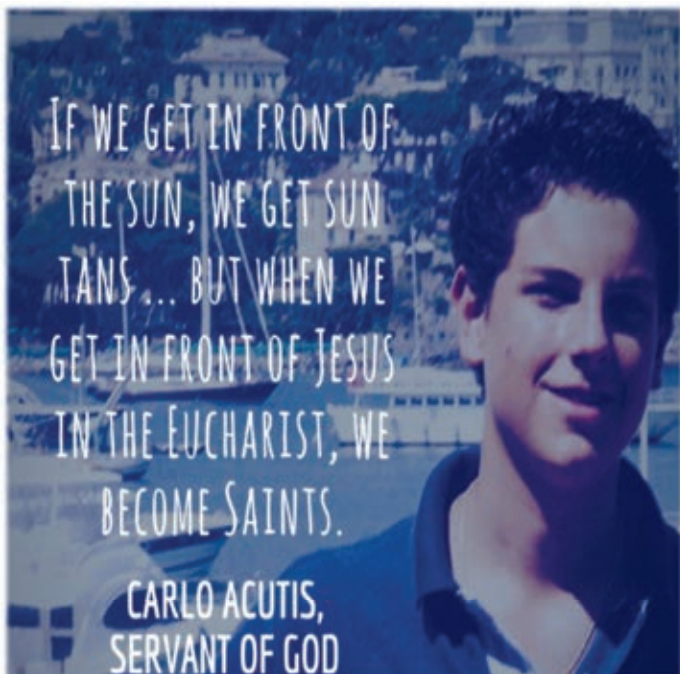
Striving to be Saints & Scholars!
Upcoming School Events

- **Monday, October 12:** No School in honor of Columbus Day Holiday.
- **Tuesday, October 13:** Class Mass for Grades 1 & 2 Only at 9:00am (no livestream)
- **Monday, October 19:** School Confessions for Grades 6C, 6K & 7F
- **Tuesday, October 20:** Class Mass for Grades 3 & 4 only at 9:00 am (no livestream)
- **Thursday, October 22:** Colorthon

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Religious Education
NEWS

The Celebration of Confirmation at OLM

Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor Penance Service

Tuesday, October 13th at 6pm

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal

Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm
Candidate & Sponsor must attend

Confirmation Mass

Sunday, October 25th at 5PM (Live-Streamed)
Bishop Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester, NY
Confirming Prelate

Only candidates, sponsors & parents may attend



Outreach
Update

• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food and paper goods for the 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!*

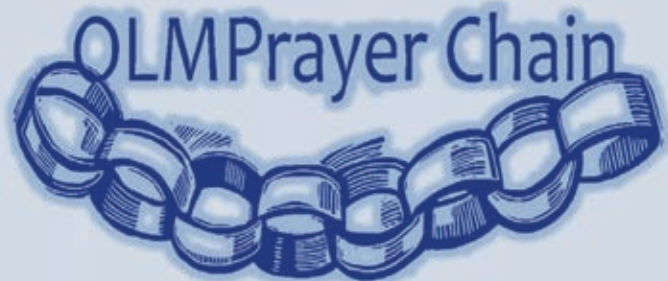
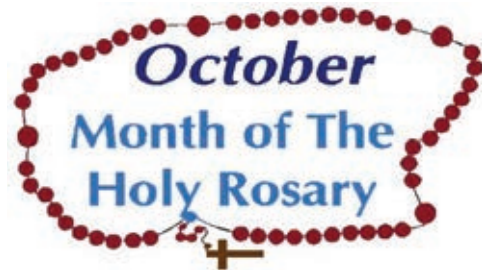
• If you are in need of food, rental or financial assistance please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green by phone at 401-884-4410 (leave a message if not in) or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



*Congratulations
To
The
Newly Baptized*

Ava Grace Forbes,
and his parents, Daniel and Stacey.

“Dear brothers and sisters: this child, reborn through Baptism, is now called a child of God, for so indeed she is. Through Confirmation she will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, she will share at the table of his Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church.”—The Rite of Baptism



Our Lady of Mercy Parish invites you to join our active Prayer Chain. The power of prayer 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!

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#WHATSMYNAME

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