

The Parable of the Two Sons

MATTHEW 21:28-32





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**THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Mass of Anticipation for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM Bernice Primeau—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Special Intention
 10:30AM Mr. & Mrs. Savastano & Mr. & Mrs. Edward Sullivan

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Weekday: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr: St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs
 7:30AM Special Intention

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Fr. James Verdelotti—Memorial

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Dec'd of the Lee & Pyun Families—Memorial

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

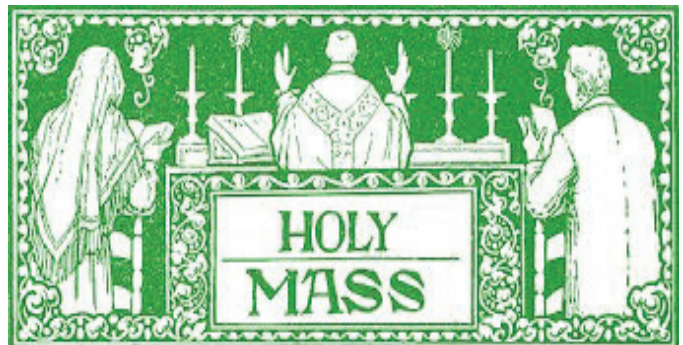
The Holy Guardian Angels
 7:30AM Paul Soucy—Memorial

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Weekday; BVM
 8:30AM Mary "Terry" Grausgruber—Memorial
Mass of Anticipation for 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM Paul Toher—1st Anniversary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Maria del Valle—Memorial
 9:00AM Janice Cotham & Phyllis Calzino—Anniversaries
 10:30AM John Giornelli, Jr.—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

The First Communion Classes are taking the "Fifty-Three Week Challenge." The challenge is to faithfully attend Mass every Sunday successively for fifty-two weeks following the 1st Communion Mass. On the fifty-third week, they receive a special gift to recognize their fidelity to Christ and Holy Mass. This challenge is a fun way to be faithful and develop the good habit of attending Mass every week.

Recently Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Vatican, issued a letter to the bishops of the world. The letter entitled "*We Must Return to the Eucharist*," addresses the COVID Global Pandemic and the celebration of Public Masses.

The Cardinal suggests that "*as soon as circumstances permit, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, as 'the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; and at the same time is the font from which all her power flows.'*"

In other words, it's time to return in person to Sunday Mass. Of course, those parishioners who are at risk due to age, health conditions or infirmity should stay safe and remain home. We remain in spiritual communion with them during the live-stream Mass as we pray with, and for, them.

However, you don't have to go too far to see restaurants, grocery and department stores,

liquor stores, beaches, and golf courses with a lot of people there. It is certainly safe, if not safer, to attend Mass on Sunday as go to Target, Thorpe's, La Masseria, or Dave's Market.

In fact a recent article in Real Clear Science, entitled "*Evidence-Based Guidelines to Celebrate Mass Safely Are Working*", examined safe Mass attendance. It states: "*Catholic churches across the country have been open for up to four months since shelter-in-place orders were lifted. With approximately 17,000 parishes in America typically holding three or more weekend masses - and a greater number of daily Masses - for the last 14 or more weeks - over one million public masses have been celebrated following guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus: in sum, follow the three W's - watch your distance, wear your mask, and wash your hands.*"

The Good News: for Catholic churches following these guidelines, no outbreaks of COVID-19 have been linked to church attendance, even though we have examples some described below of asymptomatic, unknowingly infected individuals attending Mass and other parish functions. Their attendance could have led to an outbreak if appropriate precautions were not followed, yet in each case, we found no evidence of viral transmission."

We follow the "Three Ws" at Mass. We watch our distance. We wear a mask. We wash our hands. We also sanitize the church building after every Mass and public event. OLM is indeed a safe place to pray and praise and worship God!

While the number of parishioners attending Sunday Mass is steadily increasing, many parishioners not at risk are not coming regularly. Without a doubt we learned some good habits during this pandemic about staying safe and healthy but bad habits were also learned!

Among these bad habits is not faithfully attending Mass in person if not at risk and freely able to do so. The live-stream Mass on Sunday is for those parishioners who because of age, health or infirmity, should not attend but remain safe at home. It's not meant to watch at the kitchen table while eating pancakes with the kids and then running off to the soccer game or golf course.

We should begin again the good habit of attending Mass in person each Sunday. Come and receive Christ truly present in Holy Communion. It's safe. It's easy. It is as St. Pius X said: "*the shortest and safest way to heaven.*" Why not take up the "Fifty-Three Week Challenge" with our First Communion Class! The benefit you receive just might be heavenly!

Saturday Confessions at 4:00pm and the Sunday 9:00am Mass resume again next weekend. So there is plenty of chance to get to Confession and Mass at OLM!!!! Come back to Christ truly present at Mass!!

Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good! God Bless. Go Pats!!!!

Ask Father

Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

Why do Catholics pray to Mary? It often puzzles many people why we, as Catholics, speak to our Blessed Mother in prayer when we could simply speak directly to God. Going to Mary, the earthly mother of our divine Lord, seems to some like a roundabout and maybe ineffective way of getting to Jesus who knows us entirely already and invites us to speak to Him, the Father, and the Holy Spirit at any time.

To answer the question we first point out that in our prayer we do not worship Mary but instead venerate her and ask for her intercession. That is, we ask her to pray to God for us. Furthermore we of course do not direct our prayers exclusively to Mary, but also to our good and loving God who is our ultimate end and goal.

We turn to Mary because she is close to God and can bring our requests to Him in a special way. If you were in any sort of need, you may ask a friend to pray for you. You would of course continue to talk to the Lord yourself, but you would then have the added help of a friend's prayers. Mary is far more than a friend. As the sinless woman chosen by God before her birth to carry our Lord and savior in her womb and to raise him to adulthood, Mary lived a life of holiness on earth.

We know from the scriptures that God works particularly through holy people. Those who know the Lord and humbly place themselves at His service often end up performing extraordinary feats through His power. Mary and the saints in Heaven are as close to God as people can be. In fact, the Church declares definitively that Mary is not only with God in Heaven, but that she is the Queen of Heaven and Earth. While we confidently go to God with our prayers, we also enjoy the privilege of asking the Queen to pray for us as well. She can take our weak requests and make them more presentable to our Heavenly King.

We read in Saint John's gospel that Jesus, while dying on the cross, looked down at his mother and John and said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." (John 19:26). To John the Lord said, "Behold, your mother" (John 19:27). As disciples of Jesus, we too can call Mary our mother and treat her as such. As we would ask our earthly mothers for help and favors, we can all the more ask Mary to aid us in our need. As we honor our earthly mothers for all they do for us, we can honor the blessed mother for her holiness as well. Mother Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us.



Weekly Collection

September 20, 2020

Weekly.....	\$7,428.00
EFT.....	\$3,981.00
	Total=\$11,409.00
Outreach.....	\$845.00
Priests Retirement Collection.....	\$3,068.00

Weekly for last year on September 22, 2019

Weekly.....	\$12,947.00
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Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



**OLM 2020 PARISH
GOAL=\$200,000
PLEDGED TO DATE=\$121,346
DONORS TO DATE=271**

**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>**



Confessions at OLM

**Mondays:
6:00PM—6:45PM
Saturdays:
4:00PM—4:45PM**

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



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 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

(6 feet apart of course)



LET'S FILL
THE PEWS!



**Mass & Confession
Schedule**

• **9:00AM Sunday Mass** resumes on Sunday, October 4, 2020.

Seating is limited and first come, first seated. Doors open at 8:45am.

• **Saturday Confessions at 4:00PM** resume on Saturday, October 3. Doors open at 3:45pm

NB: Please observe social distance and wear face masks. Please depart church building immediately following Mass to allow proper time for sanitizing the church building for next scheduled Mass. Thank You for your kind cooperation.



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

Upcoming School Events

• **Sunday, September 27:** New Family Welcome Mass at 10:30 am

• **Wednesday, September 30:** Zoom Back to School Night at 5:30pm

Still accepting applications for Pre-K, 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th grades!

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Congratulations and Prayers

OLM Religious Education

First Communion Class

September 19, 2020

Gavin Riley Aptt
Thomas Edgar Barrett, II
Lainy Marie Bettencourt
Bridget Mary Bishop
Olivia Hui Xin Bisordi
Ronin Patrick Bogs
Siena Marie Buontempo
Borys Stephen Carrison
Maryna Marju Carrison
Jeremy Joseph Chen
James Michael Ferguson, Jr.
Matthew Forbes
Kendall Isai Gopalakrishnan
Jack Truppa Hanlon
Mia Rose Hummel
Quinne Hassett Iannuccilli
Liliana Sofia Leon
Alessandra Hope Lombardi



"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."-St. Maximilian Kolbe

*Congratulations
To
The
Newly Baptized*

Leo Rafael Palumbo,
and his parents, Kyle and Krystal.

Gabriela Rae Tarini,
and her parents, Robert and Gina.

"Dear brothers and sisters: these children, reborn through Baptism, are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. Through Confirmation they will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, they 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



Eucharistic Adoration
Friday, October 2, 2020
Exposition at 12:00 PM
Adoration All-Afternoon
Benediction at 6:00 PM
Adorers are needed

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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

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