

— ∞ —  
*“This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased.”*

— MATTHEW 3:17 —





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## **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 12, 2020**

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 11**

*Mass of Anticipation for The Baptism of the Lord*  
 4:00PM Ellen Simms—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 12**

*The Baptism of the Lord*

7:30 AM Kevin F. Healey—Memorial

9:00 AM Lorraine Kane—Memorial

10:30AM John Beiermann—3rd Anniversary

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

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 13**

*Weekday; St. Hillary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

7:30AM Special Intention

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

*Weekday*

7:30AM Lucille Masse—8th Anniversary

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

*Weekday*

7:30AM Paul Cienki—Memorial

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

*Weekday*

7:30AM Norman Murtha—40th Anniversary

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

*St. Anthony, Abbot*

7:30AM Mary Rettelle—Memorial

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

*Weekday; BVM*

8:30AM John, David & Louise Kiernan—Memorial

*Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:00PM Michael Alix—3rd Anniversary

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

*The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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

9:00 AM Barbara Gencerella—Memorial

10:30AM Chicho Macia—Memorial

5:00PM Paul Kennedy—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

With the celebration this weekend of the Baptism of the Lord, the Christmas Season comes to an end. We now begin the Season of Ordinary Time and we return to green vestments. This will be the last weekend to see all the beauty of Christmas in our Church as the decorations, trees, flowers and the crèche will all be taken down this week.

I hope your Christmas Season was joyful and faith-filled. Unfortunately for me I spent Christmas Week in bed with a severe flu. My Doctor quarantined me to my room in the rectory and I missed all the Christmas Masses at OLM, and also spending Christmas Day with my family. It is the first time in my twenty-five years as a priest I have been unable to offer Mass on Christmas!

I wish to thank both Fr. Barrow and Fr. Connors for their able assistance in assuring Christmas at OLM went on without a hitch during my sickness. They both deserve great gratitude for all the extra work they took on and also for their great support of their ailing pastor!

Christmas at OLM is the result of the hard work and dedication of many people. We thank Paul Anderson and our excellent OLM Maintenance Crew for all the preparation of setting up for Christmas. They always make sure that OLM is clean and beautiful and we are grateful.

The Church during Christmas is always decorated so beautifully. I wish to thank Celia Franzone and her crew of decorators who do such a terrific

job in making OLM the most beautiful of Churches at Christmas. Their hard work and dedication always enhances our worship of God at Holy Mass.

I wish to thank too Henri St. Louis and our OLM Choir for their great gift of song and music at Christmas. They add such joy and solemnity to our worship of the Christ Child! Also, we thank Shirley Medici and the OLM Children's Choir for their terrific job of singing at Christmas Mass. They are a great sign of joy and hope for us.

We must thank the many OLM Altar Servers who so dutifully and reverently serve Holy Mass at Christmas. They add great solemnity to our celebration of Christmas and we are grateful. Also, we thank the many ushers who ensure the good order of Church during Masses and provide a welcoming and helping hand to our many visitors during Christmas.

We acknowledge the great job by our Lectors in proclaiming God's Sacred Word with reverence and joy, and also the tremendous help of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who always make the celebration of Christmas at OLM a grand occasion of faith, praise and worship. We thank them all for what they do for God and our parish!

We thank too Nancy Wray and the many sacristans who helped prepare for all the Masses at Christmas. They along with our good Sisters, Sister Lourdes and Sister Emma, provide so much help behind the scenes in ensuring all the vestments and sacred vessels are ready, clean and polished for our worship. We thank them for their

dedication and hard work.

Along with Fr. Barrow and Fr. Connors, I thank the many parishioners who were so very generous in recognizing our priestly ministry this Christmas. We thank them for the many cards and well wishes, delicious baked goods and holiday foods, and the many generous personal gifts. Indeed we are truly grateful for the loving support and encouragement you provide us as priests!

We give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings bestowed upon us, our families and our parish family. They are signs to us of God's great and generous love for us. Christmas truly is a time to celebrate God's love as we rejoice in the greatest gift given to us, God's only Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World, born on Christmas Day!

Christmas ends but as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminds us: *"The joy that flows from the celebration of Christmas finds its fulfillment today in the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the sacrament of Baptism is in fact manifested the living and active presence of the Holy Spirit who, enriching the Church with new children, vivifies her and makes her grow and we cannot help but rejoice over this."*

Christmas is over but let us continue to rejoice with joyful faith in our loving God even during this Ordinary Time! Be well. Do Good! God Bless.



**May a Catholic be Cremated?**

The quick and easy answer is that the Church does not forbid cremation, unless it is chosen for reasons that are contrary to Christian teaching. In fact if a person were to choose cremation for reasons which go against our Lord's teaching, such a person would not be fit for a funeral (since at that point they have, essentially, renounced his teachings). What would these reasons be? For instance, one reason is the disbelief in the resurrection from the dead at the end of the world. Other reasons would be a disdain for the body, thinking that the material world is evil, wanting to spread the ashes over the ocean or keep them at home (usually this implies a strange anthropology, and a mistaken view that we become one with the universe), and so on.

Historically and even today the Church prefers burial of a body over cremation and advocates for it as much as possible. Cremation should not be seen as another equal option, but something chosen due to perhaps a lack of finances (funerals are incredibly expensive), a distant place of burial (the person wants to be buried back in a home country), and so on. These are very practical, non-theological concerns.

The reason why the Church prefers burial of a body has its roots in theology and this has not changed. Since Catholics believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the dignity of the human body as created by God, it is only logical that Catholicism also holds that the body of a deceased person should be handled with respect. Consequently, burning it has not traditionally been considered acceptable treatment. For a while the Church forbade cremation because of its close association with paganism, which did not believe in the resurrection. This is the reason for the early Christians in Rome burying their dead separately in the catacombs. In the past it was automatically assumed that a Catholic who had himself/herself cremated had abandoned hope in the resurrection of the body or was actively mocking it.

*Weekly Collection*

December 29, 2019

Weekly.....	\$10,776.00
EFT.....	\$2,545.00
	<b>Total=\$13,321.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$392.00
Christmas.....	\$21,371.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$2,857.00

January 5, 2020

Weekly.....	\$13,836.00
EFT.....	\$1,540.00
	<b>Total=\$15,376.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$1,430.00
New Year's Holy Day.....	\$4,358.50
Building & Grounds.....	\$2,844.00

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: The Church in Latin America**  
**Next Week: Catholic University**



**Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000**  
**Pledged To Date=\$1,453,375**

**Total Number of OLM Parishioners=2,120**  
**Total Number of Pledges=326**  
**Average Pledge=\$4,458**

***Thank You for Your Prayers and Generous Support!!***



# Religious Education NEWS

- **All RE Classes meet this weekend, January 12, 2020!** Grades 1-5: 10:00am-11:00am, Grades 6-8: 6:00pm-7:00pm!
- **January 19:** NO RE Classes due to the MLK Holiday
- **January 26:** NO RE CLASS. DREs are on the OLM Pilgrimage to the Holy Land! *Pray for us as we pray for you!*



# Outreach Update

- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of **non-perishable** food times especially during the winter season. Please drop your donations in the Food Box located in the vestibule of Church. Thank you for your support.
- **OLM Bereavement Group** meets Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:00PM in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loss are most welcome to join us for prayer and support.
- **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



## Upcoming Dates To Remember:

- **Tuesday, January 14** : Weekly OLM School Mass at 8:15am
- **Thursday, January 16:** OLM Middle School Science Fair
- **Monday, January 20:** No School for MLK Holiday.

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

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can only lead to serenity



We offer our prayerful condolences to the families of **Dora Grassini** and **Catherine "Kay" McKenna** whose Masses of Christian Burial was celebrated at OLM last week.

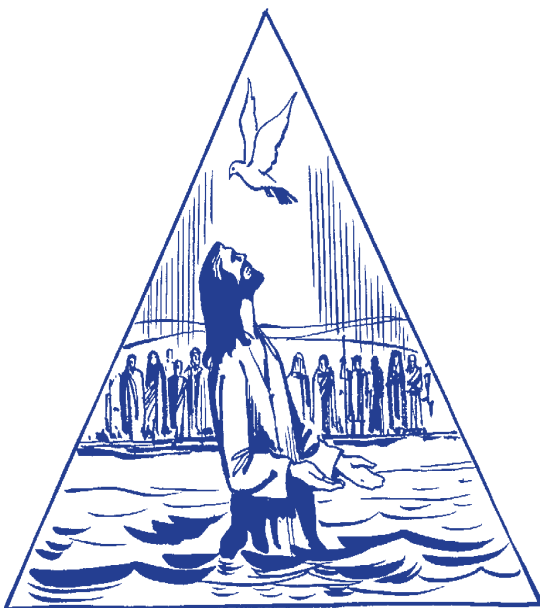
## Baptism of the Lord



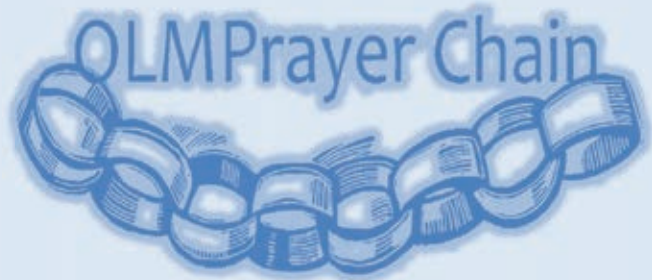
**T**he feast of the Baptism of the Lord, our commemoration of the institution of the sacrament of baptism, is the last feast of the Christmas season and is usually observed on the Sunday following January 6.

The calendar sometimes causes it to fall on a Monday, but in its usual Sunday slot, it offers an excellent opportunity for parishes to focus on baptism by using the rite of blessing and sprinkling holy water or to celebrate the sacrament during Mass, especially if this not the usual custom.

The Baptism of the Lord launches us right into winter Ordinary Time with its concentration on the earlier public life and preaching of Jesus.



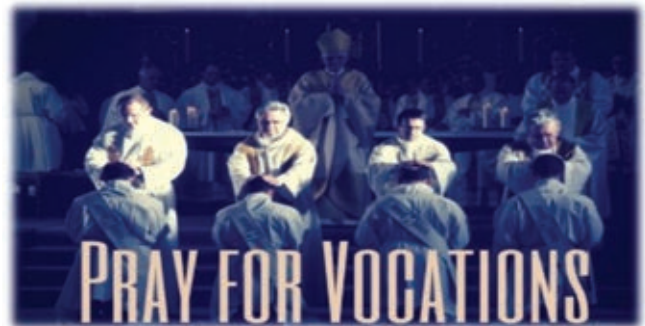
*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*



*Our Lady of Mercy 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!***



### **OLM Rosary Makers Monthly Workshop**



**Tuesday, January 14th  
9:30 - 11:30 AM  
OLM Cryroom**

*Materials and instructions provided.  
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