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"SIR, GIVE ME THIS WATER, SO
THAT I MAY NOT BE THIRSTY"

JOHN 4:15



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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 15, 2020

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Mass of Anticipation for The 3rd Sunday of Lent
 4:00PM Dr. Mark Palumbo—Memorial

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

The Third Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mary Falchini—Memorial

9:00 AM Chris Tasca—6th Anniversary

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

5:00PM Lawrence Houda—Memorial

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Teresa Romano—Memorial

12:05PM Fr. Richard A. Walsh—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 17—ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Lenten Weekday/St. Patrick, Bishop

7:30AM D'cd of McGinley & Kiernan Families—Memorial

12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday/St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—Memorial

12:05PM Fr. Daniel M. Tranior—Memorial

THURSDAY, MARCH 19—ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM

7:30AM Paul Cienki—Memorial

12:05PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday

7:30AM Elaine F. Monaco—1st Anniversary

12:05PM Orlando A. Andreoni—Memorial

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Lenten Weekday

8:30AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Lent

4:00PM Mary Gianardi—7th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Nester Ocfemia—Memorial

9:00 AM Frank & Eva Montaquila—Memorial

10:30AM Bethany & David Briggs—Memorial

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





Dear Parishioners:

How is your Lent going? We are entering our Third Week of this Holy Season and so let us review. How well is our prayer going? How frequent and faithful is our fasting? How generous and sacrificial is our alms giving? Don't give up! Stay the course! And if you've fallen off, pick up the prayer, fasting and alms giving again!

Pope Emeritus Benedict XV teaches that: *"In Lent, each one of us is asked by God to mark a turning point in our life, thinking and living in accordance with the Gospel, correcting some aspect of our way of praying, acting, or working and of our relations with others. Jesus makes this appeal to us, not with a severity that is an end in itself but precisely because he is concerned for our good, our happiness and our salvation. On our part, we must respond to him with a sincere inner effort, asking him to make us understand which particular ways we should change."*

Yes, Lent is a season of change! It is a season of conversion to Christ! We take up our cross daily and we follow him. So let us strive to make Lent a time of welcome change and joyful conversion. It's only three weeks into the season, if you haven't yet begun to pray, fast and give alms, start today!

A truly joyful and helpful way to change and convert to Christ is to make a good Confession. How long has it been since your last Confession? A month? A year? Ten years? Thirty years? Fifty years? Then why not make the necessary change in your life to trust in

God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

Every Monday we have Confession at 6:00PM here at OLM. In Lent, we invite a guest priest to help us with Confessions on Monday. A great chance to change from sin to grace, from fear to faith, and from despair to hope! Pope Francis says: *"Be courageous! Go to Confession!"*

Next Saturday, March 21st, OLM hosts All Day Confessions. We've invited the most kind and merciful priests from across the state to help us. Four priests are to be available from 9:00am until 3:00pm to hear Confessions here at OLM. No lines! No waiting! Come one, come all! Take some time amidst the busyness of life to experience God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. I promise you will not regret it!

I ask you to please pray for all those making their Confession during Lent especially those who have been away from the Sacrament awhile, may it be a true time of conversion and grace; pray too for all the Priest Confessors, may they be as kind and merciful as God, and of course pray for those who are avoiding making a good Confession, may they have the courage and faith to humbly admit their sins to God the Merciful Father!

St. Bridget offers sage advice on Confession. *"Just as an animal becomes a stronger beast of burden and more beautiful to behold the more often and better it is fed, so too confession, the more often it is used and the more carefully it is made as to both lesser and*

greater sins. conveys the soul increasingly forward and is so pleasing to God that it leads the soul to God's very heart."

We mark two great and important Feast Days in the life of our Church this week! The Feast of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland and the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church! So remember to pray and celebrate these great feasts of faith!

Join us on Tuesday as we welcome Bishop McManus of Worcester for the St. Patrick's Mass. He is a native of Providence and was ordained a priest here at OLM! Our readings are in Irish and we'll gather for some traditional Irish Soda Bread and Irish Coffee after the Mass! Come celebrate St. Patrick and the Irish!

On Thursday, join us for St. Joseph's Day Mass in Italian celebrated by Bishop Evans. Fr. Nathan Ricci, one of our finest Italo-American priests is preaching the homily (in English)! Stop by for some delicious zeppoles and Italian Coffee afterwards! Come celebrate San Giuseppe and the Italians!!

We turn to St. Patrick and St. Joseph in prayer as we seek their powerful intercession for us and our world. No matter our ethnic background let us celebrate our common faith and the heritage we've inherited! Remember Fridays are for fish and the Stations of the Cross! Be well. Do Good! God Bless.

Father Healey



Why do Catholics give up Meat for Lent?

One does not need to look far to see the influence of Catholicism on the surrounding culture. As I drive through Rhode Island I see advertisements for fish and chips, Lenten menus and so on. Even the national chain McDonalds advertises the "Filet-O-Fish" during Lent. These advertisements reflect the Catholic Lenten practice of fasting from meat on Fridays. Why do we fast from meat on Fridays in Lent (and Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and during the entire year unless a person performs another suitable penance)? The USCCB gives us an explanation: "Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance by which they gladly suffer with Christ that they may one day be glorified with Him. This is the heart of the tradition of abstinence from meat on Friday where that tradition has been observed in the holy Catholic Church."

Our Lord suffered and died on Good Friday. As a result Fridays have always been seen as a penitential day for mortifications. As a season, Lent readies us to participate in the paschal mysteries of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. So, it is appropriate that on Fridays we perform a penitential act to remind us of our Lord's sacrifice on Good Friday and draw our present thoughts to the culmination of Lent during the Holy Triduum. Likewise, in this small act of self-denial we join Christ on the Cross.

But why meat? Throughout the Church's history fasting from meat was chosen because of meat's association with feasts and celebrations. Like in the story of the Prodigal Son, slaughtering the fattened calf occurred at a special celebratory occasion. Further, prior to our current economic progress, eating meat was not easy to obtain or affordable, and so to eat meat was considered a treat. As a result of these cultural considerations the Church instructs the faithful to abstain from eating meat. While eating meat no longer has the cultural or economic significance it once had, the Church continues to instruct the faithful to give up eating it during Lent. The intention remains the same: for the faithful to give up some earthly pleasure to train oneself to cling to Christ more deeply. I would recommend that the faithful not only abstain from meat on Fridays, but also make the meals which are eaten simple and plain.

Weekly Collection

March 8, 2020

Weekly.....	\$10,774.00
EFT.....	\$1,785.00
	Total=\$12,559.00
Outreach.....	\$487.00
Lenten Mission.....	\$1,603.00

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.



**Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000
Pledged To Date=\$1,753,925
Total Number of OLM Parish Families=2,120
Total Number of Pledges=364
Average Pledge=\$4,818**



Daily Masses during Lent
Monday - Friday, 7:30AM & 12:05PM

Confessions during Lent
Monday - Friday 11:45AM - 12:00PM
Mondays 6:00PM - 6:45PM with 2 priests
Saturdays 3:00PM - 3:45PM

Stations of the Cross
Fridays at 7:00PM



Religious Education NEWS

- **March 15:** All RE Grades have class today!
- **First Communion Class:** *Congratulations on you First Confession!* First Communion Retreats on Saturday, March 28 & April 4. Please pray for our First Communion Class!



Upcoming Events:

- **Tuesday, March 17:** St. Patrick Day Mass at 12:05pm
- **Wednesday, March 18:** PTG Meeting at 6pm. All School Parents invited to attend.
- **Thursday, March 19:** St. Joseph Day Mass in Italian at 12:05pm
- **Friday, March 20:** No School for Teachers' Professional Development Day

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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 Outreach Bereavement Group** meets on Thursday, March 19 at 4:00PM in Mercy House. All those suffering a loss or grief are welcome to join us for prayer, support and discussion.

• **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



Fridays during Lent at 7:00PM

*“We Adore You O Christ, and We Praise You;
Because by Your Holy Cross, You Have
Redeemed the World!”*



FOR LENT FOR LIFE

WHAT YOU GIVE
UP FOR LENT
CHANGES LIVES.

PRAY for the SICK

Please pray for the sick & those that care for them

Our Lady of Mercy Church

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
12:05 PM

The Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
*Bishop of Worcester
Celebrant & Homilist*

Readings and Hymns in the Irish Language.
Homily in English. Reception to follow.



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
12:05 PM

The Most Rev. Robert C. Evans
*Auxiliary Bishop of Providence
Celebrant*

The Rev. Nathan J. Ricci
*Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese of Providence
Homilist*

Mass, Readings and Hymns in Italian.
Homily in English. Reception to follow.



ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH
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Saturday, March 21
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“Be courageous! Go to Confession!”

• POPE FRANCIS •



3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A



Water figures prominently in the scriptures for the Third Sunday of Lent in this A year of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings.

In the first reading from Exodus, God instructs Moses to strike a rock and bring forth life-giving water to the thirsting Israelites. In the Gospel reading from John, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well that the water he gives will become a fountain within, leaping up to provide eternal life.

Although other readings are given for B and C years, this A-year group may be read every year, especially in assemblies in which rites called scrutinies are celebrated with the elect who are preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

These scrutiny rites, celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, are meant to discover and heal anything sinful that may remain in the hearts of the elect and to uncover and strengthen that which is good.



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.

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#WHATSMYNAME

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