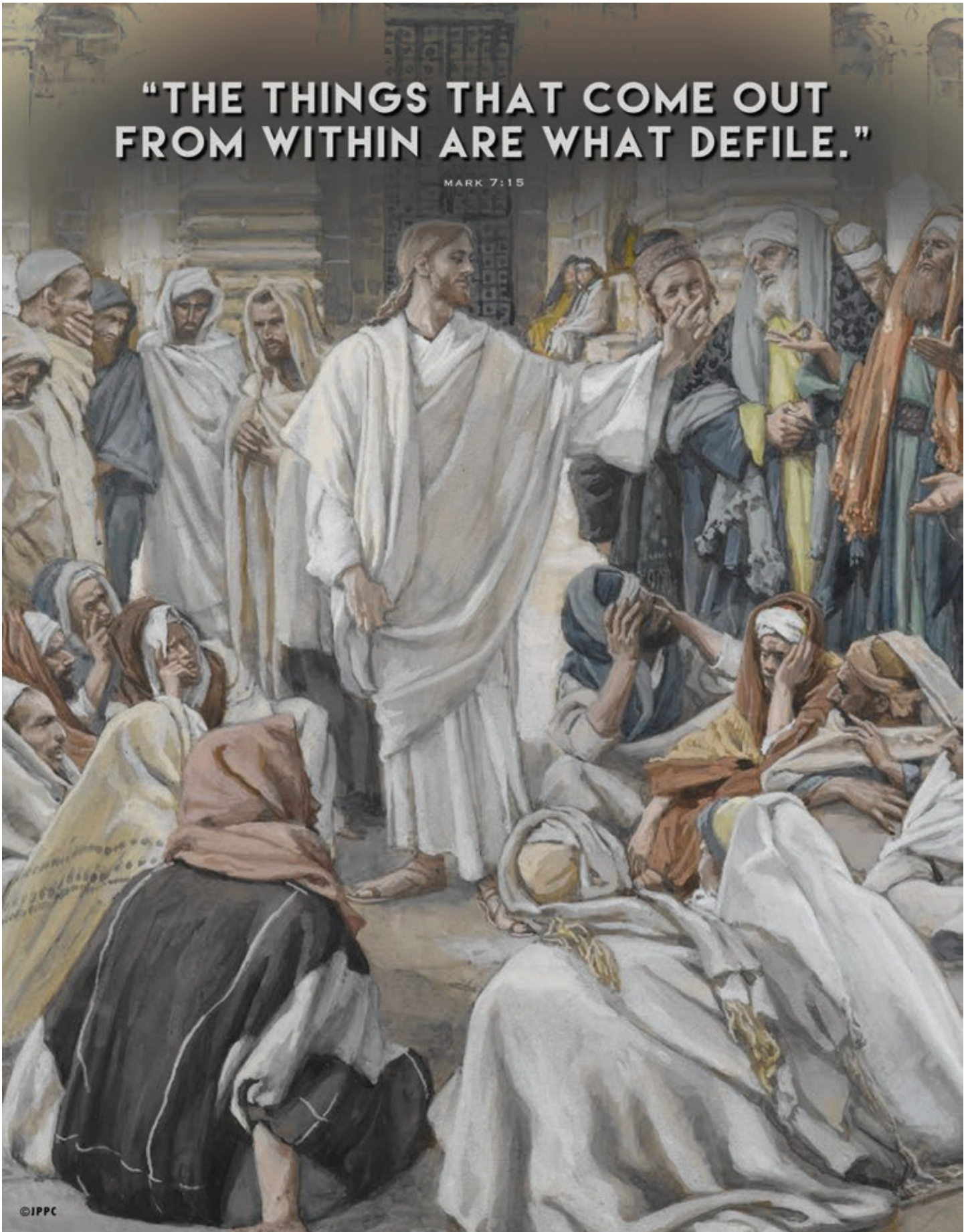


**"THE THINGS THAT COME OUT
FROM WITHIN ARE WHAT DEFILE."**

MARK 7:15



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

August 29, 2021



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
603-424-3757
www.olmnh.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:30PM
Sunday 8:30AM & 10:30AM
Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri 8:30AM
Holy Days 8:30AM and anticipated vigil 7:00PM

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-3:45PM
By appointment: please call the office to schedule with Fr. Paul.

Baptism

Please call the office for an appointment. Baptisms are usually planned for the last weekend of the month.

Marriage

Please contact the office to schedule marriage preparation with Fr. Paul.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is a process for those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of themselves becoming a Catholic.

Funerals

The contact person for the deceased (or the funeral home) should connect with the office to schedule.

Planning ahead for funeral Mass celebrations is also available to all parishioners.

Faith Formation

We offer Faith Formation for all ages. Please see the website for current dates and programs.

Parish Staff

Rev Msgr Paul Bouchard, Pastor
FrPaul@olmnh.org
John Castelot, Deacon
DeaconJohn@olmnh.org
Sharon Nagy, Business Manager
SNagy@olmnh.org
Michael Coughlin, Director of Faith Formation
MCoughlin@olmnh.org
Cindy Coughlin, Youth Minister
CCoughlin@olmnh.org
Nancy King, Director of Music
NKing@olmnh.org
Christian Copeley, incoming Director of Music
CCopeley@olmnh.org
Katie Corsetti, Faith Formation Admin Assistant
KCorsetti@olmnh.org
Karen Correia, Secretary
KCorreia@olmnh.org
Muriel Gelinias, Sacristan
Ron Ketchie, Building & Grounds Facilitator

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Church Hours

The church will be locked for safety. You are welcome to spend time in the church for prayer during office hours! Please come into the office and someone will be happy to let you into the church.

Sanctuary Candle

Please contact the office to have the sanctuary candle lit in memory of, or for the intentions of,

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 28th

Vigil: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Bill Cox requested by Claude & Sandy Mayo

Sunday, August 29th

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Robert Tedeschi requested by the family
For all parishioners

10:30AM: Joseph Mitchell, Jr requested by his mother
and family

Monday, August 30th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: For all parishioners

Tuesday, August 31st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Pauline St. Germain requested by Karen
Collins & the OLM Home Ministry

Wednesday, September 1st

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Ferdinand Bouchard

Thursday, September 2nd

No Mass

Friday, September 3rd

**Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church**

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Deceased friends and family of Stephen
Staffieri & Debra Stellato

Saturday, September 4th

Vigil: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM: Roland & Flora Boucher requested by
Claude & Sandy Mayo

Sunday, September 5th

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM: Carolyn Disco requested by Nelson Disco

10:30AM: Michael John Perrault requested by his
Family
For all parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns the week of
August 28th - September 3rd in memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Rene Bergeron.

Prayer for Students

Lord our God,

In Your wisdom and love You surround us with the
mysteries of the universe.

Send Your Spirit upon all students and fill them
with Your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that they may devote themselves to their
studies and draw ever closer to You, the source of
all knowledge.

Through Christ our
Lord. Amen!



A Prayer for Teachers

Heavenly Father,

Enable teachers to share wisdom, for they help to
shape the mind.

Equip teachers to guide with truth,
for they help to shape the conscience.

Encourage teachers to instruct with vision,
for they help to shape the future.

Empower teachers to enlighten with love,
for they help to shape the world.

Through Jesus Christ. Amen!

Readings for the Week: August 29, 2021

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 11-13; Lk
4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk
4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5, 6; Lk 5:
1-11

Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 2:1-5;
Mk 7:31-37



FAITH FORMATION

**Faith Formation Registration
for the 2021-22 Program Year is Open
for Grades 1 - 12!**

Growing in our faith is a lifelong journey. One way to support our children's faith journey is through continuing their grade level Faith Formation. Enrollment for the new year beginning this fall for **grades 1-12** is open! **Children did not have to be registered last year to participate in the 2021-22 program.**



Jesus teaches it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus's teaching and the practice of His first disciples.

Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus refers to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmask a deeper question behind the one posed to Him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus's teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus's first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned Him. Jesus's words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with His disciples, who in turn questioned Him about what He had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus's disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus's teaching: His antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus's disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus's words, further explanation is offered about His message and its meaning.

Jesus's words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

-edited from Loyolapress.com

Parish Happenings: the Week Ahead

Knitting Ministry: Regular weekly meetings resume this **Thursday, September 2 from noon-2PM** in the parish office. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Women of the Well

Announcing an exciting new program starting in September for Women of the Well, our OLM women's faith sharing group! We will be beginning a 2 year exploration of the women of the Bible, and their role in furthering God's plan for salvation history. Year One will cover the Old Testament and Year 2 will cover the New Testament. We will also be discussing women saints who embodied this ideal, both past and present. We will use a wonderful book by Stacy Mitch called "Courageous Women," as well as other adjunct resources. This is an exciting sharing opportunity and anyone interested is invited to come to the first meeting on **Saturday, September 18 at 9:30AM.**

First Fridays & Saturdays

Devotion to the First Fridays and First Saturdays of each month incorporates devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the 17th century, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a cloistered nun, received visions where Christ asked her to foster devotion to His Sacred Heart. One of the devotions received through these visions is the "First Friday devotion," which calls for the faithful to receive the Eucharist on the first Friday of the month for nine consecutive months in honor and reparation of Jesus's Sacred Heart.

Jesus revealed several promises for those who observed First Friday devotions, including reception of the sacraments before death, perseverance in the Faith, and consolation of Christ's love at one's death.

The First Saturday Devotion is another way to devote yourself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and honor our Holy Mother.

When the Virgin Mother appeared to the three children at Fatima in 1917, she told the oldest child, Lucia, that she would grant special graces to those who practice the First Saturday of each month devotion. The devotion on the first Saturday includes, going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist, saying the Rosary, and meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes. These devotions help the faithful grow in their faith through special monthly routines.

Rest and Renew: Catholic Young Adult Retreat

"My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope." -Psalm 62:6

The Dioceses of Manchester, New Hampshire & Portland, Maine invite those aged 21-35 to a Catholic young adult retreat.

September 10-12, 2021

Camp Marist, Effingham, NH

\$125 per person, includes lodging, meals, and program

For more information and to register please go to:
www.yaretreat2021.eventbrite.com

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2021, and those recently unable to participate due to COVID-19, to attend the Fall Wedding Anniversary Mass.

This celebration will be held on:

**Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 2:00PM,
at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester.**

To register, please contact the OLM parish office by September 22. To all married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this fall's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

*Please note that this celebration may be subject to change. Any in place diocesan COVID-19 protocols will be observed. Registration will remain open until we have reached capacity; please no guests.

Parish Stewardship

August 21 & 22: \$4,909

Medical Missionaries: \$1,825

Thank you for your generosity!

Are You Missing Offertory Envelopes?

There are offertory envelopes in the office for parishioners who have requested them but have not picked them up for this year. As we get ready to print new envelopes for the coming year, we will not include the envelopes not yet picked up. **If you have not picked yours up and still want to receive envelopes for next year, please call the office** to let us know.

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