

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

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A Roman Catholic Community of Faith & Good Works

The Celebration of the HOLY EUCHARIST

Sunday Vigil (Saturday): 4:00pm – Sunday: 8:30am and 10:30am
Daily Mass: 8:00am (No morning Mass on Wednesdays)

The Sacrament of RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Saturday: 12 Noon or by appointment

Reverend Raymond Smialowski, *Pastor*
Deacon Robert A. Berube, *Senior Deacon*
Sandra DeBlois, *Bookkeeper*

Jo-Ann Blanchette-Silverio, *Administrative Assistant*
Susan Van Cott, *Coordinator for Faith Formation for Children*
Donna Marotto, *Coordinator of Faith Formation for Youth*
Eric Hoffman, *Organist and Music Director*
Robert DeBlois, *Maintenance*

Parish and Cemetery Office: 19 South Canal Street
Telephone: 860-747-6825 – Fax: 860-747-5407
Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm
Parish e-mail: olmct@sbcglobal – Parish webmail: www.olmct.org
Facebook®: OurLadyOfMercyChurchCT

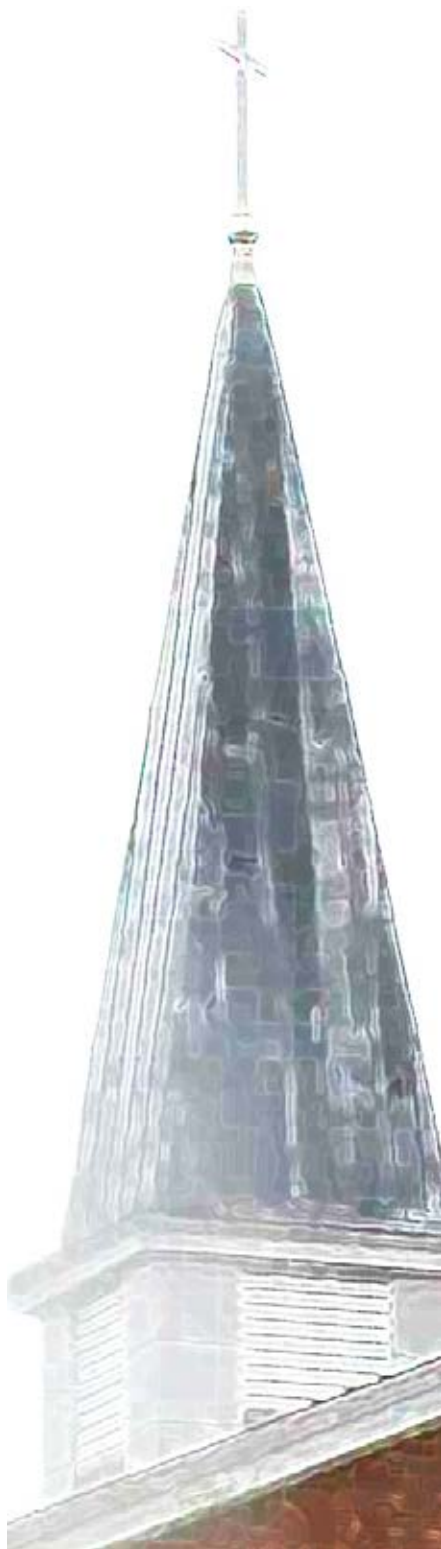
*Born as a Mission of Bristol in 1864 and
Established as an Independent Parish in 1881*

WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH! If you are new to the area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in our celebration of the Eucharist. We invite you to become part of our parish family. To register or to update your address or phone number, please complete this form and mail it to the Parish Office or place in the collection basket.

New Parishioner Address/Phone Number Change
Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

“Do whatever He tells you.”

– Mary to the disciples of Jesus
(John 2:5)





*Second Sunday of
Advent,
December 8,
2019*



Sunday December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30a For the Intentions of all Parishioners

10:30a Bernie Peters Req. Family

Monday December 9, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00a Intentions of Roland Sirois Req. Legion of Mary

6:00p Gloria Melecsinsky

Tuesday December 10, Advent Weekday

8:00a US Rep. Elijah E. Cummings Req. Pauline Casey

Wednesday December 11, St. Damasus I, Pope

8:00a No Mass

Thursday December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00a Theresa Bagliore Req. Family

Friday December 13, St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:00a Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:30a Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday December 14, St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00a Dolores Lindemann Month Anniv.

Gretchen Carney 1st Anniv.

Joseph Rouillard 1st Anniv.

Saturday December 14, Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

4:00p Frank & Julia Casele Req. Family

Sunday December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

8:30a For the Intentions of all Parishioners

10:30a Joseph Wichrowski Req. Son



We welcome all who gather here to worship with us. You are most welcome if you are visiting with us today.

If you are new to our parish and wish to become a member of OLM, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor, Fr. Raymond Smialowski, and to register. Registration can be completed by stopping by the parish office, filling out the short form on the front page of our bulletin, or completing a short registration form which can be found on our home page at www.olmct.org under the heading "New to Our Parish?"

Please return the form to the office by dropping it in the collection basket or mailing it to 19 S. Canal St., Plainville.



This Week This Week This Week This Week

Sunday December 8

8 – Noon Breakfast with Santa, *Parish Center*

10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Noon Children's & Parish Choirs' Christmas Rehearsal, *Parish Center*

Monday December 9

9:30a Legion of Mary, *Library*

Tuesday December 10

7p NA Meeting, *Rm 106*

Wednesday December 11

2 – 3p Religious Education, *Parish Center*

3 – 3:45p Children's Choir, *Parish Center*

6 – 7:30p Talented Basketball, *Gym*

7 – 8:15p Confirmation Classes I & II, *Parish Center*

6p K of C Member Christmas Party, *Parish Center*

7p Men's NA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Thursday December 12

3 – 5:45p St. Joseph Basketball, *Gym*

6 – 8:45p Farmington Boys Basketball, *Gym*

7p Pastoral Council Meeting, *Rm 102*

Friday December 13

6 – 7:45p GIFT, *Parish Center*

Saturday December 14

Noon Confession, *Church*

7p AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Sunday December 15

9 – 10:15a Religious Education, *Parish Center*

10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

4:30p Christmas Carol Sing & Reception, *Church & Parish Center*

Pastoral Council Meeting

The meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 12th at 7pm in the parish center. All parishioners are invited.

Church Support

\$3,792.50 Weekly Envelopes for 11.23 & 11.24

-\$280.64 Cathedraticum to the Archdiocese

\$3,511.86 Amount for OLM use

*

\$4,915.50 Weekly Envelopes for 11.30 & 12.1

-\$363.74 Cathedraticum to the Archdiocese

\$4,551.76 Amount for OLM use

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

The Tabernacle Lamp...

is lighted for the Greater Glory of God and in recognition of the Real Presence of Christ. This week the candle is flickering *for the Holy Souls in*

Purgatory. The Tabernacle Lamp is available as a memorial for a \$5 donation per week. Consider having the lamp burn in

memory of or the intentions of a loved one. Please call the office to schedule at 860.747.6825.



Religious Education News



Christmas Pageant

There are still spots available for participation in the Christmas Pageant, which will be performed after the 10:30am Mass on December 22nd. The next rehearsal will be held on December 15th, right after the 10:30 Mass. Please let Susan Van Cott know if your children or grandchildren would like to participate. susan.faithformation@yahoo.com

Family Discussion for Today's Gospel Reading:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
(Matthew 3:11). John reminds us that preparing the way for the Messiah includes repenting for our sins. It is in the spirit that Advent is sometimes referred to as a "little Lent." You may want to gather around a symbol of the season, like an Advent Wreath or



Advent Calendar, and discuss the importance of recognizing your sins. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

Since this week, we also celebrate the FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, this is a wonderful time to discuss why we honor Mary, the one chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. However, each of us is given gifts and talents by God to share with the world. Talk about the ways in which these gifts and talents might be used in the service of others.

As a family, identify some of the gifts and talents that God has given each person in your family. Talk about the ways in which these gifts and talents might be used in the service of others. Recall that Mary was given a special task by God, and she accepted the task without question. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Reflect upon Mary's humble response to God's call. Pray as a family that each person will be like Mary and respond to God with a resounding yes by using their gifts and talents to serve others in both large and small ways. Conclude by praying together the Hail Mary, or perhaps pray a decade of the Rosary, reflecting upon the Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation.



Sundaes on Sundays was a Hit!

Nine teens gathered this past Sunday for ice cream, fellowship and a great discussion. This will be offered every month. Please check out the Facebook youth ministry page for updates and also in the bulletin!

Youth Ministry Core Team...

Meets this Tuesday, December 10th at 5pm in the Parish Center. New members are always welcome. Questions, contact Donna at (860) 952-4005 or olmctre@sbcglobal.net

Storm Closing

Please note that if Religious Education classes or a GIFT EVENT need to be cancelled due to weather conditions, notification will be found on Channel 3 WFSB Eyewitness News, News 8/My TV9, and NBC 30 Storm closing systems.



Christmas Carol Sing

Come and prepare for Christmas here at OLM NEXT Sunday, Dec. 15th at 4:30pm in the church! Plan to attend, bring a friend and enjoy sacred Advent and Christmas Carols. Light refreshments to follow in the parish center. Admission is 1 canned or household item to be donated to the Plainville Community Food Pantry.

Breakfast with Santa

The OLM Breakfast with Santa will be held **THIS** morning, 8am - Noon, \$4 adults, \$1 Ages 13 - 18, 12 and younger FREE, Parish Center. Come visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and take



your pictures with them! There will be free Christmas crafts for the children to decorate and take home with the help of a few Confirmation students assisting. St. Anthony Society will also be hosting a Christmas Boutique of hand-made ornaments, baked goods, and small gift items.

Calling all Angels, Shepherds, etc.

The children of the parish are invited to participate in a living presentation of the Gospel on Christmas morning during the 10am Mass. The roles of the Christmas morning Gospel include: Mary, Joseph, Shepherds and Angels. Parents of children interested in participating are asked to contact Fr. Ray. There will be one rehearsal. It will take place on Thursday, December 19th at 5pm in the church.



Christmas Flowers

Donations to help defray the costs of Christmas flowers are gratefully accepted. Please use the flower envelope found in your envelope donation packet.

If you do not use parish envelopes, flower donations can be placed in a plain envelope then placed in the offertory basket. If you wish to make a flower donation in memory of loved ones, please indicate their names on the envelope. A listing of those in whose memory Christmas flowers have been donated will be printed.

Giving Tree



Thank you for your generous response so far to our Giving Tree.

Please remember that gifts need to be placed under the tree by this Monday, December 9th, or you may return them to the parish office between the hours of 9 & 4. This will allow for adequate time to distribute them to those who will be receiving them this year. Those who will be receiving the gifts you have donated will be the children and adults served by Hartford Catholic Worker House, Rocky Hill Veterans, Plainville Senior Center, Apple Rehab – Plainville, St. Philip House, and St. Mary’s Church in New Britain.



The Feast of Immaculate Conception... will be observed **THIS** Monday, Dec. 9th. Please join us for Mass which will be celebrated at 8am and 6pm.

Inclement Weather

Please remember that in the case of late openings or school closures due to snow, the weekday 8am Mass will not be celebrated. Also, if school is closed on a Friday, GIFT will be cancelled that same day. This long-standing policy here at OLM is to insure the safety of those attending Mass and GIFT.

Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised \$1248 to support those who live on the margins and in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on “How to Give” on the left.

Christmas in Europe Exhibit

The Knights of Columbus Museum at 1 State St., New Haven, is featuring an exhibit of artistic representations of the birth of Jesus. The exhibit will be on view till Feb. 2. The museum is open daily 10am – 5pm with free admission and parking. For more info: www.kofcmuseum.org or 203.865.0400.

Come Away and Rest Awhile

The men of our parish are invited to attend retreat at Holy Family in West Hartford, Jan. 17 – 19, 2020. We spend our time and energy on the necessities of everyday life, which hold so many things that are beyond our control. But what is it that we are longing for in the deepest way? What is our passion in life?



This year at Holy Family, we will explore that deep longing planted in our hearts by God - a longing for peace, for wholeness, and for relationships that give us joy and lift us up. Come away and rest awhile to find and pursue your deepest longing, and by doing so, may you experience how God is longing so deeply for you, too. Plan ahead to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, laughter, inspiring liturgies, home-cooked meals and more. Our parish Men’s Retreat Coordinator is Bill Fasciano. Please call Bill (860.919.3950) with any questions and information about registration. For those attending retreat for the first time, a scholarship is available. What a wonderful gift this would make for a husband or father that is so hard to buy for!

A women’s retreat will be held with the same theme on January 10 – 12, 2020. All women of the parish are invited. Please visit www.holyfamilyretreat.org more information.

Keep Christ in Christmas

An Evening of music, story, and fellowship for all! **TONIGHT**, Sunday, Dec. 8th, St. Dominic Church, 1050 Flanders Rd., Southington, 4pm, *Keep*



Christ in Christmas: “An Angel Came Down.” A modern story about the true meaning of Christmas told through Music, Narration, Film Slides, Lights, Special Effects, and live Presentations – all designed to show how we all need to **Keep Christ in Christmas!** The music ranges from contemporary Christmas songs to popular Christmas songs we all know and can sing along to. Followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Geraghty Parish Center. Admission is Free and open to adults and children of all ages!

Advent Thought for the Second Week



Make a point this week to tell each family member often that you love them and thank God for your family before you fall asleep each night.

Christmas Wafers

(Oplatek) are available on weekends on the table behind the Lectern. A free-will donation to help defray the costs can be left in the designated basket. Many families with roots in Poland or other Central and Eastern European countries take a few minutes before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner to break and share the unleavened Christmas Wafer with wishes of a long life, good health, joy and happiness; not only for the Christmas Season but for the coming year and for many years to come.



Is a Vocation Right for You?

John the Baptist is the prophet in today's readings who preaches the coming of the Lord. Who will herald Christ in our world? Consider becoming a priest, brother, or sister to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in today's world. Call

Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, email vocations@aohct.org, or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.



ALTAR SOCIETY

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH WHO, ON A ROTATING BASIS, FAITHFULLY PREPARE THE ALTAR AND CHURCH IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY MASS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS IN THIS WAY, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 860.747.6825.

March for Life 2020

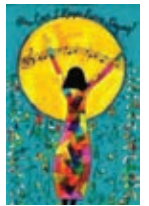
Your seat on the bus is ready for the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Washington DC – Thursday, Jan. 23 – Friday, Jan. 24. The theme of the 2020 March for Life is; Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman. To sign up or info: www.prolifeministry.org or call 203.639.0833.

St. Lucian's Christmas Sale

Pierogi, Babka, Soups, Polish Pastries and more will take place on Sat., Dec. 14, 8am – 1pm, 532 Burrirt St., New Britain, 860.223.2123

Women's Retreat at Our Lady of Calvary, January 17-19, 2020

On the weekend of January 17-19, 2020, the women of our parish are invited to Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center in Farmington, CT. Experience a weekend filled with rest, relaxation and spiritual renewal. You'll have the opportunity to participate in the sacraments, to hear conference talks, to share with other women and to reflect on this year's theme. The theme for our 2019-2020 retreat season is inspired by an old American hymn: *How Can I Keep from Singing?* This hymn and our retreat are all about perspective. The invitation is to first hear the song and then like a little bird that somehow senses the dawn, carefully start to sing while it is still dark. Our song, born of faith, hope, and love can heal us, our families and our wounded world. For more information about our Women's Retreat and to register call Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center at (860) 677-8519 or visit our website at www.ourladyofcalvary.net.



Prayer for Lighting the Purple Advent Candle for the Second Week

Dear Jesus, You entered our world



on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding **Peace**. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Books and Gifts for Christmas

Help is needed to tie ribbons on books that will be offered to those attending Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas. Also, help is needed to wrap some presents that will be given to the children attending Christmas Mass. Those willing to help are asked to call the parish office at 860.747.6825.



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~ELAINE~
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