

# OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

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## *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

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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*  
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Telephone: 860-747-6825 – Fax: 860-747-5407  
Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm  
Parish e-mail: [olmct@sbcglobal](mailto:olmct@sbcglobal) – Parish webmail: [www.olmct.org](http://www.olmct.org)  
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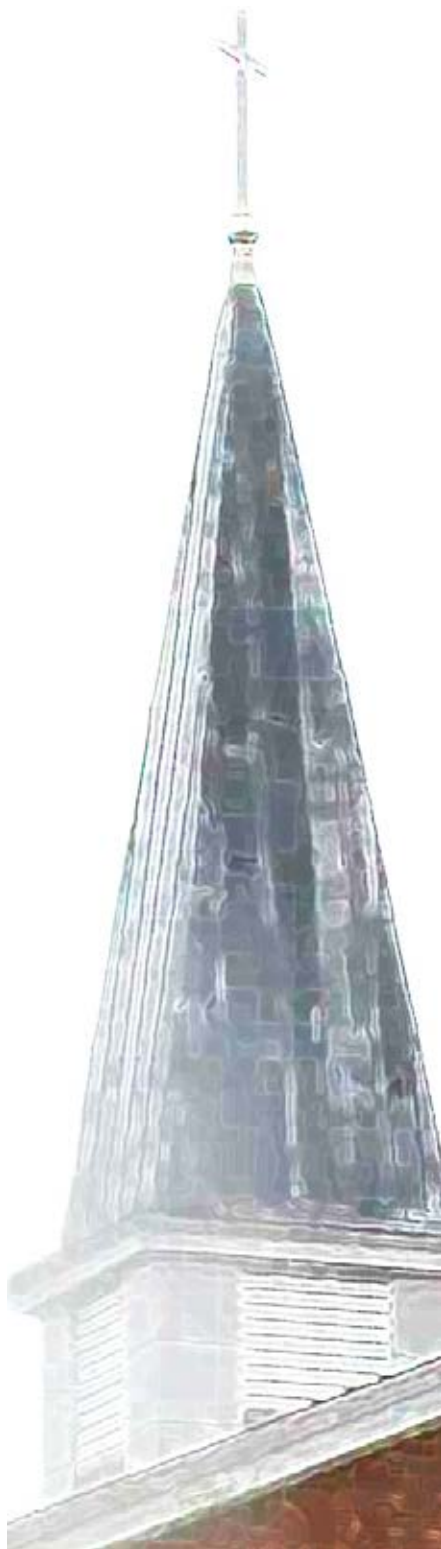
*Born as a Mission of Bristol in 1864 and  
Established as an Independent Parish in 1881*

***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)



## *Baptism of the Lord, Christmas Season, January 12, 2020*



### **Sunday January 12, Baptism of the Lord**

8:30a For the Intentions of all Parishioners  
10:30a Angela & Ralph Scheidel Req. Sandy & Bob Michalik

### **Monday January 13, Weekday**

8:00a Russell Martin Req. Leona Bisson

### **Tuesday January 14, Weekday**

8:00a John Egri Req. Esta Burton, Frankie Latham, Amanda Gray, & Wanda Burton-Crutchfield

### **Wednesday January 15, Weekday**

8:00a No Mass

### **Thursday January 16, Weekday**

8:00a Fr. Philip Cascia

### **Friday January 17, St. Anthony, Abbot**

8:00a Ann Wallace Req. Family  
8:30a Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



### **Saturday January 18, Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00a Tobias Hussey Req. Maria Nanez & Alan & Peyton Hussey

### **Saturday January 18, Vigil Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Noon Confession

4:00p Alexander P. Mancini Req. Leona

### **Sunday January 19, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30a For the Intentions of all Parishioners  
10:30a Helen & John Maciag, Sr. Req. Family

#### **Church Support**

**\$5,726.50** Weekly Envelopes for Dec. 21 & 22

**-\$423.76** Cathedraticum to the Archdiocese

**\$5,302.74** Amount for OLM use

\*

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**\$9,294.50** Weekly Envelopes for Jan. 4 & 5

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**\$8,606.71** 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 *in memory of the Souls in Purgatory.*

The Tabernacle Lamp is available as a memorial for a \$5 donation per week.



## **Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy!**

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](http://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 January 12**

8 – 10:30a OLM Breakfast, *Parish Center*

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

2 – 4:30p St. Joseph Basketball, *Gym*

### **Monday January 13**

9:30a Legion of Mary, *Parish Center*

4:45 – 6p Valley United Basketball, *Gym*

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

### **Tuesday January 14**

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

6 – 8:30p Valley United Basketball, *Gym*

6:30p GIFT Volunteer Meeting, *Rm 102*

7 – 8:15p NA Meeting, *Rm 106*

### **Wednesday January 15**

6 – 8p Talented Basketball, *Gym*

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

7 – 9p NA, *Rm 107*

### **Thursday January 16**

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

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

7p Prayer & Worship Committee Meeting, *Parish Center*

### **Friday January 17**

6 – 8p Talented Basketball, *Gym*

### **Saturday January 18**

9a – 2p St. Joseph Basketball, *Gym*

7p AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

### **Sunday January 19**

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

11:30a Sundaes on Sunday, *Rm 106*

2 – 5p Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest, *Gym*

# Religious Education News



## Sundaes on Sunday...

Will be held **NEXT** Sunday, January 19th after the 10:30am Mass in the Parish Center. We will be brainstorming ideas for outings, service projects

and fundraising events while having ice cream sundaes. Please bring a friend.

Questions - contact Donna at (860) 952-4005 or [olmctre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olmctre@sbcglobal.net)

## GIFT VOLUNTEER MEETING

THERE WILL BE A GIFT VOLUNTEER MEETING **THIS TUESDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>** AT 6:30PM IN ROOM 102. ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND SHARE THEIR TALENTS!

SEE YOU THEN!

## Old Rugs Needed

Youth Ministry is asking if you have any clean, slightly used area rugs you are no longer using or need. If so, please donate them to the church for the renovation project in the Youth Group Rooms. We can use them in the rooms that were recently painted. Thank you to all those who helped paint last weekend!

Please drop off the rugs at the church office.

Questions - Call or text Donna (860) 952-4005

## Family Reflection

At Jesus' baptism, God affirms his Son's mission for salvation. God announces his pleasure with Jesus and, in Matthew's Gospel, announces to all that, "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17). With this affirmation, Jesus is able to resist the temptations described next in Matthew's Gospel and to begin his public ministry. As family members, we can support one another in our Christian living by affirming the importance of each person in our eyes and in God's. Confident that through our Baptism we too were made children of God, we can resist temptation and share in Christ's mission. (Loyola Press)

***There will be a meeting for Parents on Sunday, January 26th at 9am in the gym.***

## Substitute Religious Education Teachers Needed

Periodically, we are in need of substitute teachers in our religious education program. If you are willing to help periodically, please contact either Susan or Donna at 860.747.6825.

## Advent Pageant

Thank you to all who participated in the Adven Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 22. We are grateful to them and to everyone who helped. A special thanks to the Parish and Children's Choir for leading the carols.



## Our Deepest Longing

The men of our parish are invited to attend retreat at Holy Family in West Hartford, **NEXT** weekend, Jan. 17 - 19, 2020. 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. Our parish Men's Retreat Coordinator is Bill Fasciano. Please call

Bill (860.919.3950) with any questions and information about registration. ***There's still time to sign up.*** For those attending retreat for the first time, a scholarship is available. Please visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) more information.



## Is a Vocation Right for You?

The Baptism of Jesus depicts the relationship between God and humanity. In baptism we have become children of God. From

our birth God calls us to be whole, holy people. For some, the path to wholeness and holiness is through service as a priest, brother, or sister. If you believe this is your path, call

**Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456,

e-mail [vocations@aohct.org](mailto:vocations@aohct.org) or visit the web at

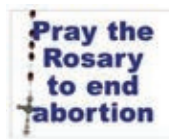
[www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com)



## Pray for the Protection of the Unborn

Since its foundation in 1973, **America Needs Fatima** has promoted a large amount of activities aimed at spreading Our Lady's Fatima message as well as promoting moral causes such as the

fight for the unborn, traditional marriage, and protesting public blasphemy. You are invited to pray the Rosary to pray for the protection of unborn children and for expectant mothers at OLM on Saturday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at noon in the church under the choir loft. It has been 47 years since abortion has been legalized in the United States. Let us pray to end abortion! Sponsored by the Legion of Mary. Everyone is welcome!



## Can You Lend a Hand?

The Legion of Mary invites you to join them in their many apostolic works. Meetings take place on Mondays at 9:30am in the Parish Center. Visitors are always welcome.





### Pilgrim Statue

You are invited to receive the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima into your home for a period of one week. A sign-up sheet has been placed near the piano. Some suggestions on what you might do together with your family when the Statue is in your home are available near the sign-up sheet. The Statue would be brought to your home by Legion of Mary members.

### Archdiocesan Marriage Enrichment Celebration.

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life will hold its 13th annual marriage enrichment evening on Sat., Feb. 1, 2020, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Mary Our Queen Church and Parish Center, 248 Savage St., Plantsville, CT. This year's program will begin with Mass, include dinner, prayer, reflection, and fun centered on the theme: **"The Name is Bond...Marriage Bond: The Agents of Unity in Sacramental Marriage."** The cost is \$25.00 per couple and includes dinner. To register or obtain more information, contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-302-1110, or email to [tfinnphd@gmail.com](mailto:tfinnphd@gmail.com). Please R.S.V.P. by Jan. 28, 2020.



### Basketball Free Throw Championship

The Knights of Columbus Annual **Basketball Free Throw Championship** will be held on **Sunday, January 19, at 3:00 pm** in the **Parish Center**. The contest is for all boys and girls aged 9 to 14 (age as of **January 1, 2020**) and its fun for the whole family to come out and watch the competition. Boys and girls compete each in respective age and gender divisions (for example, 9 year-old girls compete against one another, etc.) and winners progress through local, district, regional, and state levels. Thanks to the Knights members and especially sponsor **JR Heating and Cooling**, prizes will be given to each age group winner. Refreshments provided. **Parent permission is required for participation. Bring proof of age.** For questions, call Rich Dziura, 860-747-5451 for more information.

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

### PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

God of Light, we pray for all the people – men, women and children – hidden in the darkness of modern-day slavery. Help us shine Your light into the homes, streets, factories and brothels in our own neighborhoods and around the world where people are enslaved. The darkness is as light to you, O Lord. No person in any corner of the world is hidden from Your sight. Help us shine Your light. Amen. (Source: Catholic Relief Services.) For additional prayer resources visit:

<http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/humantrafficking.html>

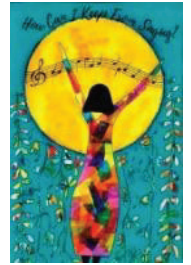


### Blind Eyes Opened (2020)

A Christian documentary diving into the sex trafficking industry in the US, January 23, Tickets: \$13.25 per person one show 7:00 p.m. at both locations - Buckland Hills 18, 99 Redstone Road, Manchester Or Regal Brass Mill, 495 Union Street, Waterbury

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

**NEXT** weekend, 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. 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](http://www.ourladyofcalvary.net).



### You are Invited to Breakfast

The OLM Breakfast will be served **THIS** Sunday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 10:30am in the Parish Center. \$4 adults, \$1 ages 7 – 18, Free 6 and younger. Eggs, toast, hash browns, yum!



### Altar Society

We are very grateful to the women and men of our parish who faithfully prepare and decorate the sanctuary for Sunday Mass on a rotating basis. Volunteers and people willing to help are always welcome. Please join us on any Saturday following the 8am Mass at about 8:45am. Your help will be welcomed.

### Christmas Flower Remembrance Names

- Jayne Scott Krane
- Brousseau Family
- Bodolato & Mastrianni Families
- Walerian Dlugosz
- Bielaska, Sencio & Smialowski Families
- Aurelio & Toribia Cullig
- Tobias Hussey
- Tony & Denise Faria
- Larry & Suzanne Watrous
- Bertolo Family



### Contribution Letters

Please call the office ahead for a letter for 2019. Unfortunately, we cannot print letters while you wait. Thank you for understanding.

# The *Baptism* of the *Lord*

*Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

Last November my Alma Mater, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook PA issued its glossy journal simply called “The Brook.” It featured several profiles of the new priests ordained from there the previous spring. Reading through them offered proof positive that each young man had a pivotal moment when a person or event in his life ultimately led to his decision to be a priest. I believe that most of us have experienced such moments in our own lives whatever our calling is.

It is fair to say that Jesus had one of these at His baptism in the Jordan that fateful day. It was pivotal for Him. We cannot know just how His divine nature intermingled with His human nature. But if Jesus truly was “like us in all things but sin” then He could not have known His future any more than we do. So it took a great amount of trust for Him to approach the Baptist and ask for baptism. What would happen to Him? What would follow?



We could say that for John the Baptist to accede to Jesus’ request also took a certain trust, because he intuitively knew that Jesus did not need any baptism meant to wash away sin. In Him there is no sin. So Jesus had to convince John that the ritual was necessary in order to fulfill what He called “righteousness.” We could take that word to mean “the proper order of things.”

The occasion also offered up a “theophany,” or manifestation of the Divine. So Jesus heard the heavenly “Voice” of His Father and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove over Him. Pivotal event indeed! So we rightly celebrate this happening not only as a milestone in Our Lord’s life and the launch of His unique mission as an adult, but also as the “closing of the curtain” on yet another Christmas season in our lives, where we focused on Jesus as a Babe in a manger.

This then becomes an opportune time for us to ponder the great gift our parents gave us in our own

baptism. No matter how far we have journeyed in faith from that long-ago day, or how we just began to travel from the 2019 Easter Vigil, this was the true sacramental beginning of that journey.

Our parents believed this to be true, and they fulfilled their duty in passing on the treasure of the faith to us. How well we have lived it, however, is a fit subject for review. As much as they loved us, neither our parents nor anybody else will be with us when our face to Face appointment with our just Judge comes due. By then we will have built our profile. That is why we should not only celebrate our own baptism by which we became part of Christ, but also today renew those promises our godparents once made for us.

I was deeply impressed by the decision of my close bishop friend who chose to add the date of his baptism on the reverse side of his ordination commemorative card. You don’t often see that, but it was a bit of evangelization done right at the start of his new high calling. Certainly a pivotal moment for him.

Jim Eliot, a dedicated missionary in Ecuador who was killed by the Auca Indians in 1956, said of his baptismal calling: “Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to a decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.” I might add that would be a pivotal moment.

## **Reading I: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7**

God’s servant will accomplish his work quietly and he will respect others as he brings back the apostates among his people living in “the coast lands.” All people need to realize their blindness or imprisonment so as to be cured.

## **Reading II: Acts 10: 34-38**

Peter’s sermon delivered in Cornelius’ home touts Jesus’ openness to all people, and then expounds on how Jesus “went about doing good, for God was with Him.”

## **The Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17**

Jesus’ is baptized in the Jordan by a reluctant John the Baptist. The term “righteousness” refers to ethical justice. The divine voice expresses the Father’s approval not only of Jesus but also His special relationship with the Father as His Son.



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