

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: 6:30am, 8:30am & 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*

Michelle Battista, *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

Donna Marotto, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

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.net – Parish website: www.olmct.org

Facebook®: OurLadyOfMercyChurchCT &

OurLadyOfMercyYouthMinistry

*Born as a Mission of Bristol in 1864 and
Established as a 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 box. *Thank you.*

New Parishioner Address/Phone Number Change

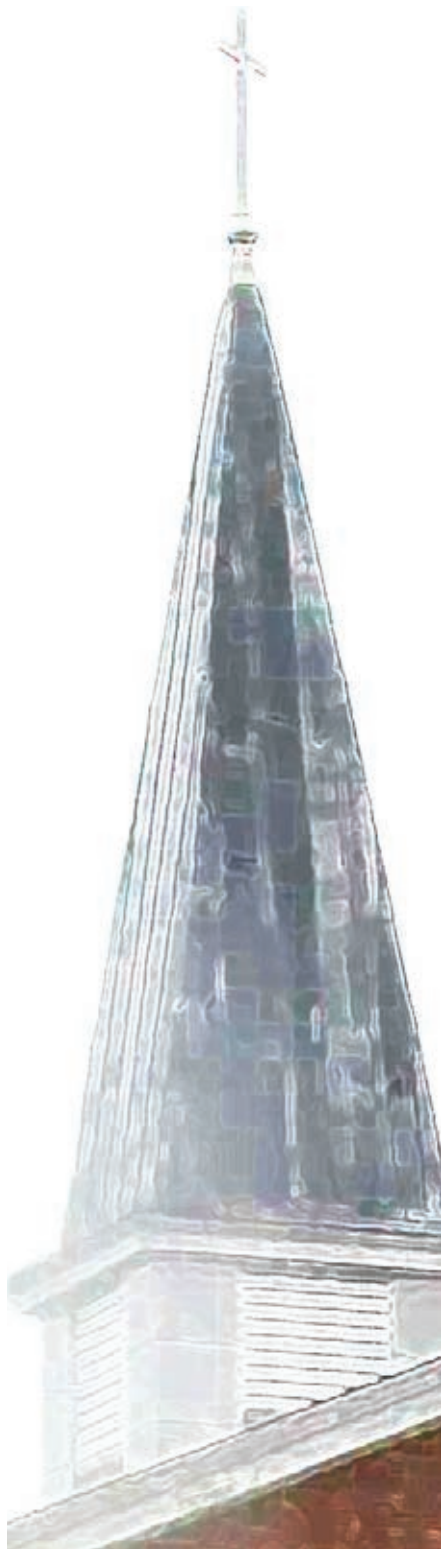
Name: _____

St. Address: _____ Phone# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

“Do whatever He tells you.”

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



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 12, 2020



Sunday July 12, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30am Intentions of All Parishioners

8:30am For Healing for Olidy Shokoh-Alai Req. Indiana

10:30am Andrew Predota Req. Family

Monday July 13, St. Henry

8am Theresa Bagliore Req. Family

Tuesday July 14, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

8am Roger Nuzzo Req. Pauline Casey

Wednesday July 15, St. Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

No Mass

Thursday July 16, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

8am Sydney Symolon Req. Daughter Lorraine

Friday July 17, Weekday

8am John & Helen Jurgilewicz Req. Family

Saturday July 18, St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest; BVM

8am Pearl Kowalczyk Req. A Friend

Noon Confession

Saturday July 18, Vigil Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p Val Dlugosz Req. Family

Sunday July 19, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30am For Election of a Good President in Poland Req. Maria Orzol

8:30am Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30am Bradley Matthews Req. Jo-Ann & Joe

Helping Our Parish Grow WEEKLY OFFERTORY



\$5,504.00 Weekly Envelopes for July 4 & 5

\$ 407.30 Cathedraticum to the Archdiocese

\$5,096.70 Amount for OLM use

Thank You for Your Continued Generous Support & May God Bless You!



A Thought Based on Today's Gospel Reading - Mt. 13:1-23

Jesus in today's parable warns that there could be some impediments for the Word of God to take root in our lives.

Have you ever received a gift, something beautiful, admired it, put it on a shelf where it could be seen... but never used it? The Word of God can be like that, we admire it but never open it up or let it really into our hearts, so that it doesn't take root.

I pray that we all receive the Word of God into our hearts so that it may take root and blossom!

God Bless,

Fr. Ray



Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy!

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, completing a short registration form which can be found on our home page at www.olmct.org under the heading "New to Our Parish?", or calling the Parish Office at 860.747.6825 and we can fill it out with you over the phone. Please return the hard copy to the office by dropping it off at the Parish Office, the collection box, or mailing it to 19 S. Canal St., Plainville.

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 Andrzej Predota*. The Tabernacle



Lamp is available as a memorial for \$5.

Expanded Summer Mass Schedule

As Sunday Masses resume an additional Mass has been scheduled through July and August to allow for proper distancing in church in light of the covid-19 pandemic:



Summer Mass Schedule

Sunday 6:30 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Please be advised of the necessity of wearing a face mask.

Religious Education News

Congratulations...
to Alexa and
Zachary Krpata
who receive their
First Holy
Communion
today during the
10:30am Mass.



Volunteers Needed - For Religious Education for all Grades



There is a possibility that we may be able to gather for CCD classes in the fall. If so, I am looking for a few people who have a love for Christ and want to share that love with kids and teens. We will be having Edge Ministry for the middle schoolers and Purpose for the Confirmation teens. In the event, that we can't meet, programs will be moved online and still need volunteers to help. If you are interested or have questions, please call Donna at (860) 952-4005 or email at ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com

Enrollment 2020/2021 Year Under Way

Mailings were sent out a few weeks ago. If you did not receive yours, please call the Parish Office at 860.747.6825.

Please return the registration form and payment to the office by July 31st.

Grades 1-5 - Will be held on Monday's 4-5pm.

Grades 6-8 - Will also be held on Monday's from 6:15-7:30pm.

Grades 9-10 (Confirmation) - Will be held on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm.

Hopefully we can meet in person for classes. If not, we can still meet online using either Zoom or Google Meet platform. Any questions, please email Donna at ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com

The GIFT Program will not be offered this academic year.

Sacrament of Baptism

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism of your child. You may begin preparation even before your child is born. To begin the process, call Sue at 860-747-5451. The date of the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Parent Preparation Program. Please note that Godparents must be confirmed and obtain a *Sponsor Certificate* from their own Catholic parish.



St. Joseph Cemetery News

The American flags have been removed from the cemetery by the VFW. However, if you still wish to have a flag near your



loved one's grave, please call the Cemetery Office at 860.747.6825 and we can supply you with one. We ask that you place the flag close up to their larger headstone if they have one to ease the movement of machinery.

We ask that you ONLY plant flowers 10" from the base of an upright monument. To ease mowing, plantings of any kind are prohibited near flat markers.

We also ask that no pets are walked in the cemetery for the safety of all who visit.

Mailboxes with the label "CEMETERY RULES" have been placed in the cemetery on two metal poles in sections A & B. The Rules have also been placed on our website, www.olmct.org under the button "St. Joseph Cemetery". Please call the cemetery office at 860.747.6825 with any questions. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Is a Vocation Right for You?

The sower went out to sow. The Lord has sown the seeds of vocations to priesthood and religious life in our parishes. The parable of the sower challenges all who hear it to discern which description of “those who hear the word” best describes their life as Jesus’ disciple. If you have the gifts to become a priest or religious, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, e-mail vocations@ahct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.



Marriage

*We extend our
congratulations to
Kevin and Tessa*

*Sullivan who were joined in the Sacrament of
Marriage on June 28th.*

Worship Button is Available

When you go to MyParish App you will see a Worship button on the top row. If you do not see it, you will need to shut off your phone and restart it so that the button will load.

Most of the prayers for the Mass and the readings for the day will be displayed. If you turn your phone sideways the font will become larger. **Please do not forget to silence your phone!** This way you are able to follow along with the Mass without holding a hymnal that includes the readings. Also, under the **Prayers Button** are a collection of prayers that are prayed at Mass under the heading, “Order of Mass Prayers.” A few lines below that is listed the “Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel.” Hopefully these tools will help you in following and praying the Mass.

Bulletin Outreach

If you or a loved one would like to receive a bulletin every week in the mail, please call the Parish Office at 860.747.6825. We would be delighted to mail one out to you or a dear one.

2020 Mission Cooperative Appeal Collection...

will be taken as a second collection next weekend.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the missionaries are not able to be with us this year; however, although physically distant, we have the opportunity to be present to them through our spiritual and financial support. The ministries of The Polish Redemptorists will benefit from our parish’s generosity. Our assistance will help them expand youth outreach in their current 12 pastoral centers and the construction of 2 new centers for Catholics in Eastern Europe where they have been ministering in the former Soviet Union for 30 years. Our sharing in response to Christ’s call that we “love one another” will bring His hope into the lives of many. We ask your generous response. Checks may be made out to The Catholic Mission Aid Office. On their behalf, thank you.

Good News

This past week we received the good news that our parish was awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,500 from the Hartford Bishops’ Foundation. The Hartford Bishops’ Foundation was founded in 2016 to advance the mission of the Archdiocese of Hartford. It is funded largely through Forward with Faith Campaign. The grant money will be used to help build a vibrant digital presence in our parish through social media, inspiring our parishioners and transforming our catechetical programming. We are grateful to Sue Dziura and all who helped her put together the particulars of the grant proposal.



Scavenger Hunt

A number of things are new or different in our parish church since public Masses ended in the middle of March. Next time you are in church, look around and try to identify at least four new aspects. In a couple of weeks, we will print a listing of changes. You will then be able to match up your list with ours.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

One of life's persistent questions is "What if?" If we answer by looking back on our lives, we could face heaps of regret. If we gaze into the future, we may get carried away with our daydreams or forget about the contingency of all things. But once in a while, we get pleasant answers to the question, well-grounded and uplifting. Case in point: this weekend's Gospel passage. The unspoken variant is this: "What if Jesus were to explain some of His parables?" Fortunately for us, here He did.

As always, we admire Jesus' ingenuity as a teacher, using what is familiar to His audience at the time, in this case some rural workers. But as part of the Divine Word referred to by Isaiah, what Jesus said is addressed to a much wider audience than the original one. That happens to include you and me.

Now, some of us may actually have been sowers, at least when we spread grass seed on threadbare patches of our front

lawn. Therefore, the result of our sowing is also a bit chancy. We marvel when the seed catches on. Not so for (dare I call Him?) "Farmer Jesus!"



Perhaps because we have heard this parable many times, we pivot right to its application. Of the four landing places for the seed, we ask, "Which one am I?" Here we must guard against being cavalier about our answer. We may conclude that because we're hearing the parable at Mass, we have the right to say "I must be that good soil." Or, we could go in the opposite direction and hastily condemn ourselves for being "rocky soil" or even "thorns."

May I humbly suggest that, if you're anything like me, you have been all four types at various points in life.

Our spiritual lives always seem to be "works in progress." That's because they are. It's a matter of two steps backwards for every one step forward." Of course, with no sarcasm meant, you just may be one of those hidden saints that have always been part of the Church, even though you would never say so about yourself.

But for the majority of us there is usually this bouncing back and forth. That could make me worry, which Our Lord said elsewhere is foolish. I am grateful that the Holy Spirit gives us St. Paul, one very transparent saint. He freely admits his progress and regression in the matter of his behavior. But note what Paul writes to us in today's Second Reading: "I consider the sufferings of this present time as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us." Our very vacillation is a form of suffering. (So is coping with all the effects we have endured of Covid 19, although that is subject for another reflection.)

So, taking St. Paul's words to heart, we do not have to waste our time worrying about our eternal glory being in jeopardy because of our unintended relapses. As long as we repent and rise up to try again, we will see God face to face and experience a peace and joy unmatched by anything here on earth.

As for questions like "What if?" the evangelist Vance Havner (d. 1986) wrote this: "There are a lot of questions the Bible doesn't answer about the Hereafter. But I think one reason is illustrated by the story of a boy sitting down to a bowl of spinach when there's a chocolate cake at the end of the table. He's going to have a rough time eating that spinach when his eyes are on the cake. And if the Lord had explained everything to us about what's ours to come, I think we'd have a rough time with our spinach down here."

Isaiah 55 Unscramble

Unscramble the words to finish today's first reading!

Thus says the _____: [DRLO]
Just as from the heavens
the _____ [NIRA] and _____ [OWNS]
come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the _____, [HRATE]
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving _____ [EDSE] to the one who sows
and _____ [EBDRA] to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my _____; [TOUMH]
my _____ [DOWR] shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I _____ [NTSE] it.



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~ELAINE~
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