

# OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

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## *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](mailto:olmct@sbcglobal.net) – Parish website: [www.olmct.org](http://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

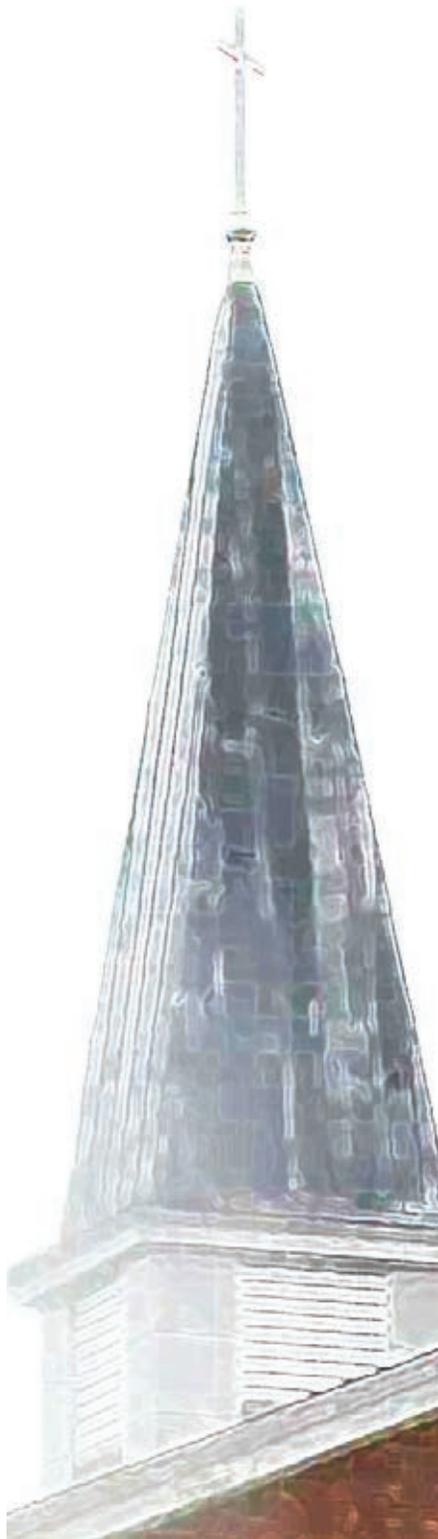
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*“Do whatever He tells you.”*

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



## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 26, 2020



**Saturday July 25, Vigil Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4:00p** Connie & Paul Kapralos 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniv.

**Sunday July 26, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**6:30am** Matthew Req. Maria Orzol

**8:30am** Intentions of All Parishioners

**10:30am** Walter Dziura Req. Leona

**Monday July 27, Weekday**

**8am** Jane Lotko Req. Family

**Tuesday July 28, Weekday**

**8am** Deceased Members of Autunno Family & Nye Family Req. Marge Rio

**Wednesday July 29, St. Martha**

No Mass

**Thursday July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

**8am** James Tella 21<sup>st</sup> Anniv. Req. Brenda

**Friday July 31, St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

**8am** Jan Borowy and his Family Req. Cousins

**Saturday August 1, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

**8am** Elizabeth "Beth" Demanski

Noon Confession

**Saturday August 1, Vigil Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4:00p** Russell & John Martin Req. Regina & AnnMarie Tardiff

**Sunday August 2, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**6:30am** Souls in Purgatory Req. Maria Orzol's Family

**8:30am** Intentions of All Parishioners

**10:30am** Andrew Predota Req. Family

### Helping Our Parish Grow WEEKLY OFFERTORY



**\$4,134.00** Weekly Envelopes for July 18 & 19

**\$ 305.92** Cathedralism to the Archdiocese

**\$3,828.08** Amount for OLM use

*Please use the Donation Boxes at the Entrances of the Church. Thank You for Your Continued Generous Support & May God Bless You!*

## A Thought for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

In our Gospel reading today we read the parables of the *Hidden Treasure* and the *Fine Pearl*. These parables speak of the kingdom of heaven.



Jesus often spoke in parables. He did so attempting to retool the way we think, to change our frame of mind.

In today's periscope Jesus assumes that everyone in his audience would sell all they had to buy a field with a buried treasure in it or to acquire a pearl for which they had searched a lifetime. The question we are called to ponder today is: *"What would you do, give up, or change in your life to possess the kingdom of heaven?"*

The kingdom of heaven is far more valuable than any treasure or pearl and the only thing that will bring ultimate fulfillment in life.

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](http://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.

### 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.

### 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

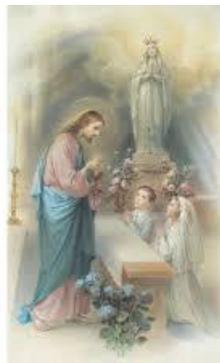
**Sunday 6:30 am**  
**8:30 am**  
**10:30 am**

**Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 pm**

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

## Religious Education News

Ryan Bohn will receive his First Holy Communion today during the 10:30 am Mass. We rejoice as a parish with Ryan and his family



and offer him our congratulations!

### Volunteers are Still 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](mailto:ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com)

### First Reconciliation

The following children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this past Saturday:

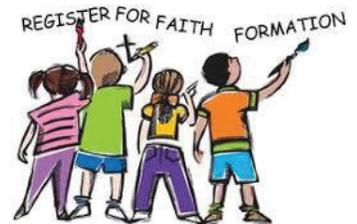


*Bryson Evangelista*  
*Giovanni Evangelista*  
*Katarina Evangelista*  
*Ali Saucier*

### Congratulations!

### Enrollment 2020/2021 Year Under Way

Mailings were sent out to invite you to enroll your children in our Religious Education Program. 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](mailto:ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com)

### Exciting Opportunity for Teens

As you continue to prepare for Confirmation, we invite you to grow closer in **YOUR** faith and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

*Here is an exceptional and exciting offer that OLM is providing for its teens. It is a volunteer YOUTH ALPHA course that will meet online through zoom starting*

**Wednesday, August 19th. It will meet every Wednesday between 7-8pm for 9 weeks.**

A series of videos will be offered with small group discussions to follow concerning questions teens are asking today. You will be encouraged to ask and explore questions such as, "What is the meaning of life?" "Do I have a purpose?" and "Who is Jesus?" "How do I pray and when?" and many more questions.

Please contact Donna to sign up or ask any questions by **THIS** Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at [ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com)

### 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.



### Is a Vocation Right for You?

What is precious to me? Am I willing to sell everything I own and follow the Lord to serve His people? If you feel the call, contact Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, 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).



### 2020 Mission Cooperative Appeal Collection...

Thank you for your very generous response last weekend to the second collection to assist the work of the Polish Redemptorists in their mission work in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. \$1,238 was contributed.

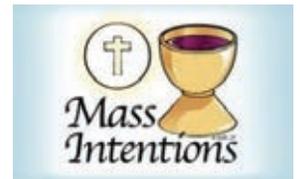


### Scavenger Hunt

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.

### Mass Intentions for 2021

We will begin accepting Mass intentions for 2021 on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> for those who would like to arrange a Mass to celebrate a wedding anniversary or a special birthday. We will accept all other intentions starting on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.



### The Legion of Mary...

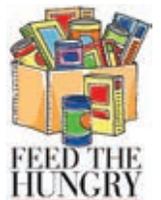
will meet this Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm in the gymnasium in the Parish Center. Please remember the necessity of wearing a mask or a face covering.

### Overwhelming Response!

Thank you for the wonderful response to our letter that we sent out a few weeks ago. Parishioners have been providing us with updated information so that we may in turn update our records. We will be having the drawing for the three prizes at the end of September. Stay tuned! Please keep sending in your responses.

### Food Pantry Collection

The collection is next weekend. The staples of peanut butter, cereal, tuna, pasta, and macaroni and cheese are always needed. If you have any produce you are willing to share from your gardens, we invite you to do so. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

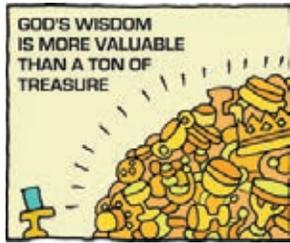


### Homily for 17th Sunday Of Ordinary Time, Year A

#### Let Us Seek Wisdom for God's Kingdom

On this 17th Sunday of ordinary time, the Church reminds us that the greatest of all treasures is the Kingdom of God. In His love, God himself has chosen us, and prepared it for us before time. So, the holy mother church encourages us to pray for wisdom as Solomon did, to enable us discern the true value and mysteries of God's kingdom. Today's first reading began in a very interesting way. If you were Solomon what would you ask for? Some of us would, ask for more cars, houses, shoes, foods, money, power, children and much more! On the contrary, Solomon asked for wisdom for the benefit

of both His kingdom and God's kingdom. He begged God to give him understanding: "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil."



An understanding heart is God's gift (Prov 2:6). We need it every day, and in all aspects of our life (family, work, studies, and in all life's decisions) in order to

succeed. So, the Apostle James encourages us: "If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously...and it will be given to you (Jas 1:5). Wisdom was given to Solomon, because he asked for it. However, God expects us to ask wisely, reasonably and not selfishly. In the second reading, Paul reminds us that: "In everything, God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to his purpose." That is, that God is leading us through the storms of life towards our home, and towards His kingdom. Carefully, He orders all the events of our lives in order to lead us there. This is what we call *providence*. Simply put, that God's powerful hand is active in all the circumstances of our lives.

"Everything" is utterly inclusive and comprehensive. It has no qualifications or limits. Therefore, neither this verse nor its context allows for restrictions or conditions. "All things" is inclusive in the fullest possible sense. It includes your present trouble, your heavy heart, your poverty, your richness, joblessness, your success and failure, your weakness and strength, as well as your sickness and health. Indeed,

"everything" and nothing is left out!

Nothing exists or occurs in heaven or on earth without the knowledge of God. By saying that "all things work together for us," Paul tries to reassure us that there is no discord in God's providence. This is especially, for those who through their faith in Christ have wisely become God's friends. He also assures us that, nothing can ultimately work against those whom God has chosen and predestined for his Kingdom. Those, who walk faithfully with Him. Today's gospel is a continuation of Jesus' use of parables to teach us about the Kingdom of God. Therefore, it is a call to be as wise as Solomon. Without wisdom, we can neither understand the parables of Christ, nor seek the kingdom of God. Today's good news is also a call to value what is

most precious to us, and for which God has chosen us.

Today's parables are intended to instruct us to prefer the kingdom of heaven to this world, and to ensure that nothing prevents us from entering into it.

Through these parables, Christ reminds us of the excellence and beauty of eternal life. The kingdom of God is indeed a treasure hidden from the wise of this world.

Only those who are wise according to God's standard look for it, and find it. To find it, we must first value it, and when we have found it, we must hide it in our hearts. Therefore, let us ask God for understanding and wisdom as Solomon did, so that we may be wise enough to discern what is good for us, and to make God's kingdom our priority.

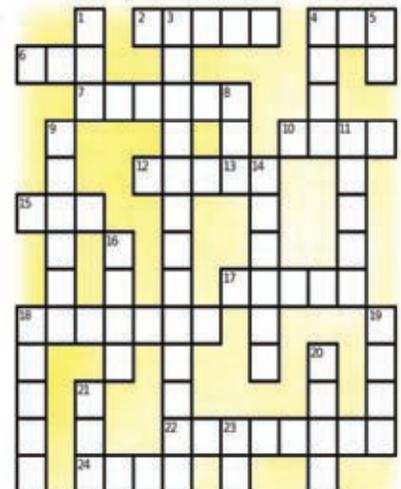
*This brief reflection was written by Rev. Fr. Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka, C.S.Sp.*

## King Solomon's Dream Cross-Word

God \_\_\_\_\_ (19d) to the young \_\_\_\_\_ (24a) Solomon in a dream, " \_\_\_\_\_ (21d) \_\_\_\_\_ (23d) for whatever you want me to \_\_\_\_\_ (16d) you."  
 Solomon knew that he was only a young \_\_\_\_\_ (8d) and couldn't rule God's people without His help. So he said \_\_\_\_\_ (5d) God, "O \_\_\_\_\_ (20d), I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (10a) youth, not knowing \_\_\_\_\_ (1d) to \_\_\_\_\_ (4a). I \_\_\_\_\_ (18d) you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ (22a) or counted. Give your \_\_\_\_\_ (18a), therefore, an \_\_\_\_\_ (3d) \_\_\_\_\_ (17a) to \_\_\_\_\_ (2a) your people and to distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ (11d) from \_\_\_\_\_ (12a). For \_\_\_\_\_ (6a) is \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) to \_\_\_\_\_ (14d) this vast \_\_\_\_\_ (9d) of yours?"  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (15a) was pleased with Solomon's request and told him that He would grant him \_\_\_\_\_ (7a) greater than anyone else had ever had or would have.

Use the words from this list to fill in the blanks and figure out the cross-word.

UNDERSTANDING  
 ME NUMBERED  
 TO SERVANT  
 ASK WISDOM  
 ACT GOVERN  
 GIVE WRONG  
 SAID PEOPLE  
 GOD JUDGE  
 WHO HEART  
 MAN RIGHT  
 KING SERVE  
 HOW LORD  
 ABLE MERE



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