

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

94 BROAD STREET - PLAINVILLE, CT 06062-2799

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

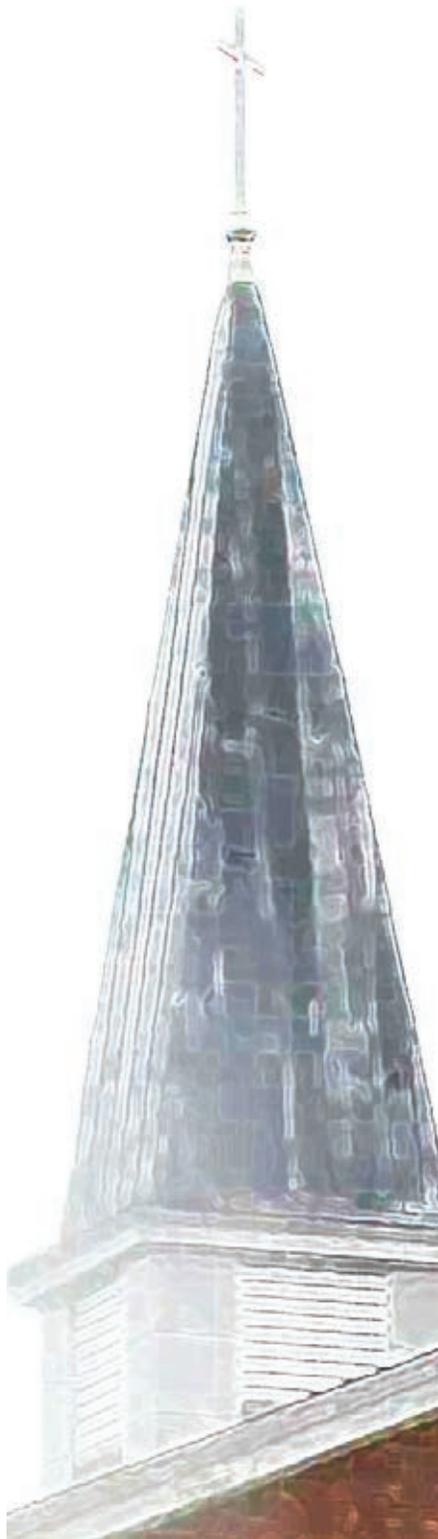
Name: _____

St. Address: _____ Phone# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

“Do whatever He tells you.”

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



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 2, 2020



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

Monday August 3, Weekday

8am Claudette Chasse Req. Maria Orzol

Tuesday August 4, St. John Vianney, Priest

8am Barbara & James Zink Req. Sophia Winiarski

Wednesday August 5, The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

No Mass

Thursday August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord

8am Pam Nightingale

Friday August 7, St. Sixtus II, Pope, & Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest

8am Jan Borowy Req. Mary Lesniak & Family

8:30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday August 8, St. Dominic, Priest

8am Alice Brousseau

Ana Simoneau 1st. Anniv.

Noon Confession

Saturday August 8, Vigil Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p Ovide & Jeannette Vallee Req. Family

Sunday August 9, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

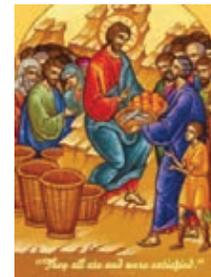
6:30am Intentions of All Parishioners

8:30am Jeannette Frazier Req. Legion of Mary

10:30am Chris Dziura Req. Parents

A Thought for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

In today's Gospel we hear about one of Jesus' best-known miracles, *The Feeding of the Multitudes*. We are told that 5,000 were fed!



The account of the *Feeding of the Multitudes* is an amazing story.

We are not given too many details of how the multitudes were fed. It does however, tell us why. We read in the Gospel that, "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd,

He had compassion for them..." It was out of compassion that Jesus provided food for the crowd. The compassionate Jesus cares for each and every one.

Someone tells of being in the bathroom at a popular coffee chain. Someone wrote on the bathroom wall, "What would Jesus do?" One person answered the question by writing, "Wash His hands." Another person added, "...and your feet!"

What a wonderful perspective on the nature of Jesus. He would wash our feet. Jesus cares about people. He had compassion for the multitude. He has compassion for us.

Christ has compassion for our needs. He is able to meet our needs. Sometimes He uses us to meet the needs of others. He is able to use us in wonderful ways, if we are willing to share the little we have and let Him use it as He wills.

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.

Helping Our Parish Grow

WEEKLY OFFERTORY



\$4,297.00 Weekly Envelopes for July 25 & 26

\$ 317.98 Cathedraticum to the Archdiocese

\$3,979.02 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!

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 Alice Brousseau*. 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

First Holy Communion

Brennan Farina will receive his First Holy Communion today during the 8:30am Mass. We congratulate Brennan and rejoice with him and his family!



Rite of Reception Into The Church

Gregory Diaz will be received into the Church today during the 8:30 am Mass. The Sacrament of Confirmation will follow. We welcome Greg with great joy! Congratulations!

Enrollment 2020/2021 Year Under Way

If you did not receive a letter inviting you to enroll your children in our Religious Education Program, please call the Parish Office at

860.747.6825.



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

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.



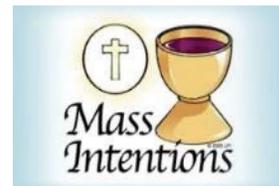
Is a Vocation Right for You?



Jesus turns his thoughts from the death of John to the suffering of His people. He orders the disciples to bring them food and Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes. If you want to feed His people with the body and blood of Christ as a priest, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860.761.7456, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

Mass Intentions for 2021

We will begin accepting Mass intentions for 2021 on Wednesday, August 19th 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 27th.



Legion of Mary will meet on Monday, August 3rd at 1pm in the Parish Center. Please wear a face mask.

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.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

You are invited to adore our Lord on Friday, August 7th after the 8 am Mass with Benediction at 9:30 am.

Food Pantry Collection

The total collection for July is 75 pounds. Now that gardens are becoming abundant, please do not hesitate to share your blessings with our hungry brothers and sisters in Plainville. As always, OLM is so generous in giving. Thank you so much.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel today is from St. Matthew 14:13-21. This miracle was an act of kindness and loving thoughtfulness on the part of Christ.

He saw the people's need - it was late for them to return to their homes and they had had nothing to eat all day - and He worked a miracle to provide for this need. The miracle also helped to convince the people of Galilee



- the news spread around quickly - that He was the expected Messiah, but especially it prepared the way for the

announcement of the greatest miracle of all - the miracle of the Eucharist.

As St. John tells us Jesus referred to this miracle the next day in order to introduce

His promise of the heavenly bread which He would give them and which was to be His own body and blood, under the form of bread and wine. The bread He miraculously multiplied that day to supply the bodily needs of the Galilean multitude was but a foreshadowing of that heavenly food which He was about to give as spiritual nourishment to the millions who would become His followers down through the centuries until the end of time.

The Galileans were grateful to Him for providing so kindly and so thoughtfully for their needs. How much more grateful should we not be for the miracle by means of which

He has left us Himself to be our daily spiritual food? We are grateful, of course, to our loving Lord who not only handed up His Body to His enemies to be crucified for us, but through His divine power, arranged that

His glorified body, triumphant over death, should remain with us, His Church, forever under the Eucharistic species.

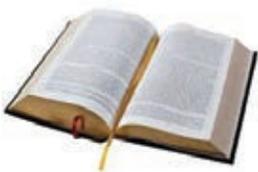


Though invisible to mortal eyes, He is as truly present on our altars as He was that day in Galilee, when He miraculously fed the multitude. He is present under the form of bread and wine — so that we can partake of Him as spiritual nourishment during our earthly life. Could love go any further? He Himself said: "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends" (Jn. 15 :13). Yes, once a man has given his life, he has given his all; there is nothing more he can give. But Christ was more than man. He was God as well, and, therefore, He was able not only to lay down His human life for us, but was able and willing to remain with us after death under the Eucharistic species: to be our strength and nourishment until we join Him in the promised land of heaven.

When we compare our own unworthiness with this, almost incredible, love and thoughtfulness of Christ for us, all we can do is simply to say: "Lord, you



know I am not worthy to receive you, but you say you want to come into my poor and untidy home, please make me less unworthy, forgive all my past sins and offenses, and give me the grace and strength to be better in the future." *Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.*



Changes in Catholic Attitudes Toward Bible Readings

Average Catholics asked today how often they read the Bible likely would say that they do not read the Bible regularly. However, if asked how often they read Scripture, the answer would be different. Practicing Catholics know they read and hear Scripture at every Mass. Many also recognize that basic prayers Catholics say, such as the Our Father and the Hail Mary, are scriptural. But for most Catholics, the Scripture they hear and read is not from the Bible. It is from a worship aid in the pew.

Scripture always has played an important role in the prayer life of the Catholic Church and its members. For the ordinary Catholic in earlier centuries, exposure to Scripture was passive. They heard it read aloud or prayed aloud but did not read it themselves. One simple reason: Centuries ago, the average person could not read or afford a book. Popular reading and ownership of books began to flourish only after the invention of the printing press.

Once the printing press was invented, the most commonly printed book was the Bible, but this still did not make Bible-reading a Catholic's common practice. Up until the mid-twentieth Century, the custom of reading the Bible and interpreting it for oneself was a hallmark of the

Protestant churches springing up in Europe after the Reformation. Protestants rejected the authority of the Pope and of the Church and showed it by saying people could read and interpret the Bible for themselves. Catholics meanwhile were discouraged from reading Scripture.

Identifying the reading and interpreting of the Bible as "Protestant" even affected the study of Scripture. Until the twentieth Century, it was only Protestants who actively embraced Scripture study. That changed after 1943 when Pope Pius XII issued the encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*. This not only allowed Catholics to study Scripture, it encouraged them to do so. And with Catholics studying Scripture and teaching other Catholics about what they were studying, familiarity with Scripture grew.

Scripture awareness grew after the Second Vatican Council. Mass was celebrated in the vernacular and so the Scripture readings at Mass were read entirely in English. Adult faith formation programs began to develop, and the most common program run at a parish focused on Scripture study. The Charismatic movement and the rise of prayer groups exposed Catholics to Scripture even more. All of this contributed to Catholics becoming more familiar with the Bible and more interested in reading the Scriptures and praying with them.



In a round-about way, aspects of U.S. culture also have encouraged Catholics to become more familiar with the Scriptures. References to John 3:16 appear in the stands at sporting events. Catholics who hear of and see other Christians quote or cite Scripture verses wonder why they cannot. Such experiences lead Catholics to seek familiarity with the Bible.

Such attitudinal changes bode well for Catholics, especially when reading and praying with the Word of God leads to lessons learned, hearts inspired and lives profoundly moved for good.

BY MSGR. DANIEL KUTYS

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