

OUR LADY OF *Mercy*

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The Celebration of the HOLY EUCHARIST

Sunday Vigil (Saturday): 4:00pm – Sunday: 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 Batista, *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

Faith Formation website: www.OLMseek.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

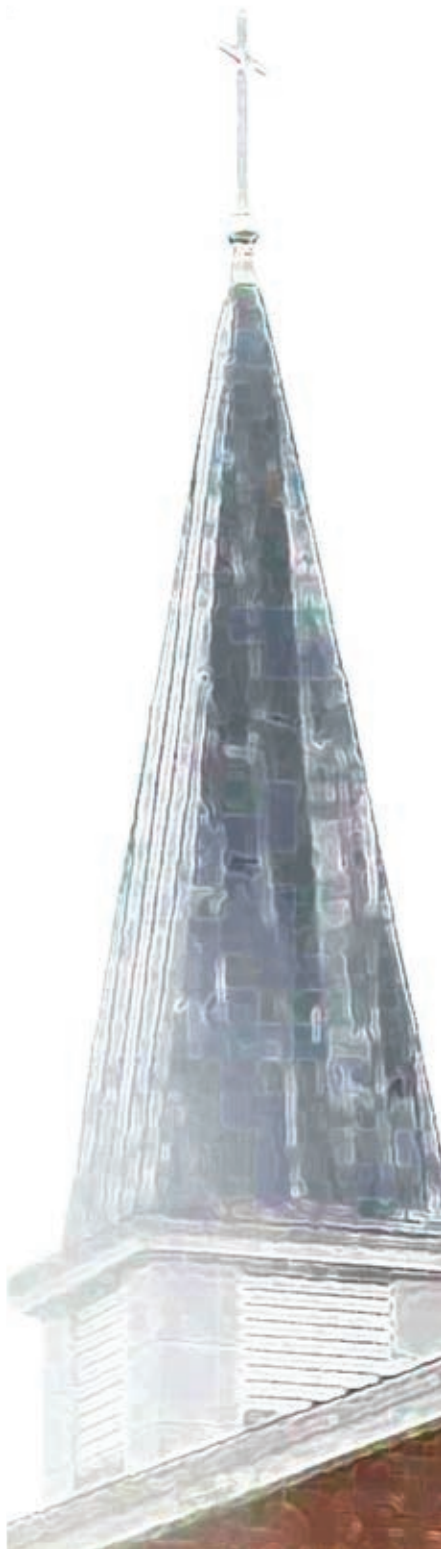
Name: _____

St. Address: _____ Phone# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

“Do whatever He tells you.”

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



First Sunday of Advent November 29th, 2020



Saturday November 28, Vigil First Sunday of Advent

4:00p James & Lena Parente Req. MaryAnn & Peter Giola

Sunday November 29, First Sunday of Advent

8:30am For the Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30am Nick Ruffini Req. Family

Monday November 30, St. Andrew, Apostle

8am Sophie, Steven, & Blanche Winiarski Req. Sonia Winiarski

Tuesday December 1, Advent Weekday

8am Elizabeth "Betty" Boukus Req. Family

Wednesday December 2, Advent Weekday

No Mass

Thursday December 3, St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00am Walter Zarzycki

Friday December 4, St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8am Ronald Gionfriddo Req. Dale & Leona

8:30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday December 5, Advent Weekday

8am Russell Martin 1st Anniv.

John Cassidy 1st Anniv.

Paul Kapralos 1st Anniv.

Alice Brousseau

Marie Cutler 1st Anniv.

Noon Confession

Saturday December 5, Vigil Second Sunday of Advent

4:00p Sydney & Leocadia Symolon Req. Daughter Lorraine

Sunday December 6, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am For the Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30am Andrew Predota Req. Family

WEEKLY OFFERTORY



Due to an earlier than usual deadline for this week's bulletin, the offertory will be printed December 6, 2020.

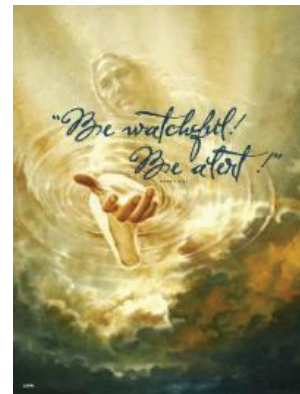
Please use the Donation Boxes at the Entrances of the Church. Thank You for Your Continued Generous Support & May God Bless You!

A Thought for the First Sunday in Advent Year B

The scripture readings that are read at Mass during the Advent season as well as the antiphons that will be spoken or sung invite us to be mindful of the unexpected ways that God appears in our midst.

In our Gospel reading today from Mark 13:33-37, Jesus simply says, "**Be Watchful! Be alert!**"

These are the words that can carry us through not only this season but the days of every season. *Be watchful, be alert!*



The words of Jesus urge us to look for the evidence of God all around us – in the quiet slumber of your children and grandchildren, in the aroma of a cup of tea, in the faces of the people you meet. Take time this Advent to listen for God's voice in the quiet at the start of the day, in music and laughter, and most especially in the words of Scripture. Make time this Advent to meditate quietly on the Sunday Scripture readings.

As we begin Advent, we are reminded that God who made the universe always dwells among us.

God Bless, Fr. Ray

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.



Pastoral Council Meeting

The Pastoral Council will meet **THIS** Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 7pm, in the gym. If you have any concerns about the parish in which you would like to address the Council with, please attend the meeting at 7pm. After opening prayer, you will be invited to address the Council.

This Week This Week This Week This Week

Sunday November 29

10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Gym*

Monday November 30

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

4:30 – 5:30p Rel. Ed. Grades 1 – 5, *Parish Center*

6:15 – 7:30p Rel. Ed. Middle School, *Parish Center*

6:30 – 9p Knights of Columbus, *Parish Center*

Tuesday December 1

4:30 – 6p Atrium, *Parish Center*

7 – 8:15p NA, *Room 106*

Thursday December 3

7:00p Pastoral Council Meeting, *Gym*

Saturday December 5

8:45a Altar Society Team 1, *Church*

Noon Confession, *Church*

7 – 8p AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Sunday December 6

10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Gym*

6 – 7:30p Confirmation Class I & II, *Gym*

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.



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.

Sunday Missals for 2021

Our *NEW* Church year begins this weekend! **Happy New Year!** Missals with the Sunday readings and Mass prayers are available in the Gathering Space; with a suggested donation of \$1, to defray the cost of the missals. These are for you to keep, write your name in, and bring to church every weekend for your own use.



The Catholic 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 are supporting those on the margins who are living in poverty in the US. If you missed the collection it's not too late to give. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

Giving Tree

Your response has been amazing! Thank you. Please return all gifts by **Monday, December 14th**. **You may return items under the Tree or at the Parish Office.** This year we are "Giving" to Catholic Worker, Apple Rehab, St. Mary's Parish, Veteran's Home, Birthright, and Plainville Senior Center. This year *Catholic Worker* is requesting only gift cards to Amazon or area businesses such as Kohl's, Target or restaurants. Their goal is to purchase Kindles for the children so that they may learn online at home. Many homes have only one computer. This will allow more than one child to learn online at the same time. Please do **NOT** wrap these gifts.

Apple Rehab is requesting colored pencils along with adult coloring books, small CD player/radio units, nonskid slippers, books, costume jewelry (no earrings) for just a few ideas. Please see the **Tree** for other gift ideas. Please **DO** wrap these gifts if possible.

St. Mary's is requesting mostly toys for the children. Please **DO** wrap these gifts.

The *Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill* is requesting new clothing. Please do **NOT** wrap these gifts.

Birthright is requesting gently used or new clothing for children ages 0 – 2 years. They are in need of boys' clothing in particular. They are also requesting boxes of unopened diapers and new baby bottles in original packaging. Please do **NOT** wrap these gifts.

Plainville Senior Center is requesting gift cards from CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, McDonald's, Friendly's,



Subway, Dunkin' Donuts, and Gnazzo's in denominations of \$25 or less. A book of stamps also makes a great gift. Please do **NOT** wrap these gifts.

Thank you for your generosity as always!



Children's Liturgy...

Will be starting up **THIS** Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th

during the 10:30am Mass. We will meet in the Gathering Space where we can spread out and have enough room.

Christmas Wafers

(Oplatek) will be available next Sunday on the table near the piano. A free will offering may be left in the basket near the oplatek.



Word Among Us Booklets

They have been put out for the month of December at the main entrance of the church. It contains the Sunday as well as the weekday reading with accompanying meditations.



Food Pantry Collection

Please bring some nonperishable food items or cleaning supplies to Mass next weekend. All items donated will be distributed to people in need through the Plainville Community Food Pantry.

Advent: The Coming of Our Savior

God prepared His people for the coming of the Messiah for many centuries. In fact, it can be said that God began to prepare for the Savior's coming from the very beginning. God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, to live in perfect harmony with Him in the Garden of Eden. They were made to know and love God as Father, and to be loved by Him. But, because of the temptation of the serpent, Adam and Eve sinned. They turned away from God's love and brought sin and death into the world. Even though God allowed Adam and Eve to experience the consequences of their sin, He immediately promised them that they would be

saved from their sin one day. God promised a Savior!

God's promised salvation did not happen right away, however. In fact, sin had so badly wounded the human race that God had to prepare us to receive our salvation. And so, gradually, by word and deed, God worked in human history to move us ever closer to the fullness of relationship with Him that He so desired.

Then, at the appointed time, God sent His only, beloved Son to earth. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity assumed a human nature and became man in the Person of Jesus Christ. Born on Christmas Day in a stable in a small town called Bethlehem to a virgin named Mary, God became like us in all things but sin. Fully God and fully man, Jesus Christ taught us how to be holy and showed us the greatness of the Father's love for us. And then He gave His life for us on the Cross. He suffered and died to make up for our sins. Then He rose from the dead. Our God died for us and defeated death, opening the gate of Heaven to us. Our salvation had come!



Today, and over the centuries, the Catholic Church has celebrated the coming of our Savior at Christmas. And like all those who waited and prepared for the coming of our Savior for the thousands of years before He came on the first Christmas, the Church today takes a moment to wait and to prepare. We call this time Advent. Advent is a season in the life of the Church in which we prepare our hearts to receive Christ and the salvation He offers us. It is a time to draw close to God, to reflect on all that He has done for us, and to be thankful for all the blessings He has given us. It is a time to pray to God, to talk to Him, and to allow Him to speak to us. It is a time to follow the example of Christ in a special way and to serve others, especially those who are sick, suffering, or in need. It is a time to make room in our hearts and lives for Christ to come and dwell with us.

During Advent, we not only prepare for the coming of Christ as a child at Christmas, but we look

forward to His promised Second Coming. Even though our salvation has already been won by Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, those of us alive today are not unlike those who lived thousands of years ago. Just as they awaited the first coming of the Savior, we await His Second Coming at the end of time. Then, all things will be made new. Then, if we have lived holy lives by loving God above all else, and loving our neighbor as ourselves, we will be welcomed into the eternal life He has promised and offered us from the very beginning.

Taken from the Sophia Institute for Teachers.

Blue Books for Advent

Blue Books with meditations for each day of Advent will be made available today at each Mass. We are grateful to The Legion of Mary for providing these books as a way to encourage a meaningful observance of Advent.

Life is an Advent Search for God

Advent is a sacred season in the liturgical year of the Catholic Church. It is a distinctive time in which Christians are invited to open their hearts in preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child, whose birth is celebrated at Christmas. Advent reminds us that our Savior has come, is present among us, and will come again. However, it is much more. In a sense, life itself is an Advent Search for God.

Advent is a time of preparation, expectation and acknowledgment.

It is a liturgical season in which we recall and give ourselves over to the greatest gift: the Son of God who became man for the sake of conferring divine life on his brethren; the Savior and Redeemer of the world who poured forth his sacred blood and water upon the altar of the cross, giving birth to the Church and her sacraments of life, that we may shed our mortality and take up immortality by living in him and for him, and thus embrace his invitation to eternal communion with God the Father.

St. Augustine wrote that God has "*promised men divinity, mortals immortality, sinners justification, the poor a rising to glory.*" Jesus Christ is the way to this sublime and glorious promise (cf. Jn 14:6).



Advent is about seeking God, the most noble of all pursuits. Nevertheless, such a pursuit is one in which we are engaged each day, not merely during Advent. The search for the Divine is a journey every person walks at some level, at every time and place, whether they know it or not or accept it or not, because everyone craves the perfect happiness found in God alone.



The human person is made *by* God and *for* God, which means your origin, purpose, and destiny is God. That is the reality, and there is no escaping it. The human heart should beat ardently for God, although sin introduces a poison that turns its desire toward what can never satisfy, because our hearts were created for the reception of Divine Love. Everyone thirsts for the sublime and supernaturally infused happiness that God alone can offer. Even the atheist who rejects God (or perhaps, more accurately, struggles the more severely with him) is on the hunt for the divine for the simple reason that he is indeed looking for a way to sate his thirst yet cannot do so apart from God: it is only the infinite and all-powerful Creator who, in communicating the indescribable divine love that he is, is capable of filling the human heart.

That no one is - or can be - complete apart from God is a simple and obvious and profound truth, yet also one which is mysterious and often elusive. The crucial discovery in life, the essence of understanding the life-journey itself, is this: that total sufficiency and fulfillment is found in God alone.

The search for God can be easily derailed, which shrouds the life-journey in darkness and confusion. Pride, sin, ingratitude, disrespect for God, lack of prayer, carelessness about the truth or disregard for it, moral and religious indifferentism, relativism and so forth are all serious obstacles.

If you have forgotten you are searching for God or if you are seeking the Divine and Everlasting Beauty in the wrong places and in the wrong way, running down dead-end roads of indifferentism or living in sin-laden rooms of darkness, focus your will anew on Divine Light, on Christ and the possession of God's love. *Taken from: www.catholic.org*

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The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME
In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

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