

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

Faith Formation website: [www.OLMseek.org](http://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

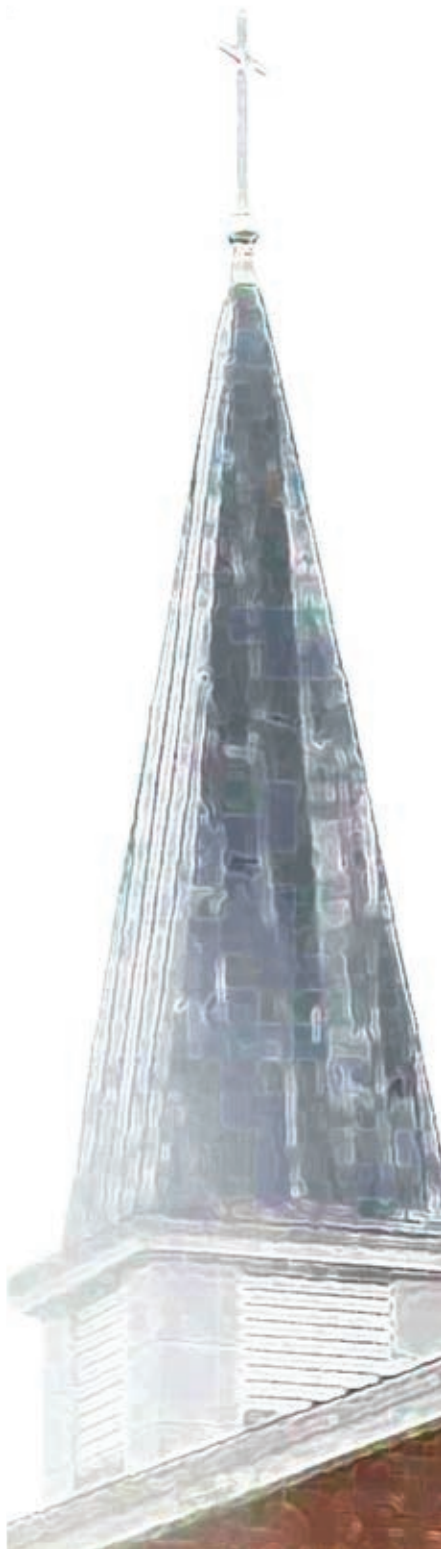
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

***“Do whatever He tells you.”***

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



# Epiphany of the Lord January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021



**Saturday January 2, Vigil Epiphany of the Lord**

**4:00p** Janice Patterson Req. Jackie & Angelo

**Sunday January 3, Epiphany of the Lord**

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

**10:30am** In Memory of Andrew & Elizabeth Predota's  
35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniv. Req. Wife & Family

**Monday January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

**8am** James King Req. Wife

**Tuesday January 5, St. John Neumann, Bishop**

**8am** M/M John Burke Req. Kathleen & Michael  
Bernavage

**Wednesday January 6, St. Andre Bessette, Religious**

No Mass

**Thursday January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest**

**8:00am** Michael Hybner Req. Daughter Rose Hyjek

**Friday January 8, Christmas Weekday**

**10:00am** Sylvan Devlin Req. George & Simone  
Bouchard

**Saturday January 9, Christmas Weekday**

**8am** John Susco 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Joanne McMahon 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

Welliena Saucier Month's Mind

Noon Confession

**Saturday January 9, Vigil Baptism of the Lord**

**4:00p** Josephine Evangelista Req. Childhood Friend

**Sunday January 10, Baptism of the Lord**

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

**10:30am** Angela & Ralph Scheidel Req. Sandy & Bob  
Michalik

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY



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

January 10, 2021

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

**God Bless  
You In The  
New Year**

## A Thought for the Feast of the Epiphany Year B

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, also known as Three Kings' Day. Here in the United States the Church celebrates this solemnity on the first Sunday of the New Year. In some other parts of the world, it is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas.



The word, Epiphany, means manifestation. The Three Kings also known as the Magi represent people from the East. Our celebration today thus reminds us that Jesus was born and came for all people.

Christmas tradition gives us the names of the Magi.

Gaspar was a king who made the long journey from India across Persia and Arabia to reach Bethlehem.

Melchior was a Persian king and Balthasar was an Arabian king.

The story is so familiar, thus, so easily we might think of the Epiphany account as a fairytale conclusion to the Christmas season.

Christmas is not a fairytale. Neither is Epiphany.

Again, Epiphany reminds us that Jesus was born and came for all people. In addition, it challenges us to examine our attitudes and actions. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to examine our attitudes. Is prejudice a part of our lives?

God loves all people without distinction.

Happy Three Kings' Day!  
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 the Joseph Maksimczyk*. The Tabernacle Lamp is available as a memorial for \$5.



**This Week This Week This Week This Week**

**Sunday January 3**

10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Gym*  
1 – 4p Legion of Mary, *Parish Center*

**Monday January 4**

4:30 – 5:30p Religious Ed. Gr. 1 – 5, *Parish Center*  
6:15 – 7:30p Middle School Rel. Ed., *Parish Center*  
6:30 – 9p Knights of Columbus, *Parish Center*

**Tuesday January 5**

4:30 – 6p Atrium, *Parish Center*  
7 – 8:15p NA, *Room 106*

**Friday January 8**

9a – 2p Blood Drive, *Parish Center*

**Saturday January 9**

8:45a Altar Society Team 2, *Church*  
Noon Confession, *Church*  
7 – 8p AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

**Sunday January 10**

10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Gym*  
6 – 7:30p Confirmation Class I & II, *Parish Center*

**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.



**MORAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE NEW COVID-19 VACCINES**

The USCCB has posted a statement on the recent Covid-19 vaccines. The conclusion of the statement reads: *The world is currently facing a health crisis. The number of deaths from COVID-19 is now almost one and a half million worldwide. In the United States, the toll is approaching 300,000. Given the urgency of this crisis, the lack of available alternative vaccines, and the fact that the connection between an abortion that occurred decades ago and receiving a vaccine produced today is remote,*

*inoculation with the new COVID-19 vaccines in these circumstances can be morally justified.*

*For our part, we bishops and all Catholics and men and women of good will must continue to do what we can to ensure the development, production, and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine without any connection to abortion and to help change what has become the standard practice in much medical research, a practice in which certain morally compromised cell lines are routinely used as a matter of course, with no consideration of the moral question concerning the origins of those cell lines.*

To read the entire statement, go to:

<https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>

**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.



**Volunteer Needed...**

For online help with Faith Formation. The only thing needed is a computer/phone with a camera and a heart in helping young teens know Jesus better. This will start after the New Year in January. If you have time on either Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday evening, please contact Donna at (860) 952-4005 or [ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofmercyym@gmail.com)

**Jan. 3rd– Epiphany of the Lord**

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do you have to give? Is God calling you to be a priest, brother, or sister? Call 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).



## A Thought for the New Year from Calvin & Hobbes

Years ago, in a Calvin & Hobbes cartoon, Hobbes, Calvin's stuffed tiger asks Calvin, "*Did you make any resolutions for the New Year?*"

Calvin becomes indignant and shouts, "*NO! I'm fine just the way I am!*"

*"Why should I change? In fact, I think it's high time the world started to change to suit ME!....."*

*.....I don't see why I should do all the changing around here. If the New Year requires resolutions, I say it's up to everybody else, not me! I don't need to improve! Everyone ELSE does!"*

After he finishes his tirade Calvin asks, "*How about you Hobbes? Did you make any resolutions?*"

Hobbes says, "*Well, I had resolved to be less offended by human nature, but I think I blew it already.*"

### ***Donation from the St. Anthony Society***

*We are grateful to the St. Anthony Society for their \$1,000 donation for the needs of our parish. The card that accompanied the donation stated, "The Saint Anthony Society is proud to give this for the needs of the church." May God bless the ladies of the St. Anthony Society.*



### **Epiphany Reflection**

*by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

From boyhood I have always loved the Epiphany story, perhaps because the magi manage to bring a touch of the exotic and color to the nearly monochrome stable scene of the first Christmas. More than that, their very arrival after a presumably long dangerous journey has always underscored the attractive power and authentic divinity of the baby Jesus. Also, the stark contrast the gift bearers make with the humble homespun couple and their newborn has always struck me with how God acts in ways that challenge our expectations.

Of course, we should not be surprised how often God does this, thoroughly upsetting our ideas about "how things ought to be." When our notions clash with His, urging us to ask for Him to change His decision, He simply refers to His prior admission that "My ways are not yours" and the added codicil "Learn from Me."

We could ask "Shouldn't the wise men have pooled their resources to set up this young couple and their

child in the best room at the inn?" Not a proper question albeit a natural one. We have to accept God the Father's "No" to that.

To that we add the vexing question for the Jews at that time: "Why does Yahweh allow these gentiles to receive a warm welcome from God when we are His chosen people?" A hard pill for them to swallow as they heard this story.

Inevitably we come to think about our personal failure in at least one aspect of our lives. One would think that after all this time, all these centuries since the Bethlehem event, and the clear teaching of the grown-up Nazarene, we would still be guilty of racial prejudice. And what about this awful habit of practically naming ourselves "God's selected ones" all the time forgetting the petty betrayal of Him involved in our every sin? One could analyze that each sin of ours is like a spike of rough straw chafing an infant's skin. Or more heinous, like a thorn crowning a condemned God-Man's sacred head.

We have our work cut out for us, as in our imaginations we rise up from our knees behind the wise men when they stand up. We know they won't be going back to Herod with any report. Nor will they take the same route home. Nobody who has seen Christ goes away the same. They will have learned without any words from the Holy Infant what it takes to be truly wise. All of this is what makes the Epiphany celebration wonderful. Our Eastern rite brothers and sisters celebrate this day more than Christmas. It is the day our God revealed Himself as Someone available to everybody and not to just one race.

When I find myself tempted to join the growing number of cynics in the world beyond my front door, who seem more aggressive these days than we are, in spreading their convictions, I can recall this scene for comfort.

It has adorned many a Christmas card; been added to literary fiction in Henry Van Dyke's story of "The Other Wise Man," and immortalized in music as the subject of Menotti's opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors." In my mind I see the weary camels shaking the tiny bells in their livery. I hear rustling silk in the apparel of the extraordinary travelers from the East. I smell the aroma of incense competing with the stink of the stable. And I see the look of delight on that tiny Face which I believe with all my heart to be my God's countenance.

May that same God love you throughout this New Year and give you His peace.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS. SOME PEOPLE DONATED FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES. SO FAR THIS YEAR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE REMEMBERED WITH FLOWERS:

<i>Alice Brousseau</i>	<i>Herb &amp; Jeannette</i>	<i>Donald Rio</i>
<i>Bielaska, Sencio, &amp;</i>	<i>LaRose</i>	<i>Rejeanne &amp; Raymond</i>
<i>Smialowski Families &amp;</i>	<i>Chris "Skunk"</i>	<i>Lemieux</i>
<i>ALL</i>	<i>Vidal &amp; Wroczynski</i>	<i>William &amp; Ann</i>
<i>Raymond Lambert</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Wallace</i>
<i>Helen Schultz</i>	<i>Toribia, Aurelio,</i>	<i>Suzanne Watrous</i>
<i>Joseph, Salvatore, Rose</i>	<i>Asuncion, &amp; Cesar</i>	<i>Bernavage Family</i>
<i>Dell'Aquila &amp;</i>	<i>Culling</i>	<i>Burke Family</i>
<i>Dell'Aquila Family</i>	<i>Leon &amp; Ann Wrobel</i>	<i>Valeenas Family</i>
<i>Jesse &amp; Frank Stawski</i>	<i>Ollie Michaud</i>	<i>Verna Paradis</i>
<i>Cele &amp; Joseph Jablonski</i>	<i>Mark Koza</i>	<i>Owen Burby</i>
<i>Bryan A. Knorr</i>	<i>Brenton Carl Wright</i>	<i>Bernosky &amp; Jankoski</i>
<i>Edward Shea</i>	<i>Ralph Ryder</i>	<i>Families</i>
<i>John T. Wynkoop</i>	<i>Debra Kulas</i>	<i>Ronaldo &amp; Nicholas</i>
<i>Victoria Beaulieu</i>	<i>Raymond Lambert</i>	<i>Harvey</i>
<i>All Who Died from</i>	<i>M/M Frank Baczek</i>	<i>Jennifer, Hayley, &amp;</i>
<i>Alcoholism</i>	<i>Philip &amp; Mary</i>	<i>Michaela Petit</i>
<i>Raymond D'Amato</i>	<i>Apruzzese</i>	<i>Carlson, Misko, &amp;</i>
<i>DeBlois &amp; Gessner</i>	<i>M/M Anthony</i>	<i>Julian Families</i>
<i>Families</i>	<i>Tarascio</i>	<i>Alfred Nesser</i>
<i>Frank &amp; Viola Sliwonik</i>	<i>M/M Salvatore</i>	<i>Badolato &amp; Mastrianni</i>
<i>Helen &amp; John</i>	<i>Tarascio</i>	<i>Families</i>
<i>Jurgilewicz</i>	<i>Leocadia &amp; Sydney</i>	<i>Heidi Velazquez</i>
<i>Vittorio</i>	<i>Symolon</i>	<i>George &amp; Stella Fensick</i>
<i>Mastrobattista</i>	<i>Ray Tyminski</i>	<i>Carla Fensick</i>

*Plainville's Oldest Funeral Home*  
Serving All Faiths in the Community for **Over 130 Years**



Traditional Funeral,  
Cremation &  
Memorial Services

**Bailey Funeral Home**  
48 Broad Street, Plainville, CT 06062  
860-747-2295 [www.BAILEY-FUNERALHOME.com](http://www.BAILEY-FUNERALHOME.com)  
Blaire L. Bouchard, Funeral Director  
Medicaid/Title 19 Assistance Life Planning Consultant On Staff

**MIKE'S AUTO SERVICE**  
320 Farmington Ave. (Rt. 10) - Plainville, CT 06062  
860-793-2811  
*Good Old Fashion Service - Stop By & Visit!*  
Friendly service you can **TRUST. TRUST.**  
We will work hard to earn your **TRUST. TRUST.**  
**MikesAutoPlainville.com**



Catering Available *The ST. PIERRE Family*  
**Saint's**  
RESTAURANT & CATERING  
**HOME OF THE FAMOUS CHILI DOG**  
747-0566  
1248 Queen Street - Southington

Residential - Commercial - Industrial - Municipal  
Shopping Malls - Hospitals - Housing Complexes - Restaurants  
**Waste Removal & Recycling Services**  
Hartford County 860-747-1335  
New London County 860-447-1473  
25 Norton Place, Plainville  
Rubbish - Recycling - Construction - Demolition - Bulky Waste  
High-Grade Paper - Wood Waste - Metal & Electronics Recycling  
Stump Disposal - Single Stream Recycling




**PETIT family FOUNDATION**  
Paid for by PETIT PROPERTIES



**What's My Name?**  
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

**catholicmatch**<sup>®</sup>  
Connecticut  
CatholicMatch.com/dateCT



**JR HEATING & COOLING**  
Lic. #303285  
Call today to Schedule & Save!  
**860-793-2686**  
Servicing all major brands of central heating sys., boilers, central a/c systems & window units!  
[www.jrheatandcool.com](http://www.jrheatandcool.com)

**Volunteers Needed to Teach English as a Second Language**  
One hour sessions each week, one to one classes with an Adult Learner  
*No experience necessary, all books and training are provided*  
Contact Nancy Rodriguez  
**860-348-0622**  
29 Edson St., New Britain, CT  
[www.SienaLearningCenter.org](http://www.SienaLearningCenter.org)  
**Siena Learning Center**  
A Ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace



**TONY'S OIL COMPANY**  
860-747-5412  
5¢ Senior Discount



**AUTUMN LAKE HEALTHCARE**  
*at New Britain*  
24/7 Skilled Nursing Care  
Short & Long Term Care  
World Class Therapy  
Secured Dementia Unit  
860.224.3111  
[AutumnLakeNewBritain.com](http://AutumnLakeNewBritain.com)  
*Good care. Good times.*



**American Red Cross**  
Make a Difference in Your Community  
**VOLUNTEER**  
with the American Red Cross  
Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)

**Mallory's Army Foundation**  
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
Don't Just Teach Kindness... **BE KINDNESS!**  
[www.MallorysArmy.com](http://www.MallorysArmy.com)  
(973) 440-8657 • [info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org)  
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:  
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.  
 Message and data rates may apply.

**Paul A. Shaker**  
*Funeral Home LLC*  
"Creator of Meaningful Memories"  
764 Farmington Ave., New Britain, CT 06053  
Family owned since 1993  
**860.229.9006**  
SF, Parla Italiano  
[ShakerFuneralHome.com](http://ShakerFuneralHome.com)

**ST. ANTHONY SOCIETY**  
*We are hoping to get new members!*  
~ELAINE~  
860-747-2528  
**WE ARE ON THE CHURCH**  
**WEBSITE AT: WWW.OLMCT.ORG**

**Senior Living with Assistance**  
860-223-2123 • [stluciansresidence.com](http://stluciansresidence.com)  
Private Furnished Rooms • Meals • Security  
Supervised Medication & Bathing  
Social Activities • Daily Mass  
Gardens & Grounds • Air Conditioned • Laundry



**COSTELLO LANDSCAPING**  
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED  
ESTABLISHED 1990  
[www.costellolandscaping.com/860-747-1771](http://www.costellolandscaping.com/860-747-1771)  
Property Maintenance  
Commercial Snow Removal  
Litter & Sand Sweeping  
Dumpsters & Estate Clean-outs



*Plainville's ONLY Family Owned and Operated Funeral Home*



**PLAINVILLE FUNERAL HOME**  
- FAMILY OWNED, FAMILY FOCUSED -  
Andrea Wasley, CFSP • Owner, Funeral Director  
Paul Belval, CFSP • Funeral Director, Pre-Planning Consultant  
81 Broad Street - Plainville, CT 06062 860.747.8100  
[www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

Roger B. **MICHELE'S BARBER**/styling  
**DISCOUNTS**  
Seniors - Children  
13 Jerome Ave., Bristol  
**860-582-5087**  
Tu-F: 7a-6p; Sa: 7a-5p; Su: 8a-12n



**HOLCOMB TREE INCORPORATED**  
• Pruning  
• Cabling  
• Tree Removal  
Plainville, CT 06062  
Timothy Holcomb  
Office: 860-747-2805  
Cell: 860-416-0668  
Licensed Arborist S-4442 • Est. 1940  
Full Insured • [holcombtreetree@yahoo.com](mailto:holcombtreetree@yahoo.com)



**Rosaries From Flowers**  
"Handmade from the Flowers of your Loved One"  
841 MAIN STREET  
TEWKSBURY, MA 01876  
[www.rosariesfromflowers.com](http://www.rosariesfromflowers.com)  
**(978) 851-9103**

