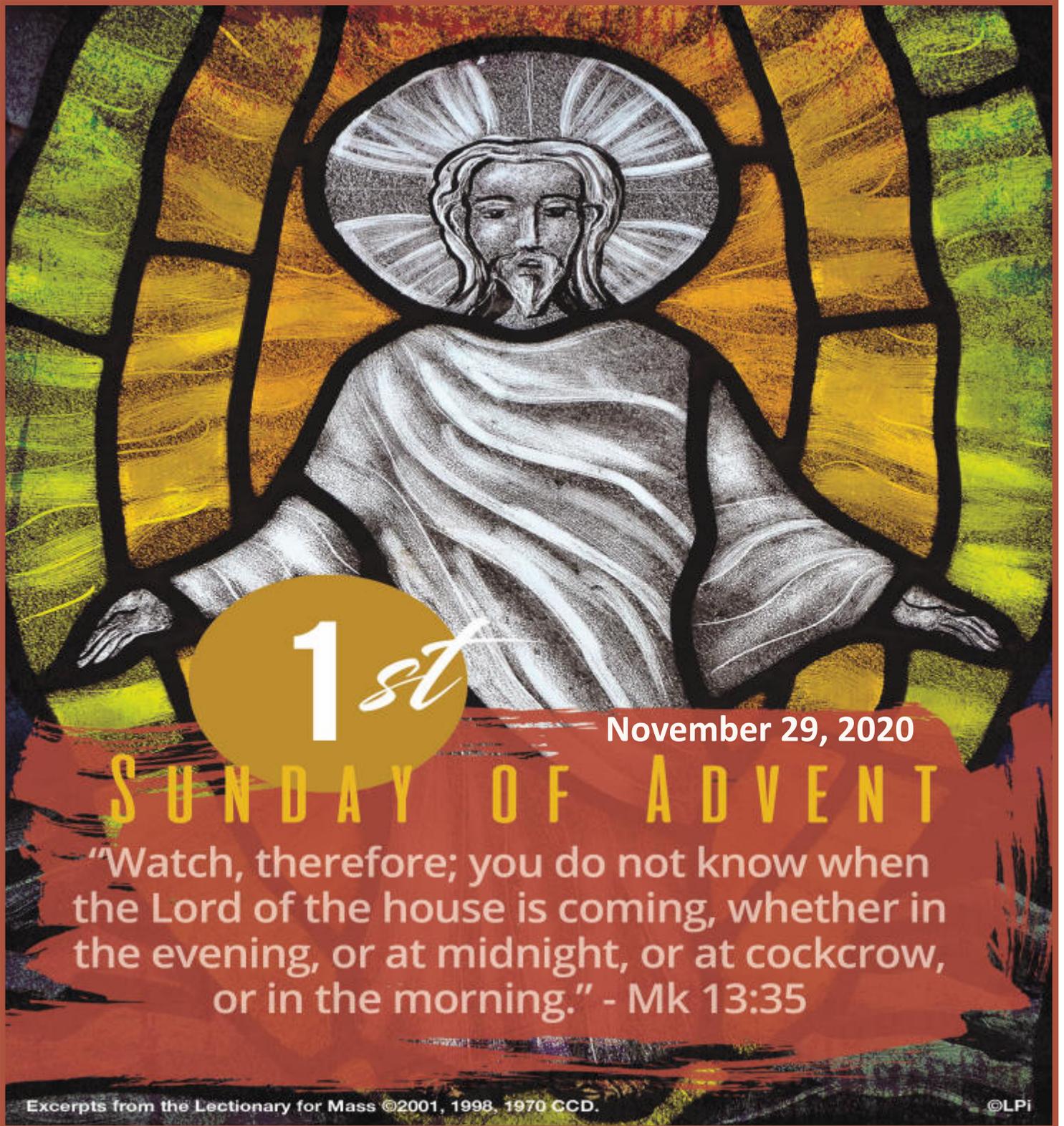




Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

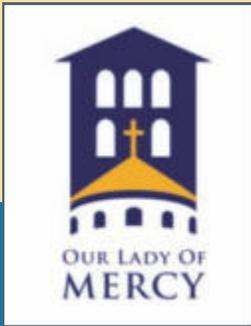


1st

November 29, 2020

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.” - Mk 13:35



We welcome those who are new to our faith community; those returning to the Catholic Church or those simply visiting with us today. We are blessed to have you with us and are glad you are here!

If you would like to learn more about our parish or register as a parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Church, we invite you to contact us, 301-365-1415 or at church@olom.org.

You may also go to our website - www.olom.org to download our registration form or pick up a brochure in the main entrance of the church.

Our Mission

We are a Catholic community of followers of Christ who desire to be ever more deeply rooted in the presence and power of God. We are guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Word of God and the tradition of the Church. We welcome all to join us as we reach out in justice and love to build God's kingdom.

Pope Francis (@Pontifex)



The one who prays is never alone. In fact, Jesus welcomes us in His prayer so that we might pray in Him and through Him. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel invites us to pray to the Father in Jesus's name. [#Prayer](#)

Mass Schedules

Please wear a mask when you are inside the church buildings. Keep 6 feet apart.
Check out our instructive video on olom.org

Daily Mass: 7:00 am & 8:30 am in the church -- **online - www.olom.org**
COMMUNION SERVICE - Monday - Friday 11:00 am

NEW !

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:00 am 9:00 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm & **12:30 pm Outdoor Mass****

Confession: Tuesday 1:45 pm- 2:45 pm

Saturday 4:00 pm -5:00 pm

Sunday 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm

****Weather permitting
Please check Flocknotes
for updates**

Sacraments

Baptism

Parents are asked to contact Fr. Joseph Cwik, frjoe@olom.org.

Marriage

Couples make arrangements with one of the parish priests six months to a year in advance of their intended wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a family member is sick at home, in the hospital or nursing home, please call the Parish office.

Clergy

Pastor	Bishop-elect William Byrne	frbill@olom.org
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Joseph Cwik, x129	frjoe@olom.org
Seminarian	Sean Skahen	sskahen@olom.org

Pastoral Associates

Faith Formation & Evangelization	Anna LaNave, x122	alanave@olom.org
Liturgy & Music	Jayne Traynor Rose, x102	jrose@olom.org
Social Justice	Jay George, x150	socialconcerns@olom.org
Youth Ministry	Becca Hadley, x135	bhadley@olom.org

Children's Religious Formation

Director	Anne Walker, x206	awalker@olom.org
Administration Assistant	Susan Gurzo, x207	sgurzo@olom.org

School

9222 Kentsdale Drive Potomac MD 20854
phone: 301-365-4477 fax: 301-365-3423 www.schoololom.org

Principal	Doreen Engel, x204	dengel@olom.org
Assistant Principal	Christine Green, x226	cgreen@olom.org

Parish Administration

Business Office	Mary Conlon, x120	mconlon@olom.org
Administration Assistant	Mary Kate Kassman, x124	mk@olom.org

Parish Offices

9200 Kentsdale Drive Potomac, MD 20854
Phone: 301-365-1415 Fax: 301-365-3104
Website: www.olom.org
Office hours: 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Monday-Friday

Bulletin notices due
Monday 8 am mk@olom.org



OLOM
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JOIN FLOCKNOTES
Send a text to:
84576

5 WAYS TO GET TO BETHLEHEM

By Bishop-elect Bill Byrne

Advent has a dual personality. On one hand we meditate on the birth of Jesus, while on the other hand we get ready for His second coming. If we can spiritually get to Bethlehem, we are actually getting ourselves closer to heaven. A good Advent makes for a great Christmas. So I offer you my 5 ways to get to Bethlehem.

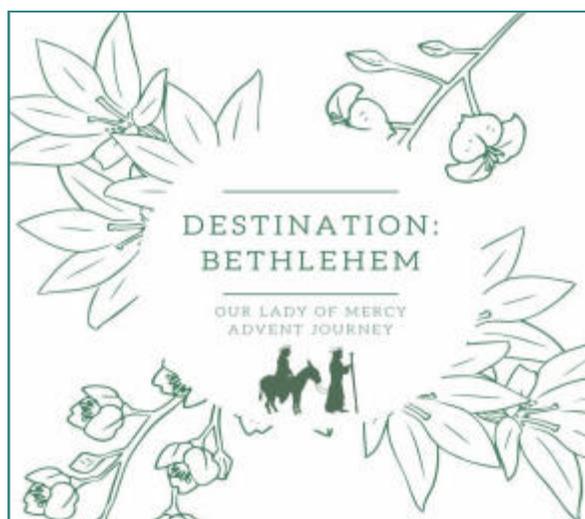
Fly – These days flying isn't that much fun. There is the waiting in lines, taking off your belts and shoes, and x-ray machines that can read your underwear label. But it is usually the fastest way to get somewhere. My Bethlehem Airways is not a conventional means of transportation because it uses angels to get you there. Spend sometime this week meditating on what the angels saw as the Holy Family traveled to Bethlehem. Then pray to our guardian angels and ask how they see you, your day and your family. Pray that the Holy Family and your guardian angel may help you grow into a holier family.

Ride – A donkey does not have padded leather seats with air conditioning and a radio. The ride to Bethlehem could not have been convenient or comfortable, but it was filled with love. Ask God to fill your commute with love, even for the people who illegally ride in the HOV lanes alone (my personal swearing moment) or cut you off in traffic.

Walk – I started walking each day last year. It works! I have lost weight and feel much better. What does this have to do with getting to Bethlehem? I say my Rosary on each walk. It's the first thing I do. A Rosary walk each day peps up the step and strengthens the soul. It also gives you a chance to know Jesus better through His mom. Make this a special Advent sacrifice on the days when you don't feel like going.

Skip – I need Jesus. The Gospel is not just helpful, it is the ONLY way to truly know redemption. Left to our own devices, we can never save ourselves. A drowning person cannot save another drowning person. Just read the newspaper or watch the evening news and you see the effects of original sin. We need a savior and God sent his only begotten Son! That God cared enough for creation in general and for you and me personally to come to save us is amazingly good news. Christmas is not just a time to give gifts; most importantly, it is a time to acknowledge the gift given, the salvation of our souls. So kick up your heels and skip to Bethlehem.

With a Friend – If someone were starving in your neighborhood, you would feed him. People are spiritually starving all around us. To not show them the face of Jesus in a real way is tantamount to allowing a friend to die of hunger. Some may not be ready to join us at Mass, but try asking others if there is anything that they would like you to pray for. The Magi didn't show up alone - neither should we arrive in Bethlehem alone.



Mass Intentions (L)=living

Monday, November 30

7:00am George Thelen
8:30am Julia Carver

Tuesday, December 1

7:00am Mrs. Careen Stevens
8:30am Graciela Casares

Wednesday, December 2

7:00am Peter McKeon
8:30am Julia Carver

Thursday, December 3

7:00am Dan Coakley
8:30am Mary Ann Traynor

Friday, December 4

7:00am Ann Fields
8:30am Audrey Bayer

Saturday, December 5

9:00am William Codus
5:00pm Joan M. Gallagher

Sunday, December 6

7:00am Jim Boler
9:00am OLOM
11:00am Festus Chiedo
5:00pm Margaret May Kelly

Coronavirus Dispensation and Prayers

A dispensation from the diocesan Bishop releases Catholics from fulfilling their Sunday obligation (Mass). Catholics are encouraged to offer up their sickness or pastoral care for the sake of those who are seriously ill and for those who have died.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

After hours and on weekends a simple code is needed to unlock the door. To obtain the code, please call 301-365-1415.

BE READY FOR ADVENT IN A NEW AND SPECIAL WAY!

Destination: Bethlehem, An Our Lady of Mercy Advent Journey
Be intentional this Advent and prepare in a new way with this special program.

Included are prayers, reflections, family activities, recipes, and more!



Thank you Fr. Bill Garrott, OP



As we await on the arrival of our new pastor, Fr. Bill Garrott, OP has graciously agreed to be in residence and help with the sacramental duties of Our Lady of Mercy parish.

This is not Fr. Bill's first visit to Mercy. You may recognize him from our previous Mercy Parish Mission where he preached, said Masses and offered confession.

Fr. Bill entered the Order of Preachers in 1988 and was ordained a priest in 1994. He has a master's degree in spiritual theology from the Angelicum in Rome. He has served as a parochial vicar, campus minister and director of vocations. Fr. Bill has preached nearly 200 parish missions throughout the United States and Canada using his musical abilities on piano and guitar. **Welcome Fr. Bill!**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Carolyn Bruna, Phyllis Minaya, Brandi Tovaric, Shin Sook Son, Will Garcia, George Torrico, Agnes Lee, David Donohoe, Andrea Fay, Bill Baldwin, Peter Sarrat, Cliff Hamilton, Joan Cormack, Bob Carnathan, Winnie Frost, Ann Schombert

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD:

The parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church offer our prayerful condolences to the families of those recently departed.

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, November 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Keep your eyes open

Nothing is more empowering than a fresh start.

Advent brings with it a new gospel to guide us through the new liturgical year: Mark, the shortest of the four narratives about Jesus. Consider reading all 16 chapters at the start of the liturgical year to grasp the breathless beauty of Mark's story. Reflect on other ways to stay alert to new spiritual discoveries, in keeping with Jesus' summons: "Watch!" Pay attention, not just to the news of the day but also to the movements of the Spirit in you. Where might you be prompted to forgive, be generous, get involved, or keep silent?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). "What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Monday, November 30, 2020

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

First responder

Saint Andrew has a special place in the collective heart of Scotland. He is sometimes known as the "first called" apostle because of his early encounter and following of Jesus, alongside his better-known brother and fellow fisherman Simon Peter. When confronting his own crucifixion in the year 60, it is said Andrew chose an X-shaped cross, or saltire, because he felt unworthy to be crucified on the same kind of cross as Jesus. That saltire is now Scotland's national flag. Follow the Scottish example: Give first-called Andrew a special place in your heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Tuesday, December 01, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

A light shines in the darkness

In this first week of Advent, the church highlights the theme of hope. We remember that the "people who walk in darkness will see a great light." Good news at this time of long nights as we are reeling mentally, physically, financially, emotionally from the coronavirus pandemic and find it hard to cope. Pray for an increase in hope and healing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). "There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain."

Wednesday, December 02, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Martyrs in our time

Forty years ago today, four American churchwomen were murdered and dumped in a shallow grave in a cow pasture in Santiago Nonualco, El Salvador. Maryknoll sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline sister Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan were victims of the country's civil war, killed by members of the Salvadoran National Guard. The women knew they faced danger and yet they could not leave the people. Jean Donovan wrote in a letter two weeks before her death: "Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor bruised victims of this insanity." Inspired by the life and martyrdom of Archbishop Saint Oscar Romero, all four women shared a commitment to the church's "preferential option for the poor." Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean—you walk with us still and we remember.



TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). "Jesus summoned his disciples and said, 'My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they . . . have nothing to eat.' "

Thursday, December 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Gain from apparent loss

While focus is often on Francis' youthful fervor, which sparked his missionary adventures in Asia, less emphasis falls on his maturation. In Japan, he learned to appreciate local culture, connecting it with the gospel. While ocean travel in the 16th century was perilous, long separation from Ignatius of Loyola may have been an even greater suffering. Francis was one of Ignatius' first companions at the founding of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, as they are commonly known. And imagine Francis' disappointment when he couldn't reach his ultimate dream destination: China. Have you ever had a "dream deferred," an unrealized goal? What have you learned from the apparent failure that you might not have learned from success?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). "The house . . . did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."

Friday, December 04, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST,

RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

An iconic witness

History takes some strange turns. John Damascene is considered one of the great fathers of the Eastern Church, known today for its beautiful iconographic representations of the communion of saints. Yet back in the seventh century, John had to defend the use of icons against a movement in the East to ban them. And who protected him from being arrested by his powerful opponents? The Muslim caliph of Damascus under whose rule John lived and served administratively. Beneath the twists of history, search for the hidden story of salvation, unfolding through the centuries and before our eyes in these iconic times as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). "Then he touched their eyes and said, 'Let it be done for you according to your faith.' And their eyes were opened."

Saturday, December 05, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Pay it forward

Why is it that the season of Lent seems to get all the instructions of what to do—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—but with Advent, we have no handy summary about what to actually do during the season—besides wait? Sure, we have our creches and wreaths, maybe even a Jesse tree or, better yet, an Advent calendar with chocolate hidden behind each door. While all these customs are good, how can we "effect"—that is, bring about—the new life we so eagerly await? The world may have an answer for us. Today marks International Volunteer Day. How can you put into action on behalf of others your faith and expectation of new life in God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."



CHRISTMAS AT OUR LADY OF MERCY

Due to the Covid Pandemic and the public health and ADW safety guidelines, dictating reduced capacity levels and socially distanced seating,

**ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES
will be attendance by reservation only.**

Go to Christmas Reservations

<https://olom.brushfire.com/christmas/484184>

beginning on December 1, 2020

Once you have a reservation you can print the QR code emailed to you or just have the QR code on your phone for presentation to the ushers.

NO ADMITTANCE WITHOUT A RESERVATION

Any parishioner who does not have a computer or would like assistance in this process can stop by the Parish House for help with their reservation. Even though we will be socially distanced from each other we will still be blessed to be close to, and worship and celebrate, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Christmas 4:00 pm Mass will be live streamed and available for all to view at home at their convenience as well.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm 6:00 pm

8:00 pm & 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25

9:00 am & 11:00 am

Communion Service

12:30 pm

Monday, December 28 - Thursday, December 31

Masses at 9:00 am

Parish Offices are closed until Monday, January 4

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31, 2020 Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Friday, January 1, 2021 9:00 am

Good news!

We will be having a Mass at
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Parish on
Sunday, December 6, 2020 @ 6:30pm.
Fr. Joseph Lee, the pastor, from St. Andrew Kim's
Catholic Church in Olney, Maryland will be
celebrating the Mass. We hope you will be able to
attend.
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be adhering
to the CDC regulations. Thank you.

좋은 소식!

우리는 2020년 12월 6일 일요일 오후 6시 30
분 자비의 모후 성당에서 미사가 있습니다.
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Our Lady of Mercy Outdoor Mass

**Every Sunday
@ 12:30PM**
Mercy School Parking Lot**

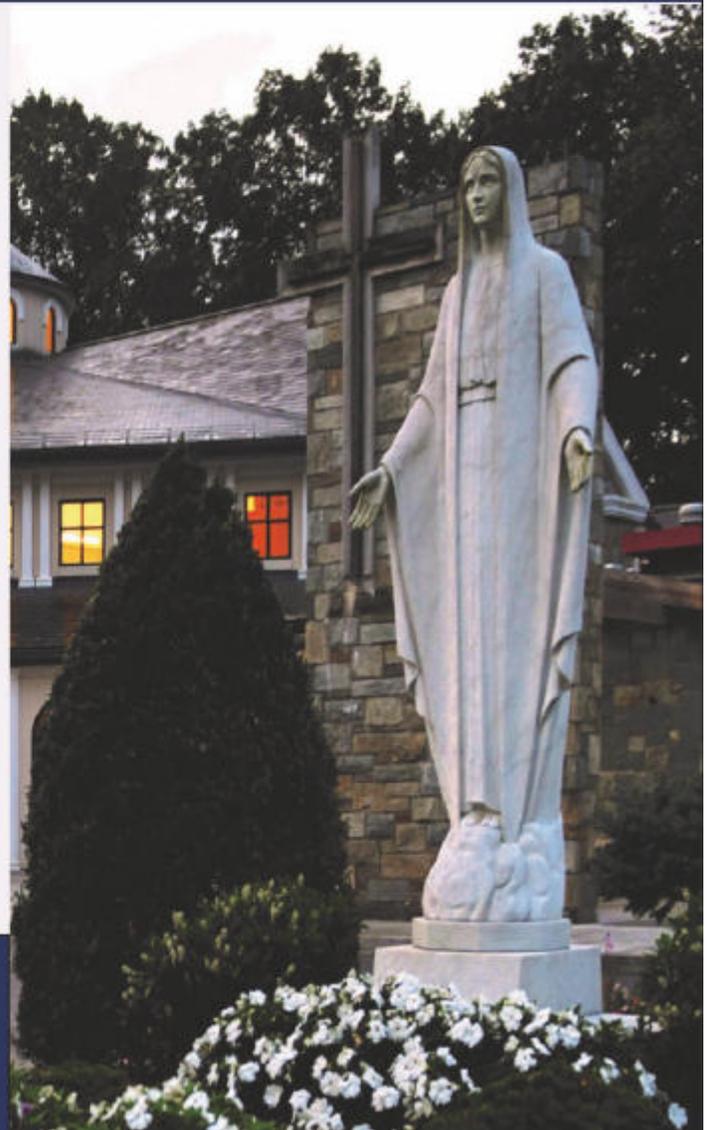
**To receive weather related updates and
Mass Cancellations, sign up for OLOM
Flocknote by going to:
<https://olompotomac.flocknote.com/>

Join the OLOM Community for an
outdoor Mass in the school parking
lot.

Bring your family, invite your
friends and don't forget your chairs!

*...Renew your faith by attending Holy
Mass. Keep your mind focused on the
mystery that is unfolding before your eyes.*

(St. Padre Pio)



The San Miguel School

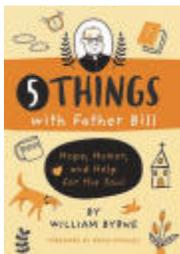
Save the date this winter for a very special evening benefitting the San Miguel School on **Saturday, February 20th at 6:30 pm!**

Our Annual Scholarship Benefit has gone virtual and you won't want to miss this meaningful event that gives so many boys and their families a chance to succeed.

The San Miguel School is an independent, tuition-free, Catholic Middle School located just a few miles from downtown Silver Spring and serves economically disadvantaged Latino males in grades 6 - 8. San Miguel students receive a rigorous, values-based education in a joyous environment, with impressive outcomes. San Miguel Graduates go on to study at local high schools including St. John's, Georgetown Prep, Gonzaga, DeMatha, St. Alban's, Episcopal, Georgetown Day, Maret, St. Stephens/St. Agnes, and Don Bosco.

Sponsorship levels begin at \$5,000 to partially assist a student and go to \$15,000 for a full year's tuition. Any amount of giving is appreciated and your generosity makes a direct impact on these students and the lives around them.

To learn more about San Miguel or for questions regarding the Benefit and how you can participate whether through a sponsorship or through our Virtual Auction, please contact the school at 202-232-8345.



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Faith Direct

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/MD37. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. Check out our donation button on the website: www.olom.org.



Questions?
Need Confidential Help?
You are not alone.
National Domestic Violence
Hotline - Call 1-800-799-SAFE

Sustainability Tip of the Week: That's a wrap.

Use recycled wrapping paper to wrap gifts for your loved ones or sew reusable fabric bags. Buy giftwrap and tags made from recycled paper, and use ribbons or string rather than tape, so that the paper can be folded up and used again.

[\(1001 Ways to Save the Earth\)](#)

Little Blue Books

This year, Little Blue Books will only be available through the publisher. You have 2 options to purchase.

1. Call 989-797-6653 or visit website

<https://littlebooks.org/> to order books for \$4 per book. (\$2 S&H) Order Downloadable Books for \$4 (no S&H) or order 1 Blue, Black and White book for \$9.99

2. Go to the app store on your mobile device and download the free app **Little Books**. Once you have downloaded the app purchase a subscription for 1 year (\$9.99). Select your payment method and you are all set. The Blue Book will be immediately downloaded.

In Appreciation

Jackie,

Thank you so much for the 130 hats and scarves you dropped off at the rectory this morning. I will take them down to the office when I go downtown later this week. As we approach the winter and the cold days ahead, our homeless friends deserve the warmth and comfort so many of us enjoy. Thank you to the knitting and crochet group at Our Lady of Mercy for thinking of us and for their labor of love. I promise to distribute them at one of our food programs between now and Christmas.

Fr. John,

Rev. Msgr. John J. Enzler President and CEO
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of
 Washington Phone: 202-772-4329

John.Enzler@cc-dc.org

SHARING OUR TREASURE OFFERTORY COLLECTION SUMMARY

(Offertory, Christmas, Easter)

FY 2019-2020 through October \$479,069

Average per Sunday is \$28,181

FY 2020-2021 through October \$513,292

Average per Sunday was \$30,194

**COR YOUTH GROUP 2020-21**

In person (Social Distancing and Masks) or Zoom IN

- ◆ Alpha Small Groups to Explore Your Faith
- ◆ Brunch and Discussions
- ◆ Bible Study & Journaling: Approaching Scripture
- ◆ Time to Study, Relax and Learn
- ◆ Explore Adoration and the Rosary

In the Parish House between 11 am and 5 pm Mass

Come whatever time works for you!

If interested in joining, please contact bhadley@olom.org or come buy the Parish House on Sundays!

Boy Scouts – Congratulations to Mercy Troop 706 Boy Scouts Michael Falcone and Anthony Richitt who each passed local District Board of Review and had their National Eagle Scout Applications approved by the National Office in Texas.

Michael Falcone, a senior at the Heights School, completed his Eagle project at OLOM planting trees and other maintenance in the OLOM conservation area near the school.

Anthony Richitt, a Senior at St John's, completed a drainage and prayer garden project at the Blessed Sacrament School.

Join Cub Scouts (grade 1-5)! The Cub Scout Pack meeting (grades 1-4) are on **Wednesdays at 6:30pm** via zoom.

Join Boy Scouts (grade 5-12)!

Troop 706 has begun meeting **every Monday at 6:30pm** both in-person and via zoom.

Contact Ralph Fairbanks at scoutmaster@t706.org for more information or check out the website T706.org.



OUR LADY OF MERCY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Job Opening -Instructional Assistant

Our Lady of Mercy School is seeking a college student who has decided not to return to college at this time due to the pandemic. We have a temporary full-time position. The ideal candidate will be an education or psychology major who has a gentle, friendly nature and who is very attentive to detail. A true desire to support Catholic education is a real plus.

For more information on the opening, see below.

<https://www.schoolspring.com/job.cfm?jid=3374479>

**BASKETBALL UPDATE**

Our Office [CYO] is currently working towards offering CYO Basketball programming for the winter season, while fully understanding that there are many current hurdles and uncertainties to face. Rest assured we are working hard to address safety concerns, restriction protocols and numerous competitive structures and formats.

The start of CYO Basketball games would traditionally begin the first weekend of December with player & team registrations beginning in October and practices in November. At present basketball games are still not permissible by local and county orders and public facility permits are not currently available until February 1st. Facility availability alone is challenging enough for both scheduling of games and for team practices.

It is very possible that the Basketball season could be forced into a delayed start, but we want to prepare now in anticipation that we would be able to start in December even if it's limited in capacity. If we are faced with a delay or eventual cancellation, we can make that call on a moment's notice. We would not be able to "start" a season at a moment's notice.

Our Office will begin providing regular updates on progress and decisions regarding various issues including season starts, protocols and formats. We do need everyone to be very flexible and understanding as all of us navigate through this. We will update and fine tune these along with COVID-19 protocols as we move forward.

Our goal is to provide a safe & positive experience to those seeking this opportunity to be engaged in athletic ministry. We can accomplish this with understanding, patience and flexibility on everyone's part. Our Office looks forward to working in partnership with you for the coming winter and spring seasons.

Thank you, Kevin E. Donoghue President/CEO

Please contact me directly at ahoward@olom.org if you have any questions.

Anthony Howard, Athletic Director Our Lady of Mercy School

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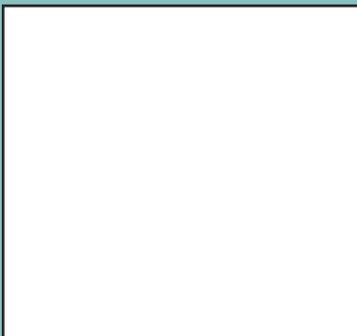
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