

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Bulletin

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

201-434-7500 olmjcparish@olmnj.org olmnj.org

Sunday, February 18, 2024, The First Sunday of Lent.



LAST SATURDAY'S COUPLES NIGHT WAS FILLED WITH HAPPY PEOPLE!



COUPLES POSE WITH FR. MARTY AND DEACON EDWIN AFTER RECEIVING ROSES IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD MARRIAGE DAY, SUNDAY, FEB. 11





FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy,
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Last Wednesday, we began the Lenten season by being signed with ashes. That was a reminder that all of us are creatures; taken from the dust of the earth and destined to return to that dust. My brothers and sisters, we may be humble dust, but we have also received the dignity of another sign, a sign that promises us eternal life, the sign of baptism.



When we are baptized, we are asking God that we might be united with Christ's suffering and death, and we are asking to share in his resurrection that leads to glory and eternal life.

Yes, we are made from the dust of the earth, but through the grace and mercy of God that is ours in baptism, we are destined to live among the saints and angels for all eternity. How great is that destiny! What a great gift we have in Christ!

So, in this Lenten season let us truly try to repent from sin. Let us ask God's forgiveness, believe in the gospel, and put our faith into action by the way we live.

Also, during this Lenten season make an extra effort to avail yourself of all the services, events, and programs we provide for you.

+ Join us for the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening here in church as we meditate on Christ's journey of suffering and death.

+ Take part in our Saturday morning Lenten reflection series that will be facilitated by Father Tomi. These sessions will take place March 2, 9, and 16 from 9 am to 10:30 am in the Maria Room.

+ Participate in our parish mission March 18, 19 & 20 that will be conducted by Father Ricky Manalo. On the last day of the mission, you will have an opportunity to go to confession. We will have several priests available to help with hearing confessions and celebrating God's mercy.

Last Saturday, we had a very nice gathering of married couples in the Maria Room in celebration of World Marriage Day. Everybody had fun. In the name of the whole OLM community, I thank all the couples who participated.



And I express my appreciation to the young adults who helped our pastoral staff in the planning and putting together this event, namely, **Ramoncito Cayetano, Aidan Aldea, Paolo Beyo, Dominique Flores, and Danna Beyo**. They did an excellent job in leading the entire evening with prayer, games, and dancing. Thank you also to all the food donors, including Jersey & Co. Gelato.

A special shoutout to **Jayvee Dacasin**. He did a wonderful job in leading our group of young people in their preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation along with their parents and sponsors.

In last Sunday's session, they had an emotional experience as they learned more about God and the call to love Him above all else by lives of love and service and by expressing their love of God through their love of parents, friends, and neighbors.

This was a timely theme for this Confirmation session, as we celebrate this month of love. Since Valentine's Day fell on Ash Wednesday this year, it was a timely moment to meditate on how God, through His Son Jesus Christ, loves us to the point of giving up His life for our salvation. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).



It was such a strong message for the Confirmation candidates and their parents and sponsors. This is also a message for all of us, brothers and sisters. Let us not forget that if we give our hearts to God, we will be saved.

God bless you all.

Love,

+ *Father Marty*



**Next Sunday, , February 25,
9 am in the Maria Room.**

People express and receive love in different ways. Quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service, physical touch, and gifts are some of the languages of love. Come to Coffee Chat this coming Sunday, February 25, at 9am in the Maria Room as we talk about Love Language. Let's keep our love tank full and be a source of support and inspiration to others. See you there!



SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

February 18

The First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15 1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

February 25

The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2a, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Names of the sick are published for four Sundays. Please contact the office to add or to continue a name.

Week One

Miriam Robles Harry Kirchner
Betty Sambade Joselito Bongco
Gilberto Guinto Michael Sottolano

Week Two

Thomas Gebhardt

Week Three

Agnes Belasco Rosita Almazora
Cynthia Contreras



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

REGULAR COLLECTION \$7,885

Thank you so much for your generous and unending support through your Stewardship of Treasure!

ANNUAL²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

The goal for Our Lady of Mercy Parish in the 2024 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal is **\$42,123**. Please support the Archdiocese with the blessing you have received and be generous as always!

ATTENTION COUPLES CELEBRATING

2, 25, or 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

The Archdiocese of Newark is once again preparing the annual tradition of honoring Catholic couples who will be celebrating 5, 25, or 50 years of valid, sacramental marriage in the year 2024 at special anniversary Masses.



These Masses will take place at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark and will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin.

May 5, 2024, at 12 Noon for couples celebrating 5 or 25 years of marriage.

June 2, 2024, at 12 Noon for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage.

It is hoped that every couple in the Archdiocese deserving of such recognition be present at the appropriate Masses. The presence of these couples will be a tender witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in today's society.

Any couple who would have celebrated their Silver or Golden Anniversaries during the time of Covid restrictions is invited to take part as well.

In order to sign up for either Anniversary Mass, please fill out a registration form available at the entrance area of the church.

MASS INTENTIONS



SATURDAY, February 17

5pm Juan Francisco (Birthday in Heaven)
r/b Rebecca Francisco

SUNDAY, February 18, The First Sunday of Lent

8am Imelda Austria (Birthday Blessing)
10am Nicanor Feliciano r/b Ofel Paypon
12pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, February 19, Presidents' Day

7am NO MASS
8:30am Edward Francis Gangemi
r/b Saldua Family

TUESDAY, February 20

7am Rick Niehaus r/b Abita Alarcon
8:30am Aida Adamos Claveria
r/b Lanting & Vibar Families

WEDNESDAY, February 21

7am Jun Sapal (Birthday in Heaven)
r/b Luthgard Sapal
8:30am Cecilia Dimapilis (Birthday Blessing)
r/b Cathy Garcia

THURSDAY, February 22

7am Dr. John Colucci (Birthday Blessing)
r/b June Tolentino
8:30am Maria Kowalczyk r/ Ceil Truatt

FRIDAY, February 23

7am Florence Ria Villa (Birthday Blessing)
8:30am Maria Antonio Batista r/b Julia Pina

SATURDAY, February 24

8:30am Purgatorial Society
5pm Angelita Banaag (Death Anniversary)
r/b Banaag Family

SUNDAY, February 25, The Second Sunday of Lent

8am John Hnath (90th Birthday Blessing)
r/b Hnath & Carreiro Family
10am For the People of the Parish
12pm Ernesto Dimapilis, Jr (Birthday in Heaven)
r/b Cathy Garcia

SANCTUARY LAMP



The Lamp burning over our tabernacle in the church is offered **In Loving Memory of Edgardo Coloquio.**

BREAD & WINE

The offering for the Bread & Wine to be used this week at our Masses is given **For Bernardita J. Ang (First Death Anniversary)** r/b Juan & Angelo Ang & Family.



PARISH INFORMATION

Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church
40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Phone: 201-434-7500

Web: olmnj.org

Email: olmjparish@olmnj.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm
Saturday 9 to 1 pm Sunday 9 am to 1 pm

STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Marty B. Jacinto

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Antonio Sarento Jr.
franton@olmnj.org

Sunday Associate

Reverend Jack Cryan

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Meynardo Espeleta

Deacon Edwin Dava

*Pastoral Associate For Faith Formation
& Youth / Young Adult Ministries*

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa
reginavilla@olmnj.org

Director of Music Ministries

Liam Barredo

musicministryolmj@gmail.com

Assistant Director of Music Ministries

Krystelle Pring

Parish Trustees

Guillermo "Guiz" Macalintal

Henry Racelis

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 7 am & 8:30 am

Saturday: 8:30 am, 5 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon

RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSIONS

Monday through Friday 9 am to 9:30 am

Saturday 4 pm to 4:30 pm

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

If you or a relative is hospitalized or homebound and wish a visit from a parish priest, contact the Office.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held every First Friday of the month from 9 am until 12 noon.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS AT 7 PM,

FEBRUARY 23 AND

MARCH 1, 8, 15 & 22

Praying the Stations brings us closer to Jesus Christ by whose passion and death we are freed from sin and brought into a new relationship with God.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 23, Friday, Stations of the Cross
 Feb. 25, Sunday, Coffee Chat
 Feb. 25, Sunday, Blood Drive
 March 1, Friday, Stations of the Cross
 March 1, Friday, Youth Group Meeting
 March 2, Saturday, Lenten Reflection Session
 March 2, Saturday, Eucharist Preparation Session
 March 3, Sunday, The Second of Lent
 March 8, Friday, Stations of the Cross
 March 9, Saturday, Lenten Reflection Session
 March 10, Sunday, Confirmation Preparation Session

REMINDER OF FRIDAY ABSTINENCE

On the Fridays of Lent, all Catholics 14 years of age or older are to abstain from eating meat. This act of penance serves as reminder of this Lenten season during which we are called to turn from sin and to perform acts of sacrifice and works of charity.



There will be only one Mass on Monday, February 19. It will be celebrated at 8:30 am.

The Parish Office will be closed.

KEEPING OUR LENTEN RESOLUTIONS

The start of Lent is a time for Christians to make resolutions. On Ash Wednesday, we were marked with ashes and told, “Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” In response to that call to “repent,” we are encouraged to resolve to do something specific during Lent to help us move away from sin and grow in our spiritual life.

If we want to remain faithful to our Lenten resolutions, we should follow the example of those who succeed in keeping their New Year’s promises. We should write out what we have resolved to do and put that paper in a place that will catch our attention each day. We might make reading that paper part of our daily prayer.

Most importantly, we might tell a family member, friend, or even our parish priest what we have resolved to do and ask that person to check on our progress. We all do better when we are held to account.

Finally, we should ask God’s help in keeping our Lenten promises. In Sunday’s Gospel, we hear that during the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert “the angels ministered to him.” We might ask the Lord to “minister” to us during days of Lent as we seek to “repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

Lent is a time for making resolutions, but even more importantly, Lent is a time for keeping those resolutions and growing in holiness.

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Jeffrey J. Macanka
Director, N.J. Lic. No. 3863