

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH BULLETIN

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

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August 16, 2026 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
“Lord, help me.” - Mt 15:25



Pastor's COLUMN

Dear Our Lady of Mercy Parish Family and Friends,
Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

These past days and weeks, with so much rain, cloudy skies, and thunderstorms, it has sometimes felt as though summer has already packed its bags and left us! Yet summer is not over. There are still days to enjoy, places to visit, family and friends to spend time with, meals to share, and moments simply to slow down and appreciate the beauty of God's creation.

So, enjoy these remaining days of summertime! Even when the weather does not cooperate with our plans, perhaps there is a little spiritual lesson there: life does not always give us the weather we want, but God always gives us something for which to be grateful.

BEYOND OUR BOUNDARIES

This Sunday's readings remind us of something equally beautiful: God's heart is much bigger than the boundaries we sometimes create. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord declares, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." God's house is not meant to be a private club for a chosen few. It is a home where people from every nation, culture, language, and background are invited to encounter Him. What a beautiful message for our parish community.

Our parish should always be a place where people can come through the doors and know: There is a place for me here. Whether someone has been a parishioner for sixty years or has just walked into our church for the first time; whether young or old; whether deeply involved or quietly sitting in the last pew; whether strong in faith or struggling with doubts—this is God's house. And because it is God's house, we do not decide who is worthy of His mercy. God does.

Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading that "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." God does not easily give up on His children. Even when we wander, even when we sin, even when we become stubborn or indifferent, God continues calling us home. This brings us to a beautiful teaching of our Catholic faith.

UNIVERSAL, CATHOLIC

Sometimes we use the word "Catholic" simply as the name of our religion. But the word itself means universal. When we profess in the Creed that we believe in "one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church," we are professing that the Church is for all people.

There is no nationality that owns the Catholic Church. There is no culture, language, race, social class, ministry, family, or group that can claim the Church exclusively for itself. The Church belongs to Christ. And Christ desires everyone to come to Him.

This is especially important in parish life. We must guard ourselves against creating little territories: my ministry, my group, my people, my way. Sometimes without realizing it, we can make others feel like outsiders. But if Isaiah tells us that God's house is "a house of prayer for all peoples," then every parish must constantly ask itself: Do people experience our church as a home, or as someone else's territory?

A PERSISTENT MOTHER

The Gospel gives us an unforgettable example. A Canaanite woman approaches Jesus begging Him to heal her daughter. She is an outsider. The disciples want Jesus to send her away. But she refuses to give up. "Lord, help me." What a prayer! Three simple words. No complicated theology. No long speech. Just the desperate prayer of a mother who believes that Jesus can save her child.

And finally, Jesus says to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Notice what Jesus praises—not her nationality, status, connections, or religious background. He praises her faith.

There is another lesson here for us: do not give up on prayer simply because God seems silent. Some of us have been praying for someone or something for months or even years—a sick loved one, a struggling marriage, a child who has stopped practicing the faith, financial difficulties, peace in the family, freedom from an addiction, healing from an old wound, or guidance about the future.

Sometimes heaven seems silent. The Canaanite woman teaches us: Keep praying. Keep knocking. Keep

(continued on the following page)

knocking. Keep trusting. God's silence does not necessarily mean God's absence.

And perhaps that is also a lesson hidden in these rainy summer days. Clouds come. Thunderstorms come. The sky becomes dark. But above those clouds, the sun has never stopped shining. The same is true spiritually. There will be storms in our families. Storms in our work. Storms in our parish. Storms in the Church. Storms in our personal lives. But Christ remains present.

ENJOY THE REMAINING DAYS

So, my dear brothers and sisters, enjoy the remaining days of summer. Take that trip. Have that barbecue. Sit outside when the sun returns. Visit family. Laugh with friends. Rest. Watch the sunset. Give yourself permission to slow down. But do not take a vacation from God.

Wherever these remaining summer days take you, find time for Sunday Mass, prayer, gratitude, and kindness. And when you return to our parish, help make it what God desires it to be: a house of prayer for all peoples, a home for the sinner seeking mercy, a refuge for the weary, a family for the lonely, and a community where no one is treated as an outsider.

The thunderstorms may make it seem that summer is already ending, but there are still beautiful days ahead. Perhaps the same is true of life. Sometimes we think the best days are behind us. God may simply be saying: "Not yet. I still have blessings ahead of you."

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Keep the faith. Keep praying. Keep welcoming one another.

And through sunshine or storm, remember: God's mercy is for everyone, and His house must always have an open door.

Have a blessed week and enjoy the remaining days of summer!

God bless you all!

Love,

+*Father Marty*

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

I am happy to share with you that our parish has surpassed our Regular Goal for the 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal! Our parish goal was \$44,556 and through your generosity, we have reached a total Donor Pledge of \$61,880. As of this time, the Archdiocese has already received \$53,052 in donations and payments. We have reached our Stretched Goal of \$57,923.

Thank you for your generosity and faithful support of the Archdiocese and its many ministries. May God continue to bless you abundantly for your kindness.

With gratitude and prayers,

Father Marty



**Faith
Formation
Registration**

REGISTER FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Faith Formation is lifelong! It is necessary to provide children with the foundations of our Catholic Faith. Our parish faith formation informs, forms, and transforms the person and the community.

The OLM Faith Formation program is from Kinder to Eighth Grade. New students must submit a copy of the baptismal certificate. Returning students must register at the beginning of each school year. Registration may be completed conveniently online through our parish website www.olmnj.org

The \$200 fee per family may be paid in cash or check payable to Our Lady of Mercy. You may also pay online via the parish website. Click Online Giving, then scroll down to Faith Formation Fee. This fee must be paid upon registration or by December 2026.

Classes are held on Sundays from 9:00 am til 9:50 am at the 3rd floor of the school building. Families are encouraged to attend the 10 am Mass. First day of class is on September 13, 2026. For more information, please contact Jeng Matias-Villa at 201-434-7500 ext. 102 or email reginavilla@olmnj.org

SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 16, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

August 23, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23 Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20



SATURDAY, August 15

5pm Consuela Deladisma (Death Anniversary) r/b Brenda Deladisma

SUNDAY August 16, The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am For the People of the Parish

10am Macario Monserate, Jr. r/b Ging & Boy Adao

12pm In Memory of Peter Burke r/b Ely Gonzalez

MONDAY, August 17

7am Pablo Lumanglas (Birthday in Heaven)

r/b Lumanglas & Ramos Families

8:30am Erwin L. Manlongat (Birthday Blessing)

TUESDAY, August 18

7am Theodoro & Erene Ines Copillo r/b Mary Persaud

8:30am Pedro & Teodora De Leon (Death Anniversary)

r/b Mar & Caring Oller

WEDNESDAY, August 19

7am Maria Victoria B. Basa r/b Romeo & Angel Vibar

8:30am Oscar Sychua (Birthday Blessing) r/b Lulu Sychua

THURSDAY, August 20

7am Teresita C. Resurreccion (Birthday in Heaven)

r/b Resurreccion Family

8:30am Pedrito D. Flores r/b Susan Cailles

FRIDAY, August 21

7am Natividad Tolentino r/b June Tolentino

8:30am Teresa Moscato (Death Anniversary) r/b Patricia Meluso

SATURDAY, August 22

8:30am Purgatorial Society

5pm Isidro Escarez (Death Anniversary) r/b Gatchalian Family

SUNDAY August 23, The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Bobby & Hanelli Del Rosario (Wedding Anniversary)

10am Peter Burke r/b Ging & Boy Adao

12pm For the People of the Parish

OFFERING FOR THE BREAD & WINE

The offering for the Bread to be used this week at our Masses
is given **In Memory of Gregory E. De Jong**

r/b Manny & Jezz Mercado.

The offering for the Wine to be used this week at our Masses
is given **For Eugenio M. Cacananta**

r/b Philip & Leah Salvacion & Family.

OLM PARISH INFORMATION

40 Sullivan Drive

Jersey City, NJ 07305

Phone: 201-434-7500

Web: olmnj.org

Email: olmjcparrish@olmnj.org

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

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

Sunday Associates

Reverend Jack Cryan

Reverend Renato J. Bautista

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Meynardo Espeleta

Deacon Edwin Dava

Pastoral Associate For Faith Formation

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa

reginavilla@olmnj.org

Director of Music Ministries

Liam Barredo

musicministryolmjc@gmail.com

Parish Trustees

Henry Racelis & Guillermo "Guiz" Macalintal

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 10 am.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Lamp burning over our tabernacle in church
is offered **For Cleofe Rodriguez**

(Birthday in Heaven) r/b Nilda Rodriguez.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

The names of the sick are published for four Sundays.

WEEK ONE

Gaspar Andres, Jr.

WEEK TWO

Hermie Macalino Romeo Vibar

Medardo Alonzo Rogelio Velasco

WEEK FOUR

Patty Daus

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

Regular Collection \$5,716

Assessment \$1,100

We Share (Online) \$1,510 Candle \$369

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

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SAFE ENVIRONMENT CORNER

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AWAY FROM HOME

As children grow, parents may begin dropping them off for activities and returning later to pick them up. Before taking this step, families are encouraged to ask a few important safety questions:

1. Are at least two adults present to supervise children at all times?
2. Does the organization conduct background checks for adults who work with children?
3. Does the organization provide appropriate training for adults who supervise children?
4. Are there separate restroom facilities or clear restroom policies for adults and minors?
5. Are isolated areas locked restricted or monitored?

Together, guided by our faith and our shared responsibility, we can help create safe and welcoming environments where every child is protected and cherished.

Anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct is asked to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at 201-407-3256

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