“OLM’s S-OUPER BOWL SUNDAY”… 2016
Saturday – Sunday Feb. 6 & 7
Food Sorting: Sunday, Feb. 7 @ 12:00 Noon in the Gathering Space
Deliveries To Food Pantries: 1:00 P.M. Sunday;

Food Pantries Special Needs:
Pascack Food Center/Park Ridge: lunch snacks, cereal (low sugar), cake mix, macaroni & cheese, canned beans, tomato sauce, PB&J, canned tuna, canned fruit, canned vegetables, coffee, tea, evaporated milk, juice boxes, hot chocolate, shampoo, cleaning products, paper towels, toilet paper, large garbage bags, lunch bags

Center For Food Action/Mahwah: canned: meat, fish, hearty soup, vegetables, fruit; 100% juice, macaroni & cheese, PB&J, cereal (low sugar), instant potatoes, dry milk, (e.g. Parmalat), hot chocolate, baby formula, diapers (sizes 4,5,6), bar soap, toothpaste & toothbrush

River Vale Food Pantry: paper towels, toilet paper, personal products, and cleaning products (Non-Food Stamp items).

Buddies of N.J./Aids Coalition- Hackensack: soup, condiments, pasta, canned meat: spam, tuna, PB&J, sugar, personal items, cleaning products, cereal (low sugar), and especially ENSURE & NUTRITION DRINKS

Blessed Sacrament/ Newark: soup, rice, beans

*The above items are suggested items that pantries especially need, however, any donation is greatly appreciated. *PLEASE remember to check expiration date on food items.

*Grocery Gift Cards and donations to the OLM Serenity Fund or Triboro Family Care are greatly appreciated.

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO: “OUR LADY OF MERCY”
(with a note on memo line)

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS: To help organize, sort, pack, deliver, Sunday at 12 Noon, Feb. 7 in the Gathering Space … call 201-391-6975. Thank you for your continued generosity - Social Justice & Peace Ministry
OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
Our Lady of Mercy Parish is a Catholic community that worships God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, celebrating Mass, proclaiming the Gospel Message and uniting in prayer. We strive to welcome all and to educate ourselves and others in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We support one another in times of joy and sadness and attempt to serve each other by reaching out to those in need in our community and beyond. We are imperfect people on a journey. Our goal is that the life of each person leads to the Lord.

MASS SCHEDULE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
5:30 Patrick & Kathleen Lavelle

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19/ 1 Cor 12: 31—13: 13/ Lk 4: 21-30
7:30 Edward Feddock
9:30 Cecilia Daley
11:00 People of the Parish
12:30 George Roy

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1
2 Sm 15: 13-14, 30; 16: 5-13/ Mk 5: 1-20
6:30 June Miller
8:30 Henry Dong

The Presentation of the Lord
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
6:30 June Miller
8:30 Michael Adone

Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
2 Sm 24: 2, 9-17/ Mk 6: 1-6
6:30 June Miller
8:30 June Miller

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
1 Kg 2: 1-4, 10-12/ Mk 6: 7-13
6:30 Nancy Lovett
8:30 June Miller

Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
First Friday
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Sir 47: 2-11/ Mk 6: 14-29
6:30 Hector Madina
8:30 Henry Dong
8pm June Miller

Saint Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
1 Kg 3: 4-13/ Mk 6: 30-34
8:30 George Roy
5:30 Lenny Principe

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Is 6: 1-2a, 3-8/ 1 Cor 15: 1-11/ Lk 5: 1-11
7:30 Marie Pansini
9:30 People of the Parish
11:00 Larry Kelly
12:30 Mary Frances Ferguson

LET US PRAY
In your love and kindness please pray for the sick especially: Ella Gamble, Brian Long, Ruth Amburgey, Fr. Carl Hinrichsen, Edward Klein IV, Joseph Kearney, Peggy Funesti, Deb Manente, and Noreen Lynch.

Please also remember the deceased of our parish and their families, especially: Saintanie Joseph, Joao Rodrigues and Regina Germano.

Please join with us in praying one OUR FATHER per day for all those who have no one to pray for them.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS burn this week in memory of: Howard Minnick, Ellen McCullough, and for Margaret Mead.

If you would like more information about reserving a Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one or for a Special Intention, please call the rectory office at 201-391-5315.

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING – Tithing
Sunday’s Collection: $ 9,489
Last Year's Collection: 17,666

Tithing is God’s plan to support His Church. Full tithing means 10% of gross income to God. We ask half of this, or 5%, for your Parish church. The other 5% goes to your favorite charities.

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets every Tuesday at 7:30PM in the chapel to praise God and pray for special intentions.

ABUNDANT LIFE PRAYER GROUP meets Thursday mornings at 9:30am in the Chapel.

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA will be recited each Saturday in the Sacred Heart Chapel immediately following the 8:30AM Mass.

PLEDGED TO DATE: $545,252
By 173 donors
THANK YOU!

“By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.”

Pope Francis
PASTOR’S COLUMN

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Well, we did not have snow for Christmas but we sure had plenty of snow last Saturday! I hope everyone came through the storm safely and that your homes were undamaged. I want everyone to know that fourteen hardy souls made it to the 5:30pm Mass on Saturday evening; amazing! Sunday morning attendance reflected the reality and difficulty of getting out and about; and although our numbers were less than half the usual number, the Sunday collection was $9,499. Thank you. Thank you also for the wonderful Christmas collection which finished at $121,300 which is our best ever!

Today we begin Catholic Schools Week and I am happy to welcome students from Our Lady of Mercy Academy to speak on behalf of the entire student body after Communion at all Masses. Please take the opportunity to visit our school during the Open House times this week (details are in the bulletin). We are proud of our Blue Ribbon School and want all our parishioners to be proud as well and tell others to “come and see” when choosing a school for their children.

Lent is very early this year, so Ash Wednesday is February 10. On the first Sunday of Lent our two catechumens, Sue and Juliana, will be going to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark for the Rite of Election. Please keep them in your prayers throughout Lent as they prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. I also ask you to pray for those who will receive Confirmation and First Eucharist in the Easter Season.

I hope all of us can make the Jubilee Year of Mercy the focus of our Lenten prayer and practice. Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics to give thanks for the great Mercy of God and be witnesses to that mercy to those whom we encounter. I am very glad that we have an excellent speaker to lead our Parish Lenten Retreat March 6, 7, and 8. Father Mark-David Janus is a Paulist Father and the head of Paulist Press in Mahwah. I had the opportunity to be part of a retreat for priests last October and Father Janus was a fine speaker, so I encourage you to mark your calendar for those three evenings.

On Super Bowl Sunday we at OLM will have our annual “Soup-er” Bowl food collection. The groups who will benefit from your generosity and items needed are listed on the cover of the bulletin. The first Sunday in February has for many years been the Pledge Sunday for the Annual Appeal of the Archdiocese. This year we are engaged in the “We are Living Stones” campaign which includes the ministries and services of the AAA as well as a major effort to support the work of the archdiocese and several special projects for Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Thank you to the 173 donors who have pledged $545,252 up to this point. As we prepare for Lent I ask those who have not yet made a pledge to make a prayerful decision to be part of the Living Stones campaign.

Peace in the Lord,

St. Charles
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Our Lady of Mercy Lenten Retreat with Fr. Mark David Janus Paulist Priest beginning March 6-8 at 7:30pm.

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY
A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence celebrates Catholic education
Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service
Are you looking for a better education experience for your child? Along with an outstanding Preschool Program, Our Lady of Mercy Academy offers an excellent full day Kindergarten–4th Grade Primary School Program, a stand alone Grade 5-8 Middle School Program, a Before/After School Program and additional enrichment programs. We follow the curriculum guidelines of the State of New Jersey and the Archdiocese of Newark. Our students' standardized test scores are well above national norms.

Catholic Schools Week Open Houses
Sunday, January 31st 10:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, February 2—Wednesday, February 3 8:30am-10:30am & 1:00pm-2:00pm
Wednesday, February 3rd 5:30pm—7pm
Bring your child or come alone. Take a tour of our school and have all your questions answered by members of the Home-School Association. On Tuesday and Wednesday we will have classroom visitation in addition to school tours.

WOMAN’S CREATIVE GROUP
February 4th 7:30 - 9 pm
Lower Church Gathering Space
For more information, please call Jessica at 201-664-3536 or email at j2pb3@hotmail.com.

YOGA for stretching & relaxation Tuesdays 10AM-11AM in the OLM Lower Gathering Space. $10 per class. Bring a yoga mat, blanket or large towel and a hand towel. Wear comfortable clothing. Questions: Call Joan 551-427-5601.

WOMEN’S RETREAT 2016
San Alfonso Retreat House – Long Branch, NJ
"Where God & the Sea Meet"
The Women’s Retreat weekend will be April 15 - 17th.
The theme of the retreat is: “Living in the Mercy of God” The cost is $210.00 for the weekend. A deposit of $50.00 is required, which is non-refundable.
Anyone interested please contact: Beth Gangeri at 201-391-2569 or email: bgangeri@yahoo.com.
All deposits must be in by April 1, 2016, the latest.

TO ALL USHERS & ALL WHO ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN USHER
I have to admit that last Sunday was not the best time for a second sign-up for ushers. But something great did happen. A number of people who had signed up the week before came to the back of the Church and asked what they could do. Every Mass was well covered (except the 5:30). But the 13 (14 counting me) who came did well.

I don’t want to postpone meeting with the ushers. I invite all ushers—extra volunteer ushers and those who wish to be ushers—male and female—young and old to a meeting this Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 in the Church. It will be a chance to organize each Mass—see each other—express concerns—discuss how to communicate with each other better—say thank you.

See you Tuesday 7:30pm in the Church—invite a friend to be part of your ministry.
Fr. Bob

Handbell Ringers Needed for Holy Week and Easter—Lots of fun so give it a try! If interested, contact Debra Wyka (Music Minister) or call 201-358-2994. Rehearsals begin in February on Tuesdays.

MINISTRY OF ELDER CARE—A ministry to provide support and education to individuals, families and caregivers who are dealing with aging issues and concerns. 7:30pm to 8:45pm in the Parish Center. The next meetings are February 3, March 2. If you would like to attend, please call the rectory office at 201-391-5315.

OUR LADY OF MERCY BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
7:30pm – 8:45pm
Our Journey Through Grief
Often after the loss of a loved one, there are feelings, and issues left unresolved. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, please join us for the evening. Our Bereavement Group will meet in the Parish Center (former Convent).
For more information call John Rokoszak at 201-391-3590.

Future meeting dates:
March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8

THE OLM MASSBOOK for March 2017 will open Sunday, January 31st. If you would like to schedule an intention, please stop by the Rectory Office during Rectory hours: Monday—Friday 9AM—7PM. Saturday 9AM—1PM. Sunday 9AM—1:30PM.

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