

December 19 & 20 2009

## OUR LADY OF MERCY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

36 Armstrong Road  
Rochester, NY 14616

*Our Lady of Mercy Church is a warm, welcoming, Catholic faith community that cherishes its past and looks with hope to the future. Inspired by the example of Mary, we strive to make God's Word come alive through our celebration of the Eucharist and through service and generosity to each other and our community.*

### Pastoral Staff

**Rev. John F. Gagnier, Parish Administrator**

E-mail: [gagnier@dor.org](mailto:gagnier@dor.org)

Emergency Number: (585) 260-1369

**Deacon Richard Lombard, Pastoral Associate**

E-mail: [DLombard@dor.org](mailto:DLombard@dor.org)

Office: (585) 865-6722

Cell Phone: (585) 259-3846

**Marie Marton, Director of Faith Formation**

E-mail: [mmarton@dor.org](mailto:mmarton@dor.org)

Office: (585) 621-6343 extension 32

**William Costanzo, Music Director: (585) 865-3866**

### Support Staff

**Connie LaRocque, Parish Secretary/bookkeeper, (585) 865-0775**

**John Paradiso, Maintenance, (585) 581-1564**

**Parish Office: (585) 865-0775**

**Fax: (585) 865-9403**

**Prayer Line: (585) 663-4476**

E-mail: [ourladymercy@dor.org](mailto:ourladymercy@dor.org)

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

We close for lunch between 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Stay updated with the latest information by going to the

OLM website at: [www.mercygreece.org](http://www.mercygreece.org)

*We invite all to share your time, your talent and your treasure in support of your Church.*

**To provide for your parish's needs, why not consider a bequest of at least 5% of your Estate to your parish?  
"Your life will be required of you, and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong? (Luke 12:20)**

### Weekend Masses at Our Lady of Mercy

Saturday: 5:30 PM and Sunday: 9:00 AM

### Weekday Masses at Our Lady of Mercy

Monday and Tuesday: 8:00 AM

### Weekend Masses at Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday: 4:00 PM and Sunday: 11:00 AM

### Weekday Masses at Holy Name of Jesus

Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 AM and Friday at 6:30 PM

### Welcome all new parishioners

To register as a member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, please introduce yourself to one of our pastoral staff members and we will contact you to fill out a Parish Census Card.

### Sacramental Life

**Baptism:** Please contact the office at (585) 865-0775 for a pre-Baptism preparation meeting.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sundays 8:00 AM-8:30AM

**Marriage:** Arrangements are made a minimum of six (6) months prior to the marriage date desired. Contact Fr. Gagnier or Deacon Dick Lombard.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Available upon request to anyone who needs the healing, comfort and support of this sacrament. Please contact Parish Office.

*Our Church and Parish Hall are accessible to the physically challenged.*

**Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, December 19**

5:30 Living & deceased members of OLM & HNoJ

**Sunday, December 20– Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 Richard Bucklin by Betty & Family

11:00 Mass at Holy Name of Jesus

**Monday, December 21-Peter Canisius, priest & dr.**

8:00 Dante Fragassi by Mr. & Mrs. John Obryan

**Tuesday, December 22**

8:00 George, Martha & George Willig by Family

**Wednesday, December 23-John of Kanty, priest**

9:00 Mass at Holy Name of Jesus

**Thursday, December 24-Christmas Eve**

5:00 PM Holy Name of Jesus

10:30 PM OLM-Fr. Michael O'Brien by parish

**Friday, December 25-Nativity of the Lord**

9:00 AM OLM-For the parishioners of OLM

11:00 AM Holy Name of Jesus

**Saturday, December 26-Stephen, first martyr**

4:00 Mass at Holy Name of Jesus

5:30 Living & deceased members of OLM & HNoJ

**Sunday, December 27-Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

9:00 Concetta M. Berardicurti by Mr. & Mrs. R. Prem

11:00 Mass at Holy Name of Jesus

**This Week At O.L.M.**

**Sunday, December 20**

Breakfast after masses

10:15 AM Rosary

8:00 AM-8:30 AM Individual Reconciliation

**Monday, December 21**

**Tuesday, December 22**

7:00 PM AA Meeting

**Wednesday, December 23**

**Thursday, December 24**

10:00 PM OLM Choir- Christmas Caroling Concert

**Friday, December 25**

**Saturday, December 26**

**Sunday, December 27**

Breakfast after mass

9:30 AM Degnan Baptism

10:15 AM Rosary

8:00 AM-8:30 AM Individual Reconciliation



**OLM-Statistics Report-December 12 & 13**

Attendance: 5:30-76 9:00-189 Total-265

Immaculate Conception Attendance: Total- 85

Collection Report

Sunday Envelopes: \$3,061.00

Sunday Loose: \$ 190.00

Average envelope: (107) \$28.61

Fr. Gagnier's Special Christmas Env. \$ 115.00

Immaculate Conception \$ 405.00

Catholic University \$ 5.00

Other income \$ 116.15

Christmas Flowers \$ 360.00

Total **\$ 4,252.15**

Accounts Payable

Monroe County Catholic Schools: \$9,000.00

Diocesan Invoices-Old PSIP \$9,000.00

09' PSIP \$9,000.00

Operating Expenses \$ -0-

Year to date operating income \$105,257.80

Year to date operating expenses \$106,547.29

Thank you for your generosity!

This week we paid: OLM bi weekly payroll

**Heli, The Star of Bethlehem** By Harrison Woodard

On the third day of creation, God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens." And according to His Word, the sun, moon and all the stars were created in the sky. God loved each star and would often invite them into His presence and listen to all that they had done. And then one day, He sent out a proclamation commanding all the stars to appear before Him. He would then select one for a very important purpose. With eagerness, all the stars gathered in His throne room. As they waited for God, some of the stars saw Amanda, the smallest star in the galaxy. "Surely you don't think that God would select you?" said Tariq, one of the largest stars. "What could you possibly have to offer God?" added Vega, another prominent star. "I am here because it is God's will," said Amanda. Amanda made her way to the back of the room to watch the presentations. God entered the room and all the stars worshipped Him. And God spoke, "I am sending my son into the world. I will select one star to announce his arrival. The greatest among you will proclaim his birth to the world." There was plenty of excitement in the throne room as each imagined what it would be like to have this great honor. They each came forward and presented their qualifications to God. "I give light and heat to 15 planets and 27 moons. I am one of the largest stars in the galaxy. I would be very proud to announce your Son's birth," said Tariq. "Very impressive indeed," said God.

"Humans know me as the North Star. I have guided many sailors to their destination and have been a constant beacon of light for all travelers. Who would be better to mark the birth of your son?" said Polaris. "Well done," said God.

"I am one of the brightest stars. My light is seen all over this great galaxy. I can think of nothing more wonderful than to share my light with the earth," said Sirius.

"Good job," said God. From the greatest to the brightest, all the stars presented themselves to God. They all told Him all the wonderful things that they had accomplished.

"Is there anyone else?" asked God. "Just me Lord," said Amanda. She humbly approached the throne and bowed. "No planets or moons revolve around me and I guide no sailors home. My much larger and brighter brothers hide my light. But I joyfully do your will to the best of my ability. I am what you say I am. I will be what you say I will be," said Amanda. She bowed and returned to her spot at the back of the room.

There was a great silence in the throne room as everyone considered Amanda's words. After a long pause, Astra, one of the wisest of the stars, came forward. "Lord, I am not worthy of such a great honor. Please select another." With that she bowed and left the throne room. One by one, each star came forward and said the same words until only Amanda remained.

"Lord, I don't understand. Why did they all leave?" asked Amanda. "They all came forward to announce their own power and ability. You were the only one that proclaimed faith in my ability. You truly are the greatest star." "Thank you Lord," said Amanda. "From now on you will be called Heli," said God. "You will proclaim my glory in the night sky for all to see." "I will do everything you say," said Heli.

Heli took her place in the night sky above Bethlehem. For many months, she was the brightest and most beautiful star the world had ever seen. When her mission was complete, God gave her a very special place of honor in the night sky. On a clear night you can still see her. She is not the biggest or the brightest, but she is still there, faithfully obeying God. She truly is the greatest star.

**THE END**

<b>December 27</b>	<b>5:30PM</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
Lector	Katy Marchetti	Don Schmitt
Ministers of Communion	Bill Marchetti	Agnes Veness
	Marion McCrone	Shauna Andrychuk
		Katie Blind
		Carol Ferro
		Anne Heyer
		Marina Infantino
Song Leaders		
Altar Servers		Tom Kurmis
Greeters	McCrones	Catherine Dunn
Sacristans	John McCrone	Barb Gerardi
Rosary Leader (after mass)		Joe Mercier
Church Linens	Pat Howell	
Breakfast	Set up: Amatos	Clean up: Mattiuccis

**Our Lady of Mercy Choir  
presents a  
Christmas Caroling Concert on  
December 24 at 10:00 PM**

**Our gift to you this Christmas!  
Bill Costanzo and the OLM Choir**

**Your Parish Pastoral Council  
contact for December is**

**Ed Mroczek  
865-3923**

**God's voice...**

First, Mary believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled and she accepted God's plan for her. Then, in the same obedient way, Jesus said, "As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God."

We have been given two perfect examples of love, obedience and sacrifice to follow. Are you open to hearing God's voice in your life? How are you being called to a life of love, obedience to God and sacrifice? Is it through consecrated single life; a holy married life; possibly, ordained or religious life? If you've ever considered diocesan priesthood and would like to talk with someone about it, contact the **Office of Vocation Awareness/** 585-461-2890/ [vocations@dor.org](mailto:vocations@dor.org)/ website: [www.dor.org/vocations](http://www.dor.org/vocations)

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**Gospel Highlight:** Lk 1:45—"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

**Key Idea:** The hustle and bustle of the season now reaches fever pitch. Christmas cards, decorating, and holiday shopping hold our attention and drain our energies. Soon our Advent preparations will be fulfilled in Christmas celebrations. The Gospel draws us even closer to the mystery of faith we have prepared for and now eagerly await. Christ, the Son of God, is born into our world. Like Elizabeth and the baby who stirred in her womb, we are surprised by the sheer generosity of God's gift in the Incarnation of his Son. As we contemplate the approaching feast with the eyes of faith—like Mary who believed what was spoken to her—the blessings of Christmas overflow into our homes, our hearts, and our lives.

**Take 30 (Seconds):** Reflect or pray in silence.

**Share:** Pray the words of the Hail Mary together. Then ponder the prayer's meaning and Mary's unique role as the Mother of God. How has this period of Advent preparation helped you to better appreciate the members of your family? How is Mary's example of faith and trust in God's Word a model for you personally and for your family?

**Pray:** (*Repeat each phrase after the leader.*) "God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. / Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. / Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement. / Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!" (Is 12:2a, 5a, 6).

The fourth candle, lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent along with the first three, is the Angels candle, the Candle of Joy. As we light this flame, we are reminded of the heavenly hosts that proclaimed Christ's arrival with "Behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy!" The Angel candle reminds us that it was a King's birth the angels were announcing.

**Only 5 shopping days left...**

Stop by the OLM gift shop in the parish hall after the 9AM mass today and check out some of our unique gift items at bargain prices!

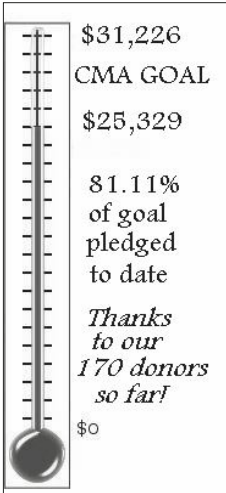
**Thanksgiving Thank You**

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving Basket project. Your generosity made it possible to provide wonderful, complete dinner baskets for 7 families including 12 adults and 20 children. Your caring thoughtfulness made the holiday special for many others.

**Upcoming Clothing Collection**

The Social Ministry Committee is planning a clothing drive in mid-January to benefit migrant workers in our community. Many workers remain in our area year-round and are in need of many of the basics including clothing. If you are organizing your closet to make room for your new Christmas sweater or get an early bite of the spring cleaning bug, please consider donating any new or gently used clothes to our collection. To assist in the delivery, please separate your donations for men/women/children. More information will be coming after New Year's. Thank you!

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish  
Catholic Ministries Appeal Report**  
**170 Donors = \$25,329.00 = 81.11%**  
**Average gift: \$148.99 GOAL: \$31,226**  
**We have four new donors so far this year,  
 who have given a total of \$870.00**



**The Tenth List of Donors**  
 John & Colleen McLaren  
 Angela Popowich  
 Regina Summers

**JOURNEYS DECEMBER 2009 EVENTS**

**Dec. 13:** Speaker Matthew Kelly will discuss whether Catholicism is still relevant at St. Leo's Church (167 Lake Rd.). Program will start at 7PM. Come early for a seat. Call Dominic (392-2710) for details.

**Dec. 19:** Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction at Holy Name of Jesus Church (15 St. Martin's Way) from 5:30-8:30PM. Come as you are. No reservation necessary!

**Dec. 20:** Journeys Christmas Party and Game Day. Contact Noreen ASAP for details(663-5516). Party starts at 1PM and will be held at the Knights of Columbus Greece bldg. (431 Bonesteel).

**Trailer Page, Not For Publication**

**#060046**

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