

# THIRD SUNDAY

## OF Advent

As the earth brings forth its plants,  
and a garden makes its growth spring up,  
so will the Lord God make justice and praise  
spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11



DECEMBER 17, 2017

*Our Lady of Mercy Parish*  
*Merrimack, NH 03054*  
*424-3757*

*Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Paul Bouchard*  
*Deacon: Mr. John Castelot*  
*Pastoral Associate: Marie Dancy*



## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, December 16th**

**Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent**

**4:30PM:** Jean Gelinas (4th Anniv) req by his wife and family

**SUNDAY, December 17th**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:30AM:** Robert Dwyer req by his family

**10:30AM:** Ralph Brosor (7th Anniv) req by his wife & Family

**MONDAY, December 18th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Albion Pendergrace (50th Anniv) req by Bruce & Janet Angus

**TUESDAY, December 19th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Norman Peppin (4th Anniv) req by his wife

**WEDNESDAY, December 20th**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Pat Hayes req by Warren & family

**THURSDAY, December 21st**

**NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, December 22nd**

**8:10AM:** Morning Prayer

**8:30AM:** Sharon Senick req by her daughter Andrea Dickson

**SATURDAY, December 23rd**

**Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**4:30PM:** Joseph Stephanak req by his family and for all parishioners

**SUNDAY, December 24th**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**9:30AM:** Skip Watkins req by his loving wife Rachel

**Vigil: Nativity of the Lord**

**4:00 PM:** Deceased members of the Delude & Rush families

**7:00 PM:** The deceased members of the Dwyer & Wood families

**12:00AM:** Teresa, Jill & Billy Fleming req by the Fleming Family

## Parish Stewardship

Weekend of December 17th: \$5708.00

Retired Religious: \$4056.00

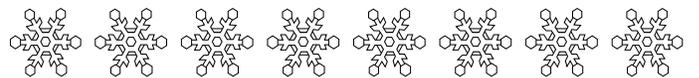
Immaculate Conception: \$1597.00



## Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always? Who can do that?" It sounds absurd, but the next two lines give it context: If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Whatever happens is the will of God for us. Even the bad things, things we don't like, can be allowed by God, so that God can bring good out of them. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

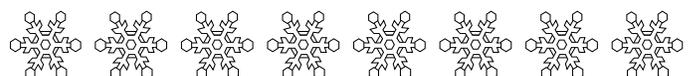
The next two sayings may be a little obscure. When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit, he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we won't be so distracted by the things of this world that we cannot hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them. How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? The next phrase helps with that: Test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. And most of all trust God to help with all this because God wants us to be holy. God will make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice. Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



### MORNING MASS SNOW POLICY

For the safety of our parishioners and also to give our maintenance staff a chance to clear walkways and to make sure the parking lot is plowed, **if Merrimack schools are closed or if there is a delayed opening, Mass is cancelled.**

We will call and reschedule the Mass intention for that day.





# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday, December 24, 2017**  
4:00 PM; 7:00 PM and 12:00(midnight)

**Monday, December 25, 2017**  
10:30AM

# NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**  
4:00 PM

**Monday, January 1, 2018**  
10:30 AM



## BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S LECTURE ON "CATHOLICISM"

This week we will conclude the Advent series of discussions. If you have not attended any of the sessions, you have one more opportunity to participate. This week the discussion will focus on **the Mystery of God**. When we try to name or define God, all of our words and concepts fall short. God is not just the biggest thing around. St Augustine said that if you can understand this being that you call "God", then surely it is not God.

We understand things of this world; God is not of this world. He is not an item. God is mystery. A mystery is a thing that shuts your mouth - something that makes you fall silent. God shuts your mouth. Theologian Karl Rahner wrote that God is the last thing we should say before falling silent.

Be part of this discussion: **Tuesday in the Church Hall at 9:30 AM, or Wednesday in the Parish Center at 6:30 PM.**

### OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on both December 25th and January 1st.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



### Are You Looking to Start Back on Your Journey of Faith? Are you ready?

The road to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation is ahead if you are ready.

Do you wish to finish your Catholic Sacraments of Initiation?

Maybe you want to get on the road—to come to the Catholic Church—to be baptized and start on your journey of faith. Did you receive your First Communion and then get side tracked and never receive Confirmation? It is never too late to get back on the road and continue on your faith journey. It is never too late to receive your First Communion or Confirmation and to step right back into the last footsteps of your faith journey and begin again as an adult. This is an exciting process especially designed for adults who want to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and/or Confirmation called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Don't hesitate if you are ready. Just call the parish office at 424-3757 and speak with Marie Dancy, our Pastoral Associate. She will give you all the details and help you get started.

*Welcome*

*December 17, 2017*

### **Refresher Training**

It is time for all adults who work with minors on a regular basis in the Diocese of Manchester parishes, schools and camps to complete their refresher training. Anyone who completed their training prior to January 2015 is now due for updated training.

The Diocese of Manchester uses an abuse training site called "Safe Haven: It's Up to You". To access this training, go to <https://manchester.cmgconnect.org>. Click on "Start Curriculum". The steps you need to complete will be listed on the left hand side of your screen. You must proceed in the order in which they are listed. Once a section or step is completed, it will show as 'done'.

**Note:** There are 3 videos. Once you begin watching a video, you must watch it through to the end. Once a step is marked 'done', you may leave the training and log in to complete the remaining steps at another time.

Once you have completed all the assigned steps, you can access your completion certificate by returning to the training dashboard and clicking 'Download Certificate.'

### **How to Report Suspected Abuse**

If you know or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (a person under the age of 18), you must report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families at 1-800-894-5533 or 603-271-6556. If you are an employee or volunteer in the Catholic Church in NH, in addition to reporting to DCYF, if you know or suspect sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel you must also report it to: Local Law Enforcement and the Delegate for Ministerial Conduct if the abuse involves a minor at 669-3100.

### **Outreach Services for Victims and their Families...**

If you or a loved one has experienced abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, we urge you to contact the Diocesan Office for Healing & Pastoral Care at 669-3100 x 110. Help is available.

### ***YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF OUR LADY OF MERCY'S MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR!***

Hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. **Our Midnight Mass Choir rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 pm in Church.**



All are welcome to join this Christmas Choir, so please grab a friend and bring them along with you.

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30 am

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 am

Holy Days: Anticipated Mass (evening before) 7:00 pm

Holy Day at 8:30 am

**Phone Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757**

### **Emails for Office Staff**

Pastor: Rev Paul Bouchard

Email: FrPaul@olmnh.org

Deacon: Mr. John Castelot

Email: deaconjohn@olmnh.org

Pastoral Associate: Marie Dancy

Email: mdancy@olmnh.org

Faith Formation Director: Laura Paison

Email: lpaison@olmnh.org

Faith Formation Admin Asst: Kathleen Rush

Email: kjrush1@olmnh.org

Youth Minister: Mackenzie Murphy

Email: mmurphy@olmnh.org

Office Manager: Cathy Guman

Email: cguman@olmnh.org

Music Director: Nancy King

Email: nking@olmnh.org

Receptionist/Secretary: Alyce Bolduc

Email: alemae@olmnh.org

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**December 26th through January 1st**

The Parish office will be open December 26th through December 29th from 9am to 12 noon.

We will resume regular office hours (9am to 4pm) on January 2, 2018.

## *Sanctuary Lamp*



The Sanctuary Lamp for December 16th through December 22nd is lit **in memory of Paul Lacasse**.

If you would like to have the sanctuary lamp lit in memory of or for the intentions of a loved one, please call the parish office at 424-3757.

## *120 Club Winners - Congratulations*

Week #19: Sharyn Foster & Kathleen Swanson

## Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish  
16 Baboosic Lake Road  
Merrimack, NH 03054

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Fax: (603) 424-1780

Email Address: [kjrush1@olmnh.org](mailto:kjrush1@olmnh.org)

*Bulletin for December 17, 2017*

**Kathy**