



To you I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2

8:00 amDaily Mass
9:00 amMagnificat-*Emmanuel Hall*
4:00 pmVigil Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3

7:00 am.....Mass
9:00 am.....Mass
10:30 am.....Mass
12:00 pm.....Mass
6:00 pm.....Mass
7:00 pm.....High School Youth Group

MONDAY DECEMBER 4

8:00 amDaily Mass
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:30 pmRCIA-*St. Ann*
7:00 pmBaptism Seminar-*Mary*
7:00 pmSt. Vincent de Paul-*St. Jerome*
7:00 pmBoy Scott Mtg-*JPII House*

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5

8:30 amRosary Makers-*Coffee Shop*
9:00 am.....Called By Faith-*PAC*
12:00 pm.....Daily Mass
3:00 pmMiddle School Bible Study-*JPII House*
6:00 pm.....Daily Mass
7:00 pmCharismatic Prayer-*St. Gabriel*

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6

8:00 amDaily Mass
11:30 amCourageous Women-*St. Jerome*
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:00 pmFamily Holy Hour
7:00 pm.....Choir Practice

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

6:00 amTMIY-*PAC*
8:00 amDaily Mass
12:00 pmDaily Mass
4:00 pmImmaculate Conception Mass
6:00 pmImmaculate Conception Mass
6:30 pmHigh School Bible Study - *JPII House*

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

8:00 amImmaculate Conception Mass
9:30 pmSchool Liturgy
9:30 amMoms and Tots
12:00 pmImmaculate Conception Mass
6:00 pmImmaculate Conception Mass

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Celebrate with us on:

Wednesday, December 7th at
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 8th at
8:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 6:00 pm

On the Cover

**First Week of Advent - O'come O'come Emmanuel!
Prepare the way of the Lord!**



Prayer LINE

For Prayer Line requests, contact:
Ms. Genie Ogden: (225) 293-2367 or
Ms. Carroll Benedetto at wlb14@aol.com

Second COLLECTION

Parish Maintenance Fund

THE ADVENT WREATH

BY: FRED GWIN

The Advent Wreath is very rich in symbolism and meaning. When most people look upon the wreath, we see only the four candles and know that Christmas and Santa Claus are only a few weeks in the distance. The wreath alerts us that the Christmas season is here. That Jesus our Savior is coming. So, the word "advent" means waiting and watching for the coming of Jesus, a time of joy. It is the beginning of a New Year for the Church and follows very near to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle.



The Advent Wreath is believed to have had its beginnings in Germany dating back to the sixth century. The first wreaths had five candles rather than four. The wreath is round symbolizing that God is eternal and has no beginning and end.

They are generally made of an evergreen like holly. Evergreen because the Lord and His teachings will not pass away but will live forever as a recent Gospel indicated. The wreaths will sometimes contain some thorns to represent the sufferings and tribulations that Jesus endured and that He paid the ultimate sacrifice and died to save us all. On modern day wreaths, thorns are sometimes left off because children love to play with the wreath!

Advent Wreaths will often times reveal pine cones that have come to represent birth and life or the birth and resurrection of Jesus.

There are four candles, three are violet and one is pink. The Liturgical color for Advent is violet so the vestments are that color and so are most of the candles on the wreath. The pink or rose candle represents Gaudete Sunday and on that Sunday the clergy wear a "rose colored" vestment or violet if rose is not available. When viewing the wreath, the pink or rose candle will be placed at the nine o'clock position. The candles are lit beginning with the candle at the three o'clock position so that the pink candle is illuminated on the third week. The four candles represent the four thousand years that the Israelites waited for the coming of the Messiah. In the early years, the first wreaths had a fifth candle that was called the Christmas candle located in the center of the wreath and was lit on Christmas Day. Other decorations on the wreath include lots of violet and pink ribbons with pink ribbon surrounding the pink candle.

Even though Advent is a time of joy and excitement it is also a time for thought provoking, preparation, penance and even fasting. Children may see their parents "giving up" something during Advent or attending church services more than usual during these weeks of preparation.

The candles also have meaning. The first violet candle is the "Prophet's candle" and represents the hope we feel for the coming of Jesus as the prophets foretold. The second violet candle is the "Bethlehem candle" and represents the faith of Mary and Joseph as they make the long journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is the pink or rose candle and is called the "Shepherds candle" and represents the joy unfolding as Mary and Joseph anxiously await the birth of Jesus. The fourth violet candle is called the "Angels candle" and indicates the love of the Holy Family and that they are under the protection of the angels.

Come Lord Jesus Come!

BLESSING OF THE EYES

FEAST OF ST. LUCY

In honor of the Feast of St. Lucy, Patron Saint of diseases of the eye, Our Lady of Mercy Parish will celebrate a special Mass on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 12:00pm.**

All eye care professionals and anyone experiencing illness or diseases of the eye are encouraged to attend to receive a special blessing. Traditional Italian St. Lucy bread will also be distributed.



**Santa Lucia, Prega per Noi!
St. Lucy, Pray for Us!**



**Children and Chancel
Choir Christmas Concert**

Lessons and Carols

**Saturday, December 16th
at 7:00 pm in the church**

Free to attend



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete! Modestia vestra nota sit ómnibus hominibus: Domine enim prope est. (Phil. 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is at hand. (Phil. 4:4-5)

The entirety of the Advent season is filled with a growing sense of rejoicing, yet of the four Sundays of Advent, the third Sunday, commonly known as Gaudete Sunday, most prominently captures the joy of the season. The name for Gaudete Sunday comes from the Latin word *gaudete* (rejoice), the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this day's Mass. The rose-colored "joy" candle of the Advent wreath is lit, and Father sets aside his purple vestments to don rose-colored ones for the occasion.



Gaudete Sunday is also known as Bambinelli Sunday. Bambinelli is the plural form of the Italian word *bambinello*, which means little baby boy. Pope St. John Paul II began the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday early in his papacy by inviting all the children in Rome to bring the baby Jesus figurines from their family's Nativity scenes to St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent. Following the noon Angelus, the Holy Father gave a special blessing to the *bambinelli* statues. The children then brought them home, where their parents gift wrapped them and put them gently under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, families unwrapped the infant Jesus figurine first and, with great joy, laid him gently in the manger of their waiting Nativity scenes. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis continued the tradition, and over the last 40 years, the tradition has grown beyond the Vatican and is now a treasured Advent tradition in parishes worldwide.

The tradition of the Nativity scene, however, is far older than the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. In fact, the very first Christmas crèche was created in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. Desiring to promote devotion to the birth of Christ, St. Francis prepared a manger, complete with hay, oxen, and a donkey, in a cave in the small Italian town of Greccio. On Christmas Day, Francis cradled a carved doll representing the infant Jesus in his arms, intending to lay him gently in the manger. Much to the crowd's surprise, however, the *bambinello* seemed to be awakened from sleep when the blessed Father Francis embraced Him in both arms and cried tears of joy. The miracle moved the people of Greccio, and now, nearly 800 years later, we find ourselves similarly moved by the tender scene recreated in our own churches and homes.

At the site of the original Nativity scene in Greccio on December 1, 2019, Pope Francis explained the importance of this devotion: "Standing before the Christmas crèche, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren. . . . [T]he Christmas creche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition."

On Sunday, December 17, we invite you to bring the *bambinello*, the baby Jesus, from your family's Nativity scene to Mass for a special blessing. May we, like so many generations of the faithful before us, experience the true joy of salvation in our homes this season.



THE GIVING TREE

Your generous gifts through the Giving Tree will brighten the lives of many during this Holy Season. Your donations of cash and items listed below support the following organizations:

Heritage Manor
Miriam's House
LA War Veterans Home

St. Vincent de Paul
OLOM Parish Families

Make credit card donations on the church website at: www.olomchurch.com or you can drop off your donation at the church office. Contact the church office, (225) 926-1883 for more details. Opportunities to donate to the Giving Tree are offered by scanning the QR code below.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT
TOILET PAPER
BATH SOAP
DEODORANT
SHAMPOO
DENTURE ADHESIVE & TABLETS
SHAVING CREAM
TOWELS
WASHCLOTHS
SHEETS & PILLOWCASES
BLANKETS
PILLOWS
KNIT HATS
SCARVES
SOCKS

BABY BLANKETS
DIAPERS (ALL SIZES)
WIPES
BABY BOTTLES
BABY FORMULA
BABY & TODDLER BATH ITEMS



PARISH LIFE

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



“Prepare the way for the Lord,” cried John the Baptist from the desert to the people of his time. As Catholics, we are given the opportunity to heed St. John’s call by readying ourselves for the Lord’s coming during this Advent Season through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**When was the last time you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
Have you been putting off going to Confession?**

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Confession:

Lord, help me genuinely accept that You have taken all my past - all sin I have committed or accusation against me.

Since You do not condemn me, help me renew my thinking & not condemn myself. Rather, I want to live in the Joy, Peace, & Freedom You have purchased for me by Your death and resurrection in Jesus’ name.

Amen

Additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Mercy:

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

COLUMBARIUM GARDEN OF PEACE

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS A PERFECT TIME TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINAL RESTING PLACE

The Garden of Peace and Memorial Columbarium provides a sacred and beautiful place for the inurnment of cremains in accordance with the Church's instructions.

As cremation continues to increase in popularity, the need to bury the ashes of cremated individuals is also increasing. The Garden of Peace is a peaceful and prayerful site on the campus of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church serving as an eternal resting place for our beloved deceased.

As you plan for your family's future needs, consider the option of cremation and burial at the Garden of Peace Memorial Columbarium.

The Mercy Columbarium Garden of Peace is open to all parishioners and non-parishioners, Catholic and non-Catholic.

Columbarium niches are available in two sizes - each cremain niche holds a space for two persons. They are \$5800 for a small niche and \$8500 for larger niches.

There is no greater gift one can give to family than planning final arrangements that fulfill one's specific wishes and take the burden off of others. We would love to discuss the Columbarium with you on the phone or in person. Schedule your appointment today!

Call the Church Office to make your appointment: (225) 926-1883



PARISH LIFE

 **OUR LADY of MERCY** **Married Couples Retreat**

March 9-10

Attention Couples:

Would you like to spend quality time enriching your marriage?

Join us on our Parish married couples retreat at the beautiful St Joseph Abbey in Covington!

Growing Together in Faith & Love



Register at FaithandMarriage.org

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mass Intentions

DECEMBER 9, SATURDAY

8:00 am Russ Wasson / Anita Green
 4:00 pm Plauche, Dufour & Whitfield Families / Ellie Sances / Mary Rose Planchard / Aimee Planchard / Peggy Rylee / Francis Xavier Le / Brenda Fremin / Bill Auten / Nancy Valluzzo / JK and Wanda Klimczak / Michael McDonald / Peggy Werner / Susie Calvaruso / Ann Thibodeaux / Dr. Stephen Breaud / James Songy / Johnson Kadair / Tim Lamonica/ Debby Wilde / Hallie Pfefferle / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Charlie Valluzzo / All Priests / Pfefferle & Lattaye Families

DECEMBER 10, SUNDAY

7:00 am..... Manuel F. Gan / Kyle Cassano / Adrienne Pierce / Dominic Douglas / John McKay
 9:00 am..... Odette Schneider / Fr. Mark Beard / Bryn and Harrison Thompson / Pete Newton / Paul Anthony Plaisance
 10:30 am... Frank Joseph Vicari, The Vicari and Cretini Families / Gary Alford / Neil J. Daigle / Jill Barfield Hamilton, Tommy Barfield and Family / Vincent and Grace Marino / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Kirsten Clebert
 12:00 pm... K.J. Thomas / Katie Mayeux / Reynolds Bromley / Joe Corsentino, Corsentino and Alello Families
 6:00 pm Ray Jarreau, Jr. / Clint LeGrange / Monie Sabagh / Saleem Sabagh / John Sabagh

DECEMBER 11, MONDAY

8:00 am Hallie Pfefferle
 12:00 pm... Patsy Spiller / **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Lemann Family / Ooti Billeaud

DECEMBER 12, TUESDAY

12:00 pm... Brown, Eiswirth, Schmitt and Clark Families / Linda Babineaux
 6:00 pm George Mervin Simon, Rosa Simon and Danny Simon, Selden and Grace Tibbetts / Mary Ruth and David Clary / Guadalupe Gomez deOvalle / Mary Rose Planchard / Aimee Planchard / Peggy Rylee / Francis Xavier Le / Christine Timpa / Dr. Stephen Breaud / James Songy / Johnson Kadair / Tim Lamonica / Robert Butler Murrell

DECEMBER 13, WEDNESDAY

8:00 am Van and June Gaudin, Jr. / Joseph Nunez
 12:00 pm... Mary Patriarco / **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Ferachi Family

DECEMBER 14, THURSDAY

8:00 am Michael McDonald / Pete Newton
 12:00 pm... Wayne Karolczak / Adrienne Pierce

DECEMBER 15, FRIDAY

8:00 am Polly Verges Moyer
 12:00 pm... Bruce Hilbrecht / Ellie Sances / Albert and Virginia Terito / Aimee Planchard, Mary Rose Planchard / Clyde and Violet David / Francis Xavier Le / Brenda Fremin / Bill Auten / Nancy Valluzzo / Herman A Oufnac / Barbara DeWitt / Jill Barfield Hamilton, Tommy Barfield and Family / Peggy Werner / Colleen Prater / Bryan P. Blanchard / Keith P. Blanchard / Ann Thibodeaux / Bennett Long / Richard Walsh / Debby Wilde / Dominic Douglas / Hallie Pfefferle / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Charlie Valluzzo / All Priests / Pfefferle & Lattaye Families

Sanctuary Light Memorials

The sanctuary light in the church burns this week in loving memory of

Joe Corsentino

The sanctuary light in the Adoration Chapel burns this week in loving memory of

Rita Corsentino

In Sympathy to the Families of:

- Billie Fakouri
- O'Neil Parenton Jr.
- Dr. Laura Parnell
- Diane Whaley
- Malvina Roberts
- Nicholas Cascio
- Patricia Bonnette

MERCY PRAYS

Layne Arceneaux	Jason Martin
Rod Alkadi	Brian Matthew
Leo Blaha	Steve Michel
Ronnie Bordelon	Kevin Minor
Ronnie Bourgeois, Sr.	Luke Mumfrey
Francisco Castellanos	Paul O'Kelly
Darryl Cazes	Anthony & Betsy Pizzolato
Gordon Craig	Sonny & Mary Politz
Randy Craig	Margarita Santos
Pete Crifasi	Ann Soike
Jack Crittenden	Jim Thompson
Nicholas Foster	Bart Tullier
Janet Fruge	Dana Vidrine
Brett Gianelloni	Natalie Edwards Wallace
Julie Hannie	Karen & Warren Watson
Kim Scallan Lajoie	Terri White
Joseph Landry	Myishia Whitefield
Sid Lawton	

THE SEASON OF GIVING



In this Holy Season of the Savior's birth, I cannot think of a more beautiful and holy place to worship our Lord Jesus Christ than here at Our Lady of Mercy. Our parish provides tremendous opportunities to celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Mass and Confession.

Our strong witness to the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel, and our commitment to St. Vincent de Paul and our outreach to the poor and needy, truly are a bright light in a world that can seem very dark.

Our Lady of Mercy functions not only as a vibrant and active church family but also as a shrine for the City of Baton Rouge and our Diocese.

The doors of Mercy are open to everyone. That is why one of the best charities that you can support during the Christmas Season with your end of the year financial giving, is our own parish. So many people are affected in a good and positive way when you support your church family. If you love the legacy of Mercy and want to continue the light of Christ shining so brightly, I encourage your continued faithful giving in this season of offering our generous heart to God.

God Bless Mercy's faithful families and may the Light of Christ shine more brightly through us.

Happy Advent!

Fr. Cleo

Called to Worship

MASS SCHEDULE & TIMES

WEEKDAYS

MASS TIMES:

M, W, Th, & F: 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Tues: 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

RECONCILIATION:

M - F: 45 minutes prior to Mass

SATURDAY

MASS TIME: 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION: 3:00 - 3:45 pm

VIGIL: 4:00 pm

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

NURSERY: 9:00 am & 10:30 am (PAC)

PRE-SCHOOL

BIBLE CLASS: 9:00 am & 10:30 am (PAC)

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY RADIO

1380 AM - WPYR

Listen daily at noon and
10:30 am on Sunday for
Mercy's Mass live broadcast

Weekend of December 9th & December 10th

4:00 pm*	7:00 am*	9:00 am	10:30 am	12:00 pm	6:00 pm
Fr. Milano	Fr. Charbel	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Charbel	Fr. Charbel
Extraordinary Ministers					
L Dawkins M Downing D Pirello C Formeller T Turner N Krzystowczyk	A Wilson J Pastorek S Armand P Sawrow	S Maggio D Deshotels L Carie B Carie Deacon Duplantis D Maggio	F Titus T DeJohn M Nodier A Nodier F Borghardt Deacon Duplantis Deacon Grant	Deacon Grant B Bargas M Kimble K Kimble	C Steele D Smith L Hopkins E Pavlovich
Lectors					
A August G Lalonde	J Gardemal S Darensbourg A Haywood	Children's Liturgy	D McCrary G Schram	A Bargas L Guttner	E Pavlovich S Cunningham
Altar Servers					
L D'Armond (C) K Allen R Guillot	G Samrow (C)	D Deshotels (C) C Talbert C Washauer	F Titus (C) P Clark G Oubre	T Patin (C) E Altazan L Altazan	D Smith (C) M Billeaud E Davros

The complete Ministry Schedule is published on our website at www.olomchurch.com.

Called to serve? Contact Deacon Grant to volunteer for liturgical ministry.

*These liturgies are celebrated without incense.

The Sunday 10:30 am Holy Mass can be found on WBRZ+, olomchurch.com; and youtube.com/olombr.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

445 Marquette Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Phone: (225) 926-1883
Fax: (225) 923-0448
contact@olomchurch.com
olomchurch.com

PASTOR.....Father Cleo Milano
VICAR.....Father Charbel Jamhoury
PERMANENT DEACON.....Deacon Kirk Duplantis
PERMANENT DEACON.....Deacon Richard Grant
ADMINISTRATION.....Mr. Frank Ardoin
PRINCIPAL.....Ms. Allyson LaBorde

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY.....8:30 am - 4:00 pm
FRIDAY.....8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Priests gladly see people by appointment.

Parish Activity Center

444 Marquette Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 928-6216

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School

400 Marquette Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Phone: (225) 924-1054
Fax: (225) 923-2201
olomschool.org

Communications

Ms. Madison Graham
madison.graham@olomchurch.com



Glorify the Lord by your life

MEMBERSHIP.....Ms. Lori Mouton
BAPTISM.....Deacon Richard Grant
FIRST COMMUNION/PSR.....Ms. Tori LaBelle
RCIA.....Deacon Kirk Duplantis
CONFIRMATION.....Ms. Michaelyn McGinnis
WEDDING.....Ms. Alison Nodier
FUNERAL.....Ms. Michelle Schroeder
FACILITIES.....Ms. Michelle Schroeder
FINANCE & GIFTS.....Ms. Lauren Ritchey

To view complete staff list, visit olomchurch.com.

The Envelope Please...

Just a small reminder that if you are watching Holy Mass online or WBRZ+ your Church family still very much needs your support envelope. Please check out our online giving on the church website: olomchurch.com or call the Church Office.

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church and School in your last will and testament.