



MERCY ALIVE

DECEMBER 10, 2023
II SUNDAY OF ADVENT
VOL. 46 NO. 50



O people of Zion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

8:00 amDaily Mass
9:30 amCharismatic Prayer-*St. Gabriel*
4:00 pmVigil Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

7:00 am.....Mass
9:00 am.....Mass
10:00 amRCIA-*St. Gabriel*
10:30 am.....Mass
12:00 pm.....Mass
6:00 pm.....Mass

MONDAY DECEMBER 11

8:00 amDaily Mass
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:30 pmKC Offers Mtg-*SVDP Room*
7:00 pmSt. Vincent de Paul-*St. Jerome*
7:00 pmBoy Scott Mtg-*JPII House*

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

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 13

8:00 amDaily Mass
11:30 amCourageous Women-*St. Jerome*
12:00 pmSaint Lucy Bread and Blessing Mass
6:00 pmThe Light is ON for You!
6:00 pmAll Are Welcome-*St. Joseph*
7:00 pm.....Choir Practice

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

8:00 amDaily Mass
9:00 amCarmelites- *Coffee Shop*
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:00 pmChildren & Chancellor Choir
6:30 pmHigh School Bible Study - *JPII House*

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15

8:00 amDaily Mass
9:30 pmSchool Liturgy
9:30 amMoms and Tots
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:00 pmMiddle School Youth Group

On the Cover

Hannah and Taylor Calandro, holding baby Kinleigh Calandro during her baptism. Their son, "Tip" Calandro being held by his cousin Brannan Webb. The three boys around the bottom are their cousins - Briggs Webb standing left, Miller Webb bottom left, Grayson Webb bottom right.

Family Reflection for the ADVENT SEASON

- Pray together
- Manage media time
- Eat supper together
- Put your marriage first (mom & dad need time together)
- Give children chores and responsibilities (so they see the family working together)

Campus Safety

Please do not leave your purse or any valuables visible on the seats or floor of your car. Place all of your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle in order to avoid anyone who might be tempted to do something the Lord would not want them to do. It is recommended that you do not give cash to anyone soliciting money. This only encourages repeat behavior and is somewhat fearful to those in the Adoration Chapel and the elderly. If you want to support the needy, then give to the St. Vincent de Paul Society where your generosity will surely help the poor and hungry.

Little Blue BOOKS

Little Blue Books used for Advent reflection are now available for purchase in the church office for \$1 each.

Prayer LINE

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

Second COLLECTION

Retirement Fund for Religious

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

DECEMBER 12TH

BY: FRED GWIN

A humble peasant farmer named Juan Diego, born under Aztec rule, was walking down a mountain trail in 1531 near Guadalupe, Mexico when he came upon a beautiful woman adorned in a blue tunic. The tunic, covered with stars, resembled what an Aztec princess would wear. He realizes the woman is the Virgin Mary as he is a recent convert to Catholicism. He is truly startled but Our Lady calms him with her voice which sounded like birds singing. She tells him who she is and instructs him to take a message to the Bishop. Mary wanted a temple built so that petitioners would have a place to present their petitions to Jesus and to help heal the suffering there.



Juan goes to the Bishop and presents the request but is dismissed. Juan returns to the mountain and Our Lady appears again. Juan is instructed to return a second time which he did. The Bishop, thinking Juan may not be mentally sound, asks for a “sign”. He tells the Bishop he will return the next day but he does not. His uncle is dying and Juan goes to him instead. When Juan is certain of his uncle’s pending death, he leaves to find a priest. On the way, Our Lady comes to him. Juan is upset and Our Lady comforts him. Juan tells her that the Bishop wants a “sign”. Juan is told to go to the mountain top to pick some roses. However, he tells Our Lady that no flowers would be there in the winter. He is sent anyway. Mary tells him to pick them, put them in his tilma and not to open it until he sees the Bishop. Our Lady also appears to Juan’s uncle and he survives. She tells the uncle that she is to be called “Santa Maria, de Guadalupe.”

When Juan sees the Bishop, he opens the tilma and the roses fall out revealing the sacred image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is somehow painted on the tilma. In the image, the Blessed Lady appears as she did to Juan. The Church was built and the woven tilma remains as it was but is now protected in a glass enclosure. The tilma should have disintegrated within ten years but remains.

The tilma is enshrined in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The tilma maintains a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees no matter the temperature in the Church. The tilma has been examined by many scientists and cannot be explained. The image is “part of” the fabric. The eyes of Mary have been examined and within the eyes, under magnification, one can see the faces of those present when the tilma was first opened for the Bishop. In 1921, a radical cleric exploded a large cache of dynamite under the openly displayed tilma. It remained unscathed.

In the image, Mary is held up by an angel meaning she is pleasing to God, as she stands on a crescent moon meaning birth and life. The white clouds represent heaven with the golden rays of sun coming forth. See Revelation 12:1-2.

Pray to Our Lady on her feast day for her intercession.

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.

PARISH LIFE



We invite you to a monthly support group to **connect** parents & caregivers of persons with special needs in our church community.

Wednesday, December 13th
6:00 pm
St. Joseph Room - PAC



More information
Text ALLWELCOME to 84576
225-229-9532
olomchurch.com



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 pm (Church & PAC)

6:00 pm

8:00 pm

12:00 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

7:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 Noon

There is not a more beautiful place to be than at Our Lady of Mercy at Christmas!

PARISH LIFE

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



“Prepare the way of 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



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



NO ITEM ACCEPTED AFTER DECEMBER 15TH.

PARISH LIFE

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE & ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENT

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CAREER EXPO

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TEACHER
IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

DECEMBER 14, 2023
5:30PM-7:30PM
ST. MICHAEL HIGH SCHOOL
17521 MONITOR AVE, BATON ROUGE, LA

Scan Here to Register

BATON ROUGE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

ST. MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL
HIGH SCHOOL

FREE 1/2 DAY COUPLES WORKSHOP

THE ART OF
CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE:
BUILDING A HOLY HOME

Join us for this **free** half-day Workshop
OUR LADY OF MERCY
SATURDAY JAN. 27 7:30 am-12:45 pm
MASS will be celebrated at 8:00

Encounter practical ways to
transform your house into a holy home. Childcare
Available!

<https://paradisusdei.ticketleap.com/br/>

**MISSIONARIES
TO THE FAMILY**

AN INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE THE DOMESTIC CHURCH



PARADISUS DEI®

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mass Intentions

DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY

8:00 am Polly Verges Moyer
 4:00 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

DECEMBER 17, SUNDAY

7:00 am..... Kyle Cassano / Fr. Mark Beard / Hallie Pfefferle / Adrienne Pierce
 9:00 am..... Theresa and Nelvin Fontenot / Bruce and Eva Soileau, Joey Soileau and Craig Soileau / Francis Jackson / Paul Catalanatto / John McKay
 10:30 am... Percy, Ann and Paul Moise / Bobby McCall / Anette, Edward Provencher and Sam and Rose Pizzillo / Brenda Fremin / Edward S. Palmer, Jr. / **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Bill Young / Kirsten Clebert
 12:00 pm... Thomas and Deumite Families / Leo Heuvel / Katie Mayeux / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Andre Billeaud
 6:00 pm Clint LeGrange / Monie Sabagh / Saleem Sabagh / John Sabagh / Joe Corsentino, Corsentino and Alello Families

DECEMBER 18, MONDAY

8:00 am Ron Truxillo / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Brenda Truxillo
 12:00 pm... Adrienne Pierce

DECEMBER 19, TUESDAY

12:00 pm... Joe Corsentino
 6:00 pm George Mervin Simon, Rosa Simon and Danny Simon, Selden and Grace Tibbetts / Francis Xavier Le / Fr. Mark Beard / Tim Lamonica / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Mr. and Mrs. Luke Traxler

DECEMBER 20, WEDNESDAY

8:00 am William John Bull / Michael McDonald
 12:00 pm... Sanford Lemoine, Sr. / Jack Casey

DECEMBER 21, THURSDAY

8:00 am Julio Patolilic / Ordell Chambers Laws
 12:00 pm... Sandy Roppolo / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Brian Hess

DECEMBER 22, FRIDAY

8:00 am Jeff Nola / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Susan Helm
 12:00 pm... Sonny Barbay / Francis Xavier Le / Ricky Mier / Elaine Coyle / Carl Dalbor, Jr. / Russ Wasson / Hallie Pfefferle

Sanctuary Light Memorials

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

Effie, Joe & Vernon Calvaroso

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

James Chenevert

In Sympathy to the Families of:

- **Harold Bahlinger, Sr.**
- **O'Neil Parenton Jr.**
- **Betty Kleinpeter**
- **Nancy Lato**
- **James Floyd Hebert**
- **Nicholas Cascio**
- **Patricia Bonnette**
- **Shelly Maggio**

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 & Wayne 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 16th & December 17th

4:00 pm*	7:00 am*	9:00 am	10:30 am	12:00 pm	6:00 pm
Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Charbel	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Charbel
Extraordinary Ministers					
C Abshire C Duvieilh D Pirello C Mattza M Porter N Krzystowczyk	T Penouilh A Wilson S Armand J Pastorek	H Blouin L Saab A Haldane C Haldane Deacon Grant P Prosser	F Titus L Gemmill J Angers F Borghardt J Smith Deacon Duplantis Deacon Grant	Deacon Duplantis J Frederick J Frederick D Dawson	C Schutte B Bargas C Steele E Pavlovich
Lectors					
P Rigby C Laird	E White B Babin A Haywood	Children's Liturgy	C Kline E Kline	L Holliday C Graves	G Gilbert S Cunningham
Altar Servers					
M Arias (C) P Kelly C Laird	G Samrow (C)	L Saab (C) A Clayton O Clayton	F Titus (C) J Sanches K Sauviau	T Patin (C) M Collier J Smith	S Schutte (C) E Presswood G Romero

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.