



# MERCY ALIVE

DECEMBER 17, 2023  
III SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
VOL. 46 NO. 51



Photo by Madison Graham

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

# THIS WEEK

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

- 8:00 am ...Daily Mass
- 4:00 pm ...Vigil Mass
- 7:00 pm ...Children & Chancel Concert

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

- 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 18

- 8:00 am ...Daily Mass
- 12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
- 6:30 pm ...RCIA-*St. Ann*
- 7:00 pm ...*St. Vincent de Paul-St. Jerome*
- 7:00 pm ...*Boy Scott Mtg-JPII House*

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 19

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

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

- 8:00 am ...Daily Mass
- 12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
- 6:00 pm ...*The Light is ON for You!*
- 7:00 pm.....*Choir Practice*

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

- 8:00 am ...Daily Mass
- 12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
- 6:30 pm ...*High School Bible Study - JPII House*

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

- 8:00 am ...Daily Mass
- 9:30 am ...*Moms and Tots*
- 12:00 pm ...Daily Mass

## On the Cover

OLOM School 3rd grader, Callie Carriere pictured with her grandparents and St. Nicholas at the annual 3rd grade Grandparents Day on the Feast of St. Nicholas.

## 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.



## Prayer LINE

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

## Second COLLECTION

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

# 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

# Catholics in Recovery

Starting January 8th

**When: Each Monday  
at 12 noon**

**Where: St. Gabriel  
Room at the Parish  
Activity Center**

**Who: Men who are  
seeking a Catholic  
approach for dealing  
with real-life struggles.**

For more information visit  
[www.olomchurch.com](http://www.olomchurch.com)  
or call 225-926-1883



### FREE 1/2 DAY COUPLES WORKSHOP

THE ART OF  
CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE:  
BUILDING A HOLY HOME

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.

Children's  
Program  
Included!

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

**MISSIONARIES  
TO THE FAMILY**

AN INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE THE DOMESTIC CHURCH



PARADISUS DEI

# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

*“For behold, the virgin shall be  
with child, and bear a son,  
and shall name him  
Emmanuel.”*

*-Isaiah 7.14*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 pm (Church & PAC)

6:00 pm

8:00 pm

12:00 Midnight - Chancel Choir  
prelude will begin at 11:15 pm

## **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

# CATECHISM CORNER



## CHURCH TEACHING REGARDING SUNDAY OBLIGATION AND CHRISTMAS EVE

Please note that Christmas Eve, December 24th, is a Sunday this year. The Catholic Church reminds you that the Sunday Mass Obligation remains in effect. You can fulfill your Sunday obligation at these Masses:

Saturday, December 23rd at 4pm  
Sunday, December 24th at 7am  
and 9am

You can fulfill your Christmas obligation at these masses:  
Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th at 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm  
Christmas Day Monday, December 25th at 12 Midnight Mass, 7am, 10:30am, and 12 noon

# SAVE THE DATE FOR MERCY MARRIAGE DAY

IN RECOGNITION OF  
WORLD  
MARRIAGE DAY, WE  
ARE  
CELEBRATING  
MILESTONES IN  
MARRIAGES.

IF YOU ARE  
CELEBRATING 25, 30,  
35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60  
OR MORE YEARS IN  
2024, JOIN US  
FEBRUARY 4TH!

MORE  
INFORMATION TO  
COME!



## 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 20**

# DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE



## 2024 REGISTRATION FORM:

### 2024 – Wedding Anniversaries Celebration Celebrating the 25<sup>TH</sup>, 50<sup>TH</sup>, & 65<sup>th</sup>, & those over 65 years

Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

at Most Blessed Sacrament, 15615 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Bishop Michael Duca, Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge will celebrate a liturgy honoring couples on their 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 65<sup>th</sup> or greater, wedding anniversary. Families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy & reception. (The reception will be in the New Parish Hall). **Parishes: Please gather and send completed forms to us as you collect them.** Sending once a week is helpful. Please do not wait until the Deadline February 1<sup>st</sup> to send all at once. This step is necessary to have certificates printed and ready on time for attending celebrating couples. You may Reproduce as needed. And please ONLY use THIS form to collect information from couples who plan to attend the celebration! Then scan & e-mail completed forms to our office. **Please Use one full sheet for each couple registering; and please do not shrink copies or cut in half!**

#### **Email or Mail in Completed form(s) to:**

- 1. Via E-mail:** Send to [mgernon@diobr.org](mailto:mgernon@diobr.org) Subject: 2024 Wedding Anniversary  
If you are sending multiple registrations within one file in the same e-mail, please list the Couples' names in the body of your e-mail! Call Mila at 225-242-0323 or 242-0133, if you have any questions. Thank you!
- 2. By US mail:** Please address envelope to:  
2024 Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Attention: Mila Gernon  
Diocese of Baton Rouge / Office of Marriage & Family Life  
P.O. Box 2028, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

For questions, contact Mila Gernon at 225-242-0323/225-242-0133 or email [mgernon@diobr.org](mailto:mgernon@diobr.org)  
(Couples should bring a camera (or cellphone) if they wish a picture taken with the Bishop at the Reception).

**Due to limited resources, we will be creating certificates for only those who will be celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, or 65<sup>ph</sup>. & those over 65 yrs. Anniversaries during 2024, & who plan to attend the Anniversary Mass.** (If there is a couple celebrating one of these years & is unable to attend due to health reasons, we will honor that couple with a certificate & send via US mail). Please note this request on the form of that couple, or in your e-mail. Thank you!

<b>Cpl. PLANS TO ATTEND</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Plz. Check</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**\*PLEASE FILL IN ALL BLANKS\***

<b># of Family members attending</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Important: PLEASE PRINT or WRITE LEGIBLY!**

**\*\*\*Use one of the formats listed below, for how NAMES ARE TO APPEAR ON CERTIFICATE \*\*\***

*Examples: Mary & John Jones; or Mary Brown and John Jones; or Mr. and Mrs. John Jones or Mr. and Mrs. John (Mary) Jones*

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**(NO. OF YRS MARRIED TO BE FILLED IN BY COUPLE OR PARISH) CIRCLE ONE: 25 50 65 (if Over 65 # \_\_\_\_\_ yrs).**

**Current Church Parish & Ph.#** \_\_\_\_\_

12/4/2023



**PARISH LIFE**

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

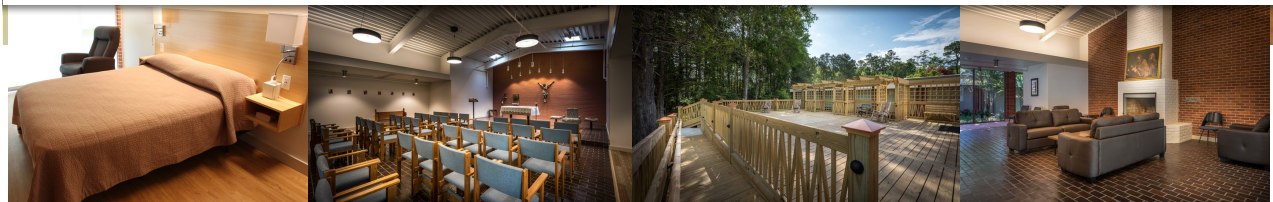
*March 9-10*

**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](http://FaithandMarriage.org)

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Mass Intentions

#### DECEMBER 23, SATURDAY

8:00 am ..... Dr. Daniel J. O'Neil  
4:00 pm ..... Virgil & Eunice D'Armond / Sugar & Cookie Kane / Ellie Sances / John, Josie and Michael Milazzo / Francis Xavier Le / Joe and Jenny Serio / Paula LeBaron / John and Jackie Kenaley / Brenda Fremin / Bill Auten / Nancy Valluzzo / Clara Milano / Carolyn Reeves / Jensen Holliday / Carmen Posada-Pepper / Matthew Louis Pepper / Bill and June Lepine / Roberta and Michael McDonald / Keith Giurintano / Peggy Werner / Susie Calvaruso / Ann Thibodeaux / Dinah Ott Sims / Dr. Stephen Breaud / Nancy Sanchez / Tim Lamonica / Debby Wilde / Adrienne Pierce / Susie Calvaruso / Dominic Douglas / Hallie Pfefferle / John Mckay /  
**SPECIAL INTENTION:** Charlie Valluzzo / All Priests / Pfefferle & Lattaye Families

#### DECEMBER 24, SUNDAY

7:00 am..... C.J. Chenevert / Kyle Cassano / Fr. Mark Beard / Tim Lamonica / Pete Newton  
9:00 am..... Scott Litz / Frank Messina, Jr. / Bob Gossard / Mary Rose Planchard / Aimee Planchard / Vito Impastato / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Joann Impastato  
4:00 pm ..... Louis Yonich / Manuel F. Gan / Nicaud and Matthew Families / Gary and Kevin Keyser / Gary Alford / Mary Nunez  
6:00 pm ..... RitaAnne Babin, Joseph Kevin Babin, Knight and Babin Families, Madelynne, Babin Babies / John Milton Fruge, Todd Fruge and Moreau Family / Byron Smith and the Chauvin Family / Clyde and Violet David / John Sabagh  
8:00 pm ..... Guadalupe Gomez deOvalle / Mollie Barbara Helm / Leo Heuvel / Clint LeGrange / Raoul William Robert  
12:00 am... Will Steele / Ballard, Chambers and McCay Families / Patricia Ann Thibodeaux / Joe Corsentino, Corsentino and Alello Families

#### DECEMBER 25, MONDAY

7:00 am..... Linda Gonsoulin Lasserre / Joann Babineaux and S.J. and Daisy Gonsoulin / Brian Klotz / Jean Beth Luckett Landry / **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Page Steele / Mr. and Mrs. Luke Traxler  
10:30 am... Robert Grey Hammett, Jr. / Brenda Fremin / Jeremy Klimavicz / Angelina Lombardo Oufnac and Herman A Oufnac / Jill Barfield Hamilton, Tommy Barfield and Family / Pete Newton  
12:00 pm... Deacon and Mrs. Gene Brady / Robert E. Wiemer, Sr. / Dorothy Bueche Stevens / John H. Bauman / Luke and Melissa Savoie

#### DECEMBER 26, TUESDAY

12:00 pm... Josef Kadair  
6:00 pm ..... George Mervin Simon, Rosa Simon and Danny Simon, Selden and Grace Tibbetts / Francis Xavier Le / Robert Butler Murrell / Clint LeGrange / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Deacon Richard and Tina Grant

#### DECEMBER 27, WEDNESDAY

8:00 am ..... Carl Edward Courville / Hallie Pfefferle  
12:00 pm... Bill and June Lepine / Vito Impastato / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Joann Impastato

#### DECEMBER 28, THURSDAY

8:00 am ..... Martin S. Rinaudo, Jr.  
12:00 pm... John Hannie, Sr. / **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Mark and Tori LaBelle / Katherine Hannie

#### DECEMBER 29, FRIDAY

8:00 am ..... Scott Kleinpeter  
12:00 pm... Alex Spano / Francis Xavier Le / Elaine Coyle / Tim Lamonica / Hallie Pfefferle / Eva Delgado Urdiales

### Sanctuary Light Memorials

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

## Josie and Robert Ruffino

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

## Neil J. Daigles

### Sanctuary Altar Flowers

The sanctuary altar flowers for the week of October 29th in the church were in loving memory of

## Polly Verges Moyer

In Sympathy to the Families of:

- **Harold Bahlinger, Sr.**
- **Dr. Linda Kiamco Mendoza**
- **Betty Kleinpeter**
- **Nancy Lato**
- **James Floyd Hebert**
- **Shelly Maggio**
- **Rosemary Manning**

# 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 23rd & 24th

4:00 pm	7:00 am	9:00 am	4:00 pm*	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	12:00 am
Fr. Milano(C)	Fr. Charbel	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano(C) Fr. Charbel(P)	Fr. Milano	Fr. Charbel	Fr. Milano
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>						
D Lockwood J Schiro A Turner L D'Armond D Dawson T Turner	Deacon Grant A Wilson J Pastorek B Babin	C Haldane M Huber A Dalmau R Huber Deacon Duplantis F Titus	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Lectors</b>						
N Krzystowczyk K Steintrager	A Haywood E White B Babin	C Lee C Laird	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Altar Servers</b>						
T Turner (C) C Casselberry C Rumfola	J Pastorek (C)	F Titus (C) A Dalmau A Stroud	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

The complete Ministry Schedule is published on our website at [www.olomchurch.com](http://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](http://olomchurch.com); and [youtube.com/olombr](http://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](http://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](http://olomchurch.com) or call the Church Office.

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