



MERCY ALIVE

JANUARY 28, 2024
IV SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
VOL. 47 NO. 04



Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY JANUARY 27

8:00 am ...Daily Mass
9:00 am ...Catholic Family Life Workshop
4:00 pm ...Vigil Mass

SUNDAY JANUARY 28

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

MONDAY JANUARY 29

8:00 am ...Daily Mass
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
12:00 pm.....Catholics in Recovery
6:30 pm.....RCIA-*St. Ann*
7:00 pm.....SVDP Meeting-*St. Jerome*

TUESDAY JANUARY 30

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 JANUARY 31

8:00 am ...Daily Mass
11:30 am ...Courageous Women-*St. Jerome*
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
7:00 pm.....Choir Practice

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1

6:00 am ...TMIY-*St. Joseph & Mary Our Mother Rm*
8:00 am ...Daily Mass
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
6:30 pm ...High School Bible Study - *JPII House*

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2

8:00 am ...Daily Mass
9:00 am ...School Liturgy
9:30 am ...Moms and Tots
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass

Prayer LINE

For Prayer Line requests, contact:
Ms. Carroll Benedetto at [225-241-0400](tel:225-241-0400)

On the Cover

Pro-Life Pilgrims from Our Lady of Mercy Parish attending the 2024 March for Life in Washington DC. God bless these brave voices!



Bishop's Annual Appeal

Excellence in faith formation, community service and outstanding academic preparation are hallmarks of Catholic education. Since 1982, seven schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge have been awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award for excellence by the U.S. Department of Education, and the average ACT scores of our Catholic high school students continually exceed both state and national averages.

With the help of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, the Catholic Schools Office continues to provide a Catholic education to students and families facing financial need. To learn more about the Bishop's Annual Appeal and support Catholic education, visit diobr.org/baa.

Little Black BOOKS

Little black book, a collection of daily Lenten reflections are now available in the church office for \$1 each.

Second COLLECTION

Church in Latin America



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

MATTHEW HOLMES
DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

OLOM Distinguished Graduate

During this year's Catholic Schools Week, the Diocese will honor distinguished alumni from each school and recognize the outstanding individuals at a beautiful reception and awards ceremony. Our Lady of Mercy is pleased to announce its 2023 Distinguished Graduate as Mr. Matthew Holmes.

Mr. Holmes, a 1999 graduate of Mercy, has a long history as a Blue Jay. Matthew's children are continuing on the tradition as Blue Jay legacies; Daughter Olivia graduated in 2023 and son Benjamin will graduate in 2026. Matthew graduated from Catholic High in 2003. He graduated from LSU in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. Matthew worked for United-Bilt Homes in Shreveport, LA when he graduated from LSU. He now owns Holmes Building Materials.

Matthew, along with his wife Dr. Christina are very active parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy. He is involved in Mercy Men's Club and Mercy Fair Committee. Matthew says, "I believe that Catholic Education at an early age helps shape an individual's core beliefs, furthermore, increasing their opportunity to succeed in the future."

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Matthew Holmes as this year's recipient of our Distinguished Graduate Award.



STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

VICTORIA SCHOLL (5TH) and WILLIAM HEBERT (8TH)

As National Catholic Schools Week approaches the week of January 29th - February 4th, it is our honor to highlight two of Mercy's outstanding students - Victoria Scholl (5th grade), daughter of Caroline and Andrew Scholl; and William Hebert (8th grade), son of Andrae and Rory Hebert as our school's Students of the Year!

The Students of the Year Awards Program is designed to recognize outstanding elementary, middle/junior high, and high school students. This program is an opportunity to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellent academic achievement, leadership ability, and citizenship. The Students of the Year Awards Program is sponsored by the Louisiana State Superintendent through the State Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Every public and approved nonpublic school in the State with students enrolled in grades 5, 8, and 12 is invited to participate. Candidates for Students of the Year must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a four-point scale. Once school level candidates have been selected, the school assigns a committee to assist the candidate(s) in submitting an application portfolio. The portfolio consists of a data sheet; biographical sketch of the candidate addressing at least three or more issues that are important to them and that have had an influence on their lives; the student's academic achievement including semester grades, report cards, and assessments; leadership activities and recognitions including service/citizenship involvement. Lastly, candidates are interviewed by a panel of Regional and State Achievement Committee judges. The interviews are structured around questions and topics appropriate to the academic level of the student.

Called to Action

DATE NIGHT WITH YOUR SPOUSE

Supper & Substance

Saturday, February 17th
7:00pm - 8:30 pm
Parish Activity Center

Join us for a special evening designed for married couples to be enriched and strengthened in their vocation of marriage. This is a wonderful opportunity for spouses to meet with other couples in our parish, enjoy a delicious dinner, and listen to an inspiring presentation by Mercy's own Michael and Erin Franco.

Register for the event at www.olomchurch.com



For more information, contact:

Deacon Kirk Duplantis
kirk.duplantis@olomchurch.com
(225) 926-1883

JED'S LOCAL
RESTAURANT & BAR

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE BLESSING OF THE THROATS

The feast day of Saint Blaise is February 3rd and one that is annually celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy with the "BLESSING OF THE THROATS." But who is Saint Blaise and why is he associated with the blessing of the throat?

St. Blaise was born in Armenia in the 3rd century. He was a physician and bishop and his devotion to the church and his virtuous duty to Christian values earned him acclaim among the clergy. Blaise lived during a time of cruel persecution. He was imprisoned and while there, jailers permitted him to receive visitors who were sick that requested his intercession. Many were cured. One story indicates that a mother's son was choking from a fish bone lodged in his throat. Once Blaise prayed over him, the bone was dislodged and the boy was healed. He is thus patron saint of all diseases of the throat.



Throats will be blessed at Our Lady of Mercy on Saturday, February 3rd following the 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Masses.

St. Blaise, pray for us!

PARISH LIFE

MERCY WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT

An ACTS Retreat is a parish-based event which offers parishioners an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus Christ through a retreat experience that begins on a Thursday evening and ends with Sunday Mass in the parish. The ACTS Retreat meets people where they are in their spiritual journey and invites them to experience God in a manner that is both personal and communal.



This experience is an opportunity for spiritual renewal and the making of many friends. Fr. Cleo invites you to prayerfully consider joining a group of women from our parish to make this spiritual retreat at The Solomon Retreat Center in Loranger, LA. The cost of the retreat is \$325 for Mercy parishioners and \$400 for non-parishioners double occupancy rooms are provided.

Women's Retreat - departs Mercy on Thursday, April 4th and returns for noon Mass at Mercy on Sunday, April 7th.

Registration for this retreat opens January 29th- olomchurch.com

For more information, contact:

Deacon Kirk Duplantis

kirk.duplantis@olomchurch.com

(225) 926-1883

A graphic titled "Save the Date" in a cursive font. Below the title, the text "MERCY'S LENTEN MISSION" is written in large, bold, purple letters. Underneath, it says "featuring Mike Patin" in a smaller purple font. To the right, there are three sections: "DATES" with a calendar icon and the text "February 19, 20 & 21"; "TIME" with a clock icon and the text "7:00 p.m."; and "LOCATION" with a location pin icon and the text "Our Lady of Mercy Church". On the left side of the graphic, there is a circular portrait of a man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a light-colored shirt and a patterned tie. The background of the graphic is light purple with decorative swirls and a large purple bowl-like shape at the top right.

PARISH LIFE



Habitat
for Humanity
of Greater Baton Rouge



OUR LADY
of MERCY

33rd Catholic Coalition Build

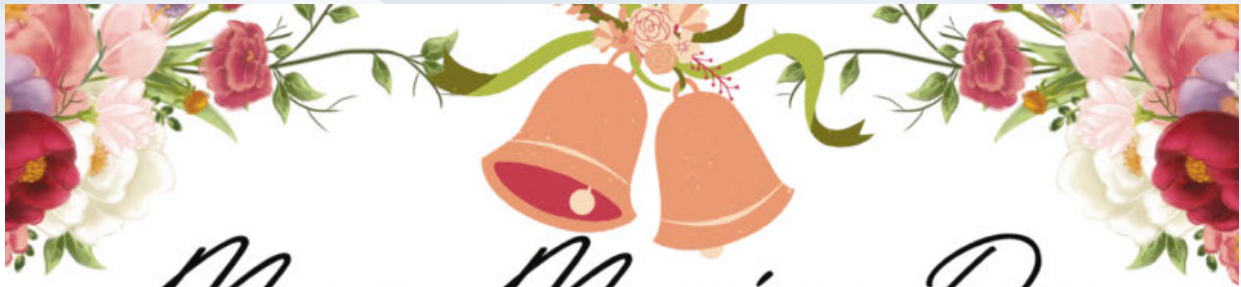
Build address:
1343 North 31st. Street

Saturday, March 2nd
8 am to 3 pm

Come build homes and hope with us!

Volunteers: Contact Ned Smith at
edwgeosmith53@gmail.com
or call the OLOM Office at 225.926.1883

PARISH LIFE



Mercy Marriage Day

We are celebrating milestones in marriage. If you are celebrating:

- | | |
|----|------------|
| 25 | 45 |
| 30 | 50 |
| 35 | 55 |
| 40 | 60 or more |

Join us on February 4th for Mass at Noon,
and a celebration in the PAC.

Please register by scanning the code below
or call the church office.



PARISH LIFE

SAVE THE DATE FOR
OUR ANNUAL AUCTION

Mercy

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

FEB 2ND 2024

— 6:30 PM —

OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL

Sponsorship & Table information:
olomchurch.com/auction



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

TUESDAYS AT 6:00 PM

FEBRUARY 6TH - APRIL 2ND

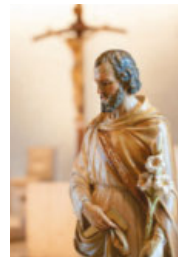


ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Our Lady of Mercy is pleased to share the return of a St. Joseph Altar on Sunday, March 17th to honor the Feast of St. Joseph. This long-standing Italian tradition is one that shows gratitude to St. Joseph for relief of the people in Sicily after a terrible famine overtook the island. After paying honor to St. Joseph, the Sicilians distributed the food to the less fortunate.

After many centuries, the St. Joseph Altar still serves as a reminder that those who have enjoyed some measure of good fortune must share it with those who have less.

We invite you to join us in the preparation, education and viewing of the St. Joseph Altar at Our Lady of Mercy. If you are interested in helping with altar preparations, we invite you to email olomaltar@gmail.com.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Mass Intentions

FEBRUARY 3, SATURDAY

8:00 am Ambrose Virgo / Barbara Mahoney Helm
 4:00 pm The Donaldson, Gianni, Danna, Ruhl,
 West, Wintz, Cox, Wilcox, Molina, & Calandro Families
 / Francis Xavier Le / Mr. Joe Bologna & Family; Tullio
 Saffiotti / Gary & Kevin Keyser / Clyde and Violet David
 / Raoul Robert / Alex Spano / Aimee Planchard / Ann
 Thibodeaux / Raoul William Robert / Myles and Adele
 Morrison / The poor souls in purgatory / Anna Casso /
 Olivia Frank Lamonica / Randal Coleman / Earl Graham
 / Dr. Laura Parnell / Vernon Broussard / Pete Newton
 / All souls / June and Bill Lepine / Peggy Werner /
SPECIAL INTENTIONS: The Monsour Family / Cheryl
 Sabir / Gilbert Gilbert / All Priests

FEBRUARY 4, SUNDAY

7:00 am..... Kyle Cassano / Ellie Sances / Adrienne
 Pierce / Hallie Pfefferle / Ted Donaldson
 9:00 am..... Roy Jones / Bernice Healy / Nicholas Cascio
 II / O'Neil Parenton / Steve Patrick Michel
 10:30 am... Gary Alford / Ed Roos / Brenda Fremin,
 The Fremin Family, Charles and Rosa Drago / Vincent
 and Grace Marino / Reynolds Bromley / Michael S.
 DiVincenti, III
 12:00 pm... Dorothy Bueche Stevens / Reynolds
 Bromley / Darryl Cazes / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Shellie
 Leach / Brian and Ashley Donaldson & Family
 6:00 pm Karen Summers / Anna Casso / Wayne
 Watson / Jeff Turner / June Demars

FEBRUARY 5, MONDAY

8:00 am Sandy Roppolo / **SPECIAL INTENTION:** Ed
 Youtz
 12:00 pm... John McKay / **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Leo
 Patriarco

FEBRUARY 6, TUESDAY

12:00 pm... Bruce Hilbrecht / Joseph Patrick Terrell
 6:00 pm Gwin Family / Shirley & Joseph Zito /
 Francis Xavier Le / Paul Catalanatto / George Mervin
 Simon, Rosa Simon & Danny Simon / Selden and Grace
 Tibbetts / Tyler Clay Die / Bill & Carol Levene / Bruce
 Hilbrecht / Mary Rose Planchard / Bernice & Charles
 Healy / Randal Coleman / Timothy Parenton / O'Neil
 Parenton / Tyler Craig / Lawrence Berry

FEBRUARY 7, WEDNESDAY

8:00 am Juanita Metz & Michael McDonald /
SPECIAL INTENTION: Grayson Beamon
 12:00 pm... Luke Savoie / Harvey Nicaud

FEBRUARY 8, THURSDAY

8:00 am Ed Richard/ **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Derek Pearce
 12:00 pm... Grey Hammett / Mary Ann Fasullo

FEBRUARY 9, FRIDAY

8:00 am..... Calvin, Georginia and Curran Oubre, Wynona & Joe
 Lindsly, Hiram and Ellen May / Joseph and Lydia Landry
 12:00 pm... Myrle Rivault Hebert Ostergren / Francis Xavier Le
 / Mollie Barbara Helm / Bruce Hilbrecht / Raoul Robert / Hallie
 Pfefferle / John McKay / Carl Dalbor, Jr. / Nicholas Cascio / Sam
 and Rosalie Rispone / Randal Coleman / Timothy Parenton /
 O'Neil Parenton / Betty and Sammy Scurria / Florence Degruy

Sanctuary Light Memorials

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

Shelley Maggio

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

Francis Pellegrin

In Sympathy to the Families of:

- Keely Cassano Anderson
- Peyton Parker
- April Schaff
- Joan Roberts
- Paulette Peters

MERCY PRAYS

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

PARISH LIFE



**Married Couples
Retreat**

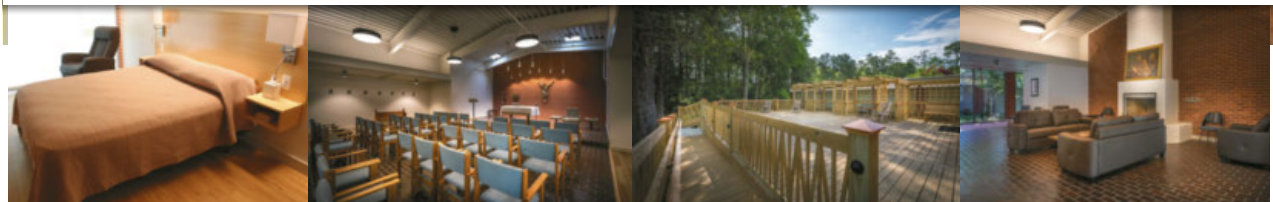
March 9-10

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

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 February 3rd & February 4th

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. Milano	Fr. Charbel
Extraordinary Ministers					
N Krzystowczyk L D'Armond L McCann C Duvieilh B Rigby D Lockwood	E White B Babin L Dawkins T Penouilh	H Blouin P Prosser D Deshotels L Gemmill Deacon Grant M Vincent	F Titus M Hermann J Harrison F Borghardt A Dalmau Deacon Duplantis Deacon Grant	Deacon Duplantis C Roberts B Beale B Bargas	G Tibbetts C Steele G Bertrand M Roussel
Lectors					
K Steintrager P Rigby	A Wilson S Darensbourg J Pastorek	Children's Liturgy	C Kline E Kline	A Bargas E Joffrion	C Schutte S Hingle
Altar Servers					
L D'Armond (C) C Canady E Laird	G Samrow (C)	D Deshotels (C) C Talbert A Osborne	F Titus (C) A Romero J Romero	B Beale(C) G Fransen R Bargas	G Bertrand (C) A Polito L LeBlanc

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.



DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

This is a wonderful week to use the brief background times of our lives to talk with the Lord about our need for healing. We can begin each day by naming some desire we have for healing and deeper wholeness and peace. Putting these desires into words, early each day, as soon as we get up or while in the shower or while dressing, helps us give focus to our relationship with the Lord that day. "Lord, thank you for this day. Be with me as I face the challenges before me today. I especially need patience and more compassion, Lord. Heal the anger I feel, and give me peace, so that I can love the way I know you want me to." Each of us can make this 30 second prayer specific to what we need to do each day, and what graces we need to do it. Getting in the habit of naming what I need and asking for it will shape how we spend the day, confidently aware of our God's presence with us.

Throughout the day, we can continue our simple conversation with our Lord, speaking friend to friend. We may encounter some spirits within ourselves that aren't very clean. Anger or resentment, fear or paralysis, jealousy or pride, lust or greed, self-pity or judging of others are all spirits that distort our ability to love others the way we are loved by our God. When we encounter them, we can ask the Lord to heal us, to drive these spirits from our hearts. Each experience of our need for a Savior can deepen our desire, and our ability to name them each morning.

The healing stories in the gospels make it clear that faith is key to the healing. When the people in Jesus' home town say, "Isn't this just the carpenter's son?" their lack of faith is saying, "He can't heal us." In our own struggle with letting Jesus be our Savior, two things can get in the way. First of all, we need to know we need healing. Secondly, we need to want to be healed. If I cling to being angry or have become comfortable being afraid, I will first need to acknowledge what a difference freedom would mean in my life and come to desire healing. Then, I need to believe our Lord can heal me. The rest is easy. This honest dialogue with our Lord, throughout our days, no matter what we are doing, can help us grow in faith in the One who wants nothing more than to keep freeing us to know his love for us and to share it generously with others.

The integrating element of this daily prayer is the gratitude we express each evening before we sleep, giving thanks for the grace to be able to connect with our Savior throughout this busy day.

Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html> Used with permission.


Thanks Baton Rouge for 15 years!



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"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:7



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