



MERCY ALIVE

MARCH 2, 2025
VIII SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
VOL. 48 NO. 09



The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY MARCH 1

7:25 am ...1st Saturday Devotional
8:00 am ...Daily Mass
4:00 pm.....Daily Mass

SUNDAY MARCH 2

7:00 am.....Mass
9:00 am.....Mass
10:30 am.....Mass
12:00 pm.....Mass
6:00 pm.....Mass

MONDAY MARCH 3

8:00 am ...Daily Mass
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
12:00 pm.....Catholic in Recovery-*St. Gabriel*
6:30 pm ...SVDP Meeting- *St. Jerome*
7:00 pm ...Baptism Seminar- *St. Gabriel*

TUESDAY MARCH 4

8:30 am.....Rosary Makers-*Coffee Shop*
12:00 pm.....Daily Mass
6:00 pm.....Daily Mass
7:00 pm.....Charismatic Prayer-*St. Gabriel*

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

6:30 am ...Ash Wednesday Mass
8:00 am ...Ash Wednesday Mass
12:00 pm ...Ash Wednesday Mass
6:00 pm ...Ash Wednesday Mass
6:30 pm ...Catholic in Recovery -*St. Gabriel*

THURSDAY MARCH 6

6:30 am ...TMIY-*St. Joseph*
8:00 am ...Daily Mass
9:30 am ...Moms and Tots
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
6:30 pm ...High School Bible Study- *JPII House*

FRIDAY MARCH 7

7:30 am ...1st Friday Devotional
8:00 am ...Daily Mass
12:00 pm ...Daily Mass
5:00 pm ...KC Fish Fry
6:00 pm ...Station of the Cross

On the Cover

Celebrating the forgiveness received at reconciliation, 93 Our Lady of Mercy students received God's grace. Pictured is Kristi, Wright, and Taylor Robert with Father Cleo.

Daily Rosary Prayer Group

The Rosary is prayed each day prior to the 8:00 am mass in the church near the St. Joseph statue beginning at 7:30 am. Also prior to the rosary the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed at 7:20 am. Lent is approaching quickly and if you're looking to enhance your prayer life, consider attending the rosary prayer group. One or two days a week attendance will cause much peace in your life. St. Padre Pio says a rosary a day keeps the devil away!

Little Black Books

Little Black Books used for Lenten 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



THE MESSAGE OF DIVINE MERCY

TRUST AND MERCY

The Message

The *Message* of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. He is love itself poured out for us, and He wants no one to escape that merciful love.

The message is that God wants us to turn to Him with trust and repentance while it is still a time of mercy, before he comes as the just Judge. This turning with trust to Him who is Mercy itself is the only source of peace for mankind. Turning to and imploring God's mercy is the answer to the troubled world. There is no escaping that *answer*.

The Response of Trust and Conversion

What God most wants of us is to turn to Him with *trust*. And the first act of trust is: *receive* His mercy. To trust God is to rely on Him who is mercy itself. The Lord wants us to live with trust in Him in all circumstances. We trust Him because He is God, and He loves us and cares for us.

His mercy is always available to us, no matter what we have done or what state we are in, even if our sins are as black as night, and we are filled with fears and anxieties.

The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy (Diary 723).

But there is more we can do. As Catholics, as Christians, we can go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be reconciled to God and to man. The Lord wants us to live reconciled with Him and one another.

Divine Mercy Novena • Nine Tuesdays starting
February 25th through April 22nd •
following 6:00 pm Mass

It's Scriptural

The message of mercy is content and the challenge of Sacred Scripture. In the Hebrew Bible we see a God of mercy who calls His people to be merciful. In the New Testament Jesus exhorts us: *Be merciful even as your Father is merciful* (Lk 6.36 RSV).

He sets the highest goal for us and expects us to obtain His merciful love: *Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy* (Mt 5.7 RSV).

When He comes again, He will judge us on our mercy toward one another: *Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me* (Mt 25.40).

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

Our Lord not only taught Sr. Faustina the fundamentals of trust, and of mercy to others, but He also revealed special ways to live out the response to His mercy. These we call the *devotion to The Divine Mercy*. The word "devotion" means fulfilling our vows. It is a commitment of our lives to the Lord who is Mercy itself.

By giving our lives to The Divine Mercy - Jesus Christ Himself - we become instruments of His mercy to others, and so we can live out the command of the Lord: *Be merciful even as your Father is merciful* (Lk 6.36 RSV).

Through Sr. Faustina, Our Lord gave us special means of drawing on His mercy; an Image of The Divine Mercy, a Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, a Feast of Mercy, a novena, and prayer at the 3:00 hour - the hour of His death. These special means are in addition to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

PARISH LIFE

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, March 5th - Day of Fast and Abstinence

6:30 am
8:00 am
12:00 noon
6:00 pm



Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season, is observed six and one half weeks before Easter. It is a day of fast and abstinence when ashes are blessed and imposed on the foreheads of the faithful to remind us of our obligation to do penance of sins, to seek spiritual renewal by means of prayer, fasting, good works and by bearing with patience the trials and difficulties of everyday life. The ashes are used to mark the forehead with the Sign of the Cross, with the reminder: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return."

Ashes will be distributed at the end of each Mass.

Catholic in Recovery

For more information visit
www.olomchurch.com
or call 225-926-1883

Monday at 12 noon - Men Only

Wednesday at 6:30 pm - Men and Women

**St. Gabriel Room at the
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Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center

March 7th

March 21st

March 28th

April 4th

April 11th

AHG Girls will be selling dry ingredient cookie mixes in a jar on March 7th and March 28th.

Mercy Annual Auction
BLUE JAY
Bash

Thank you to everyone who came to support “Blue Jay Bash”.
Many thanks to our Sponsors and Special Friends, without their
support events like this would not be possible!

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Special Thanks:

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Valluzzo Companies, La Carreta, Qdoba, Yvette Bonanno, Balhoff
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Mercy, OLOM Maintenance staff

Thank you to our Auction Team:

Fr. Cleo Milano, Paster, Fr. Charbel Jamhoury, Associate Pastor, Allyson
LaBorde, Principal, Frank Ardoin, Parish Administrator, Candace Lowe,
Chair, Carrie Webb, Brooke Sabadie, Stephanie Parenton, Katrina Gwin,
Aimee Thibodeaux, Lauren Sipps, Farin Fabre-Bolton,
Zelma Frederick

PARISH LIFE

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Our Lady of Mercy is pleased to share the return of a St. Joseph Altar on Sunday, March 16th 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.

Donations for Our Lady of Mercy's St. Joseph Altar are kindly accepted through the envelopes located on the envelope rack.



THE HISTORY OF THE ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

The tradition of making St. Joseph Altars dates back to the twelfth century. It is believed that the tradition began in Sicily during a great famine that was caused by an extreme drought. The Sicilians began seeking the intercession of their patron saint, St. Joseph, to end the drought and bring much needed rains to Sicily. In return for St. Joseph's intercession, the Sicilians vowed to honor St. Joseph by making altars dedicated to promise, petition, and thanksgiving. They promised to honor St. Joseph each year on his feast day, March 19th, and seek his intercession in times of need through placing their petitions on the altars. Through the altars, the Sicilians paid homage to St. Joseph by

giving him thanks for the many blessings they had received through his intercession.

Please join us on March 16th for Our Lady of Mercy parish St. Joseph altar. If you are interested in helping with the altar, please reach out by email to olomaltar@gmail.com.



PARISH LIFE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Pray the Stations of the Cross with us on Fridays during Lent

Friday, March 7th	6:00 pm
Friday, March 14th	6:00 pm
Friday, March 21st	6:00 pm
Friday, March 28th	6:00 pm
Friday, April 4th	6:00 pm

8TH GRADE PRESENTATION OF THE LIVING STATIONS

Tuesday, April 8th	7:00 pm
Thursday, April 10th	9:00 am
Friday, April 11th	9:00 am

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18th	12:00 noon
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MERCY'S LENTEN *Mission*

Guest speaker

**FR. WADE
MENEZES**



The Most Holy Eucharist: Gift and Sacrament

MARCH | 10th, 11th, 12th | AT 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Mercy Church

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mass Intentions

MARCH 8, SATURDAY

8:00 am Joseph and Lydia Landry / SPECIAL INTENTION: Boyd Edward Helm
4:00 pm The Donaldson, Giannoble, Danna, Ruhl, West, Cox, Wilcox, Wintz, Molina and Calandro Families / The Elam, Mason, Meisner and Hamm Families / Joe Bologna & Family / Tullio Saffiotti / Gary and Kevin Keyser/ Robert E. Wiemer, Sr. / Robert, Mike, Tom & David Guessfeld / Nancy Valluzzo / Bill Auten / Jerry & Billie Fakouri / Daniel & Nelta Jarreau / Anna Casso / Fay Walker / Francis Xavier Le / Nellrie Cedotal Fernandez & James B. Fernandez / Howard Kidder Jr. / Hallie Pfefferle / Diana Miller / Paul Burton / Bob Ourso / Peggy Werner / Lois Abadie / June and Bill Lepine / Dee Allen / Adele Heuvel / SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Lewis & Eischen Family / Fr. Cleo Milano & priests, seminarians and deacons / Vocations to the priesthood / Shannon Cormier & Family

MARCH 9, SUNDAY

7:00 am..... Kyle Cassano / Ellie Sances / Donald Ashmore / Sanford & Corinne Lemoine / Pietra Brocato / Jack Kellerman
9:00 am..... Thuc Ngo / Iray & Lorena Ledoux / Theresa & Nelvin Fontenot / Eva & Bruce Soileau / Ricky Marshall
10:30 am... Anna Casso / Brenda, Ellis, Enola, Luke, & Mary Fremin / Charles & Rosa Drago / Lawrence Marino / Michael S. DiVincenzi III / SPECIAL INTENTION: Phillip B. Eckert and Family / Reece Cosby
12:00 pm... The Thomas and Deumite Families / Raul Bencomo / Lance Walker / Lorenzo Marino / Chad LeGrange / SPECIAL INTENTION: The LeGrange Family, the Gravois Family, the Burkett Family
6:00 pm Bob Ourso / Sammy Ragusa / Thomas Scherer Halligan / Dorothy Fields Halligan / Johnson Kadair / SPECIAL INTENTIONS: John Byrnes

MARCH 10, MONDAY

8:00 am Jack Kellerman / Alida Casey
12:00 pm... Nancy Angeron Taylor / Richarch Lynch

MARCH 11, TUESDAY

12:00 pm... Philo (Fêlo) Landry / Theresa Weems
6:00 pm Fred Gwin & Jean Gwin / Debbie Gwin / Verline & Francis Pellegrin / Selden and Grace Tibbetts / Mervin Simon, Rose Simon, Danny Simon, Layla Simon and Tyler Clay Die / Paul Catalanatto / Shirley & Joseph Zito / Judy Pellerin / Ann Alldredge / Tyler Craig, Barbara Sonnier, Betty and Gene Craig / Lois Abadie / Hallie Pfefferle / Mary Nguyen / Lawrence Berry / Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Guidroz / Lois Maurin Abadie / Bob Ourso / SPECIAL INTENTIONS: The Kelly Family / Charlie Valluzzo

MARCH 12, WEDNESDAY

8:00 am John McKay / Elaine Breaux
12:00 pm... James Jeansonne IV

MARCH 13, THURSDAY

8:00 am Adrienne Gunther / Bob Ourso
12:00 pm... Paul Hoang / Martha Vo

MARCH 14, FRIDAY

8:00 am Katelyn Schiro / Francis Xavier Le
12:00 pm... Paul Catalanatto / Gregory L. Kadair, Sr., Dorothy A. Harding, Jerry Crifasi, George A. Kadair, Sr. / Lance Walker / Elaine & Robert "Bob" Thomas / OJ Lasseigne Sr. / Susan M. Tuttle / Mary McCowan / Shirley Constantin / Carl Dalbor, Jr. / Bob Ourso / Jack Kellerman / SPECIAL INTENTION: Fr. Cleo Milano & priests, seminarians and deacons / Vocations to the priesthood / Private SPECIAL INTENTION

Sanctuary Light Memorials

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

Adele Heuvel

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

Frank Panepinto

In Sympathy to the Family of:


- **Adrian Scallan**
- **Jack Kellerman**
- **Donna Brian**
- **Dorothy Chairmonte**
- **Mary Michel**
- **Bob Biletnikoff**
- **Sue Ferachi**
- **Al Arriaga**
- **Enrique Vitanza**
- **Wesley Singleton**

PARISH LIFE

JOIN US FOR

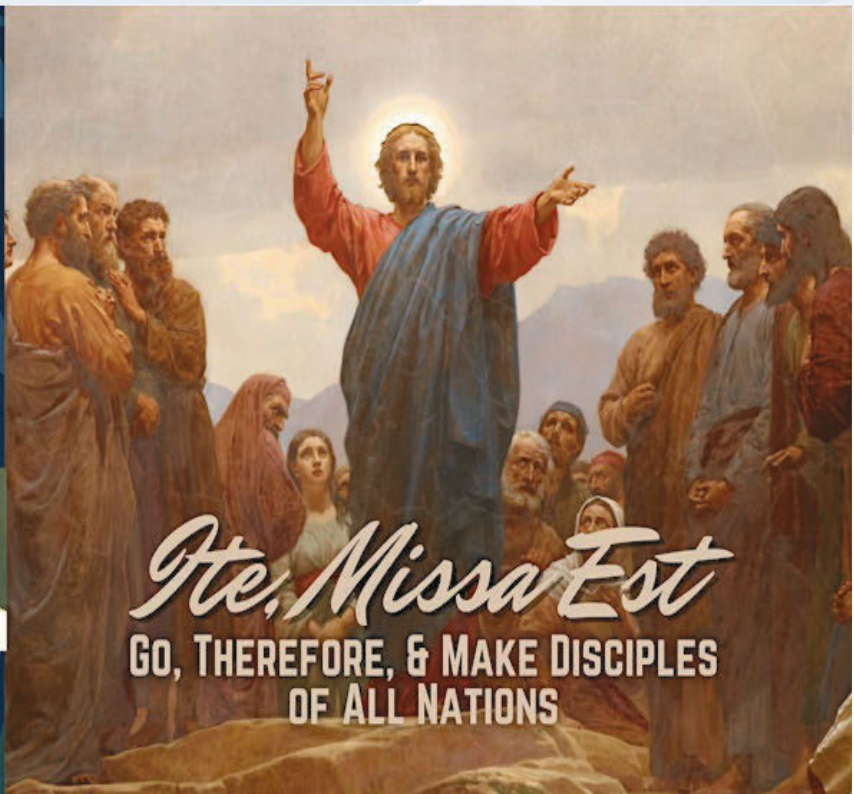
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MASS SCHEDULE & TIMES

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 March 8th & March 9th

4:00 pm*	7:00 am*	9:00 am	10:30 am	12:00 pm	6:00 pm
Fr. Milano	Fr. Antony	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Antony
Extraordinary Ministers					
A Turner C Duvieilh J Stalls D Pirello T DeJohn D Lockwood	A Haywood L Dawkins G Samrow J Pastorek	P Tullier L Carter B Bordelon P Prosser Deacon Grant S Gray	J Harrison J Smith M Taylor P Prosser C Ransome Deacon Zelden Deacon Duplantis C Roberts	Deacon Duplantis E Schaff A Altazan N Graham	E Pavlovich L Hopkins K Walker G Gilbert
Lectors					
T Turner K Stientrager	A Wilson S Darensbourg J Gardemal	S Love C Ransome	T Grant G Schram	M Kimble K Kimble	E Pavlovich G Gilbert
Altar Servers					
J Millet (C) K Allen L Broussard	G Samrow (C)	L Carter (C) E Gray R Gray	J Harrison (C) A Romero J Valluzzo	T Patin (C) G Fransen M Gautreaux	K Walker (C) B Bailey A Stroud

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.



THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

We may feel like we never have enough; enough money, time, love, status or anything else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, meetings and obligations - keeping our hearts distracted away from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

In these few days before Lent begins, we can begin to prepare our hearts by asking ourselves how we want Lent to be different this year. What do we want to ask the Lord to give us - and more importantly, we can ask what the Lord wants for us this Lent. What gift of generosity, love or attention can we share with others in the weeks ahead? How can we focus on the Lenten season and ask that our hearts be opened to what is real - not to the externals which distract us so much? How will I be with my family and friends this Lent? What will I do that sets this season apart from my normal routines? How can I name, anticipate and feel the gifts the Lord showers on me with such love in the weeks ahead? And every morning, we can begin by sitting at the side of our beds with our hands open on our laps, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering in the quiet moments what we are asking for. Always, we end our day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day.

For these first four days of Lent, it will be a great help to set aside some time, even if it means getting up earlier each morning, to read about what Lent can mean and to let that soak into our hearts. The key is not to be somber or severe in any way, but to know that this is a time of great grace so that we can be attentive to it. The first thing to remember is that these 40 days are a gift to us. We are not trying to save ourselves by our Lenten practices. God has already saved us. We are only trying to let God get our attention and to give grace a chance to work in us. These days are critically important for choosing to establish some Lenten patterns. Depending upon our age or health, we will want to do some fasting and abstinence, in regard to food. But, each of us can choose what else we can fast and abstain from during Lent. What practices of mine get in the way of my being open to hearing God's Word and responding freely? That's what needs transforming. Giving up needing to be right, fasting from my impatience, totally abstaining from escapist fantasies will open our hearts to God's grace. None of that takes extra time. It just takes desire. Adding new acts of kindness, gratitude and love each day for family and friends will open our hearts to the greater acts of charity and generosity for the poor.

Finally, Lent is the perfect time to choose to grow in gratitude. Every night, before going to bed, let us be faithful to giving thanks to the Lord who has given us so many blessings and offers us new graces each and every day.

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

Accepting New Patients

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 Christopher M. Funes, MD
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 Kelli Bovard, NP



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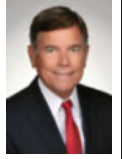
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