

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter

Sixth Edition

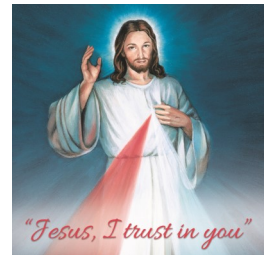
December 2023

Another Year Behind Us!! It is so hard to believe we are only a few days away from the start of a new year! Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy New Year!



Come join others for a Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration every Monday evening from 7—8 PM at Notre Dame Church. What a wonderful time to sit and reflect on the many blessings God, our Father, has bestowed upon us or maybe it is God's healing presence you might need. He is here for YOU!

Each first Friday of the month Father Jan and a few parishioners celebrate Mass together followed by The Chaplet to Divine Mercy and Benediction at Notre Dame Church at 8:00 AM. All are welcome to join this beautiful devotion.



Calling ALL Animals...And they came!!! To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis, Fr. Jan had the Annual Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 1st at St. Colman Church. There were several 4 legged friends in attendance.

Parish Monthly Pancake Breakfasts... We had our first Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 8 after the 8:00 AM and the 10:00 AM Masses. Once again it was well attended, especially since it was a holiday weekend and no Faith Formation classes that day. Many thanks to Silvana Pandolfe and her dedicated volunteers who helped to make this event so delicious!!! We will continue to have our monthly pancake breakfasts on the first Sunday of each month until May. Be sure to save the dates and join us. Faith Formation families, please remember that when we have the pancake breakfasts all classes meet at St. Colman for classes and for students grades 1–5 be sure to bring your passports to be stamped for attending Mass and the breakfast.



PASTA ANYONE? On Saturday, October 21, 2023 the Knights of Columbus hosted an Italian Night Dinner at Notre Dame. Delicious food and great company and fellowship was had by all! Mark your calendars for the St. Patrick Dinner to be hosted by the K of C on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Notre Dame church hall. Hope to see you there!!



Parish Mission Statement... *The Parish, as part of the Mystical Body of Christ, should have Christ's vision of love & should invite & assist all people to respond to God's universal call to holiness by proclaiming the Word, building His community, celebrating His liturgy & serving His people.* 1

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter *continued*

Most beautiful and moving Mass... To remember dearly departed loved ones, we celebrated a special Commemorative All Soul's Day Mass on the evening of Nov. 2nd at Notre Dame Church. During this Mass families and friends gathered to pray for deceased loved ones and special candles were lit for those who passed away this year. It is always such a beautiful and moving Mass.

All Souls' Day

HOLIDAY CRAFT AND BAKE SALE... Our parish craft group were busy little bees preparing crafts and baked goods for the Holiday Craft and Bake Sale held on Saturday, November 4th at Notre Dame. There were so many beautiful items being sold and delicious treats provided by so many of our parishioners. We still have a few Christmas wreaths to be sold if anyone is interested. They are being displayed in the foyer of St. Colman Church.



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Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter *continued*



More Christmas Fair!!!!

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Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter continued

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

On December 3, 2023 we had a special guest stop by to join us for our monthly parish pancake breakfast...Santa made an appearance!!!



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Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter *continued*

Pancakes with Santa



Our Lady of Mercy Parish Newsletter *continued*

Annual Parish Raffle...On December 10, 2023 we held the drawing to our Annual Parish Raffle. Many thanks to all who participating in the important fundraiser for our parish. Many thanks to Sylvia Fazzino and Gary Sawicki, who were the co-chairs for this raffle this year. And another special thanks to Dave Larson, who gathered several of the prizes.

Congratulations to our Raffle Winners!!

1st Prize (\$3,000).....**Mary Ann Bergeron**

2nd Prize (\$2,000).....**Diane Carr**

3rd Prize (\$1,000).....**Diane Bradanini**

4th Prize (Three Golf-Foursomes)....**Cassandra Kolstad**

5th Prize (Shopping Spree Gift Cards).....**Jonathan O'Connor**

6th Prize (Goodspeed Gift Certificates)....**Ali Troiano**

7th Prize (Taste of Middletown Gift Cards)...**Sue garofalo**

8th Prize (Echo).....**Mary Jane Montz**



Ladies Guild Cookie Sale...On the weekend of December 16/17th, the OLM Ladies Guild sold cookie packages after all the Masses. The Ladies Guild would like to thank those who supported them by purchasing these cookie packages. We hope you enjoyed them!



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Newsletter *continued*

December 2023

Dear Parishioners,

With joy and gratitude in my heart, I wish to extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas season. As we continue through Advent in preparation for Christmas, it is my hope that you find opportunity to reflect on your faith and deepen your relationship with our Lord, Jesus.

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and peace on earth to men of good will." We too need to take a moment to treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts, and that gift is Jesus. God sent us his only Son to be born on this most blessed day, to live among us, to teach us and finally die for our salvation. Treasure and reflect on this gift we have been given, and the sacrifice that was made for each one of us!

It is my deepest hope that you and your family will be surrounded by love, peace and joy this Christmas and that you live in the spirit of Christmas each day.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Very Reverend Jan Swiderski

Pastor

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING BETTER TO WATCH ON TV? Well, we have great news! Our parish now has a subscription to FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. FORMED has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus, with material that is professionally produced, engaging, and solid in its catechism. Best of all, this material is free to you.

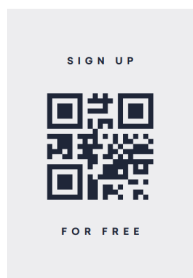
To gain access to all of FORMED's content, follow these simple steps:

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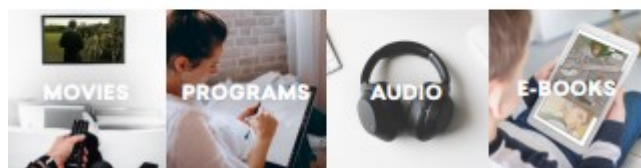
Enter our parish's zip code (06422)

Enter your name and your email address

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FORMED



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Our Lady of Mercy Parish

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Mark Your Calendar...Save the Date!!

Christmas Mass Schedule:

December 24, 2023 at 9:00 AM 4th Sunday of Advent Mass at St. Colman Church

December 24, 2023 at 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Children's Mass at BOTH Churches

December 24, 2023 at 10:00 PM Christmas Night Mass at Notre Dame Church

December 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM Christmas Morning Mass at St. Colman Church

December 25, 2023 at 11:00 AM Christmas Morning Mass at St. Colman Church.

Eucharistic Adoration...each Monday at 7 pm—ND (**NO ADORATION - Dec 25 and Jan. 1**)

12 Hour Eucharistic Adoration for the unborn and Day of Prayer and Fasting for peace—**December 31, 2023 from 12 PM (Noon) —12 AM (Midnight)** at Notre Dame Church

January 1, 2024 at 10:00 AM Solemnity of Mary at Notre Dame Church

Parish Pancake Breakfast...1st Sunday of the month-SC (October—May) Next breakfast will be held on January 7, 2024 after both the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses in the St. Colman Church Hall

Mass followed by Benediction and Chaplet to Divine Mercy...1st Friday of the month at 8:00 AM at Notre Dame Church

Benediction, Litany of Loreto and Rosary followed by Vigil Mass...1st Saturday of the month at 3:00 PM at Notre Dame Church

January 19th—Blood Drive in St. Colman Church hall from 12 (noon) - 5:00 PM

January 20th—Confirmation Year 2 (grade 9) Retreat from 8:45 AM —3:45 PM followed by Mass for Confirmation students and parents at 4:00 PM at St. Colman Church

January 23rd—Parish Council meeting at 6:30 PM in the St. Colman church hall

January 27th—**Snow Date** for Confirmation Year 2 (grade 9) retreat and Mass

February 3rd—Confirmation Year 1 (grade 8) Retreat from 8:45 AM —3:45 PM followed by Mass for Confirmation students and parents at 4:00 PM at St. Colman Church

February 4th—Parish Pancake Breakfast after both 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses in St. Colman church hall

February 14th — Ash Wednesday—Mass at 8:00 AM & 7:00 PM at Notre Dame Church

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 7:00 PM at Notre Dame Church (Feb. 16—March 29th)

February 18th—No Faith Formation classes

February 24th—**Snow Date** for Confirmation Year 1 (grade 8) retreat and Mass

March 3rd—Parish Pancake Breakfast after both 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses in St. Colman church hall

March 16th—K of C St. Patrick Dinner at 5:30 PM at Notre Dame

March 23/24—Rice Bowl and Baby Bottle Collection at both churches

March 26th—NO AM Mass—Chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Norwich at 10:30 AM

March 28th—Holy Thursday—Mass at 7:00 PM

March 29th—Good Friday—Litany of the Passion with Veneration of the Cross at 3:00 PM

March 30th—Blessing of Food at 1:00 PM at St Colman Church

March 30th—Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 PM

March 31st—Easter Sunday—NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

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