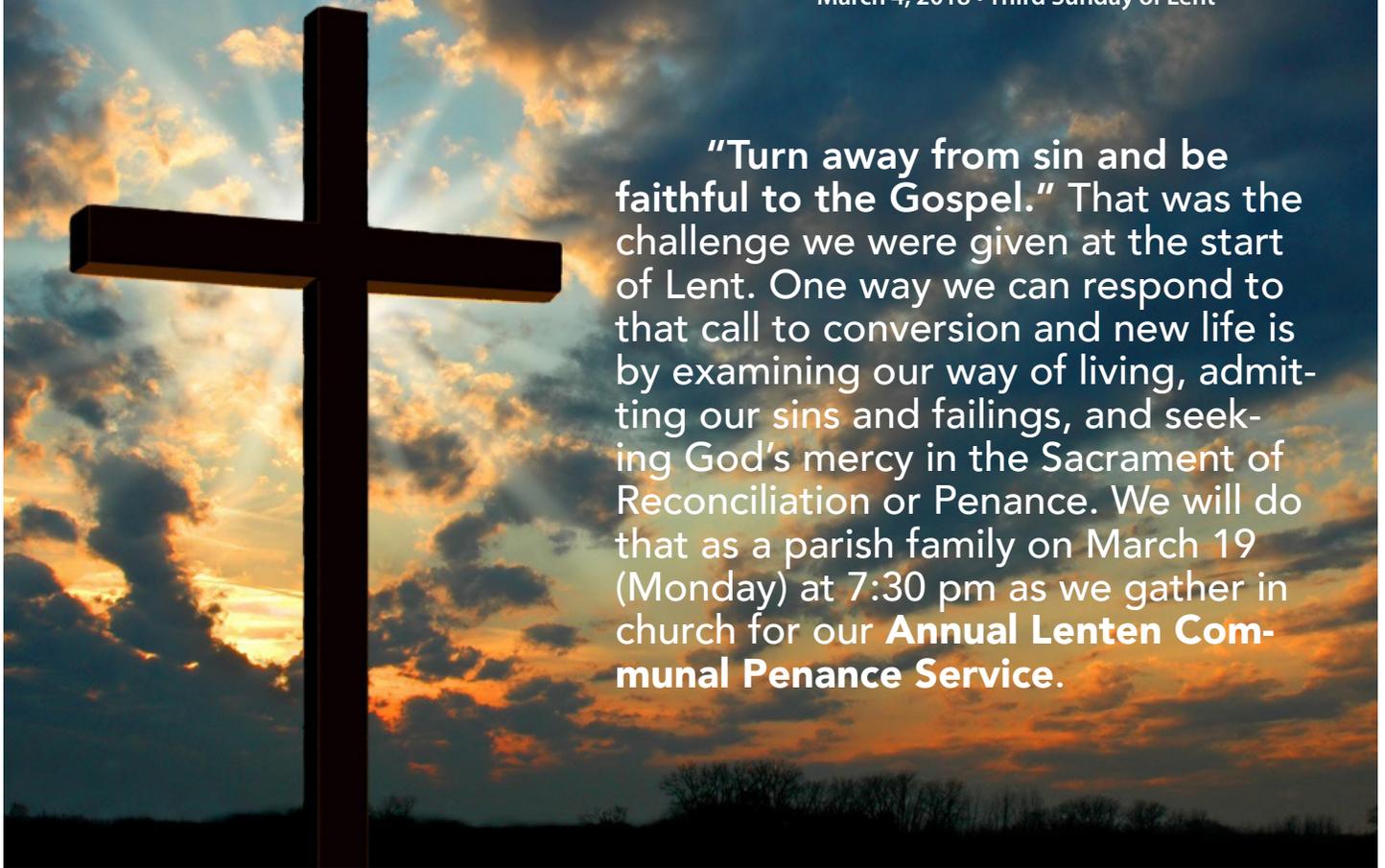


BULLETIN

OUR LADY OF MERCY

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305 • www.olmnj.org

March 4, 2018 • Third Sunday of Lent



“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” That was the challenge we were given at the start of Lent. One way we can respond to that call to conversion and new life is by examining our way of living, admitting our sins and failings, and seeking God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance. We will do that as a parish family on March 19 (Monday) at 7:30 pm as we gather in church for our **Annual Lenten Communal Penance Service**.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy:



Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are on the Third Sunday of Lent and our Scripture passages remind us of our obligations toward God and our brothers and sisters. The passage from Exodus gives the Ten Commandments given to Moses for the people to observe, of which Jesus summed them up

in two greatest commandments: loving God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Perhaps we do well, once again, to take a look at our inner selves and do a spiritual evaluation or introspection. How are we doing with regards to our love of God and neighbors? To love is a universal call. God loves us first. Besides God’s creation, which is proof enough of His love, He also sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ for us. Jesus’ love is a perfect model for us to imitate. It is a selfless kind of love. Jesus loves even those who have done evil deeds to Him. He did not condemn the Samaritan woman, He told the man hanging on the cross next to him: “today you will be with me in paradise.” And there are many other moments in the Scriptures where we see Jesus forgiving people in so many different ways. We, too, have experienced God’s love. Should we not exert extra

INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR MARCH 2018



Pope’s Universal Intentions:

*Formation in Spiritual Discernment
That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.*

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: MARCH 4, 2018

“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...” - Exodus 20:4

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25.

OUR LADY OF MERCY’S MISSION STATEMENT

We, the faith community of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, joyfully and humbly seek to make our Lord Jesus Christ ever more real in all our lives. We enliven our Mission by a commitment to Stewardship as a Way of Life. We strive to pursue our mission by being a welcoming community that provides a home for all and celebrates life, hope and reconciliation through WORD, WORSHIP AND SERVICE.

effort to love Him more? Let us do that brothers and sisters. And let us do that now. You will see and experience how closer we become with God if we act on it.

God bless you all!

Love,

+Father Marty

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

Paul Calefati, Elaine Staltari, Othelia G. Laurena, Jean Karycinski, Dorothy Darcy, Erlinda Jacinto, Leonora Loyola, Eric Bautista, Lilian Kryczkowski, Ellen Iorio, Jessica Pavone, Ian Malesiewski, Ruben Catipon, Angela Salvador, Clarita Salvador, Teresita Cordon, Vincent Mastria, Maria Svaligma, Bill Macchi, Craig Rutkowski, James Seaman, Makenzie Cadmus, Manuel J. Juson, MD, Gina Marquez, Daniel Tamayo Santos, Marie Ronzitti, Lucia Vanderburg, Betty Scerbo, Philip Scerbo, Alejandra Ancheta, Cindy Popolo, Mario Banaag, Oscar Alladin, Antonio Roldan, Esperanza Galarza, Carmen Tuazon, Susan Ranola Rivera, Conrado "Boy" Tanada, John Broderick, Joanne Diaz, Ligaya Tan, Leonarda DeCarlo, Dolores Steinhauser, Eugenio Cacananta, Austin Macalintal, Eduviges Ledesma, Carolyn Taliaferro, Nonong Dava, John Gaito, Elsa Concepcion, Ricardo Vales, Virginia T. Mercurio, James Leung, Tran Phouc, Sophia Gonzalez, Jocelyn Tuazon, Florentino Chanco, Edgardo Cruz, Luchie Vivas, Deacon Nick Fargo, Mark Dudek, Eugene Manlongat, Sandra M. Escoto, Marcelita S. Fusco, Clement Rodriguez, Genedina B. Mohan, Luke Dee, Rosario Bernabe, Renato Caguioa, Raquel Yapp, Roberto Yapp, Armando Gloria, Mary Kelly, Terry Neubauer.

JOIN THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. MARTY

There will be a trip to the Holy Land in November 4-15, 2018 with Father Marty. Father Marty is thrilled to go back for another spirit-filled experience by walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. It is safe to go to the Holy Land.

For those interested please see flyers at the vestibule of the church for details or See Father Marty.

Payment schedule: \$ 500.00 due immediately (for Reservation); \$ 1,445.00 due in May and \$ 1,445.00 due in July.

For those who want to pay by Credit Card please take a form at the parish office and give it to Father Marty.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE VALID?

If you were married civilly, that is, not in the Catholic Church before a priest or deacon, it might not be a valid marriage. Some couples believe that a marriage before a Justice of the Peace or a non-Catholic minister is valid. For a marriage to be valid in the Catholic Church, the marriage must be in a Catholic Church or Chapel and officiated by an authorized Catholic priest or deacon along with 2 witnesses. (There are limited interfaith exceptions with proper permission.)

We invite you to speak with one of our priests if there are any questions or if indeed you wish to validate your marriage. The process can be very simple and your marriage will now be blessed by the Church.

JOIN THE OLM BEREAVEMENT TEAM

We are in need of volunteers to be part of Bereavement Team. For those of you who feel like you have a gift to console those who are grieving due to loss of loved ones, please step up. See Father Marty or Mr. Edwin Dava.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS APPEAL 2018

The goal for Our Lady of Mercy Parish for this year's Annual Appeal, also called as "Sharing God's Blessings" is \$34,769.00. Please try to help our Archdiocese in their appeal by making a pledge. If we exceed our goal it is for our advantage because we will get a rebate. We will use the rebate for our parish needs. Thank you for your generous support.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: "WE ARE LIVING STONES"

You may recall that the Case Items for Parish Portion are the following:

- Purchase and Installation of a gas generator
- Repointing of the Church
- Replacement of windows on the school's 3rd floor
- Repairing the boiler in the school
- Debt reduction

As far as the school boiler repair is concerned, we have spent a total of \$41,675.00 for the three repairs we have done. This figure is disbursed from the Capital Campaign. Pray, dear brothers and sisters, that there will be no more school boiler repairs in the near future. As of present, we have reached 100.19% of our goal (\$499,095.00) of which \$348,162.00 has been collected and \$147,045.16 disbursed to parish. Soon, we will be replacing the third floor school windows and the fund will be taken from the balance of WALs rebate. I am gently reminding those who have not fully paid the pledge (myself included) to continue sending your payment to WALs office. God bless your cooperation and generosity. Thank you so much!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE FOR FEB. 25, 2018

Regular Collection ~ \$ 7,144.00

Thank you very much for your generous and unending support through your Stewardship of Treasure!

OUR LADY OF MERCY AND AMAZON SMILE

We are rolling out a novel way of supporting Our Lady of Mercy Parish through your purchases. Please note instructions prepared by Peachy Molina, a member of our Adult Music Ministry. Please remember to:

1. Use an internet browser, not a mobile app
2. Log on to smile.amazon.com
3. Choose Our Lady of Mercy Jersey City as your charity

REGISTER YOURSELF IN THE PARISH

To be a registered parishioner means that you really belong to the parish family. You enjoy all the benefits of being a family member. Those who are not registered are invited and encourage to do so. A Registration Form is available at the vestibule of the Church, in the Parish Office and Online. Visit our website: olmnej.org.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN



I appeal to those who want to advertise your company or your business to please do so. It will be a very big help to make our bulletin better (in color if possible) so we can give you more information and knowledge about all the goings-on or happenings in our communities. You can call Dave Chameides at 1-203-641-6051 or email: dchameides@4Lpi.com.

- Fr. Marty

2018 LENTEN REGULATIONS

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and charity as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. The practice of penance forms a necessary part of this preparation. The Church gives us the following regulations to help us make the season of Lent a particular time of penance and preparation for Easter.

1. Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good Friday (March 30) are days of Fast and Abstinence.

2. All the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

3. A Day of Fast means that only one full meal is permitted. Two smaller meals may be eaten. There is no food taken between meals. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast, though others are encouraged to fast. The days of fast are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

4. On a Day of Abstinence no meat may be eaten. Those 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat. For a serious reason, the Code of Canon Law allows the pastor to dispense an individual from refraining from meat on a Friday during the Lenten Season.

5. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially" or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

6. Catholics should go to Holy Communion at least once between the First Sunday of Lent (February 18) and Trinity Sunday (May 27). If necessary, they should celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

MAKE THIS LENT SPECIAL! JOIN US FOR A PARISH DAY OF REFLECTION Saturday, March 24 9am to 1 pm Maria Room

We grow in holiness when we encounter Jesus Christ. This day of retreat will help us to better appreciate the powerful encounters with Jesus Christ that happen during the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The program will take place in the Maria Room. It will be directed by Father Tom No pre-registration is necessary. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to nourish your faith. Plan to be with us for **THREE ENCOUNTERS WITH LORD**, Saturday, March 24!



"These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE AT OLM Monday, March 19 at 7:30pm



"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." That was the challenge we were given at the start of Lent. One way we can respond to that call to conversion and new life is by examining our way of living, admitting our sins and failings, and seeking God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance. We will do that as a parish family.

Monday, March 19, at 7:30 pm as we gather in church for our Annual Lenten Communal Penance Service. This service will include prayer, readings, reflection, and the opportunity for private individual confession. Attending this service is one of the best things you can do during this Lenten season.

To prepare for our Penance Service, we encourage you in the days ahead to reflect on your life. The questions below may help us to more clearly see areas of sin in our lives:

- Does God hold first place in my life? Do I nourish my relationship with God through regular prayer and the reading of scripture?

- Do I respect Sunday as the Lord's Day? Do I join my fellow Catholics at Sunday Mass? Do I make Sunday a day for God, for family, and for appreciating God's gift of life and faith? Or is Sunday just another work day?

- Am I a source of harmony and peace, or have my actions, attitudes and words injured others or caused dissension?

- Is there anyone I need to forgive for past hurts? Is there anyone whose forgiveness I need to seek?

- Do I treat my body with respect, or have I abused it through the willful misuse of drugs, alcohol, or food?

- Am I following Jesus' teachings on sexual morality? Do I indulge in lustful fantasies? Has the Internet become my gateway to pornography? Do I treat people like sexual play things?

- How have I shown compassion and concern for the poor, less fortunate, the sick, and the suffering? Have I shared my time, talent, and treasure with God's Church?

- Have I shown proper respect to my parents, teachers, employers, and all legitimate authority?

- If someone listened to my words and watched my actions, would that person recognize me as a Christian, as a member of the Catholic Church?

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AT ST. ANNE'S HOME



We are looking for adult volunteers to assist with our residents at St. Anne's Home. There are a variety of ways in which this can be done: helping with transport to and from activities, visiting, teaching a craft, helping with bingo and other games or any other idea that you might have to enhance the lives of our residents. Volunteers are needed during the day, in the evenings and on weekends. Training and support will be given. If you are interested please call Sister Doris at: 201-433-0950 Ext. 513. Thank you.



LENT

INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

5:00pm Juanita Dabu r/b Rowena & Alexander Dabu

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 4

8:00am Leonardo & Rosily Alina (L) (59th Wedding Anniv) r/b Romelia

10:00am Tony Honrado (B-Day in Heaven) r/b Jo Honrado

12:00pm Gina Marquez, In Thanksgiving for All Blessings Received

7:00pm For The People

MONDAY, MARCH 5

7:00am Marcelina Oller (L) In Thanksgiving for All Blessings Received

8:30am Vicente Afable, Sr. r/b Josefina Espeleta

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

7:00am Kurt Palatsky (B-Day) r/b Jo Honrado

8:30am Floro Adajar r/b Guiz & Gigi Macalintal & Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

7:00am Angela Cabrera (Death Anniversary) r/b Analy Rivera

8:30am Antoinette Fraraccio r/b Olga Fraraccio

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

7:00am Gaudencio Caguimbal r/b Fe Fernandez

8:30am Eduardo & Nena Valdivia r/b Emma & Red Barretto

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

7:00am Remedios De Asis (L) r/b Imelda Austria

8:30am Porfirio Yuzon (Death Anniv) r/b Susan Cailles

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

8:30am Purgatorial Society

5:00pm Ronaldo Oliver & Family In Thanksgiving for All Blessings Received

4th SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 11

8:00am Francisco Sevilla (Death Anniversary) r/b Adelaida Sevilla

10:00am Open Intention

12:00pm Remy Murphy r/b Joey & Lucy Roldan

7:00pm For The People

BREAD & WINE:

The offering for the bread to be used this week at our Eucharistic Worship was given in Memory of **The People**.

The offering for the wine to be used this week at our Eucharistic Worship was given in Memory of **The People**.

SANCTUARY LAMPS:

The lamp burning over our tabernacle in the Church this week is offered for **Trinidad Reyes, In Thanksgiving for All Blessings Received**.

The lamp burning over our tabernacle in the Chapel this week is offered for **The People**.

Parish Offices

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

40 Sullivan Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Phone: 201-434-7500

Web: olmjnj.org | Email: olmjcnj@aol.com

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Pastor:

Reverend Father Marty B. Jacinto

Parochial Vicars:

Father Thomas Iwanowski

Father Ranulfo D. Docabo

Sunday Associate:

Father Renato J. Bautista

Permanent Deacon:

Deacon Nick Fargo (Emeritus)

Deacon Meynardo Espeleta

Pastoral Associates:

For Faith Formation

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa

Director of Music Ministries:

Michael Rivera

Youth/Young Adult Ministries

Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministries:

Regina 'Jeng' Matias-Villa

Parish Trustees:

Presy Lorenzo / Renato Tuazon

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am / 10:00am / 12noon / 7:00pm

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday – Friday at 7:00 am and 8:30 am

Saturday at 8:30 am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Anytime by appointment.

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound:

If you, a family member or neighbor is hospitalized and wish a visit from a Parish priest, call the Parish Office or email us at olmjcnj@aol.com. The Sacrament of the Sick: Any homebound or hospitalized parishioner may request this Sacrament by calling 201-434-7500.

Visitation of the Sick: Please contact any priest, deacon or pastoral associate or call the Parish Office at 201-434-7500. Priests' Hospital Assignments: If you, a family member or neighbor are hospitalized and wish a visit from a Parish priest call or e-mail us at olmjcnj@aol.com.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be every First Friday from 9:00am until 12noon only in the Chapel.

Pope Francis warns against 'fake fasting' during Lent

Pope Francis' words of warning against what he called "fake fasting" came during the homily on Friday at morning Mass in the Casa Santa Marta.

When fasting, Pope Francis said, a true Christian must be consistent, not putting himself on show, never despising others or engaging in quarrels or disagreements.

Warning against behavior that is inconsistent with the Lenten spirit, the Pope invited those present to ask themselves how they interact with others.

He reflected on the First Reading of the day that highlights how the fasting that is acceptable to the Lord aims to "release those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke".

Don't pretend to be virtuous

Pope Francis reminded believers that fasting is one of the tasks of Lent, and said that even "if you cannot commit to a total fast, the kind that makes you feels hunger in your bones" you can still fast humbly and consistently.

Isaiah, he said, highlights so many inconsistencies in the practice of virtue, like "carrying out your own pursuits, driving all your laborers, and yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting."

Fasting, the Pope said, is a little like "stripping oneself" of pride. He said that to thank the Lord and at the same time despise your labourers that are forced to fast because they do not have enough to eat is inconsistent and unchristian.

Inviting those present to perform penance in peace, he said "you cannot talk to God on the one hand and to the devil on the other".

He also warned against the temptation of 'showing off' by fasting: "by making a fuss of it and letting people know that we are practicing Catholics and we do penance, so that people think 'what a good person'. This is a trick" he said: "It's pretending to be virtuous".

Fasting with a smile

"We must pretend, Francis continued, but with a smile. That is not showing others that we are performing acts of penance."

He invited the faithful to fast in order "to help others. But always with a smile".

Fasting, he said, also involves lowering oneself by reflecting on one's sins and asking forgiveness from the Lord.

How ashamed would I be, he continued, if my sin was to



become common knowledge through the press? And referring again to the Scripture Reading of the day he invited Christians to "release unjust bounds."

"I think of so many maids who work for their bread and they are humiliated and despised ... I have never been able to forget the time I went to a friend's house as a child and I witnessed the mother slapping the 81-year-old maid..."

Reiterating that he has never forgotten that shameful episode, Pope Francis urged the faithful to ask themselves whether they treat their domestic workers with fairness, whether they treat them "as people or as slaves", whether they are paid a just salary and have the right to holidays and are recognized in their human dignity.

Fasting with consistency

Pope Francis went on to tell another story stemming from personal experience. He said that once, when speaking to a very cultured gentleman who was known to exploit his domestic workers, he explained to him that this is a serious sin because we are all created in the image of God.

And referring again to the First Reading that tells us "to share our bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked when we see them, not turn our back on our own", the Pope noted that currently there is much discussion around whether or not to give shelter to those who ask for it.

He exhorted Christians to "do penance", to "feel a little hunger", to "pray more during Lent" and to ask themselves how they behave towards the other:

"Does my fast help others? If it does not it's fake, it's inconsistent and it takes you on the path to a double life, pretending to be a just Christian - like the Pharisees or the Sadducees" he said.

Let us ask for the grace of consistency he concluded: "if I am unable to do something, I will not do it. I will do only what I can with the consistency of a true Christian. (Vatican News)

ROSARY CRUSADE HOST FAMILIES SCHEDULE

Date	OLMercy	OLFatima
Mar. 4	Marivic Garcia	Emy Magdaraog
Mar. 11	Wilma Gonzalez	Rose Duque
Mar. 18	Emy Magdaraog	Elvira Gabot
Mar. 25	Letty Cabantog	Mely Cruz

REMINDER. CLOCKS MOVE AHEAD.

Be sure to move your clock ahead one hour when you go to bed this coming Saturday! Daylight Savings Time begins 2 am, Sunday, March 11.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS: JOIN THE 7PM CHOIR



If you have been at the 7PM Mass the past few weeks, you may have noticed our new 7PM Choir. We are currently looking for new members to join us- NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! If you are a singer and/or play an instrument (guitar, drums, flute, etc.), then please consider joining this new group. Rehearsals are held on Sunday nights at 5:45PM in the

church followed by the 7PM Mass. If you are interested and/or have any questions, please see Michael Rivera, our Music Director, after Mass or E-Mail at musicministryolmjc@gmail.com.