



“I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord; whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will never die.”

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

**DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE: BISHOP DANIEL E. FLORES**

**Rev. Jean Olivier M. Sambu, Pastor**

**Rev. Deacon Gilberto Guardiola Jr.**

*Emma Soto, Secretary*

*Amanda Leal, Bookkeeper*

*Mary Ann Raymond, CCE-Sacramental Records Clerk*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am–12:00 pm & 1:00-5:00 pm

Website: [www.olmmercedes.org](http://www.olmmercedes.org)

**322 S. Vermont (P.O. Box 805)**

**Mercedes, Texas 78570**

**(956) 565-1141** and 514-5566

**Fax:** 565-1640 **Email:** [olm@cdob.org](mailto:olm@cdob.org)

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church-Mercedes, Texas

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
March 22, 2026**

## BACKGROUND OF THE LITURGY

**GENERAL THEME:**

Jesus, in His ministry, offered many answers to people who were trying to make sense of life. He even offered an answer to the problem of death. At every Mass, we celebrate *His* death, which led to resurrection and definitive victory.

Is resurrection too good to be true? No; it is true and it is good. We might think about the forgiveness of sin, and recognize that it is a foretaste of the gift of resurrection fully accomplished.

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14**

These words from Ezekiel follow his eerie vision of the dry bones. We appreciate these words as a foreshadowing of the reality of personal resurrection. A people raised to eternal life must be expected of the eternal God.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11**

We must not interpret Paul’s words as if he detested the human body; we are, with him, believers in Jesus, who took on human flesh and lifted it up. Paul’s use of “the flesh” refers to a certain inertia which resists the liberation of the spirit.

**GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-45**

The raising of Lazarus is a stunning account from John the Evangelist. Dead for four days and already entombed, the reviving of this man was unthinkable. Jesus called upon His divine identity and His human sorrow as He gave a preview of His definitive victory, the resurrection.

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM	English
Sunday	7:00 AM	Spanish
	9:00 AM	English
	11:00 AM	English
	1:00 PM	Spanish

### DAILY MASS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 1st Friday’s of the Month 7:00 AM

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Wednesday beginning at 4:30 PM

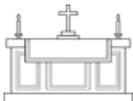
### NEW CONFESSIONS SCHEDULE!

Every other Wednesday at 4:45 PM to 6:00 PM

Or by Appointment

**Vespers & Benediction** 6:00 to 6:30 PM

**Mass** at 6:30 PM



# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, March 21

5:00 pm (E):

†Bobby Adame  
 †Leticia Galvan Adame  
 †Pedro Cantu Chacon  
 †Timothy Carpenter  
 †Maria Elvira Champion Wallace  
 †Rudy Elizondo  
 †Mike Garza  
 †Robert J. Garza  
 †Israel Garza  
 †Miguel A. Gomez  
 †Vangie L. Martinez  
 †Juanita Reyes  
 †Sr. Joan Elise Rodriguez  
 †Eufemio Rodriguez Jr.

Sunday, March 22

7:00 am (S)

Pro Populo

9:00 am (E)

Birthday of Melissa Denise Torres  
 †Mary Elizabeth de la Rosa  
 †Maria Elena Garcia  
 †Elva Martinez  
 †Ben & †Rose Soto  
 †Maria de Jesus Torres  
 †Mauro Vasquez Jr.  
 †Narciso Robert Vela  
 †Maria Cantu Vela

11:00 am (E)

Birthday of Stacy Esparza  
 †Carlos Castillo Jr.  
 †Nick Gracia  
 †Antonio & †Carmen Longoria  
 †George Longoria  
 †Guadalupe & †Sara Longoria  
 †Armando B. & †Graciela Martinez  
 †Carmen Alicia Martinez  
 †Mariano & †Ana Ruiz  
 †Susie Ruiz

1:00 pm (S):

†Vicenta Garcia de Lopez  
 †Manuel Guerra  
 †Eufemio Rodriguez Jr.

Monday, March 23

7:00 am

**Communion Service**  
 †Eufemio Rodriguez Jr.

Tuesday, March 24

7:00 am

†Eufemio Rodriguez Jr.

Wednesday, March 25

7:00 am

**No Adoration/No Confessions**  
 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

6:30 pm

Confirmation Mass with Bishop Flores

Thursday, March 26

7:00 am

†Horacio Pequeño  
 †Eufemio Rodriguez Jr.

Friday, March 27

No Mass

## DAILY MASS READINGS

**Monday, March 23, 2026:**

Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62    Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6    John 8:1-11

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026:**

Numbers 21:4-9    Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21    John 8:21-30

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10    Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11

Hebrews 10:4-10    Luke 1:26-38

**Thursday, March 26, 2026:**

Genesis 17:3-9    Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9    John 8:51-59

**Friday, March 27, 2026:**

Jeremiah 20:10-13    Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7    John 10:31-42

**Saturday, March 28, 2026:**

Ezekiel 37:21-28    Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13    John 11:45-56

**Sunday, March 29, 2025: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**



## Religious Education

### CCE Announcements

- **Classes resume this week: March 23-25**
- **Confirmation Students:** Confessions before Confirmation-**March 23 @ 6:00pm**  
 Confessions & Rehearsal-**March 24 @ 5:30pm**  
 (Rehearsal after confessions. At least one sponsor is required to attend the rehearsal.)

### Stations of the Cross Schedule

**Fridays in Lent starting at 6:30pm**

**March 27 —Men's & Women's ACTS**

## Easter Triduum



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Holy Thursday, April 2nd**

**6:30 PM - Mass (B)**

**8 PM - 12 AM - ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**8:00-8:30 - CCE Students, Parents & Catechists**

**8:30-9:00 - Altar Servers and Parents**

**9:00-10:00 - CDA & JCDA**

**10:00-11:00 - Choirs and Lectors Ministries**

**11:00-12:00 - Adoration Min., KCs & ACTS**

**Good Friday, April 3rd**

**3:00 PM - Passion Play**

**6:30 PM - Liturgy of the Word**

& Veneration of the Cross  
 - Followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Holy Saturday, April 4th (Easter Vigil)**

**8:30 PM - Mass (B)**

**Easter Sunday, April 5th**

- Regular Mass Schedule

### ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

March 21-22, 2026



*No Altar Flowers  
 During Lenten Season*

# Lenten Penance Service

Thursday  
March 26, 2026  
Starting at  
6:00 PM  
Until Necessary  
Parish Hall

There will be around 10 priests  
available for confessions.

## Love Builds Hope *News & Updates*



### **Thank you for your support of the *Love Builds Hope* Campaign**

Thank you to our volunteers and parishioners who have helped make the *Love Builds Hope* campaign a success. And thank you to everyone who have picked up campaign packets.

Please pray about your level of support and return your filled-out pledge form next week by dropping it in the offertory basket, leaving it at the parish office or by mailing it. Your generosity, no matter the size, is appreciated. If you are still praying about your gift, you can also pledge online at: [www.lovebuildshope.org/campaign](http://www.lovebuildshope.org/campaign)

### **Gracias por Apoyar la Campaña *El Amor Crea Esperanza***

Gracias a nuestros voluntarios y feligreses que han ayudado a que la campaña *El Amor Crea Esperanza* sea un éxito. Y gracias a todos los que ya recogieron su paquete de campaña.

Les pedimos que pongan en oración su nivel de apoyo y regresen su tarjeta de promesa la próxima semana. Puede dejarla en la canasta de la colecta, en la oficina parroquial o enviarla por correo. Su generosidad, sin importar la cantidad, es muy importante. Si aún está discerniendo su donativo, puede hacer su promesa en línea en: [www.lovebuildshope.org/campaign](http://www.lovebuildshope.org/campaign)

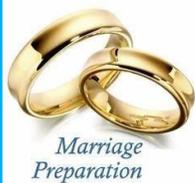
# Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

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## MARRIAGES AT OLM



Marriage Preparation

1. **The Couple** must notify the church of their plans to marry one year before the tentative wedding date.
2. The bride or the groom must be active members of Our Lady of Mercy or live within the boundaries.

### Required Document: Certificate of Baptism

A recent (no more than six months old) baptismal certificate with proper notations from both the bride and the groom must be requested from the church where they were baptized. Original certificate or photocopies are not accepted. A wedding cannot take place until a recent copy of the baptism certificate has been provided.

Please call the office for an initial marriage-prep meeting with the Deacon.

## Quinceañera Celebration Requirements at OLM

1. The **parents** must be registered parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy or live within the boundaries.
2. The candidate must be Baptized in the Catholic faith and have made her/his First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Communion before preparing for a quince años celebration.
3. The candidate must be enrolled in our Religious Education Program and be in preparation for Confirmation.
4. If requirements are fulfilled and in order to schedule a date for the celebration, please call the office with at least six months to one year in anticipation, and schedule an appointment with the Deacon, where one parent and the child should be present.



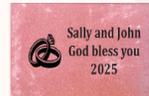
**A 2nd order of personalized commemorative bricks is open.**  
**Turn in filled forms and payments to the parish office.**

Leave a lasting legacy and support our church's mission by engraving a brick. God bless you.

4" x 8" Charcoal Brick



4" x 8" Red Brick



### Pricing

Brick Size 4" x 8" \$100

Brick Size 8" x 8" \$250

Wood Replica 4" x 4" \$12

8" x 8" Charcoal Brick



8" x 8" Red Brick



4" x 4" Wood Replica



Order forms can be picked up at the parish office or downloaded from parish website and payment is required at time of order form submission.

Stay connected and informed for announcements, special Mass times, and events happening in our parish.



**Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church-**  
**Mercedes, Texas**