

# OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue No. 5

## March 2023: Patience

March is overflowing with a beautiful bouquet of days to inspire holiness. There are the feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, and the blessed day of the Annunciation. St. Patrick and St. Joseph are spiritual fathers whose faithful patience reflects God's own merciful love, both bringing about conversion and deepening faith in others through the examples of patience they set. St. Joseph was reliably steadfast, always present to offer strength to his family. He is not quoted in the Bible, ultimately practicing His love for God, rather than simply preaching it. In his patience, he followed God, supporting His plan for his family, listening, for God's call in his soul, instead of being the one to speak.

So, too, does Mother Mary witness to patient faith in God, rooted in Her tremendous love. On the feast of the Annunciation, we remember when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that She was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, God the Father's only Son. Mary said "yes" to serving God, opening Her heart to let Him work in Her, so that great things could be done. Mary's "yes" showed Her trust in God's plan. This month's challenge is to pray more deeply and patiently, to hear where God is calling us. Praying the Rosary is ideal. As we count the beads, we can focus on each prayer, taking time to slow down and be more present.

-Katie Sadakierski

sadakierski.olv@gmail.com

<https://olveasthampton.org/religious-education/>

### \*March Dates to Remember\*

- Mar. 5: Second Sunday of Lent
- Mar. 12: Third Sunday of Lent
- Mar. 17: Feast of St. Patrick
- Mar. 19: Feast of St. Joseph & Fourth Sunday of Lent
- Mar. 25: Annunciation
- Mar. 26: Fifth Sunday of Lent
- Mar. 30: Class Session 4

\*see our bulletins for Mass times:  
<https://olveasthampton.org/bulletins/>



# Lenten Prayer

Dearest Lord, I hope to be  
more observant of your grace.  
May you look upon my soul  
and may my sins erase.  
May I know of sacrifice  
and cherish all you bless  
and act with courage to assist  
others who have less.  
Prepare my soul for joy to come,  
and cleanse me of all sin.  
I'll wear my faith and do my best  
to nurture it within.  
With a humble heart,  
I hope to be  
your faithful servant  
for all to see.

*Prayer Source: Loyola Press*



The Annunciation

Scripture Spotlight:  
“Love is patient, love  
is kind.”

-1 Corinthians 13:4

Song of the Month:

“May the Road Rise to  
Meet You” (Irish  
Blessing)



## Saint Spotlight: St. Patrick

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but was originally from England, a territory occupied by Rome when he was living in the 300s-400s A.D. As a teenager, St. Patrick was taken as a slave on a pirate ship. The pirates brought him to Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd. St. Patrick prayed every day, saying hundreds of prayers at morning and night. When it rained or snowed as he herded sheep, he did not feel it. His strength came from his patience, and his patience came from trusting so much in God, Who protected him and listened to his prayers. Several years later, St. Patrick made it back home, but had a dream that the Irish people were calling to him, asking him to come back and help them. St. Patrick listened to where God was calling him, and returned to Ireland to teach people about God. He became a priest, and later, a bishop. His love for God always led him forward, to never give up in his work converting souls. For about 40 years, St. Patrick preached about God, using three-leaf clovers to teach about the Three Persons of God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through poverty and difficult times, God was with St. Patrick, who was carried through by Him.