

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

Telephone: 631-226-7725 + Fax: 631-225-9597 +

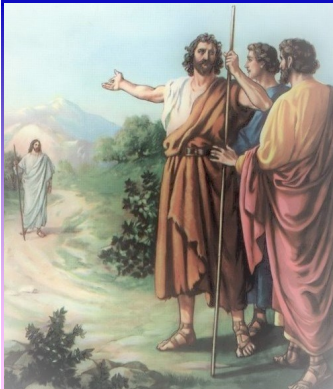
www.olphlindenhurst.com + Facebook: Our Lady of Perpetual Help



myParish app!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2



*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”*

John 1:35-36

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 14, 2024

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero, Reverend Emmanuel Okonkwo

Deacons: Deacon William R. Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith,

Deacon Robert A. Becker, Deacon James Totino

Business Manager: Mr. Gerry Chille

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Miss Erin Barrett

COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays until 6:30 p.m. The church closes after the 12:15 p.m. Mass on Thursdays and Fridays, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays (except First Saturdays, when there is Nocturnal Adoration until 9:30 p.m.) and after the 12:00 Noon Mass on Sundays (or after the 2:00 p.m. Baptisms when those are celebrated). Also, the church will close after the last Mass on all holidays and holy days when parish offices are closed, regardless of the day of the week. Come in and spend some time in prayer whenever the church is open!

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

Special Needs Mass:

First Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m.
in the auditorium (Sunday Anticipated Mass)

Holy Days of Obligation: Consult the bulletin

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesdays: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

First Saturdays: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer communally, in person, each Saturday in the church immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Each Sunday, we pray Morning Prayer at 9:15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link on the home page of our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

*Also available by individual appointment
with one of the priests.*

DEVOTIONS

OLPH Novena: Mondays following 12:15 p.m. Mass

Rosary: Weekdays following 6:30 a.m. Mass
Saturdays and Sundays following 8:00 a.m. Mass

The Holy Face of Jesus: Tuesdays following
12:15 p.m. Mass

First Fridays and First Saturdays:

As announced in bulletin

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

Text App to **55321**
to download
our parish app

- 1) Download **myParish App**
- 2) Select our Parish after opening



myparishapp.com/appstore

Made with ❤️ by Diocesan

*New number
to download
the Parish App!*

Text to **55321**

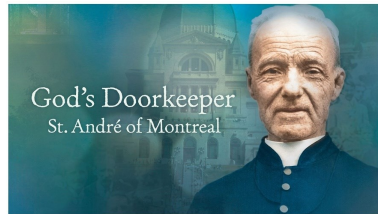
*The old number 88202
is no longer in effect!*



THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of January 14, 2024

WATCH

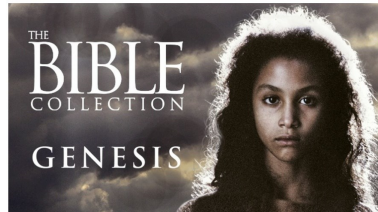


God's Doorkeeper
St. André of Montreal

God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montreal

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!

LEARN



THE BIBLE
COLLECTION
GENESIS

The Bible Collection - Genesis

Experience the epic tale of creation in this Christian anthology that details the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah and the Ark.

LISTEN



PADRE PIO
BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Padre Pio: Between Heaven and Earth

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Blessed with incredible spiritual gifts, including healing, bi-location, reading of souls, and the stigmatic wounds, Padre Pio was a powerful witness for Christ, and a great spiritual guide to countless souls for over fifty years.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Pray the Keys”

I regularly peruse bulletins from other parishes, and I recently came across this item in the bulletin of St. Mark's Parish in Shoreham, where my long-time good buddy Fr. Jim Mannion is Administrator. I make full disclosure that I am stealing it from him! It caught my attention, and so I present it to you, for your consideration, and to possibly incorporate into your prayer life. Now that we're back in Ordinary Time, it seems to be a great down-to-earth prayer that fits in well with everyday life. It's called “Praying the Keys.”

Take your key chain, and pray for the item and the people each key is used for. So, for your house key: pray for your family members, your parents, your neighbors — pray for their health and well-being, pray for healing and reconciliation, pray for their dreams and hopes (and your own), pray for the safety of the home, pray in gratitude for having a home with heat, lights, food in the fridge, *etc.*, and pray for those who do not have those things.

For the car key: pray for all the crazy drivers on the roads, the speed demons, the lane weavers, the rolling stoppers, *etc.*, that they do not cause an accident or kill someone or themselves; pray for yourself, to be a sane and cautious driver, and for safe journeys to and from your destinations; pray for your passengers.

For your business or office key: pray in thanksgiving for employment, for the people you work with, for those the business serves; pray mindful of a just wage for the labor you offer; pray for the unemployed, the underemployed, and the underpaid.

For the school locker key: pray in gratitude for the privilege of an education, your teachers, coaches, administrators, support staff, classmates and other schoolmates; pray for those who are outsiders, or new students; pray for safety in your classroom and hallways.

What other keys and prayers can you add, according to what's on your key chain?

I thought this was a really interesting approach to prayer, and maybe you will find it worthwhile, too. Perhaps this can become a kind of “rosary” incorporated into your regular prayer. You could start with the Sign of the

Cross, made with your keys in hand, followed by an Our Father, a Hail Mary, a Glory Be, and then the prayers offered on each key as described above, and as you might choose to add.

What do you think about this idea of “Praying the Keys?”

March for Life on Friday, January 19

This Friday, January 19, the annual March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. It's important for all of us as Catholics to be aware of Right to Life issues, and to offer thanks and support to those who will be giving the public witness of participating in the March for Life.

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill in the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. It's a celebration of life! The participants celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We should all envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

Even with the wonderful blessing of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently. Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year, and that number is expected to decrease only by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-*Roe* America. Many national legislative battles loom, including even keeping longstanding Hyde protections, which limit government funding for abortion on annual appropriation bills. The Hyde Amendment has saved over 2 million lives and is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nation's history, but now cannot be taken for granted.

There is much important work still to be done in changing hearts and minds. The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level, but to change

the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable.

The greatest weapon we have in this cause is, of course, prayer. Led by our OLPH Right to Life Ministry, our parish will gather to pray the Rosary after 12:15 p.m. Mass on Friday, January 19, to pray in solidarity with all those who are marching in Washington on that day.

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

This Monday, January 15, our nation celebrates the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. We take this occasion to recall and celebrate the accomplishments of that great civil rights leader, especially his vision for peace and justice and his commitment to non-violence. Dr. King is a model for us as to how the witness of non-violence can bring about systemic change. We need to take to heart in an ever-deepening way his vision that people not be judged on the color of their skin, and be judged instead on the content of their character. Keeping in mind Dr. King's vision, which sought to bring about unity, community and solidarity, is especially important in view of the warped "woke" ideology that seems to be taking hold in our society more and more and which results only in division and inequality (no matter how much it tries to present itself as so-called "diversity," "equity" and "inclusion"). Again, to echo Dr. King's vision: it is the content of one's character, and the morality of one's actions, that should be the basis for our interactions with each other, and the foundation for building up unity in the human family, not the color of one's skin, or other characteristics which can be used to divide us into sub-groups and sow discord.

Monday should be a holiday of patriotism and unity, as we acknowledge the need for all of us to promote the common good for our country and the need to ensure the dignity of all people

in our society (including the unborn). We would all do well to focus on what unites us as a country and as citizens, rather than on political agendas and misguided progressive ideologies that divide us; this seems to be a task more crucial than ever.

Brick Memorialization

Lastly, let me remind you that our memorialization of bricks in the Let the Children Come to Me Prayer Garden is ongoing; there are plenty of bricks left! Even though the garden commemorates Jesus' calling the children to come to him, the memorializations are not meant to be limited to or for children — any prayer or any intention, for anyone of any age, living or deceased, can be memorialized. Please consider memorializing a brick if you have not already done so, and please consider memorializing another one if you already have. This is an important fundraiser for the parish, so you are helping us greatly by participating in this. The order form, along with additional information, is elsewhere in this bulletin.

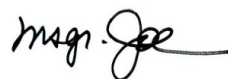
Tell family and friends about this! Remember: you don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH to memorialize a brick, and you don't even need to be Catholic!

In conclusion...

Together, let's aim high in Christ. Together, let's bring out the best in each other. Together, let's be the best we can be in Christ.

And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,



2024 MINISTRY DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

Our Lady of
Perpetual Help Church
Lindenhurst, New York



Ministry
Directory
2024



The updated **Ministry Directory for 2024** is now available electronically on our website (click on the "Get Involved" tab) and on our Parish App, and paper copies are available at the rectory. This Ministry Directory lists all our parish ministries, groups and organizations, describing what they are all about and how to get involved in them. Read it and you'll see why OLPH is "the place to be!"

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE



If the announced intention at Mass is for your intention, or if you have memorialized the bread and wine, and you would like to carry those offerings forward at the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, please be sure to let the ushers know this before the Mass begins. They will be happy to have you do this. If no one steps forward to specifically request this, then they will select people from the assembly.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Join us Next Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass
Children 1st Grade and older can join in the Children's Liturgy of the Word every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.



Participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to teach children how to participate in Mass, since they do the same things that are being done in the main body of the church.



REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

Please remember that we are supposed to observe a Communion Fast before receiving Holy Communion. This means we do not eat any foods or drink any liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion, the only exception being water or medicine. This also means that we are not to chew gum during Mass, and certainly not while we are coming forward to receive Holy Communion. Let's be sure we are appropriately prepared to receive Holy Communion by observing this important rule of the Church.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. This was announced in his inspiring Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God*, the full text of which can be found at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html. This year, this Sunday falls on January 21, 2024.

In the *Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass*, we are reminded of the role of the Word of God in the life of the Church:

In the hearing of God's word the Church is built up and grows, and in the signs of the liturgical celebration God's wonderful, past works in the history of salvation are presented anew as mysterious realities. God in turn makes use of the congregation of the faithful that celebrates the Liturgy in order that his word may speed on and be glorified and that his name be exalted among the nations.

Whenever, therefore, the Church, gathered by the Holy Spirit for liturgical celebration, announces and proclaims the word of God, she is aware of being a new people in whom the covenant made in the past is perfected and fulfilled. Baptism and confirmation in the Spirit have made all Christ's faithful into messengers of God's word because of the grace of hearing they have received. They must therefore be the bearers of the same word in the Church and in the world, at least by the witness of their lives.

The word of God proclaimed in the celebration of God's mysteries does not only address present conditions but looks back to past events and forward to what is yet to come. Thus God's word shows us what we should hope for with such a longing that in this changing world our hearts will be set on the place where our true joys lie (Preamble, 7).

In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis explained that devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of His word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world. So, the Holy Father declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. He urged local communities to find their own ways to mark the Sunday of the Word of God with a certain solemnity.

Here at OLPH, we'll celebrate the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God by incorporating these elements into all the Sunday

Masses the weekend of January 20-21:

† The music selected for all Masses will include reference to the Word of God

† The Book of Gospels will be specially enthroned in the sanctuary after the proclamation of the Gospel

† The homily will include reference to the Word of God in the life of the Church and in living the Christian life

† Everyone will be invited to the special shrine to venerate and pray in front of the Word of God immediately following Mass

It is hoped that through our attention to the Word of God on this Sunday, we might all deepen our appreciation for and connection to the Sacred Scriptures found in the Bible. In this way, we hope that these words of Pope Francis might become a reality in lives of all OLPH parishioners, and in the life of our parish as a whole:

The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. At times, there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or to select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.



BRING PALMS TO BE BURNED FOR USE AS ASHES



We are all familiar with the practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 14. The ashes are a sign of the public penance to which we are all called during the Lenten season. As we promise to repent and believe in the Gospel, the ashes are a sign of our commitment to the journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, a journey which ends with the new life of baptism and baptismal renewal during Easter Time. Penitential acts are undertaken as a community, as together we journey to the cross and resurrection.

What you may not know is where the ashes come from. Very simply, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are the ashes from palms saved from Palm Sunday the previous year, which have been burned.

This year we once again invite you to share in our communal celebration of Ash Wednesday in a special way. **We ask you to bring old palms from your home and deposit them in the baskets which will be available. These palms will then be burned at our Mardi Gras celebration on Sunday, February 11, and used as ashes on Ash Wednesday.**

Please join in this meaningful gesture of community and solidarity as together we prepare to embark on our Lenten disciplines.

A WORD ABOUT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AND GOOD HEALTH

As we come to celebrate Mass together each week during these days when respiratory illnesses are at their peak, it's a good time to review some common-sense liturgical practices and issues, to help everyone stay healthy and to care for one another.

- **Mass Attendance: MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO MASS!** There is no obligation to attend Mass if you are sick; it is not a sin to miss Mass for this reason. Also, there is no need to go to Confession if you miss Mass because you are sick. Personal prayer and reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings is encouraged; many people also enjoy viewing the Mass on television. Your weekly monetary offering may be mailed to the rectory, or simply added to your offering the next time you come to Mass.

- **Receiving Holy Communion in the Hand Rather Than on the Tongue:** All are encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue; this is vastly a more sanitary method. If it is necessary for you to receive on the tongue, we ask you to **wait and come up at the end of the line, to be the last communicants to receive Holy Communion.** Your cooperation with this is appreciated.

- **Communion from the Chalice:** The Precious Blood will continue to be available for those who wish to receive the Precious Blood of Christ in addition to the Body of Christ. Obviously, communicants should refrain from drinking from the chalice when one has a cold or is fearful of being infected.

LIVING THE EUCHARIST

A GIFT IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE NEW YEAR:

Living the Eucharist 2024

“THE EUCHARIST IS THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE”

—Lumen Gentium (Light to the Nations)



February 13 – March 19, 2024

Tuesday evenings

7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Join a **Living the Eucharist** small group during Lent. Participation will enrich your life in subtle and amazing ways.

During the six-week program you will:

Gain a better understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist

Participate more fully in Sunday Mass

Leave Mass in a renewed zeal to let the light of Christ shine

Nourish your spiritual life by enhancing your relationship with Jesus Christ.

For more information, contact Deacon Jim Totino at DeaconJimOLPH@gmail.com

Deadline to join is January 24, 2024

Living the Eucharist 2024 LENTEN SIGN-UP FORM

To be completed by each participant.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ CELL _____

EMAIL: _____

AGE (if under 21): _____



Six Weekly Small Group Gatherings:

Dates: Tuesdays - February 13—March 19

Location: School building (classrooms to be assigned)

Time: 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Yes, I will attend the six sessions _____

No, I cannot attend but am interested in participating in the program _____

Please return this form to the Rectory. **The material will be distributed on the first day of Class.**

View the introductory video for *Living the Eucharist* at <https://www.pemdc.org/programs/living-the-eucharist/>

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and may the Lord bless you on this journey!

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Located in the Rectory
Phone # 631.226.7725 x. 253
Email: religioused@oloph.org
Director: Mrs. April Kleinlaut
(akleinlaut@oloph.org)

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: By Appointment Only

LEVEL 8

Remember that there will be a student meeting on the topic of Chastity, this Wednesday, January 17th. This meeting will occur during your normal class time. Please report to your classrooms, not the auditorium.

LEVEL 2

On Saturday, January 20, you will watch your Communion video in the auditorium during your regular class time.



Saint of the Day!

St. Thomas

St. Thomas is most famously noted for doubting the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus appeared to the Apostles once again and asked Thomas to stick his finger through His wounds, to prove that it was indeed Jesus. Poor Thomas! One brief moment of doubt and he is branded throughout history as someone with little faith! When Jesus was called back to Judea to see Lazarus, a close friend who was close to death, it was Thomas who encouraged the other Apostles to go with Him despite the danger.

Despite the doubt he had, he is a loyal friend to Jesus.

May we build up the Church!

Levels 2 and 3

Student Safety Meeting



*Congratulations to all those who made their First Penance
on Saturday, January 13, 2024.*

*Ella Accurso
 Alexander Adames
 Christian Adames
 Aidan Ally
 Amelia Ally
 Jasper Astore
 Dominic Bacci
 Luca Barongi,
 Sanaya Bautista
 Elisabetta Bellone
 Jacob Bernardo
 Jayden Bernardo
 Emilee Bodt
 Dylan Bruno
 Carlos Burbano
 Justin Canales Membreno
 Isabella Castaneda-Barreir
 Isabella Chiarenza
 Yohandry Dilone-Espinal
 Yohendry Dilone-Espinal
 Yosmeiry Dilone-Espinal
 Jimena Dizama Guzman
 Joseph Ebbets
 Peter Ebbets
 Cameron Edwards-Pernell
 Madelyn Fischer
 Alina Florio
 Jason Friesen
 Franco Guzman
 Liliana Hauser
 Karalyn Heaton
 Kaylie Hernandez Torres
 Angelina Iadiciccio
 Modestina Ingrao
 Izabela Kozina-Malysiak
 Nico Lomino
 Savannah Lyons*



*Skye Macalisang Butron
 Siena Macaluso
 Grayson Martin
 Kimberly Martins
 Jerem Mizhirumbay Bonilla
 Alexa Munsey
 Mackenzie Munsey
 Jerson Navarrete
 Kelsea Newton
 Marguerite Nolan
 Mateo Ocampo
 Antoinette Pagano
 Laia Perero
 Jacob Perez
 Olivia Pogorzelski
 Alexandra Ptak
 Jayden Ramirez
 Noah Rodriguez
 Rosebella Salazar
 Tyra Sanchez,
 William Schmitt
 Deliliah Schnatz
 Jacqueline Schneider
 Venessa Singh
 Charles Sweeney
 Dylan Sweeney
 Liam Taveras
 Paige Theroux
 Prince Toussaint
 Cecilia Vargas
 Liam Kai Vasquez
 Evelina Vasylevska
 Brayden Ventura
 Matthew Winiarz
 Avery Wright*

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631.225.9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631.226.6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Respect Life Ministry: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Valerie Baxter—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of

Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

1st & 3rd Saturdays 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

In the Gospel today, Jesus asks “What are you looking for?” Often, we are looking for happiness in very selfish ways, but we find that when we look for ways to make others happy, it is then that we truly become happy.

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box, know that you are a sign of God’s love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

NEW Food Pantry List!

**PEANUT BUTTER
JELLY OR JAM
CANNED MEAT
PREPARED PASTA SAUCE
COOKIES
HOT CHOCOLATE
FRUIT JUICE
SHELF STABLE MILK
SHAMPOO
TOOTHPASTE**

Thank you
for your continued generosity.

Cut out this list
and bring it with you
when you go shopping!

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has an expansion of our Memorial Card program. In addition to updated *Living Memorial* cards, we offer *Special Occasion* cards. These are a great way to commemorate a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, get well, thank you, holiday, etc.) while supporting SVDP’s efforts to provide not just food, but also financial, material and spiritual aid to our neighbors.

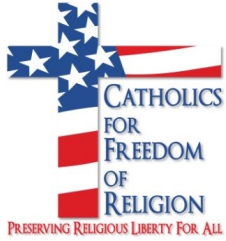
Memorial/Special Occasion card envelopes are available in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. The Memorial or Special Occasion Card acknowledging your donation will be sent to the person/family indicated on the form.

Please contact the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for more information.



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION

FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



The Most Successful Propaganda Does Great Harm to Our Nation

Within the commentary and opinions from media, law firms, politicians and organizations analyzing Constitutional freedoms, there is much agreement that most Americans have no understanding of the source, meaning and implications of the concept of separation of church and state. The twisting of Thomas Jefferson's support for the rights of conscience and free exercise of religion has been called the most effective propaganda in the United States.

As a result, we too often unnecessarily censor our own speech and our children's, especially in public schools. We take down holiday displays and remove monuments of the Ten Commandments, remove Bibles from public spaces, and are hyper-sensitive to this wrongly defined line of separation of church and state. Teachers, priests, religious and parents too often assure our volunteers they "understand there is no prayer in school because of separation of church and state." We patiently and kindly correct their misunderstanding.

In fact, President Jefferson received a letter from the Danbury Baptists, concerned about religious freedom in their own state and in the Federal Constitution. Jefferson responded:

"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties."

President Jefferson's reply, taken with recurring, clear statements and actions of our founders, evidence an intention for the support of a moral and religious citizenry. Our forefathers would have never accepted or permitted the restrictions on religion or conscience that are enacted today under the banner "separation of Church and state". The intent of the founders was not to establish the government as a God-free zone, but to ensure that matters of religious conscience and practice were a government-free zone.

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool."

—Dr. Martin Luther King

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3RHk5O> <https://bit.ly/3Rk6r0H> <https://bit.ly/41nFrll>

RESPECT LIFE

CELEBRATE LIFE WITH US



Please join us after the 12:15 Mass on **Friday, January 19th** to pray the Rosary. We'll be praying as the **March for Life** occurs in Washington, DC.

We are not offering a bus to Washington this year due to the exorbitant cost but we still can support life – ALL life.

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Phone: (631) 226-7725 Parish Fax: (631) 225-9597

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Erin Barrett, Director of Music	210	ebarrett@oloph.org
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Gerry Chille, Business Manager	204	gchille@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism ceremonies are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents wishing to have a child baptized must attend a baptism preparation session before the baptism; these sessions are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month excluding holidays. Contact the Parish Office to begin the process of having your child baptized.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Those who are seriously ill or facing surgery, as well as those in danger of death, should receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Parish Office and ask for one of our priests.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at jsg375@gmail.com to begin the process.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults who have been baptized Catholic and who have received Holy Communion but who still need the Sacrament of Confirmation should enroll in our Adult Confirmation Classes. Please contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to DeaconRobert@oloph.org.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish Office at least SIX MONTHS before the desired date of your wedding.

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Eileen Corticchia
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Jeffrey Gaab
 Gregory Guido
 Sonia Hansen
 Joselyn Kalt
 Mary Leon
 Rachelle Louis-Jacques
 Carlton Mitchell
 Deacon James Totino

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Pastoral Council with any questions you might have.

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel
 Bob Meade

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
 Bill Bendernagel (Chair)
 Gerry Chille
 Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Marie Gagneron
 Kenneth Hale
 Bob Meade
 Bob Mehm
 John Reynolds
 Jackie Totino

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Finance Committee with any questions you might have.

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste
 Erin Barrett
 Deacon Robert Becker
 Mark Costantino
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Kenneth Hale
 Jenine Jimenez-Spina
 Denise Martinez
 Barbara McPhail
 Deacon Doug Smith
 Mike Williams
 Fr. Frank Zero

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Liturgy Committee with any questions you might have.

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Please pray for the following members of our parish community preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Second Announcement:

Gerard Carollo & Kimberly Bethell

FOR THOSE WITH CELIAC DISEASE

Special hosts are available for those with Celiac Disease who cannot receive Holy Communion using the usual bread. These hosts contain less than 0.001% gluten content and are approved for the Roman Catholic Church by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. If you need to receive Holy Communion using one of these hosts, please stop in the sacristy before Mass begins to discuss this with the priest. We will be happy to accommodate you.

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

*Louis Joseph Tufarelli
Robert S. Brodmerkel
Charlie Miller*

“O God, who through the ending of present things open up the beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption.”

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Cindy Lavorata</i>	<i>John Leyden</i>
<i>Christine Ajello-Larsen</i>	<i>Robin Kaufman</i>
<i>Gus Garofalo</i>	<i>Laurell Desner</i>
<i>Britta Perna</i>	<i>Marge Sheehan</i>
<i>Nick Bulone</i>	<i>Lisa Byrne</i>
<i>Sebastiano Treppiedi</i>	<i>Christopher Santiago</i>
<i>Anthony Grasso</i>	<i>Tyler Qualls</i>
<i>Mary Elizabeth Setti</i>	<i>Anthony Grasso</i>
<i>Kathleen Bofinger</i>	<i>Raffaella Laurice</i>
<i>David Rowe</i>	<i>Lina Avila</i>
<i>Sheila Cormier</i>	<i>Evelyn Pulla</i>
<i>Susan Wilson</i>	<i>Anthony Pokorney</i>
<i>Theresa Rowe</i>	<i>Virginia Connolly</i>

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. Please call the Parish Office to have the name of the person added to the list. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for at least four weeks **and will be announced at Mass the first week only.** You don't need to make the request again until after the name is removed from the list.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

Our Spring Bereavement will start up on March 16 to May 18 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Registration required. Please call Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or email forubabe77@gmail.com.

PERPETUAL HELP MASS

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024 6:30 A.M. MASS

*For the Repose of the
Souls of the
McCarthy Family*

*Requested by the Estate of
Rev. Thomas J. McCarthy*

*Rev. Msgr.
Daniel S. Hamilton*

*Requested by the Estate of
Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton*

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, January 15— Weekday	
6:30	Perpetual Help Mass (<i>Listing on p.16</i>)
12:15	Lorraine Iula
TUESDAY, January 16— Weekday	
6:30	Michael Tolle
12:15	Michael DiMaggio
WEDNESDAY, January 17— Saint Anthony, Abbot	
6:30	Frank Zeigon
12:15	Patricia Hosey
THURSDAY, January 18— Weekday	
6:30	Joseph Cannizzaro
12:15	Cosimo Gerardi
FRIDAY, January 19— Weekday	
6:30	The Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
12:15	Richard Sheehan
SATURDAY, January 20— Weekday (Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr)	
8:00	Pauline Micovsky
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
5:00	John Russo Sr.
Sunday, January 21— THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8:00	For the People of the Parish
10:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
12:00	Michelangelo Sapienza

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, January 15, 2024		
ALL RECTORY AND PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED, AND ALL ACTIVITIES EXCEPT FOR MASSES ARE CANCELLED, ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY. THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 AT 9:00 A.M.		
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
Tuesday, January 16, 2024		
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Christian Mothers Meeting	Room 18
Wednesday, January 17, 2024		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831 for information)	Off Campus
6:30 p.m.	Levels 6, 7 and 8 Classes	School
Thursday, January 18, 2024		
1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
5:30 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
Friday, January 19, 2024		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Thrift Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Respect Life Ministry Rosary	Church
Saturday, January 20, 2024		
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1 - 5 and Sp. Ed Classes	School
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
Sunday, January 21, 2024		
10:00 a.m.	OCIA	Church
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

El grupo de oración Jesús es el camino la verdad y la vida.

Le invita a alabar y glorificar a Dios todos los jueves a las 7:00PM en la cafetería, en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Únete a nosotros en oración, por ti y por tu familia en Alabanzas y reflexión de la palabra de DIOS.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia Interesados favor llamar a Alina Patrón al (516) 263-9401

Para más información sobre los sacramentos del bautizo matrimonio y servicio pastorales Unción de los enfermos y la Eucaristía, llamar a la rectoría 631) 226-7725/ en español a Irma González al (631) 620-2401.

Lecturas del domingo 14 de Enero del 2024.

VENGAN Y BEAN DISE JESUS.

Primera Lectura (1 Samuel 3,3b-10. 19): Habla, Señor, Que Tu Siervo Escucha

El joven Samuel responde a la misteriosa llamada de Dios para entregarse enteramente a su servicio. Oh Padre del cielo, te pedimos que, cuando nos llamas en los acontecimientos de la vida diaria, tu Santo Espíritu nos dé la actitud interior y la fortaleza para decir: Habla señor que tu siervo escucha.

Segunda Lectura (1 Corintios 6,13b-15a. 17-20): El Cuerpo de Ustedes Es el Templo del Espíritu Santo

A los discípulos de Corinto, que viven en una ciudad portuaria con marcada inmoralidad sexual, San Pablo les dice: El cuerpo de ustedes es sagrado para Dios, ya que es templo del Espíritu Santo. Los cuerpos de ustedes son miembros que conforman el cuerpo de Cristo. Todo el que se une al Señor forma un solo espíritu con él.

Utilicen su cuerpo para la gloria de Dios.

Evangelio (Juan 1,35-42): Vengan y Vean dice Jesús

Juan el Bautista continúa señalando a Jesús, “el cordero de Dios”, a sus propios seguidores. En esta ocasión, Andrés y un hombre de nombre desconocido siguieron a Jesús, hasta que, sintiendo su proximidad, Él se vuelve e inicia una conversación con ellos. Esta es la clásica escena de un llamado o una vocación. Y al haber experimentado la atracción de Jesús, Andrés va a informar a su hermano Simón Pedro, que entonces va a conocer a Jesús. Lo que sigue, como decimos, ¡es historia! El autor de una obra teatral tiene gran cuidado con las primeras palabras que pronuncia el protagonista principal. Esas palabras deben captar nuestra atención, y generalmente revelan algo del carácter de esa persona. Aquí leemos las primeras palabras que dijo Jesús en el evangelio de Juan. No son una enseñanza, un precepto o un desafío (como esperaríamos), sino una simple pregunta:” ¿Qué estás buscando?”, o “¿Qué quieres?”. Jesús pregunta sobre nuestros deseos para que Él pueda responder a ellos.

Palabras “Arrepentíos y creed en la Buena Nueva” (Marcos 1:14-15). Juan, sin embargo, ve a nuestra vocación como una respuesta a las palabras de Jesús: “Vengan y lo verán”. Esta es una invitación a venir y conocer a Jesús como el Amor hecho visible por Dios, invitación que nos trae el Espíritu Santo (Juan 16:13-15). Si tienes tiempo para orar con el Evangelio de hoy, podrías estar quieta/o por unos momentos y escuchar los sonidos que te rodean. Luego deja que Jesús diga las palabras “Vengan y lo verán” varias veces, con una pausa entre cada vez, de modo que tú puedas percibir el tono de su voz y la expresión de su rostro.



**OFFERING UPDATE
January 6/7**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	270	92	\$2,529.00
8:00 a.m.	168	67	2,781.00
10:00 a.m.	311	56	2,451.00
12:00 p.m.	285	65	1,863.00
Faith Direct			3,289.20
Children's Env.		7	33.00
Mail-ins:			—
Special Needs	54		1,048.00
TOTAL	1,088	287	\$13,994.20
2023	1,227	412	\$18,026.19
Candles			\$752.31
Poor Box			\$268.31
1st Saturday			\$167.00

All rectory and parish offices are closed and all activities, except for Masses, are cancelled

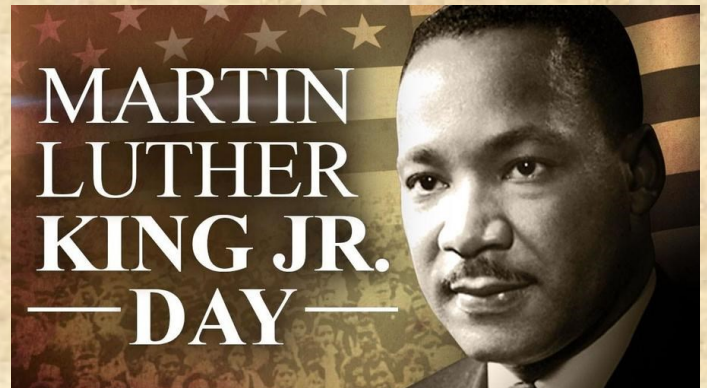
Monday, January 15

for the

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

All offices will resume regular hours

Tuesday, January 16 at 9:00 a.m.



**2023 OLPH CONTRIBUTION
TAX LETTERS**

Tax letters for the 2023 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address & envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DEADLINES FOR
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All requests for items printed in the bulletin must first have approval from Msgr. DeGrocco or the ministry moderator. *All material must be submitted as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at cbecker@oloph.org no later than the dates listed below.

Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.

- January 21—deadline passed
- January 28—January 19 deadline
- February 4—January 26 deadline

Important Diocese of Rockville Centre Information

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred, and the forms to use, can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page: <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

**2023
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

**Thank you for your generous support of the
2023 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

Completing your 2023 pledge ensures that our Parish will benefit by receiving our full rebate.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal. To give securely on line, please go to: <https://www.drvc.org/donate/cma/>

There's still time to make a gift.

Please remember that all pledges must be paid in full by January 31, 2024.

PREPARING FOR Sunday, January 21, 2024 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mark 1:17

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Jonah, the runaway prophet, preaches a message of repentance to the Ninevites, a people whom the Israelites despise because of their war crimes. To Jonah's amazement, the Ninevites, from their king down, respond immediately to the call to repentance. The sudden conversion of a very sinful city and people points to the transformative power of God's Word. For the Israelites of Jonah's time, the lesson learned is that no people, regardless of how godless they are, should be looked upon as excluded from God's concern. It's a good lesson even for us today.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

There is a sense of urgency here, as Paul believes Jesus' Second Coming is imminent, so he sets out to show his readers how to live in a world that is temporary. They, and we today, should not treat as permanent the things of this world since they will not last. Paul is not suggesting that people sit around and do nothing but that their primary focus should be on "higher things," that is, the things that will last. We should use our time to transform our lives to be more like Christ.

Mark 1:14-20

In these verses, we have two central themes of the Gospel: the call to radical conversion and the call to discipleship. Conversion is a complete turning away from a former way of life in order to begin a new one. Conversion and repentance are not just about fasting and not just about turning from evil and sin. They are about turning one's whole mind and heart to God in the manner little children allow themselves to be led with unlimited trust. This is a radical call. Look at the disciples in today's reading. On hearing Jesus' call, they immediately abandon their old ways and start a new life of discipleship with him. The fishermen are not just called to learn from Jesus but to share in his ministry of drawing people to the reign of God. They, like Jesus, will be sent to bring people to God by the authenticity of their lived faith.

Gospel Reflection

After reading next Sunday's readings take some time to pray on them before you come to Mass. Use the questions below to aid your reflection.

1. As soon as Jesus heard that John was arrested he immediately moved into Herod's territory and began an intense program teaching, healing and preaching repentance. What would cause him to make such a dangerous move? Are you able to stand up and get involved for what is right when you see that you will suffer pain or loss when you do? What do you think of Jesus when he acts like this?

2. Do you think Jesus also needed friends? "At once they left their nets and followed him." How long did it take Peter and Andrew to respond to his invitation to a personal encounter? What do you think was going on in their heads and hearts? Could they have been excited by the mission of communicating life to others?

Readings for the Week

Take time each day to read the daily readings of the Church.

Monday, January 15, 2024:

1 Samuel 15:16-20 + Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 16, 2024:

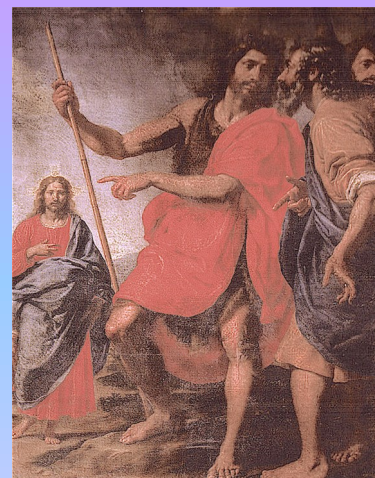
1 Samuel 16:1-13 + Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 17, 2024:1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51
+ Mark 3:1-6**Thursday, January 18, 2024:**

1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7 + Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 19, 2024:

1 Samuel 24:3-21 + Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, January 20, 2024:2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27
+ Mark 3:20-21**Sunday, January 21, 2024:**Jonah 3:105, 10
+ 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
+ Mark 1:14-20

A Day Set Apart: Sunday

What are your childhood memories of Sunday? Was it a day that began with worship? Was it a time set aside to spend with family and friends? Were there special meals or other family rituals?

Sunday, for my family, meant going to Mass first thing in the morning. Since my hometown was largely populated by Italians, Sunday was the day we ate pasta.

I can still smell the aroma of homemade tomato sauce that filled our house. In the afternoon, we would sit on the front porch, go for a ride to visit relatives, or visit the graves of our loved ones at the cemetery. Then we would stop at a fast-food restaurant or go for an ice cream. It was a special day, sacred in fact, because we did things on Sunday we didn't normally do during the rest of the week.

Whatever your childhood memories of Sunday, chances are that your current experience is different. Times have changed. Now many people use Sundays to catch up on the work that didn't get done the rest of the week. Sundays have become filled with scheduled school and sports activities, leaving little time to observe the special nature of Sunday as directed in the book of Deuteronomy:

Observe the sabbath—keep it holy, as the Lord, your God, commanded you. Six days you may labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God. You shall not do any work. (Deuteronomy 5:12–13)

The Sabbath is a day to praise God for God's goodness and to make the day holy as God did in creating the Sabbath. As Genesis



Sunday frees the faithful to fulfill the command “to love one another” in ways that may have been passed up during the week.

2:3 states, “God blessed the seventh day, and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.”

Scholars of the Talmud say the Sabbath was created not because God needed rest, but in order to make rest holy, to demand rest of humankind so that by regularly resting in God they could become new people. Believers are encouraged to keep the day by setting aside weekly routines, relaxing, and partaking in only those things that refresh our spirits. Work, after all, will never be complete.

Sunday does not just serve our renewal. Sunday frees us to fulfill the Lord's command to “love one another” in ways often passed up during a busy week. Our very celebration of the Sunday Eucharist calls us to this service. As Pope John Paul II notes in his apostolic letter *Dies Domini*, 69, the Sunday Eucharist commits the faithful even more “to all the works of charity, of mercy, of apostolic outreach.”



SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS

A person wishing to volunteer in any parish or organization in the Diocese of Rockville Centre must first complete three requirements:

1. Attend Protecting God's Children (Virtus)
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screening application.

(Background screening is conducted on all volunteers and employees every 5 years.)

Directions to Complete the 3 Requirements:

1. Sign up to attend a Protecting God's Children class: www.Virtus.org

When you log on to the Virtus website, you will create a Virtus account.

- a. If you have not attended a Virtus class, you are a first time registrant.
- b. The first screen will ask the name of your organization-from the drop down list select **Rockville Centre-Safe Environment**.
- c. Follow all directions on the next screens.
- d. One screen will have the **Codes of Conduct**. Please acknowledge the Codes of Conduct.
- e. Continue with the registration process and select the class you will attend.
- f. After selecting the class, you will be instructed to complete the background screening application.

2. Background Screening Application:

- a. Sterling Volunteers is the company providing the background screening.
- b. Follow all the directions to complete the background screening application. **DO NOT STOP ONCE YOU BEGIN THE APPLICATION!** If you stop-you are locked out of the process due to security procedures.
- c. You will need to provide your Social Security #; if you do not provide a Social Security # you will be charged a fee.
- d. After completing the application, hit the 'Submit Button'

Congratulations! You have now:

Registered to attend a Virtus class ~ signed the Codes of Conduct ~
Completed the Background Screening.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Pro-lifers are invited to help restore the right to life for preborn children by joining the *Long Island Coalition for Life* for the Roe v. Wade Anniversary Memorial Face the Truth pro-life event on **Sunday, January 21, 2024**, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This peaceful public outreach will be held on the sidewalk in front of Nassau University Medical Center (NuHealth, 2201 Hempstead Tpke., E. Meadow). Be a positive sign for LIFE! Signs provided. Rain or shine. Sponsored by: LICL 631-243-1435, info@prolifeLI.org.

Tune into **"Religion and Rock"** with **Msgr. Jim Vlaun** on Sunday from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m. on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel* and at 11:00 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117. **Next Sunday's theme is Unity**, don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding *Religion and Rock* go to www.ReligionandRock.com or at *"Religion & Rock"* on *ITUNES*. Don't forget to tune into **CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK**, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit www.cfntv.org !

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www.JoAnnCillaRealEstate.com

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