

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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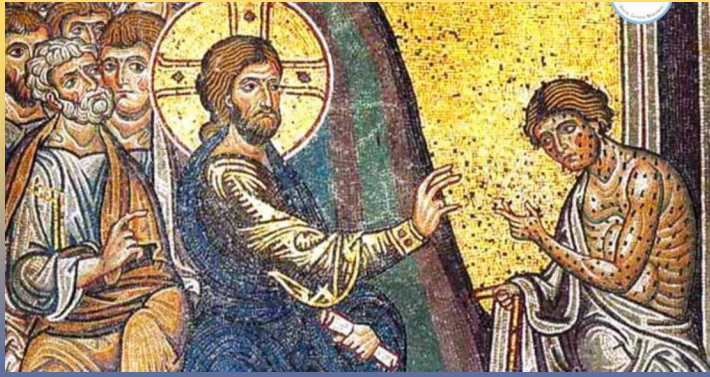
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*Moved with pity,  
Jesus stretched out his hand,  
touched the leper, and said to him,  
“I do will it. Be made clean.”*

Mark 1:41

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**February 11, 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.

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to download  
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# THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of February 11, 2024

## WATCH



### Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

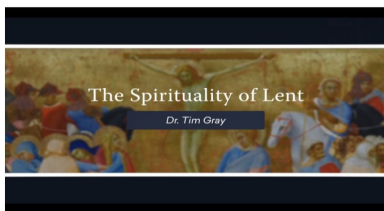
## LEARN



### The Story of Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 1

Where did death come from? What does death mean for the human person? Is it simply just part of life, or is it something else? In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.

## LISTEN



### The Spirituality of Lent

Looking to take Lent more seriously this year? Join Tim Gray for ideas for a Lenten spirituality.

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



## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Ash Wednesday—Lent 2024 begins!*

We're getting ready to launch another Lent! This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Take a look at our schedule of liturgies for Ash Wednesday and be sure to attend one of them. Read through our special insert in this bulletin about the meaning and significance of Ash Wednesday, and spend some time reflecting on and praying about the power of the day. Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence, so try to observe the laws of the Church concerning fast and abstinence in order to mark the holiness of the day; in fact, pay attention to the rules about fasting on all the Fridays throughout Lent. (*Sorry to all you marrieds and sweethearts out there...you'll have to find another day to celebrate Valentine's Day this year!*) Most importantly, take the time to ponder how you will make the most of this Lent, and make it a special time of grace and renewal. As I frequently say, holiness and growing in grace do not just happen on their own, automatically, simply because we wish them to happen; it takes decision-making and concrete action in cooperating with God's grace.

Here's one final thought concerning Lent which I talk about frequently. Many times we think about giving up something for Lent, although I, and many people, prefer to take on an additional spiritual practice rather than just give something up. What about doing penance this Lent by **ADDING SILENCE** to your life every day, and being still and listening to God? This might include giving something up — putting the phone down, or fasting from social media, or giving up gaming. I think we would be amazed at what will happen if we are faithful to a Lenten discipline of silence. Try it!

### *While we're on the subject of silence...*

We'll try to cultivate a greater sense of silence during our Lenten liturgies this year, a practice we have done in the past. About five minutes before Mass is to begin, the Cantor will announce a call to silence, asking everyone to quiet down and sit in silence and in prayer for the remaining minutes before Mass begins. This simple practice can greatly enhance our celebration of the Eucharist, and I hope, will also have rippling beneficial spiritual effects in our entire life. Please join with everyone in sitting in prayerful silence in the few minutes before Mass begins. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### *Please do not park in the bank parking lot on Ash Wednesday*

Please remember that Ash Wednesday is a regular business day, so please do not park in the

bank parking lot on the north side of the church during business hours when you come here on Ash Wednesday. We need to be a good neighbor and respect the need for the bank to have parking available for its customers. Your cooperation with this is appreciated. What a great way to begin a season of Lenten charity...by being concerned about the needs of our neighbor!

### *LIVING THE EUCHARIST begins this week*

Our special program of LIVING THE EUCHARIST begins this week, on Tuesday night. This special program of faith formation, which is centered on the connection between our participation in Sunday Eucharist and our daily life, has met with great success in prior years, and we're very happy to be offering it again. Let's keep in our prayers all who are participating in this program, and let's pray that it will continue to bear great spiritual fruit and new life in our parish.

### *Go to Confession during Lent—don't wait until the last minute!*

Don't forget to make plans to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) during Lent. Why not schedule it as an actual appointment in your calendar? Our Confession times during Lent are listed in the bulletin in a special ad, and will be throughout all of Lent. Don't wait until the last minute and find that you can't get to Confession! There are plenty of times available. Individual appointments can be made with one of us priests, also.

Also, don't forget that we will once again have an extended period of Confessions on Monday of Holy Week, this year on March 25 (as will every other Catholic parish) — that would be a great day to go! The hours for this will be 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:00-9:00 p.m.

One way or another, make your plans NOW as to when you will go to Confession during Lent.

### *Stations of the Cross during Lent*

Also take note in our bulletin of the times for Stations of the Cross throughout Lent. I love the idea that here at OLPH various groups in the parish take responsibility for leading a service. That's another example of what it means to be a parish family, and of what makes OLPH "the place to be." I thank all the groups and group leaders who have stepped up to the plate to take a turn. Do make sure you make it a point to attend the Stations of the Cross during Lent if it is at all possible.

Also, we're once again praying the special Easter Time devotion, the *Via Lucis*, the Stations of



the Resurrection. These will be prayed on Friday within the Octave of Easter (“Easter Friday”), April 5.

### ***Parish Lenten Mission***

Here’s yet another opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal during Lent: our PARISH LENTEN MISSION! See the ad in this bulletin for full details, and set the time aside now so you can be sure to be there for all three nights (March 3, 4, 5), I hope, or for as many of those nights as you can. A Parish Lenten Mission is a very powerful way to do a kind of retreat during Lent, so give yourself the gift of being part of it. Our presenter, Msgr. Jerry Ringenback, was the Spiritual Director at the seminary when I was a seminarian studying for the priesthood, so we go way back and I know him well. I am thrilled that he is coming to do this for us, and I know he will have many wonderful and enriching insights to share with us. (*I just hope he doesn’t tell any stories about me!*)

### ***A great Lenten resolution: Don’t leave Mass early***

I’d like to take a moment to discuss the topic of leaving Mass early. We should be staying in the pew and not leaving until Mass is fully over, which is when the singing of the Closing Song is finished. Please do not get right out of your pew as soon as the priest passes your row, as though you are on his heels following him out!

Now, of course there may be the occasional time when there is a legitimate need to leave Mass early, perhaps even as early as immediately after Communion, the most obvious examples of legitimate reasons being because of illness or some serious personal problem which suddenly arises. So, if we see someone leaving Mass early, we should never be judgmental toward them; there may be a good reason.

However, I would be so bold as to say that the majority of the time there probably is not a good reason to leave Mass early, especially considering the frequency and regularity with which some people leave early, again, for example, leaving right after receiving Holy Communion, or leaving immediately after the final blessing. We all need to examine our behavior and challenge ourselves to do better if we are the ones leaving Mass early. Isn’t it disrespectful to God and to everyone else there to leave early? Doesn’t it convey the message, “Well, I got what I want (*e.g.*, Communion), so now I can leave?” Don’t we all have the responsibility to each other for our common worship together to all stay until Mass has completely ended? I have heard of some churches that have a sign posted at the exit, “Judas left early, too.” While I think this is perhaps a little harsh and,

as I said, a little judgmental toward those who might have a legitimate reason, it does kind of starkly challenge us to make sure we do indeed have a legitimate reason. Personally, I don’t think “because I have somewhere else to go” or “I don’t want to be part of the traffic” are good enough reasons. Mass is not just some ordinary activity we do like we do everything else. We all need to take to heart that the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is the most important thing we do, and it should be the center of our week and the center of our life. So, does our behavior at Mass, including our attitude about when and the way we exit, really convey that centrality?

I ask everyone to pray over and reflect on these thoughts.

### ***Men’s Retreat***

Men of the parish: take note of the day of retreat being sponsored by our Knights of Columbus Council on Saturday, February 24; details are elsewhere in this bulletin. I urge all men of the parish to take advantage of this spiritual activity as part of your Lenten journey. It will be a very fulfilling and enriching day! I have the honor of being a presenter for a part of the day.

### ***Order of Christian Initiation of Adults***

Finally, take note in the bulletin each week of the news and updates concerning the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. We have four who will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil this year — Helen, Diego, Ailen and Ameira. Their final stage of preparation and formation coincides with the Lenten season, and there are powerful rituals associated with this period. Stay informed of their progress by reading about them in the bulletin, and, most importantly, be sure to pray for them in their final weeks leading up to their becoming initiated into the Church.

### ***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,





## ASH WEDNESDAY

### *THE MEANING OF ASHES*

Lent begins with our being marked with ashes, reminding us of fundamental truths about ourselves. The dust of the ashes reminds us that death is inevitable for each of us. The ashes speak of repentance and of our need to convert our lives. The words at the imposition of ashes call us to repent and to believe in the Gospel. The ashes speak of a fire that has grown cold, a fire that needs to be rekindled within us by the time we gather around the new fire at the Easter Vigil. We seek to rise from the ashes of our sinfulness to a fuller life with Christ.

But before we can embrace the new life of the resurrection, we must embrace the cross. Before coming to the font of life-giving water, we must travel the desert. To embrace new life, we must be willing to embrace death. To become our true selves, we must leave the false selves behind which we have been hiding. Though it sounds negative, the dying to self to which we are called is the only way to fullness of life, and thus it is a profoundly positive step in our spiritual life, a step that begins with being signed with ashes.

### *COMMUNAL MEANING OF ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT*

We make our Lenten journey through the desert in the company of the catechumens preparing for the initiation sacraments at Easter. This is the origin of Lent.

What we have come to call Lent developed in the fourth century, when three intersecting movements coalesced. The first was a paschal fast that gradually developed from two days into a forty-day observance. The second was the pattern of initiation that gradually developed into a full catechumenate with an intense period of spiritual formation leading to the sacraments at Easter. The third was the order of penitents, which sought a second conversion for those who sinned seriously after baptism. Modeled on the catechumenate, this process of the order of penitents culminated with reconciliation just before Easter.

Thus the forty-day fast was understood as the final stage of preparation for those called to

baptism and also as a time for reconversion for the already-baptized. As the whole community accompanied the elect and the penitents through this season, it came to be seen as a time for baptismal renewal for all the members of the church.

In subsequent centuries, however, both the catechumenate and the order of penitents gradually disintegrated. Lent was still seen as a penitential season, but the emphasis was on individual works of self-denial and on personal identification with the passion and cross of Christ. Lent was still a preparation for Easter, but the baptismal focus was largely lost, and the communal nature of conversion was ignored. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving were held up as Lenten activities, but they became private rather than corporate. The liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council called for a recovery of the ancient tradition of a communal understanding of Lent.

We are to journey through Lent together, then, as though we were all catechumens. We are to listen to the readings and pray the prayers as though we were approaching the waters of life for the first time. We seek to understand and thus to enter into the experience of the elect, those called to enter into the paschal mystery of Christ Jesus through the waters of the font. Thus we all prepare together to come to the water again, to be more deeply converted to Christ and to renew our baptismal promises with conviction.

### *DON'T JUST "RECEIVE" ASHES*

As a parish, we wish to highlight that ashes are never just *received*, but rather that being branded with ashes is a sign of a **commitment** we make. The ashes are a sign that together we are all enrolled in the "order of penitents" and that we are committing ourselves to cooperate with God in **changing our life**. Ashes should not be passively received, but **actively accepted as a challenge** — a challenge to die and to rise with Christ, a challenge to embark on the Lenten journey with ones' brothers and sisters, a challenge to seriously undertake the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

## LENT: ITS MEANING, STRUCTURE, AND OUR CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

### THE MEANING OF LENT

We're going on retreat! True, we may not physically be traveling to a far-off place, but we are nonetheless going on retreat. The solemn season of Lent may be seen as a time of retreat for the entire Church, as we prepare to celebrate Easter and the new life which comes to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. In fact, three focal points can form the basis for our Lenten spiritual journey:



- focusing on the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection;
- final preparation of those in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- rediscovery of and recommitment to Baptism by those already baptized, through their penance, spiritual renewal, and ongoing conversion.

### The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II explains:

The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent — the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance — should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer. More use is to be made of the baptismal features which are proper to the Lenten liturgy...The same may be said of the penitential elements. But catechesis, as well as pointing out the social consequences of sin, must impress on the minds of the faithful the distinctive character of penance as a detestation of sin because it is an offense against God. The role of the Church in penitential practices is not to be passed over, and the need to pray for sinners should be emphasized. During Lent, penance should be not only internal and individual but also external and social.

### THE STRUCTURE OF LENT

Most people know that Lent is 40 days long, but they think that the 40 days are the six weeks plus the four days of the week of Ash Wednesday (which totals 46 days) minus six Sundays, which equals 40 days. But Lent does not end on Holy Saturday; it ends on Holy Thursday evening. The Triduum, or Three Days, beginning with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concluding with evening Vespers on Easter Sunday, is a three-day season unto itself, and not merely the final three days of Lent. The span of days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday is 44 days, but the ancient fathers of the Church calculated 40 days by beginning the count with the First Sunday of Lent, and continuing until Holy Thursday. This practice has been kept to the present time, hence the 40 days of Lent.

At least four phases of the season can be discerned:

1. *Ash Wednesday and the next three days:* These four days form a solemn preview of the season; the Scriptures and Mass prayers announce the major aspects of the observance and call us to enter into the season. The First Sunday of Lent begins the period of 40 days, with the Rite of Election for the catechumens being one expression of this.

2. *The 28 days from the First Sunday until the Saturday of the Fourth Week:* Scripture readings and penitential rites provide the structure for these days. Penance services and the first two Scrutinies for the elect on the Third and Fourth Sundays are all a part of this time. One feast day, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle (February 22) breaks this violet period in 2024. The Fourth or *Laetare* Sunday (March 10) brings its own nuances, and rose-colored vestments may be worn that day.

3. *From the Fifth Sunday and following:* Attention becomes focused on the Passion of Christ during this period of Lenten time. The Third Scrutiny for the elect is celebrated on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The festivity of one feast day, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on March 19, interrupts the Lenten starkness and simplicity during this period.

4. *The last days, called Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:* These days are given the highest liturgical precedence so the Church will not be distracted from final preparations for the Triduum. Focus on the Passion of Christ becomes intensified.

Remembering that Lent is primarily about baptismal preparation and conversion, let us be aware of the structure and movement of this season as we journey toward Easter.

## CHURCH ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER RITUAL ELEMENTS DURING LENT

Our church environment will look different during the Lenten season. The environment in which we worship helps us to enter into a Lenten spirituality — what we see (and don't see) and smell and hear is all a part of the way we pray. Here are some things you will notice during Lent:

**THE ASHES USED ON ASH WEDNESDAY WILL BE ON DISPLAY ALL DURING LENT**, in the Divine Mercy Chapel area. This will be an ongoing reminder of the spiritual journey of Lent, a journey of dying and rising, a journey of changing our lives to be closer to Christ. The ashes come from burned palms saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday.





**THERE WILL BE NO FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH.** The Roman Rite is specific about flowers for this penitential season: they are not allowed! The only exceptions this year are the feasts mentioned above and “*Laetare*” Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

**OUR BAPTISMAL FONT WILL HAVE A “LENTEN LOOK” TO IT.** Our baptismal font will be decorated with purple bands, as a reminder that these forty days of penance and conversion lead to a renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. We are thirsting for the new Easter water which will flow at the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection!

**MUSIC WILL BE MUCH SIMPLER DURING LENT.** For example, the organ will be used only to accompany singing, which means there will not be any prelude or postlude instrumental music, except on *Laetare* Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), when the liturgy has a more joyful tone. In a sense, then, you could say that we are fasting with our music. Don’t worry, though; we’ll make up for it in the exuberance and joy of Easter Time!

**ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, WE WILL KEEP THE CHURCH’S ANCIENT TRADITION OF SINGING THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN PILGRIMAGE.** We invoke the names of the saints who accompany us on our journey to Jerusalem.

**ON THE OTHER SUNDAYS OF LENT THE ENTRANCE CHANT WILL EXPRESS THE SERIOUSNESS OF LENT.** The words and tune of what we sing during the Entrance Procession will express well for us the Lenten call to conversion and the seriousness of the season.

**FOR THE PENITENTIAL ACT AT ALL SUNDAY MASSES DURING LENT WE WILL RECITE THE *CONFITEOR* (THE “I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD...”)** AND THEN SING THE *KYRIE ELEISON* (“LORD, HAVE MERCY”). This will highlight for us the penitential nature of the season and help us to more intently “acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.” It also gives us the chance to use the *Confiteor* (“I confess to almighty God...”) which is not often heard at Sunday Masses.

**WE WON’T BE HEARING “ALLELUIA!”** Instead of singing “Alleluia” before the Gospel, we sing a different acclamation in its place. Also, we won’t sing the word “alleluia” in any of our hymns. We look forward to Easter Time when we celebrate the newness of life and will again sing the “alleluia” with new joy and praise.



**WE WILL USE THE APOSTLES' CREED INSTEAD OF THE NICENE CREED.** The *Roman Missal* tells us, "Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used." So, to highlight the sacredness of the season, we will use the Apostles' Creed instead of the Nicene Creed, the one we usually use, for all of Lent and Easter Time. This will highlight for us the baptismal character of both the Lenten and Easter seasons.

**THERE WILL BE NO SINGING OR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS DURING LENT.** This will help create a mood of prayerful quiet and reflection appropriate to the season. The Priest may continue to pray the preparation prayers silently, or he may recite them out loud, giving the people the opportunity to respond, "Blessed be God forever." The exception to this will be *Laetare* Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), when the liturgy has a more joyful tone.

**SIMPLE CHANT TONES WILL BE USED FOR THE EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS.** The *Holy, Holy*, the *Mystery of Faith*, and the *Great Amen* will be sung to very simple chants, without accompaniment. Also, the *Lamb of God* chant will be sung using the Latin text ("*Agnus Dei...*").

**CROSSES AND IMAGES IN THE CHURCH WILL BE COVERED STARTING WITH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT.** This custom becomes yet another stark visual reminder of the seriousness of Lent and helps us to truly experience heavenly joy and resurrected life when the images of the saints, who are in heavenly glory, are seen once again come Easter.

There are other ritual aspects that go into the celebration of Lent:

- the omission of the *Glory to God in the highest* at the beginning of all Sunday Lenten Masses;
- traditional Lenten practices such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving;
- Lenten devotions such as Stations of the Cross, on Friday evenings;
- our *Living the Eucharist* program;
- our Lenten Parish Mission on March 3, 4 and 5.

As we journey through the days of Lenten springtime together, let us enter into its spirit by anticipating the new life which comes to us through Jesus' resurrection at Easter.



## SILENCE BEFORE MASS DURING LENT

### WE'RE HIGHLIGHTING THE LENTEN SEASON BY FOCUSING ON SILENCE BEFORE MASS BEGINS

*During the holy season of Lent, we're emphasizing that the time before Mass should be a time for silent prayer, when we prepare our hearts for an encounter with the Lord. Pope Francis once pointed out in one of his teachings, "When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us... [However,] ... "it is not meant for chitchat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus." He added, "Silence is so important." The Pope also spoke about how the Mass is not a show, but a place where we encounter the Lord. In this encounter, he said, silence is what "prepares us and accompanies us."*

*During Lent, the Cantor will call everyone to silence five minutes before Mass begins. Let's all give each other the gift of silence, being quiet together in those last moments before Mass begins to prepare ourselves for Mass. Out of respect for each other, let's give each other that special gift. Maybe we can cultivate that habit inside us, and it will continue even after Lent! Thank you for your cooperation.*

### ABSTINENCE AND FASTING — ASH WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS OF LENT

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstinence.

## MEETING FOR ALL ALTAR SERVERS

All Altar Servers are required to attend an important meeting on **Monday, February 26 at 4:15 p.m. in the church.** Among other items, we will discuss assignments for Holy Week, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and First Communion and Confirmation. All servers are expected to attend. **You are expected to attend even if you will be away for Easter; other things will be discussed besides Easter.** If you absolutely cannot be there, you must contact Msgr. Joe as soon as possible. Thank you.



## PRAYER AND WORSHIP



## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14

6:30 a.m.— Mass

12:15 p.m.—Mass

*(Note: No Exposition following Mass)*

3:00 p.m.—Word Service

4:30 p.m.—Word Service

6:00 p.m.—Word Service

7:30 p.m. — Word Service

*Ashes will be distributed only during, and not outside of, these times.*

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays

February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22

at 7:30 p.m. in the church

March 29 at 12:00 Noon



We are continuing the custom of having different groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross on the Friday nights during Lent as a great way to highlight the traditional Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

**Friday, February 16 will be led by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.**

*And also, save the date... Friday, April 5—Stations of the Resurrection!*



## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16

4:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Saturday March 23: 3:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Monday of Holy Week, March 25:

2:00—4:00 p.m. and 6:00—9:00 p.m.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION



### *Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of the Lord*

This season of Lent, as we prepare for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering an uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of Easter. **Beginning on Sunday, February 18 and continuing every Sunday through March 17**, we will offer parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist. We will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each Sunday in the north sacristy of the church. Each session will feature a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by a member of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Handouts of the psalms will be provided. Come join us in breaking open the Word of the Lord.

### **LITTLE BLACK BOOKS FOR LENT ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

Please take home a *Little Black Book*, new for 2024, which contains daily reflections for the Lenten season. This book provides the opportunity for prayerful sacred reading for every day of Lent. Books are available throughout the church on the pew ledges. Let God speak to you during this special and holy time of the liturgical year by taking a few minutes for quiet reflection using the *Little Black Book*. They are provided free of charge for your spiritual enrichment, but if you would like to put an extra three (3) dollars into the collection basket to help cover the cost of your book, it would be appreciated. Thank you!

The Little Black Book  
Lent 2024

Six-minute meditations on the  
Passion according to Luke

### **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN BANK PARKING LOT ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

We ask that you kindly not park in the bank parking lot on the north side of the church on Ash Wednesday. Remember that Wednesday is a normal business day for the bank, and the bank lot is not our property. Let's be a good neighbor! Please do not park in their lot on Ash Wednesday. Thank you.



## 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.



**PARISH LENTEN MISSION**

# Parish Lenten Mission

## “Homecoming”

**Sunday, March 3—Coming Home to Oneself**

*(How we see ourselves before God—our successes and failures)*

**Monday, March 4—Coming Home to God**

*(When and where we experience God’s presence and absence)*

**Tuesday, March 5—Coming Home to the Church**

*(Reflection on the current issues facing the Church and how we might respond)*

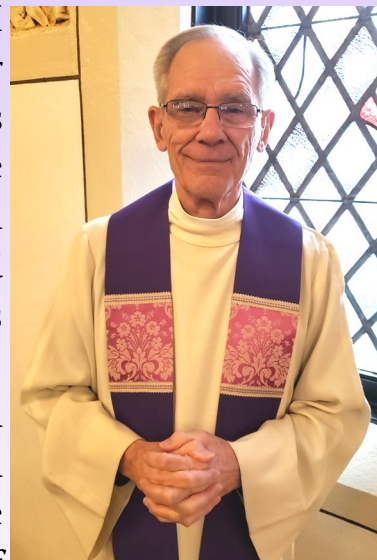
**7:30 p.m. in the church**

We need to come home to that place in our heart where God dwells, and where we are loved by God and others. This Parish Lenten Mission will take us on a journey—a Homecoming—which will bring us closer to ourselves, our God and our Church.

**Given by Msgr. Jerry Ringenback**

*Retired pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, Holbrook*

Fr. Jerry has also served as a spiritual director at both St. Pius X Preparatory Seminary and Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Huntington. After ministering in several parishes as an associate pastor, he became pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Islip Terrace, then pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Levittown and most recently as pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Holbrook. Fr. Jerry has also served on many various diocesan committees and is currently Spiritual Advisor for St. Vincent de Paul Society headquartered in Bethpage. Although retired from full-time ministry, Fr. Jerry presently assists on weekends at St. Anthony Church in Rocky Point and from time to time offers various workshops and programs on the theme of Catholic spirituality. He resides in a private residence on the North Fork. He looks forward to offering the upcoming Lenten Mission to the people of OLPH and providing spiritual impetus for the season of Lent—a time of great renewal.





## 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.

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Next Sunday, February 18, the First Sunday of Lent, our brother **Diego Pettinato** and our sisters **Helen Pettinato**, **Ailen Pettinato** and **Ameira Shehata**, who are in formation to become Catholic through the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, will enter a new stage in their journey. Just as Lent is a time for all Catholics for intense renewal, conversion, and purification, the same is true for those preparing to become Catholic at Easter. These catechumens (those who are unbaptized), having completed the long period of their catechumenate, will be accepted into a more intense preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. This third step is called the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. They will no longer be called catechumens, but will be referred to as the elect; their names will be enrolled in a special Book of the Elect, signifying them as people who have been chosen for initiation this Easter. This ceremony is called the Rite of Election and it is celebrated at the diocesan level with the Bishop of the diocese. Our diocese will celebrate the Rite of Election for the catechumens next Sunday, on the First Sunday of Lent, February 18, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, with Bishop John O. Barres presiding. Also next week, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass here at OLPH, we will call forward our catechumens by name, pray for them, and formally send them forth to be recognized by the Bishop. Please feel free to join us at this important communal celebration, and to pray for **Diego**, **Helen**, **Ailen** and **Ameira** as they prepare for this next step in their faith journey.

## 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.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

# Taizé Prayer Around the Cross

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m. in church**



*Join us for a candlelight prayer service to help us reflect on the mystery of the Cross and the glory of Christ's resurrection. Consider setting aside 45 minutes to join in this beautiful and contemplative form of prayer.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Our Annual Spring Concert Returns  
May 10th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

We are in need of empty baskets as well as items to be raffled off or even completed baskets with raffle prizes. We are looking for baskets to be worth at least \$50. Items must be brand new. Gift cards of any amount and scratch off lottery tickets are also most welcome. If you have an extra bottle of wine laying around the house, we'll take that too. Items can be brought to the rectory anytime before Sunday, May 5.

Thank you for your support of our Ministry





**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**

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

**LEVELS 6, 7 and 8:**

Remember that there are no classes this Wednesday, February 14, because it is Ash Wednesday. Remember to go to Mass or one of the Word Services and receive ashes, as we begin the Lenten Season together as Church.

**LEVEL 5:**

Remember that there is a Parent/Student Workshop on the topic of Lent, this Saturday, February 17. Parents and students will report to the auditorium during their normal class times.

**Scripture of the Day**

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell — and great was its fall!”

—Matthew 7:26-27

**Saint of the Day!****St. Alphonsus Liguori**

St. Alphonsus is a Doctor of the Church, which is a special title given to people who played a major role in the teachings of the Church. He originally went to school for law and became a lawyer at the age of nineteen. He decided that he didn't agree with the morals that were being practiced in that life, and so he left. He felt in his heart that Jesus was saying to him, “Leave the world, and give yourself to me.” His family didn't approve of this path for him so when he finally became a priest he joined a special mission that allowed him to live at home. He wrote a lot on morality, and his teachings are still relevant today to the Church.



# 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

## **NEW Food Pantry List!**

**PEANUT BUTTER  
 JELLY OR JAM  
 REGULAR COFFEE  
 HOT CHOCOLATE  
 SHELF STABLE WHOLE MILK  
 HOT & COLD CEREAL  
 SMALL PACKAGES OF RICE  
 PASTA SAUCE  
 CANNED POTATOES  
 BAKED BEANS**

Thank you  
 for your continued generosity.

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

## **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, moved with pity, touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our gifts to help those who are suffering.

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor, hungry and weeping.

## **THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

### **† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM**

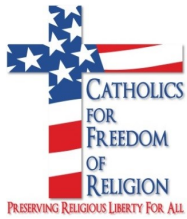
*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul* has an expansion of our Memorial Card program. In addition to updated *Living Memorial* cards, we offer *Special Occasion* cards. These are a great way to commemorate a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, get well, thank you, holiday, etc.) while supporting SVDP's 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

#### Thinking about First Amendment Religious Liberty after the January 16 USCCB's Annual Report on the State of Religious Liberty in the United States

In response to the United States Bishops' concerns about religious liberty in our nation, Catholics can support their efforts and follow the God-given charism to the laity of taking our faith into the public square by learning the facts and rights of our Constitutional freedoms of conscience and religion.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is direct and definitive: *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

The concerns of the Bishops and millions of Americans originate in a culture which now marginalizes faith and religion, shows growing contempt and intolerance for people of faith, tolerates unsolved crimes of vandalism on hundreds of churches and pregnancy centers and has not stood up as one people to condemn the FBI's investigation of Catholics attending the Traditional Latin Mass. Most Americans are unaware that this administration has proposed a Health and Human Services regulation which the Bishops reported would force doctors to perform transgender surgeries and may also include a mandate to perform abortions.

An added concern reported since the Bishops' report of January 16 is that the House Judiciary Committee revealed documents in which FinCEN (the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Unit) asked financial institutions to track customer's transactions for the purchase of religious texts, including the Bible, as well as guns, travel tickets, purchases at Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, etc. FinCEN said those purchases could be "extremist indicators."

Read here: <http://tinyurl.com/5dwccjn9> <http://tinyurl.com/4b3ku763> <http://tinyurl.com/3yfvcs8b>

## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



Long Island Coalition for Life

### *Creating Dialogue on Abortion to Reach Hearts and Minds*

Learn to create a productive abortion conversation with anyone. **March 9:** Sons of Italy Hall (2075 Deer Pk Ave, Deer Park, NY 11729) Part I: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Check in at 8:45 a.m.) Part II: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Check in at 12:45 p.m.)

*Note:* Each part includes different content. You may attend one or the other, or attend both for the best experience. Lunch is provided free for any participant, but please register if planning to eat. For more information contact the special LICL

link below. Cost: no entrance fee but a donation of \$10 or any amount at the event will help defray costs and support LICL. Learn More and Register: [www.jfaweb.org/2024/03-09-ny](http://www.jfaweb.org/2024/03-09-ny) Sponsored by Long Island Coalition for Life 631-243-1435 • [info@prolifeLI.org](mailto:info@prolifeLI.org)

## DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**St. Agnes of Assisi – The Secular Franciscan Order:** Would you like to give more time to God, but wonder how to do that when your life is so busy? Do you long for holiness, and feel a need for support in growing spiritually? Perhaps your heart has been moved by stories of St. Francis of Assisi, or the Peace Prayer attributed to him, and you are seeking that same holy simplicity, true peace and perfect joy? If so, Christ may be calling you to explore the Secular Franciscan life. We invite you to join our monthly meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip at 2:00 pm. Please e-mail any questions or comments to Jackie Totino [jtotino02@gmail.com](mailto:jtotino02@gmail.com).



# Men's Retreat

## Saturday, February 24th

Sponsored by Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Knights of Columbus Council #794

185 North Broadway

Lindenhurst

FEE: \$20

### PROGRAM:

12:30 p.m.: Registration and Lunch

1:30 p.m.: **SILVER ROSE PRAYER SERVICE**

includes story of Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe

recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Scripture readings

2:30 p.m.: **SAINT JOSEPH PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM**

includes Catechesis of St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis

recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Litany of Saint Joseph

Scripture readings

3:15 p.m.: Presentation by Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

“My Sacrifice and Yours: Participating in Offering the Sacrifice of the Mass”

4:15 p.m.: Sacrament of Reconciliation in OLPH Church (optional)

5:00 p.m.: Mass (optional)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application and check payable “*OLPH K of C #794*”

To: **STEPHEN STRIGARO**

131 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

or call 631-747-4929

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

### **First Announcement:**

***Thomas Bailey & Maria Pizzo***

## **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.

## **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.

## **WE REMEMBER**

*We remember those who have died in our parish.*

***Antonio Fiume***

***Baby Liam Michael Bentley***

***Liberta Joan Innamorato***

***Charles Thomas DiPalma***

***MaryAnn Lutgens***

*“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>Sheila Cormier</i>	<i>Tom Ferris</i>
<i>Susan Wilson</i>	<i>Bill Stysiack</i>
<i>Theresa Rowe</i>	<i>Christine Ajello-Larsen</i>
<i>John Leyden</i>	<i>Michael Murphy</i>
<i>Robin Kaufman</i>	<i>Genevieve Popiel</i>
<i>Laurell Desner</i>	<i>Little Joanie Giarratano</i>
<i>Marge Sheehan</i>	<i>James Gridley</i>
<i>Lisa Byme</i>	<i>Erin Kelly</i>
<i>Christopher Santiago</i>	<i>Catherine Wharry</i>
<i>Tyler Qualls</i>	<i>Mary Doran</i>
<i>Raffaella Laurice</i>	<i>Thomas Gilroy</i>
<i>Lina Avila</i>	<i>John Jordan</i>
<i>Evelyn Pulla</i>	<i>Marion Casey</i>
<i>Anthony Pokorney</i>	<i>Kevin McMullen</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.

**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](mailto:forubabe77@gmail.com).

## **MASS MEMORIALS**

A beautiful way to remember a loved one!  
Memorials used during the Masses Feb. 11—17:

**Bread & Wine**

*In Memory*

***Irene Canzoneri  
& Maria Pecoraro***

*Requested by*

***Elizabeth Pecoraro***

*Please contact the Parish Office at 631.226.7725  
for other options for memorials.*



**MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>MONDAY, February 12— Weekday</b>	
6:30	Agnes Wessely
12:15	Edward F. Kienle
<b>TUESDAY, February 13— Weekday</b>	
6:30	Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
12:15	All Living & Deceased devotees of the Holy Face of Jesus
<b>WEDNESDAY, February 14— Ash Wednesday</b>	
6:30	Joseph Sredniawski
12:15	Robert Von Barthelo
3:00	<i>(Word Service)</i>
4:30	<i>(Word Service)</i>
6:00	<i>(Word Service)</i>
7:30	<i>(Word Service)</i>
<b>THURSDAY, February 15— Thursday after Ash Wednesday</b>	
6:30	Laurie Lugo
12:15	Lucy Bennardo
<b>FRIDAY, February 16— Friday after Ash Wednesday</b>	
6:30	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton
12:15	Dorothea McCowan
<b>SATURDAY, February 17— Saturday after Ash Wednesday (The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order)</b>	
8:00	Adam Winston
<b>Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	
5:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
<b>Sunday, February 18— FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	
8:00	For the People of the Parish
10:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
12:00	Alberta Zero

**PARISH CALENDAR**

<b>Monday, February 12, 2024</b>		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24
5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room
<b>Tuesday, February 13, 2024</b>		
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Living the Eucharist	School
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Business Meeting	Room 21
7:15 p.m.	Adult Confirmation	St. Mark Room
<b>Wednesday, February 14, 2024</b>		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831 for information)	Off Campus
<b>Thursday, February 15, 2024</b>		
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
<b>Friday, February 16, 2024</b>		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
7:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
<b>Saturday, February 17, 2024</b>		
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Level 1-5 Classes	School
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
1:30 p.m.	Baptism	Church
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
<b>Sunday, February 18, 2024</b>		
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.

### Preparándonos para Liturgia Viva del Domingo 6° del Tiempo Ordinario - Ciclo B 11 de febrero del 2024

Todo lo que hagan, háganlo por la gloria de Dios.

Traten de ser amables con todos  
para provecho de los demás.

Tomen a Cristo como su modelo.

Que Jesucristo, el Señor, esté siempre con ustedes.

#### Primera Lectura (Levíticos 13,1-2. 44-46): Puros ante Dios

En el Antiguo Testamento, la gente estaba tan preocupada por su pureza exterior que, llevados por su celo, excluían de la comunidad cultural a personas con serias infecciones de la piel. --- Cristo insiste más bien en la pureza interior.

#### Segunda Lectura (1 Corintios 10,31; 11,1): No Ofendan a Nadie

Pablo insiste en que Cristo liberó a la gente de excesivas regulaciones de la Antigua Ley. Para los cristianos la caridad debería prevalecer donde algunos no comprenden todavía esta libertad.

#### Evangelio (Marcos 1,40-45): Jesús Tocó al Leproso y Lo Curó

Para Jesús, los leproso -y los pecadores- no son ya marginados, sino personas a quienes tenemos que amar y a quienes, por amor de Dios, tenemos que reintegrar a la comunidad.

#### Reflexión

El Evangelio nos presenta una vez más a uno de esos hombres que se acercó a Jesús para que le curase. Como los demás, reconoció en Cristo al Salvador. Pasó por su vida y creyó en él como en el único que podía remediar sus males. En esta ocasión se trata de un leproso. Para Jesús el caso no presentaba novedad. Lo que sí impresiona es que el leproso se expresa en unos términos inauditos: "Si quieres, puedes curarme". ¿Sería posible que Cristo no quisiese? Si así sucediera estaríamos perdidos. Fuera de Cristo, ¿dónde puede encontrarse la salud?

El leproso no se presentó con su petición con las torcidas intenciones de los fariseos. "Tú puedes curarme, porque todo te es posible. Si no me curas es porque no quieres. Si no quieres no eres bueno. Y si no eres bueno, ¿cómo haces milagros? Con el poder de los demonios..." Nada de esto sucede. Él conoce a Cristo, profundamente. Sabe lo que hay en su corazón. Por eso se arrodilla. Por eso dice "si quieres". Porque cree plenamente en que Cristo le ama. ¿Creemos nosotros esto? De nuestra confianza depende nuestra curación.

Por todas y cada una estas razones, la condición de leproso es un modelo de pecado y sus efectos. Es una nosología infecciosa, debilitante que corrompe a su víctima y la hace principalmente fallecida en vida;



14 de febrero. Miércoles de ceniza.  
Comienzo de cuaresma.  
Dia de ayuno y oración.

<b>OFFERING UPDATE February 3/4</b>			
Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	248	95	\$2,456.00
8:00 a.m.	175	89	3,102.00
10:00 a.m.	306	82	3,180.00
12:00 p.m.	380	88	2,754.00
<b>Total coin:</b>			
<b>Faith Direct</b>			3,394.50
<b>Children's Env.</b>		15	68.00
<b>Mail-ins:</b>			2,400.00
<b>Special Needs</b>	45	16	\$452.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>\$17,806.50</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>\$15,218.65</b>
<b>Candles</b>			<b>\$840.00</b>
<b>Poor Box</b>			<b>\$227.35</b>
<b>1st Saturday</b>			<b>\$238.00</b>

# OLPH Past Grand Knight Testimonial



Join us to celebrate the **5** years **Stephen Strigaro** served as our **54th Grand Knight!**

**DATE:** Saturday, April 20, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 - 11:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** The Moose Lodge - 883 S. Broadway  
**TICKETS:** \$70 pp for early bird until February 29, 2024  
 \$75 pp for March 1 - onward

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Catered by:



Master of Ceremony:  
Patrick Corcoran, GK



Stephen Strigaro, PGK  
54th Grand Knight



Honorary Chairman:  
Chaplain Monsignor  
Joseph DeGrocco

To reserve your tickets contact:  
 Carl Zoccali (631) 375-7372 or  
 Paul Litrenta (516) 319-2189

### 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](mailto:cbecker@oloph.org).  
 no later than the dates listed below.

*Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

February 18—deadline passed  
 February 25—February 16 deadline  
 March 3—February 23 Deadline

The *Catholic Faith Network* (CFN) will continue our immense **Telethon** tradition this year! This exciting event will commence on **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** from **2:00 p.m. and continue through Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** Guaranteed to be the most engaging telethon to date, the entertainment will continue with many surprise guests along with our on-air family that you have come to know. Please join the excitement and consider pledging! The process is easy, you can pledge securely online by visiting [www.CFNtv.org](http://www.CFNtv.org) or by scanning the QR Code below, using a smartphone or any smart device. We know we can continue to count on you, as we always have! CFN is available throughout the Tri-State Area on Optimum, channel 29/137; Verizon FiOS TV channel 296; Spectrum, channel 162/471. Additionally, you can tune in on streaming services - Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Roku, Android TV, and Apple TV.





## PREPARING FOR Sunday, February 18, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.* Mark 1:12-13

### Genesis 9:8-15

In the midst of widespread sin, God decided to wipe the earth clean with a great flood. Only Noah, his family, and the creatures he put into the ark were saved. In today's reading, we hear how after the flood had abated God made a covenant that restored the lost relationship with humankind. Not simply repeating the blessing he gave to the first man and woman, God expands it to include all descendants and every living creature, in short, with the whole earth, setting a rainbow in the heavens as a sign of it. How wonderful that, despite our failings, God constantly wants to renew his relationship with us!

### 1 Peter 3:18-22

This letter gives us a succinct summary of the meaning of Christ's suffering and Death. We hear how the righteous one suffered for the sake of the unrighteous "that he might lead you to God." This message would have struck a chord in the hearts of the early Christians who were being persecuted for their faith. We also hear how Baptism is the means by which believers enter into this mystery of Christ's suffering, Death, and Resurrection. Just as Noah was saved through the waters of the flood, water is the instrument of salvation in Baptism "which saves you now." This is a powerful reminder of our own baptism and a wonderful way to start Lent when the candidates who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil complete their own journey.

### Mark 1:12-15

This account of Jesus' time in the desert before beginning his public ministry is the shortest of all the accounts in the Gospels. Mark merely tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan without giving details. Throughout his ministry, Jesus will resist every temptation to turn aside from accomplishing his Father's will, including that from another "Satan" when Peter misguidedly urges him not to continue on to Jerusalem. But Jesus continues to proclaim the kingdom of God as one of repentance and belief. He calls us to a lifetime of conversion and enduring reliance on himself as the way to the joy of living in God's presence.

## Readings for the Week

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

### Monday, February 12, 2024:

James 1:1-11 + Mark 8: 11-13

### Tuesday, February 13, 2024:

James 1:12-18 + Mark 8:14-21

### Wednesday, February 14, 2024:

Joel 2:12-18 + 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2  
+ Mark 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday, February 15, 2024:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 + Luke 9:22-25

### Friday, February 16, 2024:

Isaiah 58:1-9a + Matthew 9:14-15

### Saturday, February 17, 2024:

Isaiah 58:9b-14 + Luke 5:27-32

### Sunday, February 18, 2024:

Genesis 9:8-15  
+ 1 Peter 3:18-22  
+ Mark 1:12-15

## 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. "He was among the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him." What are the "wild beasts" in your life? What angels minister to you? To whom do you yourself minister?
2. "The Spirit drove Jesus into the desert and he remained in the desert for forty days." Pope Francis calls the forty days of Lent an invitation to conversion. Do you need some kind of conversion? Is there something new within or around you waiting to be created?

*"With its invitations to conversion, Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to rouse us from torpor [sluggish inactivity]. ... Why must we return to God? Because something is not right in us, not right in society, in the Church, and we need to change, to give it a new direction. And this is called needing to convert! Once again Lent comes to make its prophetic appeal, to remind us that it is possible to create something new within ourselves and around us, simply because God is faithful, always faithful, for he cannot deny himself, he continues to be rich in goodness and mercy, and he is always ready to forgive and start afresh. With this filial confidence, let us set out on the journey."*

*Homily of Pope Francis,  
Basilica of Santa Sabina,  
Wednesday, March 5, 2014*

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