

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert
for forty days, tempted by Satan.*

Mark 1:12-13

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18, 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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Made with ❤️ by Diocesan

*New number
to download
the Parish App!*

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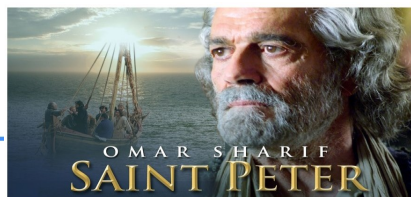
*The old number 88202
is no longer in effect!*



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of February 18, 2024

WATCH



Saint Peter

Watch the epic story of the spread of Christianity during the early years of the Church. This film follows the journey of St. Peter through his martyrdom on a cross.

LEARN



The Afterlife | Eternal Rest | Episode 2

What happens after the moment of our death? Once the soul has been separated from the body, then what? What is heaven, hell, and purgatory? This session looks at the truth about what awaits the human person on the other side of death.

LISTEN



Week One | Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

In the Week One video for the Restore Lent series, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, reflects on the theme of the week—the desert. She explains that Jesus is inviting you to move beyond your comfort zone and into the deepest places of your heart with him. It is Jesus who helps you root out the sin, sickness, and self-hatred in your life. Sr. Miriam assures us that we can look to him for comfort, love, and healing.

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

First Sunday of Lent

So, we have begun another Lent. Are you prepared to journey with Jesus through the desert for 40 days, struggling with temptation and sinfulness?

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is always one of the accounts of Jesus going into the desert and being tempted; this year we hear St. Mark's very stark version. As we are confronted with that Gospel and with undertaking the Lenten journey, the goal which we must keep ever before us is that of **conversion** — namely, letting go of our sinful and destructive ways and finding new life with Christ. Moving closer to this goal does not just happen on its own, though; we have to make conscious and deliberate choices so that we can make the most of this precious and grace-filled time in the desert with the Lord. For us, Lent is the perfect time to recommit ourselves to God by accepting in an ever-deepening way our true identity as sons and daughters of God, adopted through baptism into Christ Jesus. Yes, we face temptations, but those temptations are a normal part of the Christian life, and they should force us to focus on what is really important, namely, our rootedness in Christ and the grace to overcome temptation that comes to us when we turn to Christ.

As we begin this Lenten season, pay attention at Mass to see and hear how Lent is different than other times of the liturgical year. As we have been doing for a number of years now at OLPH, we have marked this First Sunday of Lent with an ancient custom of singing of the Litany of the Saints at the Entrance of the Mass. Notice, too, our stark worship environment in the church; this reminds us of the simplicity and seriousness we are called to during this season, and it creates a hunger for the blossoming of the new life we will experience at Easter. As always, the prayers of the Mass provide the central focus for us in our Lenten spirituality. I invite you to explore their spiritual depth and richness, and to use those prayers to ground your reflections during this first week of Lent.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass sets the agenda for us and very much gives us the sense that we are beginning something significant. We pray that *"through the yearly observances of holy Lent...we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects."* Notice how the emphasis is that our observance of Lent should have a concrete effect in our behavior — our conduct should be worthy of our life in Christ. Also, there are "hidden riches" to discover in the life of Christ — especially the "riches" of rising with him to new life in the Paschal Mystery.

The Prayer over the Offerings also acknowledges the beginning of Lent as *"we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time,"* and, like the Collect, the prayer also reminds us of a change that is supposed to

occur in us: *"Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings..."* We must always strive to present ourselves to the Lord with the acceptable sacrifice of a life that is good and holy and true.

The Prayer after Communion speaks of the nourishment that comes to us in the Eucharist by referencing the three traditional virtues of faith, hope and charity. Also, the prayer goes on to ask *"that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth."*

Finally, the Preface (the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer, before the *Holy, Holy*) echoes the Gospel as it makes reference to Jesus' fast of forty days in the desert and the temptations he faced. It reminds us that we, too, are to go into desert during Lent to confront our temptations and our sins, strengthened in that spiritual combat by our union with Christ.

And so begins another Lent!

Rite of Election

Today, the First Sunday of Lent, our catechumens, our OCIA Team and I all will be attending the Rite of Election at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, where four of our catechumens will be accepted by Bishop Barres to be initiated into the Church this coming Easter, and they will formally become the "elect." Read the full details in the OCIA blurb elsewhere in this bulletin, and be sure to pray for our "fab four" Helen, Diego, Ailen and Ameira.

Parish Lenten Mission

I'll remind you again to be sure to attend our very important 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), or for as many nights as possible. This will be a very beautiful and powerful experience that will richly enhance our Lenten journey. 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 thought-provoking insights to share with us.

Adult Faith Formation: The Responsorial Psalms of Lent

There's yet another opportunity we're offering for adult faith formation during Lent: our study of the Responsorial Psalms we pray at Sunday Mass during Lent. What a great opportunity to enrich our celebration of Sunday Mass! This program is presented in a very user-friendly format, taking only a half-hour on a Sunday morning in between the 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses (so, from about 11:15 to 11:45

a.m.), and taking place in the north sacristy in the church — what could be more convenient than that?! Look for the information about this elsewhere in this bulletin, and be sure to come to one or more of the sessions. I thank Deacon Robert for heading up and organizing this venture. Adult Faith Formation is a high priority here at OLPH, and we regularly and frequently offer courses for adult education in the faith. Take advantage of them!

Stations of the Cross

We kicked off our Friday night series of Lenten Stations of the Cross this past Friday, February 16, and Stations of the Cross will continue this coming Friday, February 23; look for the information elsewhere in this bulletin.

I am extremely grateful to all the parish groups and to all the parishioners who are offering their time and witness to lead the Stations on Friday nights, and I am proud of how everyone is working together. In addition to enriching your own spiritual observance of Lent, coming out on Friday nights to attend would show great solidarity and support to these fellow parishioners who are making this offering for YOU. Come to Stations together as a family each Friday night, making it an opportunity for family prayer time together!

Also, take note of the special Easter Time devotion we are again presenting this year, the *Via Lucis*, the Stations of the Resurrection. These will be prayed on the Friday within the Octave of Easter (“Easter Friday”), April 5.

When will you go to Confession during Lent? Don't wait until the last minute!

So, have you put your Confession Appointment in your calendar yet — you know, the time you have set aside when will you go to Confession during Lent?

Our Confession times during Lent will be listed in a special bulletin ad 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, especially from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Monday of Holy Week, March 25 — that would be the perfect day to go...maybe the best day, since all the priests will be available for all of those hours! Also, you can call or e-mail one of the priests and make a separate appointment to see him for Confession! (It's a good idea to always call ahead and not just drop in; that way you can ensure we are available.) We'll be happy to see you that way, too! What could be easier than that?

So, there's no excuse! Make your plan NOW to go to Confession, if you have not already done so; it's important enough to plan ahead for, right?

Silence before Mass during Lent

Remember that we are once again trying to cultivate a greater sense of silence during our Lenten liturgies, 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. Give yourself and others this gift of silent preparation so that you can more richly participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Five minutes before Mass begins: *Shhhhh!*

Men's Retreat—Last Call!

This is the last opportunity for the men of the parish to sign up for the special Men's Retreat being sponsored by our parish Knights of Columbus, and with one of the presentations being given by Yours Truly. It's this Saturday, February 24, and it's a great thing to do for Lent (*listening to me give a talk could be considered a real Lenten penance, with much suffering involved!*). Be sure to sign up.

Presidents' Day holiday

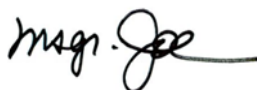
Finally, allow me to wish everyone a very happy and relaxing Presidents' Day holiday this Monday; it's nice to have a “three-day weekend” again, especially if you are able to actually take the day off from work. For many schools, this week is also the week of Winter Recess. So, may we use this day and/or this week for wholesome relaxation and renewal. Maybe we could even take a little extra time for prayer, or for Scripture reading — after all, it is Lent! If nothing else, since Lincoln's birthday and Washington's birthday are the Presidents' birthdays being commemorated, perhaps we could take some time to pray for our country and to renew in ourselves and our family a sense of patriotism. After all, the USA has been richly blessed; we must always use wisely the gifts of freedom and prosperity that God has bestowed on our nation. God bless America!

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,



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.

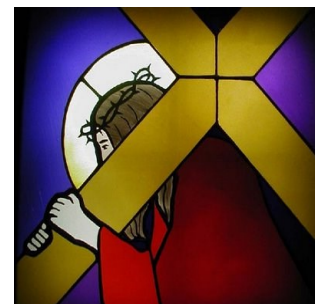


PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Stations of the Cross

Fridays

February 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 23 will be led by the Liturgy Committee.

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

L Turn away
E
N
T from sin

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: February 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.



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

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.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on 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 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 the 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 Communions 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.

REMINDER: CHILDREN'S BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE 10:00 a.m. MASS EACH WEEK

Remember that we have Children's Bulletins available at the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass each week! These special Children's Bulletins are handed out at the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass, or you can ask one of the Ushers for one. There are two bulletins for children, corresponding to two different age groups: one bulletin is for younger children, aged 3-6, and the other is for older children, aged 7-12. The idea is to take the bulletin home to reinforce the message of the Gospel. Ideally, after the child completes the bulletin, the family can talk about it together, as a way of bringing home the Gospel message and connecting our liturgical celebration in church with your family's faith life at home.

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

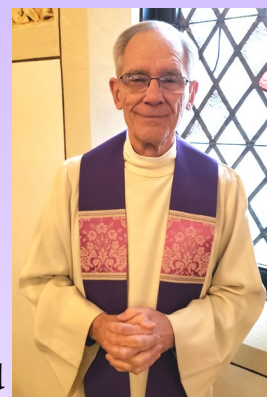
(Reflection on the current issues facing the Church and how we might respond)

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



Why Make the Mission?

The Lenten Season—a time when we get our spiritual life in shape and prepare for Easter by prayer, fasting and acts of charity. Giving up 3 evenings in March is certainly a Lenten sacrifice given the busyness of life.

The Mission Talks—the theme of homecoming is meant to bring us to a deeper appreciation of ourselves as holy people, draw us into a deeper relationship with the Lord as healer, and renew our relationship with the Church as human and divine.

A Moment of Grace—rarely is something we hear at a parish mission life-changing, but one insight, one awakening, one moment of grace can have an enduring impact on our lives.

The Presenter—Fr. Jerry Ringenback comes to us with many years of parish experience and retreat work as a priest of our diocese. He hopes to be an instrument of the Holy Spirit that will touch the hearts of the faithful.

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.

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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Congratulations to our sisters and brother **Ameira Shehata, Helen Pettinato, Diego Pettinato** and **Ailen Pettinato**, who are in formation to become Catholic through the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults! Today, the First Sunday of Lent, they enter the next stage of their journey in preparation for initiation into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil. Today at 3:00 p.m. they will attend The Rite of Election at the Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, presided over by Bishop John

O. Barres. At this liturgy, these catechumens (who will then become the elect) will be formally recognized and accepted by our diocese as people preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter. In preparation for this joyous celebration, today our parish is celebrating The Parish Celebration for Sending the Catechumens for Election at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please remember our catechumens (soon-to-be elect) **Ameira, Helen, Diego, and Ailen** in your prayers as they enter this final stage of Lenten preparation for reception of the Easter sacraments.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARISHIONERS TO OFFER TO HAVE THEIR FEET WASHED ON HOLY THURSDAY

The Washing of Feet is one of the most beautiful and powerful moments in the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. The action ritualizes the humble service of Jesus who came to serve and to lay down his life for us. The rite is also a powerful reminder of Jesus' command for us to imitate his humble service, and to wash each other's feet through acts of generous, self-emptying love.



Each year we select parishioners to have their feet washed, and we try to represent a good cross-section of the parish. **We would like to ask you to offer to have your feet washed at our Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper this year, on March 28.** This is a great opportunity for you to offer to be part of our Sacred Paschal Triduum in a very powerful way. Don't be shy about nominating yourself or someone else! It's OK for more than one member of the same family to be included! It's a great offering you would be giving to OLPH. If you are interested, simply return the response coupon below.

Young or old; long-time parishioner or new; male or female; involved in the parish or not-so-involved — we want to get a good cross-representation, and so we want YOU to come forward and offer yourself. Because we are trying to have a representative balance, please do not worry or be insulted if you submit your name but are not called this year — we'll hold on to your name for future years! Return the response form today!

YES! I would like to have my name included among those willing to have my feet washed on Holy Thursday, either this year or in a future year.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Age _____ (sorry to ask...but we want to include a variety of ages!)



If more than one member of your family would like to offer, you can make a copy of this or send in the information on your own paper, or list several names, if you would like to do it together.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Taizé Prayer Around the Cross

**Thursday, March 14th
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
 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

Office Closed:

The Religious Education Office
 will be closed
 Monday, February 19
 in observance of Presidents' Day.

ALL LEVELS!!

Remember that there are no classes
 both this Wednesday, February 21
 and this Saturday February 24,
 due to the Winter Break.
 Enjoy your time off!

Scripture of the Day

“If you love me, you will keep my
 commandments. And I will ask
 the Father, and He will give you
 another Advocate, to be with you
 forever. This is the Spirit of truth,
 whom the world cannot receive,
 because it neither sees Him nor
 knows Him. You know Him,
 because He abides with you, and
 He will be in you.”

—John 14:15-17

Saint of the Day!**St. Lawrence**

St. Lawrence was a deacon in
 ancient Rome who was able
 to convert many people to
 Christianity by his immense
 sacrifice for Christ. He was
 also responsible for using the
 Church's money to care for the
 poor. The emperor wanted all of
 the Church's riches for himself
 and threatened Lawrence that if
 he gave them to him he would
 spare him from death. Knowing
 Jesus' teachings, Lawrence
 brought the poor to the emperor,
 the true treasure of the Church.
 The emperor then burned
 Lawrence to death.



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 today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Last month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 89 families, 98 adults, 43 children and 40 seniors with 120 bags of food. God bless you!

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!

HELP THOSE IN NEED OF WHEELCHAIRS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Knights of Columbus Council #794

is holding its annual *Wheelchair Mission fundraiser* outside the church following ALL MASSES next weekend.

The purpose is to collect money to purchase wheelchairs for anyone who is in need, but cannot afford one.

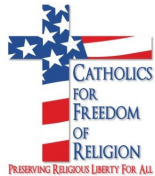
For more information contact:

Patrick Corcoran

631-478-2325

KnightsOfColumbus794@gmail.com

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

www.cffor.org

“Religious Socialism, Christian Socialism, are contradictory terms; no one can be at the same time a good Catholic (Christian) and a true Socialist.”
—Pope Pius XI (1922-1939)

Warnings from Nine Popes about Socialism and Its Threat to Religious Freedom: Part 1

The words "socialism" and "socialist" are often used in discussions today, but "few people in the modern Western world understand what socialism is", or the "traditional Marxist view of socialism." Socialism is not only about caring for the poor and eradicating poverty as many people mistakenly believe. "From Pope Pius IX (1846-1878) to Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013), the popes have consistently condemned socialism" as "destructive" and "wicked."

"Socialism, like Communism, advances the view of the state as the supreme authority and inevitably persecutes religion...Even when the persecution is not blatant or heavy-handed, the belief that the state is higher than the Church leads to innumerable forms of persecution. For example, God is not rightly acknowledged in the public forum, prayer is silenced, morality based on God's laws is ridiculed, taxes are used as coercion, and worship can be prohibited for what the government deems as just cause."

Socialism advances class warfare and the deadly sin of envy. Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) said, "The great mistake is the notion that class is naturally hostile to class and that the wealthy and the working man are intended by nature to live in mutual conflict. So irrational and so false is this view that the direct contrary is the truth...Each needs the other: capital cannot do without labor, nor labor without capital. Mutual agreement results in the beauty of good order, while perpetual conflict necessarily produces confusion and savage barbarity."

"Too often Christians attracted by Socialism tend to idealize it...
They refuse to recognize the limitations of the historical social movements... "
—Pope Paul VI (1963-1978)

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/3kabjtew> <http://tinyurl.com/2jdz7496> <http://tinyurl.com/9f5pt5an>

"We make this pronouncement: Whether considered as a doctrine, or an historical fact, or a movement, Socialism, if it remains truly Socialism...cannot be reconciled with the teachings of the Catholic Church because its concept of society itself is utterly foreign to Christian truth."
—Pope Pius XI (1922-1939)

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Creating Dialogue on Abortion to Reach Hearts and Minds



Long Island Coalition for Life

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 Sponsored by Long Island Coalition for Life 631-243-1435 • info@prolifeLI.org

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.



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 7th Street

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

or call 631-747-4929

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:

Thomas Bailey & Maria Pizzo

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.

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).

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

Jose Cabanas

Martin Keith McDonough

George Joseph LaClair

“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>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>
<i>Tom Ferris</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.



TO OUR NEW OLPH PARISHIONERS

Daniel Greene

Kyle, Ashley & Noah Cobb

Jessica Maniscalco, Alina & Gia Florio

David, Lana, Andrew, Nathan, Olivia & James Guerrero

Matthew Formichelli & Annelise Muscetta

Zachary & Ambika Tortora

Ryan & Jessica Cacchioli

Louis, Vanessa & Louis Tangredi

Michael Schneider

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 la Liturgia Viva del Domingo 1º de Cuaresma - Ciclo B 18 de febrero del 2024

Tiempo de arrepentimiento y Conversión, de dar un giro a nuestra vida siguiendo el ejemplo de Jesús.

Primera Lectura (Génesis 9,8-15): Alianza de Dios con Noé

Tenemos la promesa de Dios de que nunca destruirá la obra de sus manos. Su Alianza es firme, como nos recuerda el arco iris.

Segunda Lectura (1 Pedro 3,18-22): Uno con Cristo en el Bautismo

Para cristianos desalentados, Pedro escribe: Cristo también ha experimentado sufrimiento y muerte, pero resucitó. Ustedes son uno con él por el bautismo, y les salvará.

Evangelio (Marcos 1,12-15): Arrepiéntanse y Crean

Jesús resume su misión en estas palabras: "Se ha cumplido el tiempo y está cerca el reino de Dios. Arrepiéntanse y crean en la Buena Nueva de Salvación". Él nos repite estas palabras a nosotros hoy. Al comenzar la Cuaresma, el mensaje urgente que se nos dirige hoy es: "¡Arrepiéntanse! ¡Cambien el corazón, conviértanse!" Jesús mismo fue impulsado por el Espíritu al desierto, para allí ser tentado, para percibir con ojos claros su propia identidad, cuál era su tarea y cómo la gente y los acontecimientos tratarían de desviarlo de su misión. Pero Jesús fue más fuerte que la tentación y que el pecado.

La imposición de las cenizas nos recuerda que nuestra vida en la tierra es pasajera y que nuestra vida definitiva se encuentra en el Cielo.

La Cuaresma comienza con el miércoles de Ceniza y es un tiempo de oración, penitencia y ayuno. Cuarenta días que la Iglesia marca para la conversión del corazón.

Las palabras que se usan para la imposición de cenizas, son: "Concedenos, Señor, el perdón y haznos pasar del pecado a la gracia y de la muerte a la vida"

El ayuno y la abstinencia

El miércoles de ceniza y el viernes santo son días de ayuno y abstinencia. La abstinencia obliga a partir de los 14 años y el ayuno de los 18 hasta los 59 años. El ayuno consiste hacer una sola comida fuerte al día y la abstinencia es no comer carne. Este es un modo de pedirle perdón a Dios por haberlo ofendido y decirle que queremos cambiar de vida para agradarlo siempre



MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, February 19— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Josephine DiGilio
12:15	Vito Crescione
TUESDAY, February 20— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Action of Grace Thankful to God
12:15	Perpetual Help Mass <i>(List at bottom of page)</i>
WEDNESDAY, February 21— Lenten Weekday (Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)	
6:30	Andrew Eberhard (Living)
12:15	Gregory Schmitt
THURSDAY, February 22— The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle	
6:30	Diane Suess
12:15	Kristen Marie DeVito
FRIDAY, February 23— Lenten Weekday (Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr)	
6:30	For the People of the Parish
12:15	Patrick Devaney
SATURDAY, February 24— Lenten Weekday	
8:00	Helene Jirinec
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
5:00	Dominick DeGirolamo
Sunday, February 25— SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
8:00	Beth Mehm & Tommy Fountain
10:00	For the People of the Parish
12:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 794

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, February 19, 2024		
THAT ALL RECTORY AND PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED, AND ALL ACTIVITIES EXCEPT FOR MASSES ARE CANCELLED, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, PRESIDENTS' DAY. THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 9:00 A.M.		
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
Tuesday, February 20, 2024		
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Living the Eucharist	School
Wednesday, February 21, 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
7:00 p.m.	Christian Mothers Meeting	Room 18
Thursday, February 22, 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, February 23, 2024		
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
Saturday, February 24, 2024		
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
Sunday, February 25, 2024		
10:00 a.m.	OCIA	Church
2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
PERPETUAL HELP MASS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 12:15 P.M. MASS		
<i>For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family</i>	<i>Requested by the Estate of Rev. Thomas J. McCarthy</i>	
<i>Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton</i>	<i>Requested by the Estate of Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton</i>	

OFFERING UPDATE February 10/11			
Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	294	108	\$3,152.00
8:00 a.m.	170	76	3,498.00
10:00 a.m.	311	79	2,982.00
12:00 p.m.	435	84	2,592.00
Total coin:			6.04
Faith Direct			3,394.50
Children's Env.		19	62.00
Mail-ins:			1,043.00
TOTAL	1,210	366	\$16,729.54
2023	1,091	345	\$15,463.74
Candles			\$879.54
Poor Box			\$250.23



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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Master of Ceremony:
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Stephen Strigaro, PKG
54th Grand Knight



Honorary Chairman:
Chaplain Monsignor
Joseph DeGrosso



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



MONDAY, February 19th

*All Rectory and Parish Offices will be
CLOSED, and all parish activities,
except for Masses, will be cancelled on
Monday, February 19,
for the Presidents' Day holiday.
The Rectory Office will re-open Tuesday,
February 20 at 9:00 a.m.*

The *Catholic Faith Network* (CFN) will continue our immense **Telethon** tradition this year! This exciting event will commence on **Saturday, February 24th from 2:00 p.m. and continue through Monday, February 26th 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 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 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.

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests for items printed in the bulletin must first have approval from Msgr. DeGrosso 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.*

February 25—deadline passed; March 3—February 23 deadline; March 10—March 1 deadline

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, February 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

*He was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white.*

Mark 9:2-3

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

The story of Abraham began when God told him to go forth from his native land on a journey requiring faith in facing the unknown. In the story we hear today of Abraham's testing, God again calls him to go forth on a journey requiring even greater faith. It is a painful story as Abraham faces sacrificing his only son Isaac whom he loves dearly. Shocking as this may sound to our modern ears, we shouldn't miss the point: Abraham's total devotion to God. Without knowing how, he trusted that God would ultimately be faithful to his promise to make him the father of a great nation. Because of such devotion, God blessed Abraham abundantly.

Romans 8:31b-34

Paul asks several rhetorical questions in this reading, such as "If God is for us, who can be against us?" It is interesting to think not only about how his original listeners, the early Christians in Rome, might have answered but also to think about how we would answer. If God is for us, why do such bad things happen to us sometimes? Though we may not understand, we can be sure God does. God spared Abraham's son Isaac but he did not spare his own Son Jesus from suffering and death. In all circumstances, no matter how troubling, Jesus is at God's right hand to intercede for us. What better news can there be?

Mark 9:2-10

The account of the Transfiguration, which we hear today, is a key passage in portraying the identity of Jesus. When Jesus is outwardly transformed and his clothes made dazzlingly white, his three friends then and we today get a glimpse of Jesus' inward divine form. There are many elements of the story that harken back to the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that has been foretold: Moses the Lawgiver, Elijah the Prophet, the three tents reminiscent of the harvest festival, even the setting on the mountain itself. We heard in the first reading how Abraham went up on the mountain to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Jesus tells his friends on this mountain how he must rise from the dead. It is clear that in every age, that of the Old Testament, or New Testament, or our own, Jesus is God's beloved Son and the surest sign of God's love for us

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. It took a blinding light for Peter, James and John to begin to see some hint of who Jesus was. Think of some problems in your country that need such illumination (for instance, immigration, human trafficking, environment). What needs to happen in these areas before you would be able to see something divine in them?

2. Pope Francis speaks about the Transfiguration. In his view, what needs to happen when we climb the mountain? Come down from the mountain?

"We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to 'descend the mountain' and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual."

Pope Francis, Angelus, Second Sunday of Lent, 16 March 2014

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, February 19, 2024:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
+ Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 20, 2024:

Isaiah 55:10-11 + Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 21, 2024:

Jonah 3:1-10 + Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, February 22, 2024:

1 Peter 5:1-4 + Matthew 16:13-19

Friday, February 23, 2024:

Ezekiel 18:21-28 + Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday, February 24, 2024:

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
+ Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, February 25, 2024:

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-19
+ Romans 8:31b-34 + Mark 9:2-10

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