Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. Mark 9:2-3

> SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT February 25, 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 Music Director: Miss Erin Barrett

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

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.



FORMED

Week of February 25, 2024





The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre

Reflect with Dr. Brant Pitre on the temptations of Jesus in the desert as he gets to the heart of the meaning of Lent.

LEARN



The Hour of Our Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 3

The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.

LISTEN



Talking Back: Scripture's to Answer Common Fears | Fearless | Episode 3

How can the Word of God help us face fear and win back victory from the Enemy's control? Chris continues his conversation with Fr. Dave Pivonka about how people of faith address fear. Scripture provides concrete ways to wield the power of God's Word against the fear of need, abandonment, vulnerability, condemnation, and more. Unlock the means for the Lord to free you from all fear.

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An offering from the PAUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and I gratius press

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Second Sunday of Lent

Each year the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent is always one of the accounts of the Transfiguration of Jesus, and this year we hear the account as presented by St. Mark. As proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Lent, the Transfiguration gives us a glimpse of what we share in by sharing in Christ's resurrection.

Notice how, in the Gospel, Peter, James and John see Jesus' glory revealed in the company of the great prophets and representatives of the Law of Israel, Moses and Elijah. God names Jesus as His "beloved Son," echoing the proclamation made in the first chapter of Mark at the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan. Jesus insists that Peter, James and John keep this experience a secret, a common theme that runs throughout St. Mark's Gospel.

To enter more deeply into the celebration of the Second Sunday of Lent, take some time to reflect not only on the Gospel of the Transfiguration, but also on the phrases used in the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass of the day: *"listen to your beloved Son;" "nourish us inwardly by your word;" "spiritual sight made pure;" "rejoice to behold your glory."* Such imagery all but puts us right there in the Transfiguration scene! Imagine what it would have been like to have actually been there. Can you picture yourself beholding the Lord's transfigured glory along with Peter, James and John? What would your reaction be? How would that experience change you?

We continue to be reminded of Lent as a journey toward Easter as we pray the words of the Preface (the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, before the *Holy*, *Holy*) for this Sunday: *"the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection."* During Lent we strive to take up our cross and believe more deeply that through Christ, with Christ and in Christ our sufferings and difficulties will lead to new life. That's the power of Christ's Paschal Mystery in our life.

Take some time this week to reflect on the entire mystery, the Paschal Mystery, which is our focus during Lent-Easter Time — that in order to rise with Christ we must die with Him, and how we experience that passage and transformation through Him, with Him, and in Him, certainly each time we celebrate the Eucharist, but also in our daily life.

Adult Faith Formation: The Responsorial Psalms of Lent

Are you participating in our special opportunity for adult faith formation during Lent — our study of the Responsorial Psalms we pray at Sunday Mass during Lent? It's never too late to hop on board; each week is its own self-contained session, so you can come to any one even if you missed some or never came before. What a great opportunity to commit to a Lenten spiritual practice, and at the same time enrich your celebration of Sunday Mass! It's presented in a very user-friendly format, taking only a half-hour on Sunday morning in between the 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses (so, it starts at about 11:15 a.m.), and taking place in the North Sacristy in the church. Look for the information about this elsewhere in this bulletin, and be sure to come to one or more of the sessions.

Stations of the Cross

Friday night Stations continues this coming Friday, March 1; look for the information elsewhere in this bulletin. Many thanks to all the parish groups and to all the parishioners who are offering their time and witness to lead the Stations on Friday nights. This is a great Lenten spiritual practice to participate in. Come to Stations together as a family each Friday night, making it an opportunity for family prayer time together! A different format is prayed each week. Also, take note of the special Easter Time devotion we are continuing this year, the *Via Lucis*, the Stations of the Resurrection. These will be prayed on Friday within the Octave of Easter ("Easter Friday"), April 5.

Sinners wanted!

No, that headline does not mean I want people to sin! It means that we want sinners which means all of us, myself included — to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. Consider this your weekly Lenten reminder from me: have you put a date and time in your calendar, to set going to Confession as an actual appointment? Make it a point now to plan when you will go, and I would point your attention to Monday of Holy Week, March 25, as possibly the BEST time to go to Confession, because all the priests will be available constantly from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and then again 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on that day. Plus, you will be celebrating that sacrament in solidarity with all the other Catholics in this Diocese, and in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn, who will be observing this "Reconciliation Monday" in their parishes in the same way, with extended Confession times. However, there are also plenty of other opportunities to go during the remainder of Lent - check out the schedule printed elsewhere in this bulletin. Of course, as always, you can call or e-mail one of the priests and make a separate appointment to see him for Confession. We'll be happy to see you that way, too! What could possibly be easier than that?

Don't leave it to the last minute and then find it's too late. Make specific plans NOW to get to Confession.

Altar Server Meeting this Monday, February 26

I remind all our Altar Servers about the very important meeting on this Monday, February 26, at 4:15 p.m. We will discuss the Holy Week/Sacred Paschal Triduum schedule, along with other important business. All current Altar Servers are required to attend, even if you will be away for Easter. I look forward to seeing you there!

Parish Lenten Mission begins next weekend

It's just around the corner and I couldn't be more excited about it — our Parish Lenten Mission! It starts next weekend and runs for three nights, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, March 3, 4, 5. Our presenter, Msgr. Jerry Ringenback, will be preaching at all the Masses next weekend, to introduce the Mission. I know after hearing him you'll want to make it a point to attend as many of the nights as you can, so be sure to put the time aside now. This Mission will be a powerful source of spiritual renewal for all of us, and I'm sure we'll all gain many beautiful new insights. I look forward to seeing you there!

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Finally, let me remind you to look for the bulletin blurb each week which explains the final stage of preparation during Lent for our elect who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter. We should journey spiritually with our "Fab Four" elect, Helen, Diego, Ailen and Ameira as they move closer and closer to celebrating all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at this year's Easter Vigil. How wonderful, exciting and life-giving this is not only for them, but for all of us as a parish family!

By the way...why not make plans now to attend this year's Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night? It's the Church's greatest celebration of the entire liturgical year, and, with four initiations, this year's celebration looks to be an especially joyous, festive and uplifting one.

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,

HELP NEEDED TO WATER THE EASTER FLOWERS

Help keep our beautiful Easter plants and flowers alive! We need people to offer to take turns to come in and water the Easter plants and flowers during the seven weeks of Easter Time, starting the week of April 1. It will take only a little while once or twice a week, starting on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m., and Saturdays with times to be announced, so your commitment will be minimal. Your responsibility will end when we return to Ordinary Time after May 19 (Pentecost). It's a great way to do something helpful for the parish that does not require a huge ongoing commitment. It's something you can bring your child



with you to do! Won't you help us out? Please contact Denise Martinez at <u>countrydee02@gmail.com</u> or by TEXT ONLY at (631) 575-9519 and she'll give you all the details and sign you up. Thank you!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Stations of the Cross

Fridays 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, March 1 will be led by the Holy Name Society.

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



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 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. **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 that fit your schedule. Handouts of the psalms will be provided. Come join us in breaking open the Word of the Lord.

MEETING FOR USHERS—HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

All Ushers are required to attend a special meeting on **Saturday, March 16** at **11:30 a.m.** in the church. At this very important meeting, we will review all the schedules and special information concerning all the Holy Week liturgies (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday), in addition to reviewing other important business items. We will also formally install our new Ushers in their ministry. All Ushers are expected to attend, as this is one of the required semi-annual meetings for ongoing formation. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY, & FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS



All are invited to come and pray with our parish community.

First Friday Devotions will take place March 1 after the 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses.

First Saturday Devotions-in honor of Our Lady of Fatima—will be conducted Saturday, March 2 beginning with the Rosarv at 7:40 a.m., Mass at 8:00 a.m. and continued devotion following Mass.

Each month, all are invited to join the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society for Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration will be held on Saturday, March 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Reflecting the diverse community present at OLPH, each hour of the evening is celebrated in different languages (Spanish, Polish, English). The evening concludes with Benediction at 9:30 p.m.

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.





SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Special

Mass for People with Special Needs Needs and for those who care for them

This vital ministry offers experiences for those with special needs and their families, including various special Masses. activities and opportunities to come together as a parish community in a smaller setting.

Saturday, March 2

4:00 p.m. in the School Auditorium

All are welcome. Come celebrate Mass with us!

We can use some help in preparing for our monthly Mass and other special needs events. How about you? Contact Jessica Becker Paolo at 631.226-7725 X 252 or email to jbecker@oloph.org

Our Special Needs Mass is celebrated on the first Saturday of every month unless otherwise noted.

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.

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 vourself 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.

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.

• <u>Mass Attendance</u>: 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.

• <u>Receiving Holy Communion in the Hand Rather Than on the Tongue</u>: 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.

• <u>Communion from the Chalice</u>: 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



The Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent (March 3, March 10, and March 17) are special Sundays for the elect in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process. On those Sundays, the elect (those who have been formally accepted as preparing for the three Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist — to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil) are prayed over in a special way by our parish community.

These special prayer rites, called **Scrutinies**, are rites for self-searching and repentance. These Scrutinies are meant to heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of those about to be baptized and to strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. These Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. For their part, the elect are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.

Thus, three Scrutinies are celebrated, on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, in order to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ. The Scrutinies will be held at various parish Masses on those Sundays. Please remember to pray for our elect, Ameira, Helen, Diego, and Ailen, as they undergo this final stage of Lenten preparation for reception of the Easter sacraments.

THE FIRST SCRUTINY WILL BE CELEBRATED NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 3, AT THE 10:00 a.m. MASS.

THE PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Special Procession to Commemorate the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem <u>SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – 12:00 P.M. MASS</u>

On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. This is always such a great celebration for the parish!

Procession is at the 12:00 Noon Mass (not 5:00 p.m. — the 5 p.m. Mass will be a regular Mass for Palm Sunday)

For Sunday, March 24, please note:

- At 11:00 a.m., we are closing the church to all but the handicapped; people will be directed to the auditorium
- 12:00 Noon Mass begins in the auditorium, continues with the Procession, and continues in the church
- What a wonderful experience this has been in prior years, and will be again this year
- What a great way to pray and celebrate the mystery of Palm Sunday—with a Procession!
- In case of inclement weather, we will begin in the church

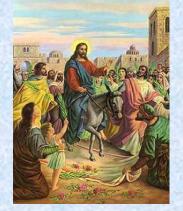
Even if you do not usually attend the 12:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, consider attending as together we begin the celebration of Holy Week.

PALM SUNDAY and EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULES: *PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES FOR THESE DAYS*

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 23 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. with Procession (12:00 p.m. Mass begins in the auditorium)





Saturday, March 30: 8:00 p.m. only The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (NO 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Sunday, March 31: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. * *note special times*









Lent 2024

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

WESTERN VICARIATE 42 Dover Street Williston Park, New York 11596 Phone: 516.744.6850 Fax: 516.746.6900 westernvicariate@drvc.org

> ... We need our prayer to rise with greater insistence to the Father, So that He may hear the voice of those who turn to Him on the confidence of being answered...Pope Francis

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Sunday, January 21of this year, Pope Francis inaugurated a Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee Year. The Holy Father is calling on the faithful "to pray more fervently to prepare ourselves to live properly this grace-filled event and to experience the power of hope in God." This Year of Prayer, the Holy Father explained, is dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world."

In response to the Holy Father's initiative, together with Bishop Barres, all the Bishops and I would like to encourage you, especially during this 2024 Season of Lentin particular, to focus on prayer. Traditionally, during this time all Christians are called to practice fasting, prayer, repentance, and almsgiving as a way of drawing us closer to God and reflecting on the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection in anticipation of the gift of new life at Easter. All pillars of Lent complement and support each other. Customarily, fasting is a way of disciplining ourselves and expressing our repentance for our sins. By abstaining from certain foods or activities, we show our love for God and our gratitude for His mercy. Fasting also helps us to empathize with those who are less fortunate and to share our resources with them. In fact, prayer binds all these Lenten practices all together, giving them an extra strength and direction. In days to come, as we prepare for the celebration of Easter, let us take this great opportunity to renew ourselves in the life of prayer, making it not just a duty or an obligation but also as a privilege and a joy.

Prayer is a gift from God, connecting us with Him and allowing us to experience His love in our lives. It is aground for an authentic encounter which God uses to transform us and to make us more like Christ to one another. It is also a power that God grants us to overcome sin and evil and to advance His cause in the world, especially very much needed peace as we reflect these days on the situations in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Syria, Congo, and many other troubled places.

Personal Prayer. A classic description says that prayer is "the raising of our mind and heart to God." We all might have our own experiences of prayer, and we can define prayer in our own and unique ways. However, most important is the fact that during sacred time of the year each of us should make the best effort to make a time for prayer, short or longer, in our daily lives. There are many ways in which we can engage with it during Lent. Many people might continue to follow a lectionary and other materials that provide Scripture readings and reflections for each day of Lent and be led by it to prayer. It is possible use prayer books, journals, apps, or online resources that offer different forms of prayer, such as meditation, contemplation, praise, worship, adoration, thanksgiving, and supplication. In some

places there are groups of friends, or parishioners, who join prayer meetings, retreats, or online communities that share prayer requests and support each other in prayer. Most people create a prayer space in their home or workplace that helps them to focus on God. We should all look for an opportunity to pray without distractions and practice silence or solitude as a way of listening to God and being attentive to His presence. Whatever method or style of prayer we choose, the important thing is to pray with sincerity of heart, humility, honesty, and openness. During Lent, we should pray especially for the grace of conversion, so we can be inspired to experience the need of repentance and change and be led to encounter Jesus in the Sacrament of Penance. May we all grow in a deep desire to know the Lord more intimately and to love him more fully with the hunger for his grace and a thirst for his Spirit.

Communal Prayer. Time spent in prayer is never only personal. We all know that every individual action of one person has an impact on the whole community. Together in prayer, as we walk a synodal way, we grow in a deep sense of awareness that every act of love or time of common worship can profoundly strengthen and sanctify the whole Christian community and the whole human family. We are all connected in a special way as members of the Body of Christ, and we share the same mission and vision by celebrating of the Eucharist. This is the most profound and ultimate way of prayer. At each Mass we engage personally with the Paschal Mystery of the Lord and make it our own to be led by him, through the sacrifice of the cross to the glory of his Resurrection and our life in Him. The mystery of the Cross and the mystery of love Jesus shares with us can be understood in a deeper sense through prayer. Renewing our commitment to attend the Mass every Sunday would be the best step to renew ourselves in the life of prayer.

Prayers for the World. Both the celebration of the Eucharist and our personal daily prayer nourishes our faith, strengthens our hope, and increases our charity towards others. During Lent and beyond we are called to share our gifts and resources with the world around us, especially with those who are in need. Weare to take care of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized, and are to join them in their struggle for justice and dignity in the best way we can. Every good deed is always inspired and properly executed with the assistance of our continuing prayers, making us God's instruments of peace, justice, and mercy, which is so much needed in the world today.

Dear Friends, prayer is basically a conversation with God who is waiting for us. It doesn't have to be made up of loads of words as it is all about the conversion of heart. It's not just "saying prayers", it is more about living by them, letting our heart declare our love for God and others. Let this Lent be for all of us a sacred time of our spiritual renewal in prayer so we can all become who we are supposed to be in relationship with God and with each other. Our life prayer is a statement about who we are. The future of the world depends on our prayers and begins in us. Even though our prayers do not give any extra reverence to God, thy certainly make us more revered before Him so we walk "humbly with the Lord."

Have a blessed and grace filled Lent,

Bp. And Be

Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski Episcopal Vicar



"LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME" PRAYER GARDEN Engraved Bricks

Memorialize your loved ones or your
prayer intention in our
"Let the Children Come to Me"
Prayer Garden!
rializations do not have to be only for child

The memorializations do not have to be only for children, though; the prayer garden is for all prayers, intentions and memorializations for loved ones of any age. Or, you can offer a prayer intention.

Your Name(s)					
Street:					
City:	State: Zip:				
Phone:	Email:				
Please enclose full payment of \$125 with this completed form. Make checks payable to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Mail or return form in person to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Attn: Brick Memorialization					

Linda Coppola 210 South Wellwood Avenue Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Please print the inscription as it is to appear on the brick (3 lines/15 characters per line maximum). Each box represents one letter, number, character or space. The pavers will be engraved in all capital letters. If you would like to add a heart or a cross to your brick, it will be engraved on the left hand side.

THE SUTTONS TIM & KAREN STEPHEN & VAL								
IN LOVING MEMORY								
JOSEPH & MARY ALWAYS WITH US								

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)

O.F.F. 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

<u>LEVEL 7</u>:

Remember that the Hunger Banquet is this Wednesday, February 28, during class time. Class will end at 8:00 p.m. Thank you!

LEVEL 3:

Remember that there is a Parent/ Student Meeting on the topic of Prayer this Saturday, March 2, during class time. Both parents and students are required to attend. Thank you!

Scripture of the Day!

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned." Saint of the Day! St. Philomena!

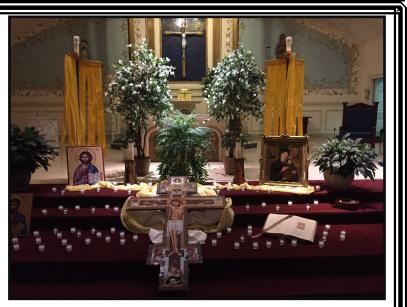
Sister Maria Luisa di Gesù had visions in which she described St. Philomena coming and speaking to her. According to these visions, St. Philomena was a Greek princess who dedicated her life to Christ. Her father brought her to Rome, and the emperor there fell in love with her and demanded her hand in marriage. When she refused because of her vow of chastity, the emperor became enraged and ordered her to be killed. They tried drowning her with an anchor and shooting her with arrows, and finally beheaded her.



—John 15:4-6

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.



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— cdefeldman@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.

Lent is a call not just to "give up something" but more important to "give something for the poor." Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your almsgiving in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

<u>NEW</u> Food Pantry List!

SHELF STABLE WHOLE MILK SOUPS WITH MEAT CANNED MEAT CANNED MEALS GRAVY/BROTH INSTANT POTATOES PASTA PREPARED PASTA SAUCE CEREAL CANNED FRUIT

Thank you for your continued generosity.

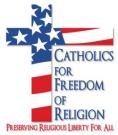
Cut out this list and bring it with you when you go shopping!

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

During Lent please remember the Poor Boxes. Each week the amount collected in the Poor Boxes is listed in our bulletin. You may wonder where that money goes. Every coin, bill or check goes directly to our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society to help serve those in need within our parish. We use the funds to directly serve our neighbors who need food, rent assistance or help paying a utility bill. We are grateful to those who remember the Poor Boxes weekly. Thank you for helping us help others.



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

"Socialism [is] the most bitter enemy of Christian principles." —Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922)

Warnings from Nine Popes about Socialism and Its Threat to Religious Freedom: Part 2

The Catholic Church has condemned Socialism in all its forms — so-called Christian Socialism as well as atheistic Socialism — without exception. But why? What is the error of socialism?

Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) said, "The fundamental error of socialism is...[it] considers the individual person simply as an element, a molecule within the social organism, so that the good of the individual is completely subordinated to the functioning of the socio-economic mechanism." However, Christianity holds the belief that each individual must be free to assume responsibility for his own choices. Jesus came to save each person individually and not a collective called "people."

In 1891, Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) wrote, "It is clear that the main tenet of socialism, community of goods, must be utterly rejected, since (it is) directly contrary to the natural rights of mankind and would introduce confusion and disorder into the commonweal." Socialism advances the error that private property is not a human right but can be taken away from individuals by the state and given to others.

Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) explained, "Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is injustice and a grave evil to assign to a higher association (big organization or government) what a lesser and subordinate association (local organizations or government) can do."

"No Catholic could subscribe even to moderate socialism [since] Socialism is founded on a doctrine of human society which...takes no account of any objective other than that of material well-being. It proposes a form of social organization which aims solely at production; it places too severe a restraint on human liberty," wrote Pope John XXIII (1958-1963) in his 1961 encyclical *Mater et Magistra*.

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

"The state which would provide everything, absorbing everything into itself, would ultimately become a mere bureaucracy incapable of guaranteeing the very thing which the suffering person — every person — needs: namely, loving, personal concern." —Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013)

CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK TELETHON

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



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



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

SUPPORT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Knights of Columbus Council #794

is holding its annual *Wheelchair Mission fundraiser* outside the church following ALL MASSES this 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

IS THE BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE THE MINISTRY FOR YOU?

Perhaps you feel you are way too busy to add anything to your crowded schedule, so you feel you cannot offer your time and talents to the many ministries at OLPH. Or perhaps you are more of a "background person". Well, here's a ministry to consider: *The Blue Door Thrift Boutique*.

The time requirement is minimal, just three hours every two weeks, and the rewards are great.

WE NEED YOU!

The Blue Door Thrift Boutique is a hidden gem. It is decorated with style and grace and is a warm and welcoming shop. We serve the local community, selling gently used clothing, dinnerware, glassware, linens, accessories, home décor, jewelry, gift items and knickknacks at literally the lowest prices in our area. We also work hand in hand with St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide clothing vouchers for their clients. Everything is donated, and all proceeds go directly for social service programs of OLPH. In fact, since our opening we have generated over \$67,000 for our parish! Over the years, some of us have moved, retired or are no longer able to continue, so we need more people to keep and maybe even increase this level of charitable donations

to our parish community.

The Blue Door is open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Why not stop by to check us out? Maybe you can help in a ministry after all!

Save the Date

Auction/ Trivia Night April 19th, 7:00 p.m. Admission \$5



blue Boutique

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel Bob Meade

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

<u>Third Announcement:</u> Thomas Bailey & Maria Pizzo

WE CELEBRATE

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people.—Order of Baptism of Children

Everleigh Jean Miles

We welcome the newest member of the Catholic community here at OLPH!

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. Genoweta Wysocka Maria Ray Thomas Vincent Gilroy Sr. Joseph E. Abbamonte Eileen O'Keefe

"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...

Robin Kaufman Laurell Desner Marge Sheehan Lisa Byme Christopher Santiago Tyler Qualls Raffaela Laurice Lina Avila Evelyn Pulla Anthony Pokorney Tom Ferris Bill Stysiack Christine Ajello-Larsen Michael Murphy Genevieve Popiel Little Joanie Giarratano James Gridley Erin Kelly Catherine Wharry Mary Doran John Jordan Thomas Volpe Nora McMahon Patricia & Richard Kleczekowski

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.

The Bereavement Ministry assists anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one and helps the person grow through their grief.

Joining a Support Group, with the help of trained facilitators, will help the person strengthening their faith in themselves and God.

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.

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.

<u>Lecturas del domingo 25 de febrero.</u> Hoy es el 2nd domingo de cuaresma. Tiempo de meditación y conversión

Primera Lectura (Génesis 22,1-2, 9-13, 15-18): Sin Rehusar Nada a Dios

Como hombre de fe profunda, Abrahán estaba dispuesto a sacrificar su propio hijo a Dios. Pero el Dios de la vida le devolvió su hijo como señal de la Alianza.

Segunda Lectura (romanos 8,31-34): Dios Sacrificó a Su Propio Hijo por

Si Dios está con nosotros, ¿quién estará contra nosotros? El que no perdonó a su propio Hijo, sino que lo entregó por todos nosotros, ¿cómo no nos dará todo con él? ¿Quién acusará a los elegidos de Dios? ¿Dios, el que justifica? ¿Quién condenará? ¿Será acaso Cristo, que murió, más aún, resucitó y está a la derecha de Dios Padre, y que intercede por nosotros?

Evangelio (Marcos 9,2-10): Antes de la Cruz, una Visión Fugaz de Gloria.

Jesús y sus apóstoles más íntimos experimentan una visión de la gloria que Jesús mismo gozará en su resurrección. Esta visión fugaz les mantendrá durante la pasión del Señor.

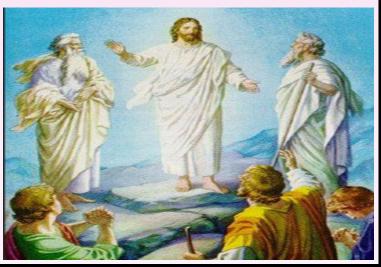
«Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien tengo mi complacencia; escuchadlo» (Mt 17, 5).

"La invitación que el Padre dirige a los discípulos, testigos privilegiados del extraordinario acontecimiento de la transfiguración, resuena de nuevo hoy para nosotros y para toda la Iglesia. Como Pedro, Santiago y Juan, también nosotros estamos invitados a subir al monte Tabor junto con Jesús y a quedar fascinados por el resplandor de su gloria. En este segundo domingo de Cuaresma contemplamos a Cristo envuelto en luz, en compañía de los autorizados portavoces del Antiguo Testamento, Moisés y Elías. A él le renovamos nuestra adhesión personal: es el «Hijo amado» del Padre."

"Escuchadlo. Esta apremiante exhortación nos impulsa a intensificar el camino cuaresmal. Es una invitación a dejar que la luz de Cristo ilumine nuestra vida y nos comunique la fuerza para anunciar y testimoniar el Evangelio a nuestros hermanos. Como bien sabemos, es un compromiso que implica a veces muchas dificultades y sufrimientos. También lo subraya san Pablo, al dirigirse a su fiel discípulo Timoteo: «Toma parte en los duros trabajos del Evangelio»

(2 Tm 1, 8)."

"La experiencia de la transfiguración de Jesús prepara a los Apóstoles para afrontar los dramáticos acontecimientos del Calvario, presentándoles anticipadamente lo que será la plena y definitiva revelación de la gloria del Maestro en el misterio pascual. Al meditar en esta página evangélica, nos preparamos para revivir también nosotros los acontecimientos decisivos de la muerte y resurrección del Señor, siguiéndolo por el camino de la cruz para llegar a la luz y a la gloria. En efecto «sólo por la pasión podemos llegar con él al triunfo de la resurrección» (Prefacio)."



	MASS SCHEDULE				
MONI	DAY, February 26—				
	Lenten Weekday				
6:30	Stephen A. Marino, Sr.				
12:15	Patricia Yearwood				
	DAY, February 27— Lenten Weekday Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church)				
6:30	John Barrett				
12:15	Amanda Atehortua				
WEDI	NESDAY, February 28— Lenten Weekday				
6:30	For the People of the Parish				
12:15	Jean Sheppard				
THURSDAY, February 29— Lenten Weekday					
6:30	For the People of the Parish				
12:15	Annette Walsh				
FRIDA	Y, MARCH 1— Lenten Weekday				
6:30	Palma Angieri				
12:15	John Janczewski				
SATU	RDAY, MARCH 2—				
	Lenten Weekday				
8:00	Malgorzata Konarska				
Satı	rday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT				
4:00	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton Special Needs Mass (Auditorium)				
5:00	Maria Aliano				
Sunday	y, MARCH 3— THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT				
8:00	Joseph Cooney				
10:00	William Sullivan				
12:00	For the People of the Parish				

Monday, February 26, 2024							
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					
1:30 p.m.	Pastoral Staff Meeting	St. Lucy Room					
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24					
4:15 p.m.	Altar Server Meeting	Church					
5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church					
	Tuesday, February 27, 2024	4					
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria					
7:00 p.m.	Living the Eucharist	School					
7:15 p.m.	Adult Confirmation	St. Mark's Room					
٦	Wednesday, February 28, 20	24					
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.	Exposition	Church					
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831 for information)	Off Campus					
6:30 p.m.	Levels 6 and 7 Classes	School					
	Thursday, February 29, 202	4					
1:00 p.mon	Church closed for cleaning	Church					
5:30 p.m.	СҮО	Auditorium					
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria					
7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room					
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church					
	Friday, March 1, 2024	1					
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, March 2, 2024						
8:30 and	Levels 1—5 and Sp. Ed.	School					
10:00 a.m.	Classes	A 1:4					
1:00 p.m.	CYO St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Auditorium Room 23					
1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	Wedding	Church					
-	Confessions						
4:00 p.m.		Church					
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church					
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria					
6:30 p.m.	Exposition	Church					
Sunday, March 3, 2024							
10:00 a.m.	OCIA Confirmation Retreat	Church School					
1:00 p.m.							
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium					
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria					
7:30 p.m.	Parish Mission	Church					

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February 25, 2024

OFFERING UPDATE							
February 17/18							
Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection				
5:00 p.m.	251	90	\$2,999.00				
8:00 a.m.	180	63	2,346.00				
10:00 a.m.	329	87	2,572.00				
12:00 p.m.	340	83	2,409.00				
Total coin:			-				
Faith Direct			3,394.50				
Children's Env.		18	77.00				
Mail-ins:			438.00				
TOTAL	1,100	341	\$14,235.50				
2023	1,100	358	\$15,321.30				
Candles			\$1,162.38				
Poor Box			\$296.11				
Ash Wednesday			\$7,006.00				

2023 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS

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

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

> March 3—deadline passed March 10—March 1 deadline March 17—March 8 deadline

OLPH Past Grand Knight Testimonial						
TIME: LOCATION: TICKETS:	Saturday, April 20, 2024 7:00 – 11:00 PM The Moose Lodge – 883 \$70 pp for early bird unti \$75 pp for March 1 – onw	S. Broadway il February 29, 2024				
FULL OPEN BAR HORS D'OEUVRES DINNER BUFFET DESSERT Catered by:						
Master of Ceremony Patrick Corcoran, Cl		Honorary Chai <mark>rman:</mark> Chaplain Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco				
C	reserve your tickets cor arl Zoccali (631) 375–737 Paul Litrenta (516) 319–23	72 or				

SUPER 72 RAFFLE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY WINNERS

- \$1000 Mr. John Koszalka
 \$250 Jeannine Eberhardt
 \$100 Donna Milone
 \$100 Ms. Linda Baumann
 \$100 Guy R. Richard
- \$100 Robert & Laura Fischer

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

PREPARING FOR Sunday, March 3, 2024 **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2:19

Exodus 20:1-17

Of all the laws and ordinances in the Jewish Torah, surely these are the most familiar – the Ten Commandments. The focus of these is on God's personal relationship with Israel. He is their God, the one who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and as such has a special relationship – a covenant – with them. The first three commandments express the absolute fidelity they owe God as a result. It would be unthinkable for them to break this bond by worshiping other gods, just as it would be unthinkable for a spouse to look for fulfillment outside their marriage. The remaining commandments indicate the proper way to act toward each other, both then and now. Living according to these norms maintains a society where people can live in harmony with God and one another.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

"Christ crucified": In these two words Paul announces the paradox that was and is a stumbling block to faith for so many. For Jews, someone who hung on a tree was considered accursed, according to the Old Testament, and for worldly and wise Greeks, accepting someone who had been tortured and executed as messiah was utter foolishness. But Paul upends this logic and says that what appears as foolishness from a human perspective is in reality divine wisdom and what looks like weakness is really a display of God's strength. "Christ crucified" is the heart of the Gospel message and the epitome of God's power and wisdom.

John 2:13-25

In John's Gospel writings, words and events often have deeper meanings. During Passover, Jesus upends the money-changers' tables and expels them from the temple area. He then goes on to say that if his critics destroy this temple he will raise it up again in three days. During a later Passover, his critics killed him, thereby destroying his body, yet three days later he raised the temple of his body up from the dead. So often those who heard Jesus misunderstood what he was saying, as is no doubt the case with us today as we listen to his words each Sunday. All that he said was only made clear after Jesus rose from the tomb on Easter morning and we have the benefit of knowing this. Surely we can be like the early disciples who "came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken."

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

Monday, February 26, 2024: Daniel 9:4b-10 + Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 + Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday, February 28, 2024: Jeremiah 18:18-20 + Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, February 29, 2024: Jeremiah 17:5-10 + Luke 16:19-31 **Friday, March 1, 2024:** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a + Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, March 2, 2024: Micah7:14-15, 18-20 + Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday, March 3, 2024: Exodus 20:1-17 + 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 + John 2:13-25

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. Jesus drove the salespeople out of the temple. Why? And, if you are a temple too, "a temple of the Holy Spirit," what are the implications for you? Is there anything that needs to be shown the exit, or "driven out"?

2. How does Pope Francis say Jesus cleanses our temples? With whips or caresses?

"Ask the Lord that, as he went to cleanse the temple, he may come to cleanse vour soul. We imagine that he comes with a whip of cords. ... No, he doesn't cleanse the soul with that! Do you know what kind of whip Jesus uses to cleanse our soul? Mercy. Open your heart to Jesus' mercy! Say: 'Jesus, look how much filth! Come, cleanse. Cleanse with your mercy, with your tender words, cleanse with your caresses.' If we open our heart to Jesus' mercy, in order to cleanse our heart, our soul, Jesus will trust Himself to us."

Homily of His Holiness, Pope Francis Third Sunday of Lent, 8 March 2015



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, 2nd 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.

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

Bereavement Support Group for Widows and Widowers 8 Week Program for Age 50 and Over starting Thursday, March 7 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. St. Joseph Parish Center, 39 N. Carll Ave, Babylon. For losses that have occurred before December 7, 2023. Registration Required. For more information and registration, please call: Geri Olson 631-661-8994

Real Food Live, with Msgr. Jim Vlaun, Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bridgid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School in the Msgr. Code Auditorium, 101 Maple Ave., Westbury, NY 11590. \$125 per ticket includes a special dinner. For reservations contact 516-334-0021 or visit our website at www.StBOLH.org.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MEN! "The world needs men who will boldly live their faith" You're invited to join the 2024 Men of Christ conference—Mastering What Matters—which will be held in parishes across the country, including *St. Anthony of Padua Church in East Northport, NY*, on March 9, 2024 —with both virtual and live elements. The day will feature well-known speakers, Mass, Rosary and fellowship. Get all the details and register at www.menofchrist-li.com

The goal is to help men re-engage in their Catholic faith and develop deep and meaningful friendships with like-minded men. This year, the conference is blessed to have five presenters, who will share that while some things are beyond our immediate control, we can start the process of change by bringing order to our family life, work, prayer life, and our own minds. But to do so, we need to master ourselves. Small group participation will be provided after each presentation, to share, listen and reinforce what we just viewed.

St Anthony's men's group has remotely hosted this conference since 2022, and we are doing so once again on **March 9, 2024 here at St. Anthony of Padua Church in East Northport, NY**. Use this as an opportunity to disconnect from the secular world for one day, to invest in yourself. Feel the energy when dozens of Catholic men on Long Island come to learn, share, break bread and pray together. Come with the men of your family, and friends, as we will end the day with a Father/Son blessing! **Schedule**: Mass at 8:30 a.m.; Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. followed by a continental breakfast. Conference begins at 10:00 a.m., includes lunch and ends by 2:30 p.m. \$26 contribution to register. \$40 at the door. **Register at www.MenOfChrist-LI.com**, or call Jim (631-553-5161) or Ken (516-851-2337) if you cannot register online.

"From the Heart Ball" on April 13th at Leonard's Palazzo of Great Neck. Please click the link below for more information on the ball. (<u>https://goodcounselhomes.regfox.com/from-the-heart</u>) A portion of the event proceeds will be used to open a new Good Counsel home in the Queens/Long Island area. In operation for over 38 years, <u>https://www.goodcounselhomes.org/</u> is a private organization with a Catholic mission that has aided in the birth of over 1320 babies. Good Counsel helps any pregnant, homeless mother with a safe and secure learning environment in one of its four homes in Staten Island, the Bronx, New Jersey, and Spring Valley, NY. Good Counsel's 24/7 helpline is; 1.800.723.8331. Good Counsel also has a Lumina helpline; 877.586.4621 which offers confidential, non-judgmental counseling to anyone suffering as a result of past abortion.



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