

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Mark 11:9b,10b

**PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
March 24, 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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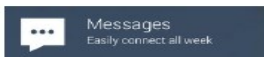
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Made with ❤️ by Diocesan

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*The old number 88202
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THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of March 24, 2024

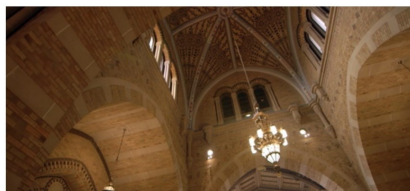
WATCH



Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Immersed in the real and sacred places of the Holy Land, the pilgrim faithful is brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

LEARN



Embraced in Mercy: The Rite Explained

Whether you go to Confession regularly or a decade ago, this session guides you step-by-step through the deeper meaning of every aspect of the Rite—what it is, why we do it, and how it impacts your life.

LISTEN



Holy Thursday | Catholic All Year at Home w/ Kendra Tierney

Explore Holy Thursday contradictions with the Tierney family: joyful Eucharist and sacramental priesthood vs. somber start of Jesus' passion. Get family activity ideas, music suggestions, and a Holy Thursday seder-inspired feast featuring lamb, knishes, bitter herb salad, homemade applesauce, flatbread, and wine/grape juice. Don't miss a messy but special dessert.

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Our holiest week of the year begins today with this Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. As the *Roman Missal* tells us: “*On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery.*” Later this week we will enter into the holiest time of all, that time-outside-of-time, the Sacred Paschal Triduum. During this week, and especially during those Great Three Days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum, we are asked to enter deeply into the mystery of the Lord’s dying and rising. We are called to make that Paschal Mystery our own mystery, and make it the heart of the way we live; we are asked to die and to rise with Christ.

Allow me to take this opportunity today to welcome parishioners who are not regular participants but who have come for Palm Sunday. We are very happy to have you with us! You have enriched our worship through your presence and participation, and we extend to you a warm invitation to come more frequently, indeed, every Sunday! You are a valued part of our community of faith. We hope to see you again next Sunday, Easter Sunday, and every Sunday thereafter. We want you here and we need you here, each and every week. If there is anything at all that I as your Pastor, or that any of the other priests, can do to facilitate your participation in the life of the parish, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to make the time to meet with you.

Special Mass schedule for Easter Sunday!

Speaking of next Sunday, please note our special schedule for Masses on Easter Sunday, which is printed elsewhere in this bulletin; it differs slightly from our normal Sunday schedule. Please check the schedule carefully to make sure you have the correct Mass times.

Diocesan Day of Reconciliation: Monday, March 25

Tomorrow, Monday, March 25, Monday of Holy Week, is our annual Diocesan Day of Reconciliation, sometimes referred to as “Reconciliation Monday.” All four of us priests will be continuously available in the church from

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and then again 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to hear Confessions. What a great opportunity this is to come and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

You are especially encouraged to come if you have been away from the Sacrament for a long time; we love to welcome back those who have not come in 10 or 20 years! (I always joke that we priests receive extra “points” when we celebrate Reconciliation with someone who has been away for a long time, so we love to see you come!) I promise you will receive a warm greeting and it will be an uplifting experience.

If the door to a Confessional is open and the light is on inside, that means the priest inside is “open for business” — come on in! If the door is closed but the light is on, it means someone is inside going to Confession, so please wait patiently. Make your plans now for coming to Confession on “Reconciliation Monday,” March 25.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

This week — Holy Thursday into Good Friday, Good Friday into Holy Saturday, and Holy Saturday into Easter Sunday — are our three holiest days, and everyone should come to the special liturgies for those days. They are meant for everyone! Read a more in-depth explanation of those days elsewhere in this bulletin.

So, we look forward to seeing you at the liturgies of the Sacred Paschal Triduum: the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.; the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, March 29, at either 3:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.; the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night on Holy Saturday night, 8:00 p.m. on March 30; and, of course, Morning Prayer on each of those days (see below).

These days, the heart of our liturgical year and the holiest days of all, should not be business as usual, but rather should be days set apart and be days “outside of time” as we enter deeply into the Lord’s Paschal Mystery. Just as it is important for your family to gather for special occasions, because those get-togethers make you who you are as a family, so too with

our church family — we should make it a priority to gather together to celebrate the liturgies which immerse us in the mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection. Make the most of these days; you will be glad you did!

Please do not park in bank parking lot on Good Friday afternoon

One additional note: I ask that you kindly not park in the bank parking lot on the north side of the church during the day on Good Friday. Remember that Friday is a normal business day for the bank, and the bank lot is not our property. Let's be a good neighbor! Please do not park in their lot on Good Friday. Thank you.

Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday

As you know, in accord with the ancient tradition of the Church, the only Mass celebrated on Holy Thursday is the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, there is no Mass whatsoever celebrated on Good Friday, and the only Mass on Holy Saturday is the great Easter Vigil in the evening. Thus, the usual weekday Masses are not celebrated those days. However, **daily liturgy is celebrated: it's the daily prayer of the Church — the Liturgy of the Hours!** We will celebrate **Morning Prayer** at 9:00 a.m. each of those days, and I strongly urge everyone to attend.

Even though there is no weekday Mass, it is especially important for us to gather as Church. The *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours* reminds us of the importance of parish communities gathering to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as a means of carrying out the mission to pray unceasingly: *"In the Holy Spirit Christ carries out through the church 'the task of redeeming humanity and giving perfect glory to God,' not only when the Eucharist is celebrated and the sacraments administered but also in other ways and especially when the Liturgy of the Hours is celebrated. There [in the Liturgy of the Hours] Christ himself is present — in the gathered community, in the proclamation of God's word, 'in the prayer and song of the Church.'"* (#13)

If you usually come to one of the weekday Masses, you should come to Morning Prayer. If you don't usually come to weekday Mass, you should also come to Morning Prayer, as a special

observance of these holy days. We are already familiar with the Liturgy of the Hours from all the other times we pray it, including Evening Prayer on Saturday nights after the 5:00 Mass. I hope you will allow these liturgies to provide a structure and rhythm of daily prayer that will set these days aside as holy and as "outside of time."

Special Easter Time devotion: The Stations of the Resurrection

Speaking of setting time aside, mark your calendar now to attend a special Easter Time devotion. It's called The Stations of the Resurrection, also known as the *Via Lucis* (the "Way of Light"). It's similar in format to the Stations of the Cross, but these Stations focus on the Resurrection appearances of Christ, making it a beautiful meditation on the Risen Christ. We will gather to pray this on Friday within the Octave of Easter ("Easter Friday"), April 5. You'll want to be there, especially if you have been faithful to attending the Stations of the Cross during Lent; what a beautiful way to meditate on the fullness of the Paschal Mystery!

Little White Books

The *Little White Book*, to follow the *Little Black Book*, containing daily meditations for each day of Easter Time, will be available on the pews starting this Wednesday, March 27. These little books are always so well received and we are happy to provide them for you. Although we provide them free of charge, if you can help out by putting something extra in the collection, we would appreciate it.

Easter Spiritual Bouquet Cards

Remember that all the Masses on Easter Sunday will be for the intentions of the Easter Spiritual Bouquet Cards. If you would like to participate in this meaningful custom and have your intentions prayed for at Easter Sunday Masses, please use the cards and envelopes available and be sure to return them before Easter Sunday to the rectory.

We need YOU to become a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Usher

We are recruiting new Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

and Ushers and I am inviting YOU to join one of these ministries. It is a beautiful offering and service that you give to the parish by serving in this way, and it brings you closer to Christ. You shouldn't wait for "someone else" to step forward — it's time for YOU! Check out the ad elsewhere in this bulletin for all the details, including how to sign up.

Policy Concerning Children and Sacraments

Families whose children are of the ages when they should be attending religious education should take note of the special "box" we have elsewhere in this bulletin which describes the official policy concerning children and the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Basically, what it boils down to is that all children who belong to OLPH must celebrate those sacraments here, even if they go to a Catholic school or are homeschooled, and they must be listed as part of our religious education program. I ask parents to take the time to read the complete information elsewhere in this bulletin.

Brick Memorialization in the "Let the Children Come to Me" Prayer Garden

As you can see from the flyer printed elsewhere in the bulletin, you still have the opportunity to memorialize bricks in our beautiful "Let the Children Come to Me" Prayer Garden on the south side of the church. Even if you have already memorialized a brick here in another location, I'm sure there's another person or intention you would like to have memorialized; you're not limited to only one brick! Please see the order form elsewhere in the bulletin, and feel free to tell all your family and friends about this so they can participate too. You don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH to memorialize a brick...for that matter, you don't even have to be Catholic! Thank you for your

consideration.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Also continuing at OLPH is this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. Our goal this year is **\$114,600**, and I am grateful to all of you who have already submitted your pledges. Thank you! Please remember, we cannot do without the income we receive from the Catholic Ministries Appeal rebate. We need that income to keep from "going under," so we need your support.

Keep in mind, too, all the wonderful ministries throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports: Catholic Charities (feeding, clothing and sheltering the needy); programs of formation and training for future priests, deacons and lay leaders; programs of ministry to those in prison; substance abuse services and day treatment programs; and Youth Campus and Young Adult ministries, to name a few.

I really, really hope we can once again make our goal, as we have done in all my years here. As your Pastor, I ask you to please join with me (I give to the Appeal each year) and so many of your fellow parishioners by supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal. If you have never given in the past, this is the year to do so; OLPH needs you more than ever. Thank you for your generosity!

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 countrydee02@gmail.com 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****Good Friday, March 29 at 12:00 Noon**

We are continuing the custom of having different groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross as a great way to highlight the traditional devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

March 29 will be led by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Friday, April 5, Stations of the Resurrection, will be led by the OLPH Lector Ministry

**CONFESIONS**

**Monday of Holy Week, March 25:
2:00—4:00 p.m. and 6:00—9:00 p.m.**

ABSTINENCE AND FASTING ON GOOD FRIDAY

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Good Friday. 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, but keep in mind that a serious reason is required to excuse oneself from Good Friday fast and abstinence.

This Paschal Fast is to be considered sacred and, if at all possible, consideration should be given to prolonging it through Holy Saturday as a way of coming, with spirit uplifted, to the joys of the Lord's Resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES FOR THESE DAYS

Easter Sunday Masses**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.

*(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday)*** note special times*

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

PASCHAL CANDLE MEMORIAL



*“This Paschal Candle has been memorialized in thanksgiving for all of God’s blessings given to me and my family.
– L.C.”*

LITTLE WHITE BOOK FOR EASTER TIME

Continuing with the popular “Little Book” series, OLPH is happy to provide for you the *LITTLE WHITE BOOK* for Easter Time. The *Little White Book* contains brief daily reflections for each of the 50 days of Easter Time, new for 2024. Many people have enjoyed the *Little Black Book* for Lent, and it is important to not stop with the end of Lent, but rather to continue to explore the richness of the Paschal Mystery by continuing our daily reflections throughout all of Easter Time. The books will be available starting Wednesday, March 27. Please look for the *Little White Book* on the pew ledges in church starting on Wednesday of Holy Week and during the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Although these are provided free of charge, if you wish to make a donation to help offset the cost, you can put a little something extra in your next collection offering. Thank you!



EASTER SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS

Easter Spiritual Bouquet cards are now available throughout the church. These cards are a meaningful way for you to have your intentions prayed for in the Masses of Easter Sunday. Take an envelope, fill out your prayer intention, and return the envelope with your donation. Envelopes may be returned either in the collection basket or at the rectory. Keep the card to send as an expression of your prayer. All the Masses offered on Easter Sunday will be for the intentions of the Easter Spiritual Bouquet.

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

We will be decorating the church for Easter on **Holy Saturday morning, March 30, at 9:30 a.m.**, immediately following Morning Prayer. We would love to have lots of folks come on down to pitch in. Why not join the fun and come down to help? (Come to Morning Prayer, and then stay to help out!) It should not take much longer than an hour or so. Bring the kids and do this as a family — what a great way for your family to share in the joy of Easter! We appreciate whatever help you can give us.

SAVE THE DATE... FOR THE WAY OF LIGHT

Over the past thirty years, Catholics around the world have been entering into a pious devotion offering reflections on the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Similar to the Stations of the Cross (Way of the Cross), which we pray during Lent, the Way of Light offers us the opportunity to meditate on the various appearances of Jesus - from his Resurrection to his Ascension - in which he showed his glory to the disciples who awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit, strengthening their faith and bringing to completion his teaching on the Kingdom of God. Come join us in our inaugural offering of the **Way of Light** on **Friday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the church.**

THE THREE DAYS: THE SACRED TRIDUUM

THE MEANING OF THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

We are about to enter into the holiest days of the Church year, the days called the Sacred Paschal Triduum. The word “Triduum” means “Three Days,” and it refers to the three days that begin on Holy Thursday evening (March 28) and end on Easter Sunday evening (March 31). These three days form one observance that is its own unique and central part of the liturgical year. The Three Days are not part of Lent, since Lent ends on Holy Thursday before the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Indeed, the Sacred Paschal Triduum is a season set apart, three full days lived as one central moment in the life of every Christian and the life of the Christian community as a whole.

During these days, we are called to enter into a period of prayer, fasting, and vigiling, a period which reaches its climax at the Easter Vigil. There is a unity to the Triduum days that is manifested even in the way the different liturgies begin and end: on Thursday, there is no dismissal or conclusion; on Friday, we gather and leave with no introductory or concluding rites; and at the Vigil we begin around the new fire without the usual introductory rites of the Mass. We begin on Thursday and don’t conclude until after the Vigil, as Easter Sunday is a kind of extension of the Vigil celebration.

These days are the focal point for the entire liturgical year, the central moment around which all else revolves. These days are central because they draw us into the heart of our identity as Church, as a people who have died and risen with Jesus Christ. We celebrate our dying and rising in Christ today. We are all called to re-enter the mystery of dying more fully to self and rising in the Lord.

SETTING SPECIAL TIME ASIDE

Because the Triduum leads us powerfully into the core of who we are in Christ, these days should be observed as fully as possible. Our activities during the Three Days should be something other than “business as usual.” As far as possible, Christians should abstain from normal activity on these days. We should free ourselves from the usual routines of

work, meals, household tasks and entertainment; these should give way to keeping these days as a time of “retreat,” a special time set apart for intense involvement with the mystery we celebrate. We should give ourselves the luxury of allowing these days to look and feel different from other days of the year, entering into a sense of timelessness so that these days stand apart. There should be nothing in our schedule that distracts us from the proper spirit of these days.

One central focus which can help us enter into the proper spirit is **fasting** during these days. The Second Vatican Council issued this appeal for the **Paschal Fast** in its *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, paragraph #110: “Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged through Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind.”

This fast is not penitential in nature, like the Lenten fast; instead, it is preparatory, in anticipation of the coming feast. It is the fasting of those who are too excited to eat, the fasting of those who are so engrossed in something that they simply forget to stop for a meal. It is a powerful way of marking these days as unique — nothing as usual prevails,

not even our habits of eating and drinking. Of course, this fast can involve more than food and drink. The purpose of the fast is to focus our life on the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection, so it may be just as or more important to fast from television, the internet, our iPhones, iPads, tablets, social media, shopping, and all the other distractions that usually fill our life. The challenge is to find ways to keep these days special, to keep them holy, to keep ourselves focused on the Lord and the meaning of our life in Him.

Thus, while the fast is only strictly required on Good Friday, the Second Vatican Council and subsequent documents have called for its extension through Saturday. As such, the fast becomes a focus for preparing to approach the Easter Vigil on Saturday night; the Church gets ready for that night. Each individual should create his or her own routine of prayer and reflection and fasting for these days.



WHAT HAPPENS DURING THESE THREE DAYS

Everyone is invited to share in celebrating the Triduum liturgies! Whether you are young or old, currently active in the parish or not, please set these days aside. All of us should know that we are needed at these liturgies; all of us need our whole community together on these greatest days in our year so that we can pray together as the Body of Christ.

During the three days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum, we gather a number of times. Together we hear some of the Church's most beautiful prayers and Scriptures, and we make some of our finest music. Below is the parish schedule and brief explanation of each of the liturgies. Make plans to take part in the various liturgies of Holy Thursday night, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday; above all, come on Saturday night for the Vigil. Don't forget to be at Morning Prayer each day, too!

HOLY THURSDAY



On Holy Thursday evening, March 28, we enter together into the Sacred Paschal Triduum with the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.** After listening to the Scriptures, we do something strange: we wash feet. Jesus himself gave us this image of what the Church is supposed to look like, feel like, and act like. The humble service of washing feet reminds us of the humble service which is the heart of Christian life, a humble service which includes dying to ourselves as the Lord gave his life for us.

Pope Francis has explained that the ritual of washing feet reflects the significance of the gesture Jesus performed in the Upper Room, giving himself "to the very end" for the salvation of the world, his boundless charity. Thus, the rite of washing feet is carried out from among all members of the People of God — men and women, young and old, healthy and sick, clergy, religious and laity. It can be any number of people; it need not be twelve. The rite clearly signifies in a powerful way the love we are called to have for one another.

After the washing of feet, the Mass continues with the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After the Liturgy of the Eucharist, however, this liturgy has no real ending. The Blessed Sacrament is transferred to a separate place, where we are invited to remain in prayer until 11:00 p.m. We will transfer the Blessed Sacrament to the side altar in the Divine Mercy Chapel in the church. In that special place parishioners are invited to enter into the quiet and peace and glory of the Sacred Paschal Triduum. **A special "Night Watch" of Scripture readings and music will begin at 10:00 p.m., and then Night Prayer will be prayed at 10:45 p.m.,** after which the church will be closed.

Parishioners are also invited to attend **Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday morning, which will be at 9:00 a.m. in the church.** There's also one additional special note concerning Holy Thursday. On Tuesday of this week, Holy Week, at the **Chrism Mass** in Rockville Centre, the Oil of Catechumens and Oil of the Sick will be blessed, and the Sacred Chrism will be consecrated. These oils, used in the sacraments throughout the year, will be presented to the parish as part of the evening Mass on Holy Thursday.

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

(GOOD FRIDAY)

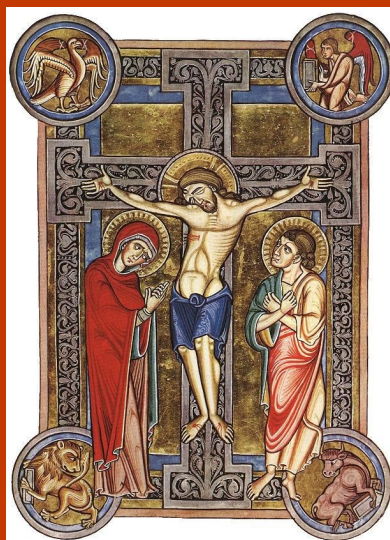
On this day “when Christ became our paschal sacrifice,” the Church reflects on the Passion of her Lord and Spouse, adores His Cross, commemorates her own origin from the side of the dead Christ on the Cross, and intercedes for the salvation of the entire world.

The principal liturgy for this day, March 29, is the **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3:00 p.m.** This liturgy will be repeated at 7:30 p.m. for those who are **unable to attend at 3:00.** At this liturgy, we gather quietly to listen to Scripture, particularly the chanted proclamation of the Passion from St. John’s Gospel. We pray at length for all the world’s needs with special solemn prayers of intercession. Then there is another once-a-year event: the Holy Cross is held up in our midst, and we adore the Holy Cross. At this point in the liturgy, there will be a period of communal adoration of the Holy Cross, not individual adoration. All will adore the Holy Cross silently while remaining at their seat in the pews.

Then, the Holy Cross will remain on display after the liturgy for those who wish to spend some time privately and individually adoring the Holy Cross. Also, in keeping with liturgical norms, a cross will be used rather than a crucifix, since we are not reverencing the dead body of Christ, but rather are adoring, as the liturgical text tells us, “the wood of the Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.”

In the third part of the liturgy, Holy Communion is distributed; it is bread that was consecrated on Holy Thursday evening, since no Mass is celebrated today.

We will leave the liturgy in silence, continuing in fasting and prayer and vigil, in rest and quiet through Saturday. We will also gather to pray **Morning Prayer** together at **9:00 a.m. on Good Friday.** Also, **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed at **12:00 Noon.**





HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday for us is like God's rest at the end of creation; it is Christ's repose in the tomb. It is a day of profound silence as the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on His Passion and Death and awaiting His Resurrection. We will gather to pray **Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.**

THE EASTER VIGIL

Our parish celebration of the great Three Days culminates with the celebration of the **Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening, March 30, at 8:00 p.m.** The Vigil is the heart of our worship; it is the essence of what we have been preparing for during Lent and will celebrate during the great Fifty Days of Easter. **Four elements make up the celebration of the Easter Vigil:**

The Service of Light: The image of the struggle between light and darkness, before us since Ash Wednesday, reaches its climax. A new fire is blessed, the Easter Candle is lit, light fills the darkened worship space, and the candle is honored in the Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*). During this prayer, we bless, praise, and thank God for the light of His Son's Resurrection overcoming the darkness of sin and death.



The Liturgy of the Word: The basic stories of our faith are proclaimed. This is meant to be, and will be, a lengthy word service which retells the story of our salvation as nine (9) readings are proclaimed: seven from the Old Testament, a New Testament Epistle, and a Gospel. The Word provides the foundation leading to the Liturgy of Baptism.

The Liturgy of Baptism (Initiation): Those who have been preparing for initiation into the Church now receive the sacraments of new life. This year, OLPH is overjoyed to give birth to four new Christians at the womb of the Church, the baptismal font, as we welcome our elect Helen Pettinato, Diego Pettinato, Ailen Pettinato and Ameira Shehata into the life of Christ and of the Church as they receive the Easter sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Also, as is always done at the Easter Vigil, we as a community will renew our own baptism, as a reminder of our call to ongoing conversion in the Lord.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist: All present share in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. There is nothing greater for us to do as Christians than to share in the Eucharist. Helen, Diego, Ailen and Ameira, the newly-baptized and confirmed, receive Holy Communion for the first time.

The Easter Vigil, then, is more than just another Saturday evening Mass. It is the celebration of who we are as people who have died and risen with Christ, proclaimed with fire and candlelight, readings and songs, water and oil, bread and wine. The Vigil runs longer than the usual Mass, but those who enter into the spirit of prayer and celebration often experience a sense of timelessness as they encounter the holy.

EASTER SUNDAY VESPERS AND EASTER TIME

The Triduum ends on Easter Sunday evening with Vespers (Evening Prayer), **and we encourage you to pray Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday; in next week's bulletin we will include a simple prayer service you can use at home.** After Easter Sunday, the days of Easter Time begin. The fifty (50) days of Easter Time, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, even as one "great Sunday." This is the period of *Mystagogia*, of reflecting on the mysteries, for those initiated into the Church. It is the time for all of us as Christians to reflect on the meaning of our baptism and the meaning of living the resurrected life of Christ.

Why Are Feet Washed on Holy Thursday?

Kristopher W. Seaman

During a very blustery winter, my family and I were carefully trying not to slip on the ice as we made our way through a crowded parking lot to the church. Upon entering the worship space, the pastoral associate and pastor asked me to fill in for a person who was frightened to leave the house during the snow storm. I responded with enthusiasm, "I would love to help out! What do you need?" The priest said, "Someone to have their feet washed." Later on, I remember myself being the one inviting people to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday. One person I asked, because of her profound sense of service on behalf of the parish, responded by saying, "Oh! I don't know. I would gladly wash people's feet, because I know how to serve others. I am not very good at people doing things for me." Both stories embody a sense of service, helping out others by invitation.

The biblical basis for the washing of the feet occurs in the Last Supper narrative, and is only found in the Gospel according to John. At the moment when we expect Jesus to take bread and wine and transform them, as he does in the Gospel accounts of Mark, Matthew, and Luke, Jesus in John's Gospel account gets up and begins to wash feet. Peter first refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet; it should be, as Peter reasoned it, Peter washing Jesus's feet. Jesus rebukes Peter: "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:12-15).

Jesus serves his disciples, and then instructs them to imitate his practice of washing feet. There is a sense of humility. A disciple is to serve others. Because of the context of the washing of the feet in John's Gospel, there is also a sense of transformation. As disciples, our model, *par excellence*, is Jesus Christ. His practices in scripture provide a model for our



practices as disciples. Jesus knew he was going to be crucified, and gave this practice as a sign for disciples to serve one another. Pope Francis has been receiving a lot of press since his election, and part of this is his profound sense of humble service to all people. He models service in his daily actions.

During his Homily on Holy Thursday evening, Pope Francis remarked that this rite is "a caress of Jesus." Feet stink, feet were callused and blistered from long walks. In Jesus's day proper hospitality required the servants to wash the guests' feet. Jesus, as the host, turns this practice upside down. He bends low and washes the feet of the lowly. He caresses, an act of love. True service wells up from a profound love and faith that seeks to help others daily. The rite of washing feet is called

the *mandatum*, Latin for "commandment." Jesus summed up the law by saying there are two fundamental commandments: Love God and love one's neighbor. Loving the neighbor is acting humbly and in service.

Jesus, in John's Gospel account, offers a meaning of Eucharist: The encounter with Christ Jesus has implications in one's life. What Jesus did and does for us, we are to do for one another. As Pope Francis remarked: "because this is the real reason why Jesus came: to serve, to help us."

KRISTOPHER W. SEAMAN, DMIN, is a doctoral student at King's College, University of London. He is the former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. He earned an MA in liturgical studies from Saint John's University (Collegeville), and an MA in systematic theology and a DMIN from Catholic Theological Union (CTU).

How to Go to Confession...

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all
the saints,
whatever good you do and suffering you endure,
heal your sins,
help you grow in holiness,
and reward you with eternal life.
Go in peace.

—*Rite of Penance*, no. 93

- 1 PREPARATION:** Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ’s commands to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37, 39)? As a help with this “examination of conscience,” you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).
- 2 GREETING:** The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.
- 3 THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:** Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [*give days, months, or years*] since my last confession.”
- 4 CONFESSION:** Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”
- 5 PENANCE:** The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.
- 6 ACT OF CONTRITION:** After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more. A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.
(Rite of Penance, no. 45)
- 7 ABSOLUTION:** The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, “Amen.”
- 8 PRAISE:** The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.” And your response would be, “His mercy endures for ever” (*Rite of Penance, no. 47*).
- 9 DISMISSAL:** The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, “Go in peace.”

If it has been a while since your last confession, remember, “Do not fear” (Is 41:10). The priest will help guide you. And feel free to take this how-to guide with you! (For more information, visit www.usccb.org/confession.)

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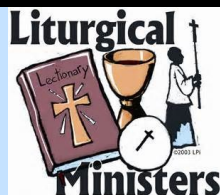


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LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING



WE NEED YOU! WE WANT YOU!

OLPH IS RECRUITING NEW LECTORS, USHERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

What do Extraordinary Ministers do?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priests and deacons in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Those who wish can also go on for extra training to bring Holy Communion to our homebound sisters and brothers.

How Do I Become An Extraordinary Minister?

1. You must contact Barbara McPhail at 631-226-1354 or e-mail to gospa254@gmail.com.
2. You must send a letter to Msgr. Joe at the Parish Office or e-mail to msgrjoe@oloph.org requesting to become a minister.
3. You must meet with Msgr. Joe for an interview.
4. You must attend one of the diocesan training sessions (see below). If you wish to also bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, you must attend a separate "Part B" training session. Information about that session can be obtained in your interview with Msgr. Joe.

What do Lectors do?

Lectors proclaim the Scriptures and sometimes the Intercessions at Sunday and daily Mass and at other liturgies.



How Do I Become A Lector?

1. You must contact Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or email to DeaconRobert9550@gmail.com
2. You must attend one of the diocesan training sessions.

LECTORS

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Elizabeth Parish, Melville
(Our own Msgr. Joe will be the presenter at this one on April 16!)

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
at Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach*

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Christopher Parish, Baldwin

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, "PART A" FOR ALL MINISTERS

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Elizabeth Parish, Melville
(Our own Msgr. Joe will be the presenter at this one on April 16!)

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
at Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach*

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Christopher Parish, Baldwin

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, "PART B" FOR THOSE WHO WILL BRING COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
at Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach*

Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Elizabeth Parish, Melville

Tuesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Christopher Parish, Baldwin

**Same day, Parts A and B—bring lunch or leave for lunch and return*

What do Ushers do?

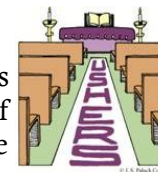
Ushers serve an important role in the liturgy! First and foremost, they are ministers of hospitality who welcome all those who come to liturgy. They help create an environment conducive to worship by the way they greet people with warmth and friendliness. Ushers also serve by guiding the movement of the assembly during processions such as the reception of Holy Communion and at other times. Taking up the collection is another way Ushers serve the assembly.

Who Should Become an Usher?

Anyone, including teens who have received Confirmation, can become an Usher. This is a great ministry for families to do together...the young ones can do this with parents and older children!

How Do I Become an Usher?

You should contact Mike Williams at olphushersministry@gmail.com or, if you don't have e-mail, leave a message for Msgr. Joe at the Parish Office, 631-226-7725 and he will pass the message along to Mike.



All liturgical ministers must complete a Volunteer Registration Form, have Virtus training and be a registered parishioner. For information about becoming Virtus compliant: contact Helene Calabrese at hcalab2@optonline.net.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Please note that there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on **Wednesday, March 27** (Wednesday of Holy Week). It is necessary to cancel Exposition that day because the cleaning of the church must be moved from Thursday to Wednesday this week. Thank you for your understanding.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE CHASE PARKING LOT DURING THE DAY ON GOOD FRIDAY

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Join us next Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass

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

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



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.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING OFFERINGS FOR THE POOR ON HOLY THURSDAY

All who attend the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper are asked to bring an offering of food for the poor and homeless. Insofar as one of the principal mysteries commemorated on Holy Thursday is the Lord's command to love one another, as also ritualized in the Washing of Feet, this ritual expression of bringing offerings for the poor reminds us that "where true charity is dwelling, God is present there." Check the shopping list for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and bring one or more of those items. **REMEMBER, THOUGH: DO NOT BRING YOUR GIFT TO THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY BEFORE MASS BEGINS! HOLD ONTO IT — YOU WILL CARRY IT UP IN PROCESSION AT THE USUAL TIME OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS, AS DIRECTED BY THE USHERS.** This offering for the poor is the "collection" for that Mass. Thus, these offerings for the poor and the bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist will powerfully symbolize the offerings of ourselves and of our love for one another as we participate in the offering of the Mass.

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

ALL LEVELS!!!

Remember that there are no classes both this Wednesday, March 27, and this Saturday, March 30. Enjoy your Easter Break and remember to attend Mass for Easter!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!

Early Registration for returning families began March 1st. There is a \$30 discount for all families that register before May 31st. After June 1st, the regular registration fee will be in effect for ALL registrations. For any late registrations that come in after July 31st there will be an additional \$30 late fee. We continue to encourage all families with children who will be beginning 1st grade (or older) who have not yet begun religious education to register for religious education. All new families must schedule an appointment in order to register and must come with a baptismal certificate.

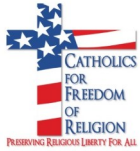
Saint of the Day!

St. Bernadette Soubirous

St. Bernadette was born in France and was the oldest of nine children. She had asthma and was sick throughout her life. When she was fourteen years old she had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary come to her, and was told to go to the grotto and drink the spring water, bathe in it, and eat the herb that grew there. The water was made clean the next day. This spring has cured many people to this day! May she intercede for us always.



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



From Catholics for Freedom of Religion www.cffor.org **The Call for Our Time: Defend Life and Religious Liberty**

“The age of casual Catholicism is over. The age of heroic Catholicism has begun.”

—Father Terence Henry, TOR, Franciscan University of Steubenville

Whether the issue of religious freedom/freedom of conscience is the right to teach our children the faith, not being forced to fund abortion, evangelization, assembling for worship, the integrity of the words of the Bible, witnessing and advocating our faith and morals in the public square, operating foster parent adoption agencies, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, drug addiction services, *etc.*, all Americans benefit from the God-given right of religious freedom. Our founders agreed with James Madison, *“Conscience is the most sacred of all property.”*

The Declaration of Independence asserts that we have inalienable rights from our Creator and that government’s role is to protect those rights. Differing from the history of nations world-wide, the citizens of the new United States claimed the natural rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness from their Creator, free from dictates by a king, emperor or all-powerful government.

We are, more than ever, experiencing unrelenting pressures to yield our right to follow our conscience in the choice for life. The ability to choose life, from conception to natural death, can be regulated and legislated away from us (by the proposed Equity Act) if freedom of conscience and religion are not preserved. Doctors, nurses and hospitals could be required, under proposed legislation, to participate in abortions as part of their licensing, and they could be required to implement certain end of life protocols which some see as denial of treatment.

Since the Supreme Court’s decision that there is no federal Constitutional right to abortion and therefore abortion laws are the purview of each state, those who demand unrestricted abortion are working feverishly within states for abortion on demand. Each American has the duty to learn and preserve our religious freedom’s right of conscience for ages and millions yet unborn.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/jrhe45cw> <https://tinyurl.com/y3tbs88k> <https://tinyurl.com/ywcs9b2p>

“In a word, freedom is ever new. It is a challenge held out to each generation, and it must constantly be won over for the cause of good.”

—Pope Francis

IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

As required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Sacraments of Initiation are to be celebrated in the home parish of the child. Therefore, all families of OLPH with children celebrating First Communion and Confirmation are to have their children **celebrate those sacraments at OLPH**. As Catholics, our faith identity is centered in our Eucharistic identity, namely, the Sunday worshipping community we belong to (where we celebrate Mass Sunday after Sunday). This community is our primary community and the community in which our faith is lived, day in and day out.

Because of this, and because each year of religious formation builds on the prior one, **all school-aged children who are parishioners of OLPH, regardless of where they attend school, must be registered with our Religious Education Office for all years of religious formation (not only for sacrament-preparation years).**

- Children **in all grades** who attend **public school** attend religion classes in our Religious Education Program, and they and their parents also participate in various non-classroom religious formation experiences.

- Children **in all grades** who attend a **Catholic elementary school** need not attend the Religious Education classes, but they **must be registered in the program**, and they and their parents participate in all the non-classroom religious formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. **These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH**, not at the parish of their elementary school.

- Children **in all grades** who are **homeschooled** must also be registered with the Religious Education Office. They may or may not be required to attend the Religious Education classes, depending on their homeschool curriculum, but regardless, the homeschooled children and their parents are to attend the various non-classroom formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. **These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH.**

If you are a parishioner with children in a Catholic elementary school or who are homeschooled and you are not yet on record with our Religious Education Office, please contact the office immediately. If you know of anyone who should be registered, please let them know of this policy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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.

As of April 1 we will no longer be open on Saturday.

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life.

During Lent, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the mercy of Jesus into the hearts of the poor, by assisting 70 families, 88 adults, 58 children and 26 seniors with 103 bags of food. God bless you!

NEW Food Pantry List!

TEA

SHELF STABLE WHOLE MILK

BAKED BEANS

BROTHS/ GRAVIES

SOUPS WITH MEAT

CANNED MEALS

PEANUT BUTTER

JELLY OR JAM

FRUIT JUICE

COOKIES/SNACKS

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 POOR BOXES

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.



ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

OLPH Confraternity of Christian Mothers & Guild

Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale

March 23 and 24



Following the Saturday 5:00 p.m. and all Sunday Masses

Located in the priest garages on High Street

Proceeds go for the benefit of OLPH

homemade baked goodies cakes, bread, cookies, cupcakes, chocolates & basket raffle
cash only please

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE



Auction/Trivia Night

Sponsored by The **Blue Door** Boutique

Date: **Friday, April 19th**

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: **O.L.P.H. Auditorium**

Admission: \$5, includes auction paddle and entrance to trivia quiz

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

RIGHT TO LIFE SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

My Dear Friends in Christ,

With assaults on human life increasing at an alarming rate, we are asking you today to make a personal commitment to pray daily for one unborn child who is in danger of being aborted. Unfortunately, since the Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973, the number of abortions has increased to 1.4 million annually. Each of us is being asked to "spiritually adopt" one unknown baby for the next nine months. We will pray for this child, that he or she will be carried to term and experience the fullness of life, as God intended. All our prayers can make a difference between whether a baby will be born or aborted. Our prayers can also be a form of spiritual support for both of the baby's parents.

PLEASE RETURN THE RIGHT HALF OF THE COUPON TO THE CRADLE IN FRONT OF OUR LADY'S ALTAR

Our Lady of Perpetual Help SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

Jesus, Mary & Joseph
I beg you to spare the life
of the unborn child
whom I have spiritually adopted
and who is in danger of abortion.

Baby's Name _____
Due Date: _____

Our Lady of Perpetual Help SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

I, _____,
spiritually adopt an unborn baby

Name of Child
and who is in danger of abortion
by praying daily for the life of this baby.
(Please return this half)

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

2024
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith –
Renewed by the Eucharist*



2024 OLPH GOAL:
\$114,600

Total pledges: \$30,295.00
of pledges: 124
Total payments: \$18,145.00
As of 3/12/24

Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Name: _____

Parish: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: Home _____

Cell: _____

Signature: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/>

or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296. Thank you!

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	msgsjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religiously@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

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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

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Bob Meade

YOUR PARISH

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Kenneth Hale

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John Reynolds

Jackie Totino

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

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Fauvette Auguste

Erin Barrett

Deacon Robert Becker

Mark Costantino

Msgr. Joe DeGrocco

Kenneth Hale

Jenine Jimenez-Spina

Denise Martinez

Barbara McPhail

Deacon Doug Smith

Mike Williams

Fr. Frank Zero

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Second Announcement:

***Brendan Arena & Gina Alvino
John LaBianca & Stephanie Serwan***

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.

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.

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 BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Mary Doran</i>	<i>Patty Freapane</i>
<i>John Jordan</i>	<i>Matthew Cangro</i>
<i>Thomas Volpe</i>	<i>Tom Sowden</i>
<i>Nora McMahon</i>	<i>Paul Leyden</i>
<i>Patricia & Richard Kleczekowski</i>	<i>Joseph Pugh</i>
<i>Susan Walters</i>	<i>Christopher Bovenzi</i>
<i>Ritchie and MaryAnn Haas</i>	<i>Steven Castiglione</i>
<i>Larry Hoelger</i>	<i>Christine Ajello-Larsen</i>
<i>John Kaszalka</i>	<i>Rev. Fr. Edward Seagriff</i>
<i>John Leyden</i>	<i>Genevieve Popiel</i>
<i>Janet Leyden</i>	<i>Dilibeth Chirino</i>
<i>Lena Farrugia</i>	<i>Dolores Lombardo</i>
<i>John Ogilvie</i>	<i>John Koszalka</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 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.

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

Monica Grimsland

"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."

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 run **Saturdays 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.

MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, March 25—

Monday of Holy Week

6:30 Rinko Family

12:15 Stefania Czapla

TUESDAY, March 26—

Tuesday of Holy Week

6:30 Gina Bernardi

12:15 Alan K. Keilitz Sr.

WEDNESDAY, March 27—

Wednesday of Holy Week

6:30 Carl R. Kieninger

12:15 Richard Valela

THURSDAY, March 28—

**THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK
(Holy Thursday)**

9:00 Morning Prayer

7:30 Mass of the Lord's Supper

10:00 Night Watch

10:45 Night Prayer

FRIDAY, March 29—

**FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
(Good Friday)**

9:00 Morning Prayer

12:00 Stations of the Cross

3:00 Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

7:30 Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
(Repeated)

SATURDAY, March 30—

HOLY SATURDAY

9:00 Morning Prayer

**Vigil for
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD**

No 5:00 p.m. Mass

8:00 Easter Vigil in the Holy Night —
For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, March 31
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD**

7:00 Easter Spiritual Bouquet

9:00 Easter Spiritual Bouquet

11:00 Easter Spiritual Bouquet

1:00 Easter Spiritual Bouquet

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, March 25, 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

2:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting Room 24

2:00-4:00 p.m. Confessions Church
6:00-9:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal Church

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

4:15 p.m. Altar Server Rehearsal Church

6:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Rehearsal for Holy Thursday Church

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, March 27, 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. *No Exposition*

1:00 p.m.-on Church closed for cleaning Church

7:00 p.m. Legion of Mary
(631-412-3831 for information) Off Campus

Thursday, March 28, 2024

**ALL RECTORY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
WILL CLOSE AT 2:00 P.M. TODAY (NO EVENING HOURS)
AND ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED.**

3:45 p.m. Rehearsal for Good Friday Church
3:00 p.m. Liturgy

4:30 p.m. Rehearsal for Good Friday Church
7:30 p.m. Liturgy

Friday, March 29, 2024

**ALL RECTORY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
ARE CLOSED AND ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES ARE
CANCELLED. THE RECEPTION DESK WILL BE OPEN
UNTIL 1:00 P.M.**

Saturday, March 30, 2024

9:30 a.m. Decorate the Church for Church
Easter

12:30 p.m. Rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Church

Sunday, March 31, 2024

**ALL RECTORY OFFICES, RECEPTION DESK
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES ARE CLOSED
AND PARISH ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED. WE WILL
RESUME REGULAR HOURS MONDAY, APRIL 1 AT 9:00**

OFFERING UPDATE March 16/17			
Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	264	99	\$3,011.00
8:00 a.m.	200	85	2,861.00
10:00 a.m.	349	93	3,234.00
12:00 a.m.	350	94	2,759.00
Total coin:			6.41
Faith Direct			3,420.75
Children's Env.		13	98.00
Mail-ins:			463.00
TOTAL	1,163	384	\$15,853.16
2023	1,214	365	\$16,546.72
Candles			\$826.84
Poor Box			\$302.30

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS DURING THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Please note these special hours for the rectory reception desk on the following days this week:

Holy Thursday, March 28—
9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
closed for remainder of afternoon and evening on Holy Thursday

Good Friday, March 29—
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30—
9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31— *Closed*
Normal office hours resume on Monday, April 1

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR ENVELOPE FOR THE HOLY LAND COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY

Your Good Friday Holy Land Offering envelope should be placed in one of the baskets as you enter or leave the church on Good Friday. Due to the unique nature of the liturgy, no collection will be taken up. Your offering may be made using one of the baskets that will be placed around the church. Thank you for your attention to this, and for your generosity in supporting the churches in the Holy Land.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical *Good Friday Collection*, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS! For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday.

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.

April 7—deadline passed
April 14—April 5 deadline
April 21—April 12 deadline

Important Diocese of Rockville Centre Information

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were over 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 31, 2024
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

He has been raised!

Mark 16:6

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

We hear today Peter's speech to the household of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, a Gentile (non-Jew) who received a vision from God and sent for Peter to explain it. Peter comes to understand by this that God wants the message of the good news of the salvation won by Jesus' death and resurrection to be given to all people, not just the Jews. Peter emphasizes that he and the other disciples are actual witnesses to the events of which he speaks, an experience that has transformed him from a fearful doubter to a fearless proclaimer of the risen Christ.

Colossians 3:1-4

Paul reminds the church at Colossae and us that those who were raised to a new life in Christ through baptism should seek "what is above." Our lives must be radically changed, for we have chosen to die to our old selves. Life must be lived very differently until Christ comes again in his glory at his Second Coming.

John 20:1-9

For John, in his account of the Easter morning discovery that Jesus' tomb is empty, *seeing is believing*, and believing is the ultimate goal of any encounter with Jesus. After Mary told the disciples about the open tomb, Peter and the "other disciple" ran to see for themselves. They both went in, Peter first, and saw the burial cloths there but no body. The other disciple "saw and believed." Jesus would later appear to the other disciples and many others, who then came to believe that he had risen from the dead, conquering death and opening heaven to all. Once the disciples saw, they believed. What did it take for you to begin to believe in this wonderful news?

Gospel Reflection Questions....

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

1. The same women who came to anoint his body in the morning had been with Jesus when he died. Were they deterred from their task by fear or an immovable stone? Compare and contrast their behavior with the actions of some of Jesus' other disciples. Think about events like the Selma march, ISIS beheadings, and people like Gandhi and Dorothy Day. Were they stopped by fear? Where is your own courage on a scale of 1 to 10?

2. What is it that allowed John to "see and believe," to have this kind of clarity? Does love give you knowledge about a person, or insights into their behavior? In John, Jesus said, "Whoever loves me ... I will love him (her) and reveal myself to him (her)" (John 14:21). Is there a connection between Jesus' statement and John's "seeing and believing?"

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, March 25, 2024:

Isaiah 42:1-7 + John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26, 2024:

Isaiah 49:1-6
+ John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, March 27, 2024:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
+ Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday, March 28, 2024:

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
+ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
+ John 13:1-15

Friday, March 29, 2024:

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
+ Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
+ John 18:1—19:42

Saturday, March 30, 2024: Vigil

Genesis 1:1—2:2 + Genesis 22:1-18
+ Exodus 14:15—15:1 + Isaiah 54:5-14
+ Isaiah 55:1-11 + Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4
+ Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28
+ Romans 6:3-11 + Mark 16:1-7

Sunday, March 31, 2024:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
+ John 20:1-9

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