PARISH STAFF
BUSINESS / FACILITIES MANAGER
Deacon Donald A. Stamm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 226-2384
Director of Religious Education: Thomas J. Acemoglu
RCIA / Adult Formation: Deacon Douglas G. Smith
Baptismal Prep: Deacon William Crosby

YOUTH MINISTRY 226-6239
Youth Ministry Coordinators: Brittany Marie Evans, Thomas Schaefer and Anthony Amico

MUSIC DIRECTOR
James R. Kendall

SACRISTAN
Mark Costantino

PLANT MAINTENANCE
Vito Cudia

SPECIAL MINISTRIES
St. Vincent de Paul 225-5531
President: Joseph Illuminato

Catholic Youth Organization : olphcophil@optonline.net
Program Coordinator: Phil Amico
516-732-8520

MISSION STATEMENT

“Trusting in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and, motivated by Christ’s Life, Death and Resurrection, we, the people of God, under the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accept as our mission, the evangelization of our parishioners both active and inactive. We accept the call to bring all to a personal, Covenant relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior, to live the Paschal Mystery and to promote the spiritual health and growth of everyone in our parish community.”

- The OLPH Pastoral Council

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY 8 –THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
(IS 60:1-6, EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6; MT 2:1-12)

6:30 - Mass for the People of the Parish
8:00 - Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
9:30 - Millie Criscuolo
11:00 - Book of the Faithful Departed
12:30 - Leonard Vicciardo
5:00 - Robert Koudelka
6:30 - Polish Mass

MONDAY: JAN. 9—Baptism of the Lord
(Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38; Mk 1:7-11)

8:00 - Stephen Pace
12:00 - Lawrence Minutolo
7:00 - Fr. James Stachacz (Living)
7:30 - Devotions (Novena)

TUESDAY: JAN. 10— Weekday
(1Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28)

8:00 - Karen Bruning
12:00 - Steve Gervasi
7:00 - Minnie Dellaria

WEDNESDAY: JAN. 11— Weekday
(1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39)

8:00 - Christina Renna
12:00 - Dominick Ciuffini
7:00 - Zach Avanzato

THURSDAY: JAN. 12—Weekday
(1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45)

8:00 - Katherine Connolly
12:00 - Rocco Versace
7:00 - Louis Marrero

FRIDAY: JAN. 13—St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
(1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12)

8:00 - Marco Sampogna
12:00 - Dominick Ciuffini
7:00 - Theresa Puleo

SATURDAY: JAN. 14—Weekday
(1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17)

8:00 - Anna Sanna
9:00 - Josephine Fattizzi

VIGIL MASS – (1 Sm 3:3b-10,19, 1Cor6:13c-15a,17-20; Jn 1:35-42)
5:00 Dominic Digieomo

Altar Bread & Wine
In Memory of
Raymond Ruegamer
In Loving Memory of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
From the Pastor’s Desk:
A New Year has begun, and today we celebrate “Little Christmas”, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. On this day, as you know, the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem after a long journey as they followed a Star that was designated by astrologers as a “Star of Wonder” that would appear in the eastern sky and move west until it would stop over the place where the birth of a king was to take place. In their wisdom and desire to know and understand the wonder of God’s divine creation, they took the journey that led them to Bethlehem where they found this “newborn King” lying in a manger protected by Mother Mary and Joseph, warmed by the breath of the animals and now honored by the world beyond the kingdom of Judah. Jesus begins to announce the meaning of His birth as gift to “All men and women of good Will”.

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King’s Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King’s Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). The term epiphany means “to show” or “to make known” or even “to reveal.” In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing “reveal” Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of the Church Year associated with Christmas actually begins with the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas Day. Advent is marked by expectation and anticipation in preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Christmas begins with Christmas Day December 25 and lasts for Twelve Days until Epiphany, January 6, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called Christmastide.

Around January 6, the symbol +C+B+M+ with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example, 20+C+B+M+12) is sometimes seen written in chalk above the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase Christus mansionem benedicat: “May Christ bless the house.” The beginning and ending numbers are the year, 2012 in the example above. The crosses represent Christ.

The symbols are now used throughout the world and usually represent a traditional Epiphany prayer and blessing.

A Blessing for the Marking of Doorways

**Leader:** Peace be with this house and with all who live here.
**Response (All):** And peace be with all who enter here.

**Leader:** During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this Feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, and thereby to the whole world. Today, Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place because of the presence of Christ here.

**Leader:** Listen to the Gospel according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord to you.
**Response (All):** Thanks be to God!

**Leader:** O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill each of us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Response (All):** Amen

**Fr. Tropani**

20 + C + B + M + 12
The very first reading for the First Sunday of Advent included a promise that all nations would stream toward the mountain of the Lord’s house (Is 2:2). Today we see this promise fulfilled. Magi from the East arrive to pay homage to the newborn king. Though the Gospel does not say much about them, apocryphal stories grew up to enhance the biblical data. According to the Eastern tradition, there were 12 magi. The Western tradition maintains that there were three, corresponding to the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the early church the three magi were seen as representatives of the three major races: Melchior, the black-skinned people; Balthasar, the Asians; and Gaspar, the Europeans. This signified the universal character of God’s saving grace.

The star suggests that these men possessed significant astrological knowledge. Gradually, the star came to represent enlightenment. This theme is re-enforced by the reading from Isaiah, which speaks of Jerusalem’s rescue from darkness. But not only Jerusalem is led into the light; all nations are so blessed. Paul echoes this theme when he states that “the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.” Both ancient Israel and the early Christians believed that God’s loving kindness was open to all peoples, regardless of race or ethnic origin.

This is an important message for us today, when there is such racial, ethnic and religious intolerance in so many parts of the world. Our cities are torn apart by bigotry; sometimes our local parish communities are as well. Regardless of the actual number of magi or their cultural profile, the overarching theme of the feast of the Epiphany is the universal scope of God’s revelation. All peoples are invited to rejoice in the glory of the Lord; the signs of God’s presence are revealed to all. Following the example of the magi, we are meant to respond to God’s gift together.

As Christian Stewards in Today’s World, We “Walk by Faith.”

January 8, —The Epiphany of the Lord

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh as part of the worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who develop their talents to the fullest in order to use them to benefit church and community by assisting the poor, feeding the hungry, consoling the sorrowful and teaching the young.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Your Parish Finance Council has suggested that this simple bar graph be added to our weekly bulletin to illustrate the gap between the Sunday collection and the amount needed to achieve a balanced parish budget. Since the beginning of our fiscal year, September 1, 2011, we have experienced a weekly shortfall in collections. It is urgent that we begin to reverse this trend.

OUR PARISH’S FINANCIAL HEALTH DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY

HELP CLOSE THE GAP!

All envelopes must have your account number and offering amount indicated in order for your account to be credited for weekly and special donations.

The account number, after the #267, is located under the date. Remember you must be registered in the parish in order to receive envelopes. Thank you.

We now have 82 parishioners/families enrolled in Faith Direct!

Christmas Holiday Collection totals will be reported at a later date.
PARISH NEWS

Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God “We will all Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ” January 22, 3 PM will be held here at OLPH Church. All are encouraged to attend! Details to follow.

CONGRATULATIONS To our January “1000 Club” Winners:

$1000 — Ralph & Cheryl Hess
$250 — Catherine Tamburino
$150 — Joe & Diane Murawski
$100 — Andrea Giordano

“March for Life – Monday, January 23,” - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Lindenhurst will be having a bus to Washington to participate in this peaceful March. We will be having a 5 AM Mass in the Church. The bus will leave PROMPTLY at 5:30 AM. We will be dropped in Washington, near the March site. Pick up will be at the same location at 5 PM SHARP. We have a short stop going down and possibly a longer one on the return. Please bring your sandwiches etc. If interested, please call Kathy at 631-225-9864 or Louise 631-412-3831.

Feeling ill....need prayers? - Our Legion of Mary (and some of our parishioners) have been making "prayer shawls and lap rugs". We pray while making these and then one of our priests bless them and they are given free of charge to anyone who is ill and would wish the comfort of prayers and a shawl. Many have found comfort from their physical warmth and the knowledge that they are being prayed for. Contact the Legion of Mary for information.

The Respect Life Committee would like to thank Fr. Anthony for placing our "Giving Tree" and, on behalf of the Life Center, our wonderful parishioners for their most generous response.

After we organized the items, we were able to send the Life Center over 40 "trash" bags of clothes, blankets, bibs, socks, teething rings, etc. as well as the MOST beautiful handmade blankets and sweater sets.

You have all surely made Heaven smile with your love and generosity. God bless you all!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Healing Mass at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston. Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7pm. Rosary, Mass & Healing service celebrated by Fr. Augustine Fernando. For more info call: 718-229-8001.

Special Open House: St. Mary’s School, East Islip, Jan. 11, 10am—12noon, Jan. 12 7-8:30 pm. Catholic Schools Week Open House: January 29, 12 noon—2pm; Jan. 31, 8:30-10am; Feb. 2, 12:30-1:30pm. For information call 631-581-3423 X142

Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy—provided by NYS licensed therapists available to our parish and 102 other parishes. Services provided by Catholic Counseling Center. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments: call Dr. Giuliani 631-243-2503 or go to our website thecatholiccounselingcenter.com.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE NOW! Upcoming Retrouvaille weekend, for couples who have troubles or problems in their marriage and hope to save their marriage begins Friday, Feb. 3 at the Monfort retreat house in Bay Shore. Please call 1-800-470-2230 for confidential details.
Isaiah 11:6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the yearling together, and a little child shall lead them.

A special thank you to all the families and especially the children for being part of the Christmas Eve Pageant. The children did a wonderful job acting out the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to the following parents who volunteered at the practices and pageant: Laura Cawley, Victoria Clark, Adai Daly, Sharon Hauberich, Kris Kelly, Chris McCarthy, Marie Sessa, Chris Shannon, Kathleen Wilson, Caroline Rakus Wojciechowski (narrator), Amy Keller, who lead the children in singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" and the Family Life Committee: Tricia, Adrianne, Rose Anne & Chris. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Season.
Debbie McDonough Family Life Coordinator

Thank you to the following children who were part of Fr. Opoku’s Christmas Eve homily: Wisemen: Declan Buckley, Daniel Cooney, Jack Kelly, Shepherds: Nick Artusa, Danny Hauberich, Arianna Pentecost. Prophet Isaiah: Tatum Cawley, John the Baptist: Fiona Buckley and Jesus: Luke Cawley.

The Wisemen and shepherds went to the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist and asked "We want to make it Christmas." "What do we do?" The prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist explained to them what they needed to do. Finally, Jesus spoke to the congregation and told everyone what they needed to do to make it Christmas.

At the end of the homily Fr. Opoku had the children all repeat:
"WE CAN MAKE IT CHRISTMAS!"
Society of St. Vincent de Paul: “THE HUNGRY ARE ALWAYS HUNGRY”

PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY & JAM, TUNA FISH, CANNED MEATS, CANNED & PKG. POTATOES, SHELF STABLE—POWERED & EVAPORATED MILK, PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP, PORK & BEANS, CAKE MIX, JELLO & PUDDING, CANNED FRUIT, CEREAL, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE. PASTA IS NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME.

WE WERE OVERWHELMED BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR PARISHIONERS AND WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS DINNERS AND GIFTS FOR MORE THAN 60 FAMILIES. THANKS TO ALL!

St. Vincent de Paul Pantry is located at 272 South Wellwood Ave.

The office is open ONLY on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am—12 noon. Call 631-225-5531.
LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT: January 8th - New Year New You!

It's that time of year again... RETREAT is coming FAST! Book your calendars now March 16th - March 18th!

Remember all lectors, band members, and EDGE Leaders that are in High School, you must attend at least 2 Life Nights a month going forward!

Attention all 8th graders & new comers!! You are all welcome to attend Life Nights as of Jan 1st. We meet at the blue door on the south side of the convent. This is the perfect time to come down and see what we are all about.

Start the new year off on a good note join us!

"Behold I make all things new" Rev 21:5

Don't forget to check out our website for important details and events...
www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com

The Edge is for all middle school age kids – no matter where you go to school—this is the place for you! We meet in the basement of the Convent. Look for the blue door on the south side of the Convent. We meet from 7:30 til 8:45 pm. It's a great place to come, hang out, play great games and learn about our faith. Just come on down, no need to sign up!

Jan. Edge dates 1/10; 1/17 and 1/31/12.

Everyone at Edge wish all our families a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Check out the EDGE website @ www.olphym.com or call 226-6239 and leave a message for Peggy

SCHOOL NEWS

Language Art – Grade Seven performed their very own play version of “A Christmas Carol”. Students learned concepts of social justice and generosity through the character of Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge must learn the true meaning of charity and giving to others. Dominic Rich played Scrooge, Victoria Chille played Bob Cratchit and Karina Costello played Scrooge’s nephew, Fred. Each student in the seventh grade had a speaking role. This was a collaborative class effect and our tenth play production in Grade seven.
Family Life:

In honor of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

All families who had a child baptized during 2011 are invited to the Family Mass on January 15th, 2012 for a special blessing. Following the blessing there will be a reception in the parish/school cafeteria.

To participate or any questions, please contact:

Lorraine @ 226-2195 or Emily @ 226-0480
by Wednesday, January 11th.


Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Resolve to hope.

‘Tis the season to make resolutions. The indulgence of celebrating is nearly behind us and, in general, the month of January is one in which people try to undo the damage they have done to their waistlines, bank accounts and homes during the past year. We purge and organize, we join gyms and start diets, we buy new calendars and office supplies and we resolve to do better.

These are all good things. The introspection that is necessary to prepare for and make these resolutions is something we all need to do, probably a lot more often than we make time for in our busy lives. However I am going to challenge you here, now to take it a little further. I want you to make a resolution to hope. Not hope in the sense that you hope to fit into a new size by summer but hope in the theological sense that you hope someday to dwell in the presence of God. Hope is one of the three theological virtues. They are so named because the practice of these virtues are the closest we come to being God-like.

“The theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues. They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life. They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being. There are three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity” (CCC 1813)

The pledge and practice of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit! What a wonderful gift God gave us, the ability and call to act with the Holy Spirit and spread hope throughout the world. If all Catholics resolved to hope, as a part of their everyday lives both prayerfully and in action the world would radically change immediately. Hope is not some airy-fairy out there dream but the real and concrete eager anticipation of heaven. Hope is the action of spreading the gospel in both word and deed and living your life with the assurance that the Kingdom of God is there for you and all mankind. Hope is not letting the darkness of the secular world become your dwelling place but allowing the Holy Spirit to joyfully dwell within you and know that the hardships and pain of this world are temporary and, if you allow it, will serve to strengthen your spiritual muscles and prepare your soul for better things.

Hope is desperately needed in the world today. We are experiencing hard times and to discern God’s plan in the midst of suffering can seem almost impossible. Hope gives us the humble assurance that God’s mercy will never be exhausted and that when we open our hearts and minds to it, God’s grace will transform our minds and often our circumstances to create the best possible chance for us to gain heaven. As Catholics we know that our suffering is never without purpose and our loving Father hears our prayers and concerns.

In this new year may hope be our anthem; our motto, our joy and our creed. May we let the glory of the coming of God and His great love for us shine through our every action and call others to experience God’s love and hope through us. Let’s make 2012 the year of joyful hope and show the world “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (Jn1:1-5)

Happy New Year and Praised be Jesus Christ now and forever!

Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Barrett
The Knights of Columbus will present an original musical
“Ain’t Retirement Grand”
written by Gil Perlroth
preformed by the BroadHollow Theatre Company
Friday, January 20, 2012
At 8 pm
At the OLPH K of C Hall
located at 400 S. Broadway, Lindenhurst
Only $15.00 per ticket
So get your friends together and have a grand time!
For tickets and additional information contact:
K of C Hall 631 226 3240
Tom Martin 631 957 4920
Ed Cirella 631 412 3986
Joe Tumminello 516 755 2081
Henry Tomlinson 631 789 0745

OLPH K of C Council #794
Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship
All boys and born between 1/1/1997 and 12/31/2001 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2012 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held Saturday, January 21, between 12:30PM and 2:30PM at the Lindenhurst Middle School Gym.
All boys and girls 10 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in respective age divisions. Winners will move on to the District and potentially on to the County, Regional and State Championships.
All contestants are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.
For additional information contact: Bob Lamarca 631-592-8444, or show up on January 21st.

Don’t forget to bring a copy of your Birth Certificate