

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

Telephone: 631-226-7725 + Fax: 631-225-9597 +

www.olphlindenhurst.com + Facebook: Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2

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John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

John 1:29

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 15, 2023

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

Business Manager: Ms. Jill Marie Delano

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Reilly

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open **each day until 6:30 p.m.**, except on Thursdays (closed after the 12:15 p.m. Mass, for cleaning) and on holidays (closed after the 12:15 p.m. Mass).

Come in and spend some time in prayer!

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. (live-streamed), 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

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.

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.

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.

SUPPORT OLPH THROUGH AMAZON.COM



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support OLPH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OLPH.

Use our custom link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-1797184>.

Support Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

Text **App** to **55321** to download our parish app

- 1) Download **myParish App**
- 2) Select our Parish after opening



myparishapp.com/appstore

Made with ❤️ by Diocesan

Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

New number to download the Parish App!
Text to **55321**

The old number 88202 is no longer in effect!
Cards are available on the pew ledges as long as supply lasts.



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 15, 2023

WATCH

LEARN

LISTEN

SAINTS
St. Anthony of Egypt
Taylor Kemp & Dr. Elizabeth Klein

FORMEDNOW

THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE SHOW
WITH DR. TIM GRAY

RESPECT LIFE
WITH GUEST LYNN GRANDON

FORMEDNOW

ART & CULTURE

How Do We Live Pro-Life?
Dr. Ben Akers & Lynn Grandon

FORMEDNOW

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

PASTOR'S PAGE

The new Ministry Directory is here!

As I announced at Christmas, our updated Ministry Directory, for 2023, has now been released. It's available in electronic form on our website, at the "Get Involved" tab on our homepage, and printed copies are available at the rectory office upon request. This is a great tool to learn about all the various ministries, organizations and groups that make up the life of the parish, as the Directory gives a description of each one and gives the contact information to get involved.

After perusing the Ministry Directory, it's easy to see why OLPH is "the place to be!"

Offerers, not volunteers!

Since we're on the topic of ministry, I'll take this opportunity to emphasize a certain perspective we try to reinforce in our parish which I think has important spiritual implications; it's a perspective that is described in the Ministry Directory, and which I'll review here. At Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we do not have "volunteers," we have OFFERERS. What's the difference?

A volunteer does things at one's own convenience; an OFFERER does things as an offering, as a gift.

A volunteer does something as long as it does not interfere with other things; an OFFERER is willing to stay with something, even if it means letting other things go.

A volunteer often looks for praise or recognition; an OFFERER stays on even if no one notices at all.

A volunteer gets initiative from oneself, because what is done is one's own idea; an OFFERER gets initiative from being baptized, because what is done flows from the mission one is given at baptism.

A volunteer is a person who does things; an OFFERER is a disciple following Christ.

A volunteer does a job; an OFFERER does a ministry.

A volunteer can do something that does not touch one's heart; an OFFERER makes an offering of oneself, out of love.

A volunteer does something and looks for results; an OFFERER does something simply as a way of joining the OFFERING of one's life to the OFFERING of Jesus Christ.

A volunteer's work begins and ends with

oneself; an OFFERER'S work comes from and flows back to the OFFERING one makes at Sunday Eucharist.

Some interesting things to think about, and to pray over, right?

Group Mass Intentions

I want to remind you of an opportunity we offer concerning Mass intentions here at OLPH.

As a pastoral response to the problem of Mass intentions being filled up and parishioners not being able to request Masses, parishes are permitted to take **multiple Mass intentions** for certain Masses. Here's the way it works at Our Lady of Perpetual Help:

1. Each month, one (1) Sunday Mass and one (1) weekday Mass are set aside as a Mass that will have the opportunity for multiple Mass intentions.

2. For the sake of giving this a more spiritual name than just calling it "multiple Mass intentions," these Masses twice a month have been designated as "**Perpetual Help Mass Intentions.**" Note that "Perpetual Help Mass Intentions" is simply a name we have given it; the name does not designate anything different or special or "more" or "less" than a single Mass intention. From the spiritual perspective, it is exactly the same thing as a single Mass intention, the only difference being that the Church permits more than one intention to be taken for that Mass. Otherwise, it is exactly the same thing as always.

3. If someone's intention is taken for one of these Masses, that person is made aware of the fact that other intentions will be remembered along with that one. The remembrance of the intention will not be diminished in any way, but it will not be the only one remembered at that Mass.

4. All the intentions for that Mass are published in the parish bulletin the week prior to the Mass. The intention announced during the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) during Mass will be "For those enrolled in the Perpetual Help Mass Intentions." Please note that **individual names are not announced out loud at the Mass, but instead are printed in the bulletin one week in advance.**

5. Stipends collected for intentions after the first one are used for the support of the parish.

6. A maximum of TWELVE (12) intentions may be taken for any one "Perpetual Help Mass."

There can be no exceptions to this maximum.

It is our hope that this practice, which is permitted by our Bishop and which is in place in many parishes, creates the opportunity for more people to secure Mass intentions here at OLPH. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity when appropriate.

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

This Monday, January 16, our nation celebrates the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. We take this occasion to recall and celebrate the accomplishments of that great civil rights leader, especially his vision for peace and justice and his commitment to non-violence. Dr. King is a model for us as to how the witness of non-violence can bring about systemic change. We need to take to heart in an ever-deepening way his vision that people not be judged on the color of their skin, and be judged instead on the content of their character. Keeping in mind Dr. King's vision, which sought to bring about unity, community and solidarity, is especially important in view of the warped "woke" ideology that seems to be taking hold in our society more and more and which results only in division and inequality (no matter how much it tries to present itself as so-called "equity" and "inclusion").

Monday should be a holiday of patriotism and unity, as we acknowledge the need for all of us to promote the common good for our country and the need to ensure the dignity of all people in our society (including the unborn). We would all do well to focus on what unites us as a country and as citizens, rather than on political agendas and misguided progressive ideologies that divide us; this seems to be a task more crucial than ever.

Brick Memorialization

Let me remind you that our memorialization of bricks in the Let the Children Come to Me Prayer Garden is ongoing; there are plenty of bricks left! Please consider memorializing a brick if you have not already done so, and please consider memorializing another one if you already have. This is an important fund raiser for the parish, so you are helping us greatly by participating in this. The order form, along with additional information, is elsewhere in this bulletin.

Tell family and friends about this! Remember: you don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH to memorialize a brick, and you don't even need to be Catholic!

Courtesy in these health-conscious times in which we live

Finally, allow me to highlight something which is important in these crazy times when we are all in such a heightened awareness of good health practices and the spread of disease. I would like to ask that we all recommit ourselves to common sense good health practices and an awareness of how our actions might be affecting others around us.

I know that we might have nothing more serious than the common cold, without it being the flu or Covid, but we might nonetheless sound congested and perhaps have a cough. Of course, if we are aware that we are contagious or are supposed to be in a period of quarantine, there is no obligation to attend Mass, and we should not be here. But if it is all right for us to be in public, perhaps we could all still be conscious of how others might be reacting. If, then, for example, we are coughing or sneezing, let's be aware that others around us might be uncomfortable with that. Maybe we should be conscious of sitting more apart from others for that particular week, and even wear a mask for a week. Also, we should realize that if we sneeze or cough into our hands, that is seen by others, and we should take appropriate cautions.

We want to create an atmosphere of welcome and comfort for everyone, and a simple awareness of how our actions might be perceived by others would go a long way toward creating that comfort. I thank everyone for their attentiveness to these types of issues as we all navigate our way through this crazy world of ours in the best way we can.

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,



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Mondays at 12:45 p.m.



LIVE-STREAM MASS

We live-stream the **10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass** each week.

You can join us virtually using one of the following:

- The link at the top of the OLPH website:
www.olphlindenhurst.com
- OLPH YouTube Channel: OLPH Church Lindenhurst



JOIN OUR LIVE-STREAM TEAM

We need new members to join our Live-Stream Team either for weekdays or weekends. If you are tech savvy, interested in broadcasting techniques and are willing to help record our liturgies, please contact Fr. Frank Zero at the rectory office at (631) 226-7725 or email fzero@oloph.org.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEXT SUNDAY A CHILDREN'S HOMILY WILL BE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL - OLPH CHURCH LINDENHURST. LISTEN TO THE READINGS AND A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL!



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



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2023

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. This was announced in his inspiring Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God*, the full text of which can be found at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html. This year, this Sunday falls on January 22, 2023.

In the *Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass*, we are reminded of the role of the Word of God in the life of the Church:

In the hearing of God's word the Church is built up and grows, and in the signs of the liturgical celebration God's wonderful, past works in the history of salvation are presented anew as mysterious realities. God in turn makes use of the congregation of the faithful that celebrates the Liturgy in order that his word may speed on and be glorified and that his name be exalted among the nations.

Whenever, therefore, the Church, gathered by the Holy Spirit for liturgical celebration, announces and proclaims the word of God, she is aware of being a new people in whom the covenant made in the past is perfected and fulfilled. Baptism and confirmation in the Spirit have made all Christ's faithful into messengers of God's word because of the grace of hearing they have received. They must therefore be the bearers of the same word in the Church and in the world, at least by the witness of their lives.

The word of God proclaimed in the celebration of God's mysteries does not only address present conditions but looks back to past events and forward to what is yet to come. Thus God's word shows us what we should hope for with such a longing that in this changing world our hearts will be set on the place where our true joys lie (Preamble, 7).

In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis explained that devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of His word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world. So, the Holy Father declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. He urged local communities to find their own ways to mark the Sunday of the Word of God with a certain solemnity.

Here at OLPH, we'll celebrate the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God by incorporating these elements into all the Sunday Masses the weekend of January 21-22:

† The music selected for all Masses will include reference to the Word of God

† A special Gospel Procession with the Book of Gospels and incense will take place during the singing of the Alleluia

† The Book of Gospels will be specially enthroned in a shrine after the proclamation of the Gospel

† The homily will include reference to the Word of God in the life of the Church and in living the Christian life

† Everyone will be invited to come forward to venerate the Word of God immediately following Mass

It is hoped that through our attention to the Word of God on this Sunday, we might all deepen our appreciation for and connection to the Sacred Scriptures found in the Bible. In this way, we hope that these words of Pope Francis might become a reality in lives of all OLPH parishioners, and in the life of our parish as a whole:

The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. At times, there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or to select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Next Sunday, January 22, the participants in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process will celebrate their first stage in the process of becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church. On January 22, at the 12:00 p.m. Mass, OLPH will celebrate the **RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS**. For several months now these

participants have been inquiring into the Catholic faith, discerning whether they really do want to go through the stages of becoming Catholic. With this Rite on January 22, these inquirers now publicly declare their intention to the Church to become Catholic, the Church in turn accepts them as persons who intend to become its members, and the Catechumenate Stage begins.

After the Rite, those needing to be baptized are referred to as **catechumens**. This Catechumenate Stage is a lengthy one; usually it encompasses over a full year, and perhaps two years, and it lasts until the First Sunday of Lent in the year at which they will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. During this stage, the catechumens will attend parish Masses together; please feel free to welcome them and make them feel a part of our community. Each week, they will be dismissed with a blessing at the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word (*i.e.*, right after the homily). After being dismissed, they will gather to further reflect on the Word of God. Their dismissal is a hope-filled sign of the day when they will be fully initiated and share at the Table of the Eucharist; it is also a stark reminder to us of the gift we have in being able to receive the Eucharist.

Please pray for our catechumens in the months ahead as they are formed and guided in the way of living the Catholic Christian life. All are welcome to join us at the 12:00 p.m. Mass next Sunday for this special celebration.

GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS

Gluten-free hosts are available for those with Celiac Disease who cannot receive Holy Communion using the usual bread. If you need to receive Holy Communion using a gluten-free host, please stop in the sacristy before Mass to discuss this with the priest. We will be happy to accommodate 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.

OLPH Knights of Columbus Council #794 is supplying "Novena for Life" prayer cards at all Masses the this weekend. Take them home to recite from **January 15 through January 23**. Members will lead the prayer after each of the Sunday Masses, for those who choose to recite it together.



LIVING THE EUCHARIST

PARISH LENTEN MISSION 2023

“THE EUCHARIST IS THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE”

—*Lumen Gentium* (Light to the Nations)



February 21 – March 28

Join a **Living the Eucharist** small group during Lent. Participation will enrich your life in subtle and amazing ways.

During the six-week program you will:

Gain a better understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist

Participate more fully in Sunday Mass

Leave Mass in a renewed zeal to let the light of Christ shine

Nourish your spiritual life by enhancing your relationship with Jesus Christ.

For more information, contact Jim Totino at jtotino01@gmail.com

Deadline to join is February 5, 2023

Living the Eucharist 2023 LENTEN SIGN-UP FORM

To be completed by each participant.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ CELL _____

EMAIL: _____

AGE (if under 21): _____

Six Weekly Small Group Gatherings:

Dates: Tuesdays - February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28

Location: School building (classrooms to be assigned)

Time: 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Yes, I will attend the six sessions _____

No, I cannot attend but am interested in participating in the program _____

Please return this form to the Rectory. **The material will be distributed on the first day of Class.**

View the introductory video for *Living the Eucharist* at <https://www.pemdc.org/programs/living-the-eucharist/>

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and may the Lord bless you on this journey!

POPE FRANCIS ON LITURGICAL FORMATION

APOSTOLIC LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS

On June 29, 2022, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Pope Francis released his Apostolic Letter Desiderio Desideravi, On the Liturgical Formation of the People of God. It is an exquisite summary of liturgical theology and a call for serious and vital liturgical formation for all Catholics. In this letter, the Holy Father addresses the nature of sacramental encounter, of symbols and symbolic language, of the art of celebration, and the need to engage all the baptized in the fruitful celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

Each week we are presenting a small selection of the letter for your reading and reflection and this will continue until the entire text has been presented. The full text can be found on the Vatican website at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html

50. From these brief indications it should be clear that the art of celebration is not something that can be improvised. Like every art, it requires consistent application. For an artisan, technique is enough. But for an artist, in addition to technical knowledge, there has also to be inspiration, which is a positive form of possession. The true artist does not possess an art but rather is possessed by it. One does not learn the art of celebrating by frequenting a course in public speaking or in persuasive techniques of communication. (I am not judging intentions, just observing effects.) Every tool can be useful, but it must be at the service of the nature of the Liturgy and the action of the Holy Spirit. A diligent dedication to the celebration is required, allowing the celebration itself to convey to us its art. Guardini writes: “We must understand how deeply we remain entrenched in individualism and subjectivism, how unaccustomed we have become to the demands of the ‘great’, and how small the parameters of our religious living are. We must regain the sense for the ‘great’ style of praying, the will towards the existential in prayer too. The way to achieve this, though, is through discipline, through giving up weak sentimentality; through serious work, carried out in obedience to the Church, on our religious being and acting.” This is how the art of celebrating is learned.

51. Speaking of this theme we are inclined to think of it only in regards to ordained ministers carrying out the service of presiding. But in fact this is an attitude that all the baptized are called to live. I think of all the gestures and words that belong to the assembly: gathering, careful walking in procession, being seated, standing, kneeling, singing, being in silence, acclamations, looking, listening. There are many ways in which the assembly, *as one body*, (Neh 8:1) participates in the celebration. Everybody doing together the same gesture, everyone speaking together in one voice — this transmits to each individual the energy of the entire assembly. It is a uniformity that not only does not deaden but, on the contrary, educates individual believers to discover the authentic uniqueness of their personalities not in individualistic attitudes but in the awareness of being one body. It is not a question of following a book of liturgical etiquette. It is, rather, a “discipline,” — in the way that Guardini referred to — which, if observed authentically forms us. These are gestures and words that place order within our interior world making us live certain feelings, attitudes, behaviors. They are not the explanation of an ideal that we seek to let inspire us, but they are instead an action that engages the body in its entirety, that is to say, in its being a unity of body and soul.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: CHECK YOUR E-MAIL!

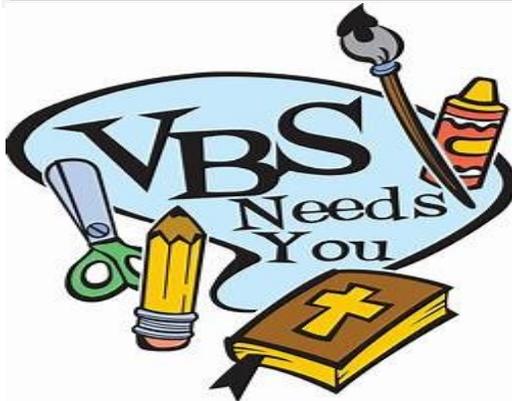
All liturgical ministers — all who serve in any capacity at Masses, and E.M.’s who bring Communion to the homebound — are all reminded to please check your e-mail on a daily basis. Information is sent out via e-mail from the Ministry Coordinators and from the Ministry Scheduler program, and it’s essential that all ministers keep current with important updates and other items. We do our best to keep you informed and to communicate well, but we need you to do your part by checking your e-mail regularly. Thank you for your attention to this!

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday: 9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Friday: CLOSED
 Saturday: By Appointment

**Save the Date****Vacation Bible Camp**

July 10th- July 14th

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible Camp Needs Adult Counselors

“This is Star Command, come in Space Rangers!”
 Please consider being a part of our Space Rangers and Master Jedis! Please consider offering your

time to the youth of the parish. Planning Meetings will begin on Saturday, *January 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.* All Counselors over 18 must be Virtus trained. Contact April for more information.

Please call or e-mail April Kleinlaut if you are interested in helping out this year! (631) 226-7725 ext. 257 or akleinlaut@oloph.org

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. Matthias the Apostle was the first Apostle chosen after the Ascension of the Lord. The original eleven Apostles needed to replace Judas in order to make their group twelve again. Peter made the decision that the new Apostle needed to be an original disciple of Christ from the very beginning. This means he needed to be baptized by John and witnessed the Resurrection of Jesus. They had to choose between St. Matthias and Joseph, called Barsabbas. They then casted lots (which means to draw straws at random), so that the decision was not theirs, but God's!



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
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631-957-1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631-226-2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631-412-3831—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—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

In the Gospel, after Jesus was baptized, John testified saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove...and remain upon him.”

As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God’s Spirit of love to those who are suffering.

NEW Food Pantry List!

COFFEE (SMALL CANS)

TOMATO SAUCE

CEREAL

CANNED FRUIT

COOKIES

PORK AND BEANS

CANNED PASTA

RICE

TOILET PAPER

SHELF STABLE MILK

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

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who helped make this past Christmas a merry one for those in need. Whether you adopted a family, or contributed another way, your efforts helped make over

40 families’ Christmas merrier and brighter. Thank you so very much for your continued generosity. The Society would also like to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year!



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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel
Gerry Chille

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste
Deacon Robert Becker
Mark Costantino
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Kenneth Hale
Jenine Jimenez-Spina
Denise Martinez
Barbara McPhail
Chris Reilly
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

WE CELEBRATE

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people.

-Rite of Baptism



Luke Steven Cassidy
Harper Michelle Schneiderman
Matthew Dennis Taylor
Everly Faith White

We welcome the newest members of the Catholic community here at OLPH.

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

Gail Tonnessen
Diane Wilmarth
Pat Bendernagel
John Caliendo
Tommy Langan
Catherine Fucci
Megan Kelly
John & Pat Hosey

Henry Batz
James Santoli
Baby Antonio James Kienle
Joseph Castelli
Sal Falcone
Diego Sarmiento
Thomas Grogan
Rolando Pulla

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

Lillian Cassidy
Susan Davniero

"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."

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.

OLPH LEGION OF MARY

Our OLPH Legion of Mary recently welcomed a new active member—Jean Maddaloni (holding our standard in front of Our Lady's statues).



If you love Our Lady, you can join also. Just say a rosary each day and attend our meeting once a week (Wed. at 2:30 p.m.) and do a spiritual work. If you don't have enough time, you can join our "Auxiliary" and just say about 15 minutes of prayer each day. Contact Louise 631-412-3831.

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 next group starts **April 29 to July 1** from **11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Please contact Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or Forubabe77@aol.com for information.

MARCH FOR LIFE - Prayers

Those not traveling to Washington, DC for the March but want to join them in prayer are invited to join us by attending the 12:15 Mass on January 20th. This will be followed by the rosary and prayers for the babies and those at the March.



BREAKING NEWS -MARCH FOR LIFE

There is a bus available for those wishing to go to the *March for Life*. It's from Notre Dame parish in New Hyde Park.

They're asking for a donation of only \$25. If interested, please contact Louise at 631-412-3831



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, January 16—

WEEKDAY

6:30	For Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
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12:15	Raymond Montuori
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TUESDAY, January 17—

Saint Anthony, Abbot

6:30	Theresa Votta
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12:15	Anthony A. Ruberto III
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WEDNESDAY, January 18 —

Weekday

6:30	Bernadette McCaffrey
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12:15	Gerald Flynn
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THURSDAY, January 19—

Weekday

6:30	Ann Furlong (Living)
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12:15	Richard Sheehan
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FRIDAY, January 20—

Weekday

*(Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr;
Saint Sebastian, Martyr)*

6:30	Pauline Micovsky
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12:15	Connie Pimenta
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SATURDAY, January 21—

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

8:00	John Graver
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Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00	Samuel & Dominick Pane
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Sunday, January 22—

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00	Mark Anthony Mascolo Sr.
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10:00	Nvala Koszalka
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12:00	For the People of the Parish
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PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, January 16, 2023

ALL RECTORY AND PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED AND ALL ACTIVITIES, EXCEPT FOR MASSES, ARE CANCELLED MONDAY, JANUARY 16 FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY. ALL OFFICES WILL RESUME REGULAR HOURS TUESDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 9:00 A.M.

12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
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Tuesday, January 17, 2023

6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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6:45 p.m.	Christian Mothers Meeting	Room 18
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Wednesday, January 18, 2023

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
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10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
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12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
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2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus
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5:30 p.m.	Levels 6: Classes	School
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7:00 p.m.	Levels 7 and 8: Classes	School
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Thursday, January 19, 2023

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
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7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
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7:30 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class for Parents	Room 18
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Friday, January 20, 2023

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
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Saturday, January 21, 2023

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5: Classes	School
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11:30 a.m.	Bible Camp Meeting	Auditorium
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1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
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6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
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6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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Sunday, January 22, 2023

12:00 p.m.	OCIA	Church
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12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
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2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
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6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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The intention for the 5:00 p.m. Mass for Saturday, January 14, 2023 listed in last weekend's bulletin should have been *Ann DeGirolamo*. We apologize for the error.

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

El grupo de oración "Jesús es el camino la verdad y la vida" le invita a alabar y glorificar al PADRE, al HIJO, y al ESPIRITU SANTO, todos los jueves de 7:00 p.m. en adelante en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Le ofrecemos el cuidado de los niños, también les enseñamos la doctrina de la iglesia.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia. Familias interesadas favor llamar a Virginia Constantino al (631) 957-1149.

Para información sobre los sacramentos de El bautizo, Matrimonio y servicios pastorales, tales como llevarle la Eucaristía los enfermos, la última unción de los enfermos.

Las charlas de bautizo se llevan a cabo cada segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, los padres interesados en bautizar a sus hijos deben atender a una serie de charlas. Estas charlas son cada primer y tercer lunes del mes

Para más información llamar a la rectoría (631) 226-7725. En español a Alejandro Campos teléfono (631) 671-9257 correo electrónico saitjoseph98@gmail.com.

Liturgia Viva del Domingo 2º del Tiempo Ordinario - Ciclo A

Domingo, 15 de enero de 2023

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO (Ciclo A)

la palabra de Dios se hizo carne y habita entre nosotros

Testigos de Jesucristo

Jesús, Cordero de Dios

A ustedes, el pueblo santo de Jesucristo, gracia y paz de parte de Dios nuestro Padre y del mismo Señor Jesucristo.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 49,3, 5-6): Siervo de Dios y Luz de las Naciones

Vendrá un siervo de Dios y será luz, no sólo de Israel sino de todas las naciones. La comunidad cristiana reconoció a Jesús como ese siervo anunciado por Isaías.

Segunda Lectura (1 Corintios 1,1-3): Llamados a Dar Testimonio de Jesús el Señor

Como apóstol, San Pablo se consideró siervo, cuya misión era proclamar a Jesucristo como el Señor de todos. -- ¿Es Jesús el Señor de nuestras vidas? ¿Le proclamamos como Señor nuestro?

Evangelio (Juan 1,29-34): Miren, He Aquí el Cordero de Dios

Juan el Bautista da testimonio de que Jesús es el Salvador, el Cordero de Dios que quita el pecado del mundo. Jesús es el prometido Siervo de Dios y de los hombres.

Testigos de Jesucristo

Se supone que un cristiano, un seguidor y discípulo de Cristo, es alguien que intenta ser buen testigo del mismo Cristo, de palabras y de obras. En el evangelio, el primer gran testigo de Jesús es Juan el Bautista, que le señaló con el dedo y le mostró a la gente. Pero incluso Juan tuvo que reconocer que al principio no sabía quién era realmente Jesús y que tenía que convertirse, para conocer bien la identidad de Jesús y lo que él proclamaba. Sólo entonces pudo llegar a ser testigo creíble y convincente. --- Y nosotros, ¿acaso no tenemos que aprender mejor quién es Jesús y lo que él significa para nosotros y para la gente, de modo que podamos ser más cercanos e íntimos a él y atraer hacia él a la gente?

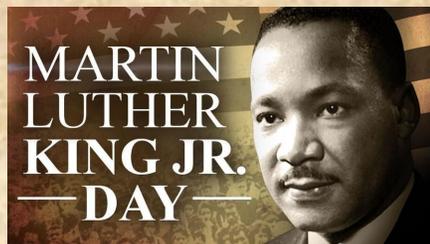
Jesús, Cordero de Dios

¿Quién es Jesús para nosotros? ¿Cuál es, para nosotros, el nombre que mejor le encaja? El discípulo del profeta Isaías le llamó Siervo de Dios. San Pablo le llama Jesucristo. Juan el Bautista le señala como el Cordero de Dios. Jesús es todo eso. Ello implica que nosotros tenemos que ser como él: siervos, salvadores, y víctimas, si es necesario.

**OFFERING UPDATE
January 7/8**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	215	98	\$2,172.00
8:00 a.m.	192	100	4,555.00
10:00 a.m.	428	87	2,454.00
12:00 a.m.	351	90	2,823.00
Total coin:			11.19
Faith Direct			3,351.00
Children's Env.		16	105.00
Mail-ins:			2,047.00
Special Needs	41	21	508.00
TOTAL	1,227	412	\$18,026.19
2022	905	280	\$13,579.99
1st Saturday			\$874.85
Candles			\$250.86
Poor Box			\$106.00

All rectory and parish offices are closed and all activities, except for Masses, are cancelled
Monday, January 16
 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
All offices will resume regular hours Tuesday, January 17 at 9:00 a.m.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Join us for:

SOUTH SHORE
 CATHOLIC YOUNG
 ADULT WOMEN'S
 GROUP



Come relax, enjoy some treats, and chat with us!

We will continue the topic
 Sisterhood: How to build up our fellow women in faith
 from the Blessed Is She series



Thursday January 19 @ 7:00 pm
 Lindenhurst, NY

(RSVP to Sandy at 631-965-3718 or
 Sandra.j.rago@gmail.com
 for the address)



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Thank you for your generous support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Completing your 2022 pledge ensures that our parish will benefit by receiving our full rebate.

Please remember that all pledges must be paid in full by January 31, 2023.

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>.

2023 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS

Tax letters for the 2022 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address and envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DEADLINES FOR
 BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

January 22—deadline passed
 January 29—January 20 deadline
 February 5—January 27 deadline

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Jesus said to Simon and Andrew,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Matthew 4:19-20

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

The opening of today's reading from the prophet Isaiah refers to the time in the early eighth century B.C. when the powerful and ruthless Assyrian empire had overrun the northern parts of Israel and threatened the rest. Amidst this time of uncertainty and fear, Isaiah prophesies hope for the future in beautiful poetic images of light and joy. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,” he proclaims. He goes on to describe a future king of Israel, a true son of David, who will rely solely on the Lord God for protection. When such a king appears, darkness will give way to divine light and the gloom of foreign oppression will give way to the joy of freedom that only God can bring. We know that king to be Jesus who brings just such joy into our lives.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Paul established the church in the Greek city of Corinth about 51 A.D. but several years later he received reports of divisions within the church. That is the problem he addresses in today's selection from his letter to them. He insists that Christians belong to no one but Christ. Teachers such as Cephas (Peter), Apollos, and even Paul himself proclaim the Gospel, but Christ himself *is* the Good News. Church members of that time, and ours, should “be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.” All who belong to Christ are called to imitate him, united in the same kind of self-giving to and for one another.

Matthew 4:12-23

With today's Gospel reading, Matthew opens the curtain on Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. By quoting from our first reading from Isaiah, Matthew emphasizes that Jesus himself has “fulfilled” these words and embodies the authentic interpretation of Sacred Scripture. But he brings them to fulfillment in a way that was astonishing for the Jews of the time: he not only includes Gentiles (non-Jews) in God's kingdom, he proclaims to them before approaching his fellow Jews. When he does approach them, we hear how he calls the first disciples, two sets of fisherman brothers: Simon who is called Peter and Andrew, and James and John. “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately, they drop what they are doing and follow him. Do we respond the same today to his call?

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. As soon as Jesus heard that John was arrested he immediately moved into Herod's territory and began an intense program teaching, healing and preaching repentance. What would cause him to make such a dangerous move? Are you able to stand up and get involved for what is right when you see that you will suffer pain or loss when you do? What do you think of Jesus when he acts like this?

2. Do you think Jesus also needed friends? “At once they left their nets and followed him.” How long did it take Peter and Andrew to respond to his invitation to a personal encounter? What do you think was going on in their heads and hearts? Could they have been excited by the mission of communicating life to others?



Readings for the Week

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

Monday, January 16, 2023:
Hebrews 5:1-10 + Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 17, 2023:
Hebrews 6:10-20 + Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 18, 2023:
Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
+ Mark 3:1-6

Thursday, January 19, 2023:
Hebrews 7:25—8:6
+ Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 20, 2023:
Hebrews 8:6-13
+ Mark 3:13-19

Saturday, January 21, 2023:
Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14
+ Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, January 22, 2023:
Isaiah 8:23—9:3
+ 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
+ Matthew 4:12-23

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Divorced or Separated Catholics of Long Island Including widows, widowers and singles. A social organization for single persons. New Member Orientation Meeting, **Tuesday January 17th 7:00 p.m.** St. Frances Club 1869 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793. (Parking in the rear of building) Non-denominational. ALL ARE WELCOME. Bring proof of single status to join. Annual dues \$30. Refreshments following the meeting. For further information, please call also to verify there will be a meeting -Angel at 631-574-0368 or Janet [516-579-4016](tel:516-579-4016).

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL, AMITYVILLE, OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, January 29, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At the Open House at Saint Martin of Tours School, you will get a chance to speak with alumni who attended SMT, current students, teachers and staff. All are welcome! For over 100 years, SMT has offered academic excellence, which fosters individual growth and development according to time-tested, Catholic faith-based models of teaching and learning. SMT cultivates a robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church. For more information, go to their website: smtschoo.org, or call (631) 264-7166. School is located at 30 Union Avenue in Amityville.

Are you looking for a great Valentine's gift? A weekend away for just you and your spouse to help your good marriage be great!! Are you ready for more growth and happiness in your marriage or priesthood? Uncover the secrets to a lasting, supportive, transformational marriage on a World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Every relationship is a journey the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This experience will help you listen, share and connect more deeply Our next weekend experience will be **February 3-5, 2023** at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception Huntington, Long Island. Register at WWME.org or contact: Chuck & Maria Reiss (631) 486-8607

The Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville Celebrate Irish Night. Saturday, March 4, 2023 at *St. Brigid's* in Westbury, NY and offer us an opportunity to gather together for liturgy, followed by a joyful evening of music, dancing, and Irish spirit! Take a chance book(s) and encourage many of your friends and family to buy chances. Booklets are \$10 each (12 chances per booklet). Please contact the Advancement Office at 631-842-6000 ext. 246 for more information. Purchase a ticket online and attend the event. Tickets are \$45 per person or \$100 for 2 tickets & 1 raffle book. For more information, please contact our Advancement Office at 631-842-6000 ext.246 or visit the event website: www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2023

OLPH LEGACY GIVING

“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL ALSO BE”



Wills and Bequests



IRA's and Retirement Plans

AN OPPORTUNITY OF WHAT A LEGACY MEANS TO YOUR CHURCH!

We want to bring to your attention different ways that parishioners can financially support OLPH. The parish can be named as a beneficiary to different types of financial products such as life insurance policies, IRAs, and gift annuities, to name a few. There are also ways to give to the parish in the form of appreciated stock, where you can avoid or reduce your own income tax bill while also providing for the parish. These types of approaches are generally referred to as “Planned Giving” or “Legacy Giving.” You have worked hard during your working years, and you saved and invested wisely so that your loved ones can have a secure financial future via your will and estate planning. We’d like to ask you to consider having your estate planning include OLPH, so that all of the great work that has been ongoing here for over 150 years can continue long into the future. Planned Giving can make that happen. You can assist the parish in a significant way by including OLPH as a beneficiary in your planning. If you are interested in learning more about Planned Giving, your tax accountant, your lawyer, or your financial advisor will be familiar with this topic. You may also call the rectory and ask to speak to the Parish Business Manager, Jill Delano. Thank you for supporting OLPH in this way!

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BARRES



DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 16, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ:

Each year, our nation celebrates National Religious Freedom Day on January 16th. In 1992, Congress authorized the President to request to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join together to celebrate their religious freedom and to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Since 1993, each President of the United States has proclaimed January 16th to be National Religious Freedom Day.

January 16th has been designated National Religious Freedom Day because it marks the anniversary of the passage of Thomas Jefferson's *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom* by the Virginia General Assembly on January 16, 1786. This statute was a precursor to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution which, as we know, enshrines the freedom of religion as a right which is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. In his statute, Jefferson states that "all men shall be free to profess ... their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities."¹ He concludes that any attempt to repeal or limit this statute "would be an infringement of natural right."²

Dignitatis humanae, the Second Vatican Council's 1965 Declaration on Religious Liberty, echoes Jefferson's sentiments and states that "the right to religious freedom has its foundation not in the subjective attitude of the individual but in his very nature."³ Elsewhere, the Declaration notes that "it is wrong for a public authority to compel its citizens by force or fear or any other means to profess or repudiate any religion."⁴ The similarity between the sentiments of Jefferson and *Dignitatis humanae* should not surprise us when we realize that American bishops and churchmen, including Father John Courtney Murray, were instrumental in incorporating the American experience of church-state relations into the declaration on religious liberty.⁵

Despite the time-honored assertion of religious freedom as a right guaranteed to all Americans, we have seen in recent years numerous attempts to curb or narrow the scope of religious liberty and freedom of conscience. The current Federal Administration's advocacy of a so-called "Super Rule," which is now awaiting final promulgation, threatens to egregiously and unjustly force Catholic medical institutions to be involved in procedures which are contrary to Church teaching and natural law. These would include abortion, sterilizations, in vitro fertilization, and transgender

¹ W.W. Hening, ed., *Statutes at Large of Virginia*, vol. 12 (1823): 84-86.

² *Ibid.*

³ Second Vatican Council, *Dignitatis humanae*, December 7, 1965: AAS 58 (1966) 929-946, 2.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 6.

⁵ See Robert T. Kennedy, "The Declaration on Religious Liberty Thirty Years Later: Challenges to the Church-State Relationship in the United States," *The Jurist* 55 (1995) 487.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

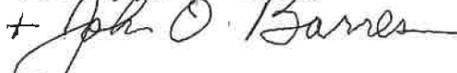
surgeries, even on minors. As diocesan bishop, it is my obligation to uphold and protect Catholic moral teaching, and our Catholic institutions will not participate in anything that forces healthcare workers to violate their consciences or the dignity of the human person.

The recent passage of the Respect for Marriage Act marks another threat to religious liberty. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has rightly called the Act “misnamed.”⁶ A statement released by the USCCB, notes that the Act’s “rejection of timeless truths about marriage is evident on its face and in its purpose.”⁷ As the largest non-governmental provider of social services in the United States, the Church has a vested interest in ensuring the protection of religious liberty. The supposed protections for religious liberty in the Act are insufficient, and the USCCB statement concludes that if it is passed, “the amended Act will put the ministries of the Catholic Church, people of faith, and other Americans who uphold a traditional meaning of marriage at greater risk of government discrimination.”⁸

This year, January 16 also marks the date when our country honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King once stated that “the church must be reminded once again that it is not to be the master or the servant of the state, but the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state – never its tool.”⁹ As we celebrate National Religious Freedom Day this January 16th, let us pray for the preservation and protection of this God-given right:

Bless us, O heavenly Father,
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.
Amen.¹⁰

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

⁶ Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Bishop Robert Barron to Senators and Representatives, November 23, 2022. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “A Knock at Midnight” (sermon, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH, June 11, 1967).

¹⁰ See “Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2012), Washington D.C.

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