

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



myParish app!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

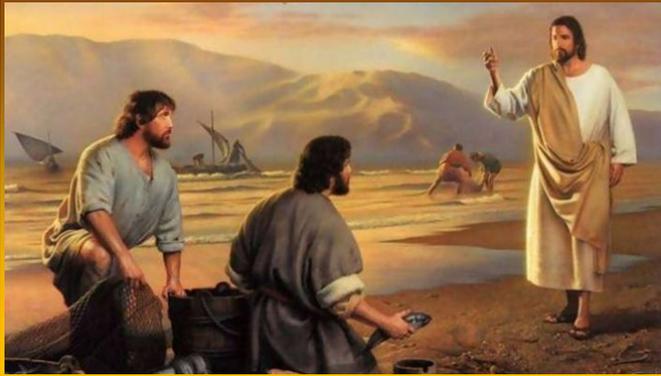
Download instructions on page 2

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*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

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 22, 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***

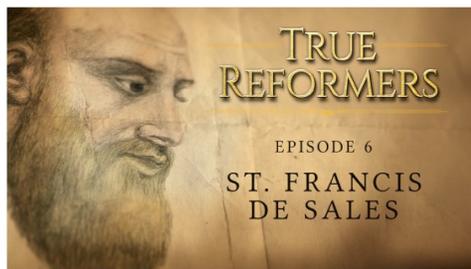
*The old number **88202** is no longer in effect!
Cards are available on the pew ledges
as long as supply lasts.*



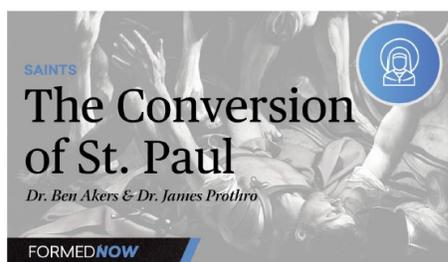
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 22, 2023

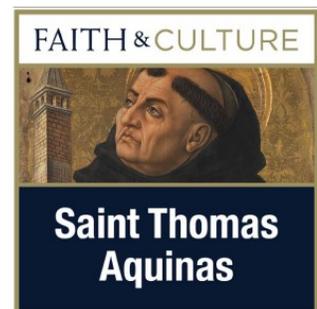
WATCH



LEARN



LISTEN



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

PASTOR'S PAGE

Sunday of the Word of God

As instituted by Pope Francis, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, which we celebrate this weekend, is now known as the “Sunday of the Word of God.” Just as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ gives us an opportunity on the liturgical calendar to focus on the meaning and place of the Sacrament of the Eucharist in our life, so too does this day give us an opportunity within the liturgy to highlight and place special emphasis on the Word of God.

The Church teaches us that Sacred Scripture is absolutely essential to our spiritual life, and familiarity with the Bible must be a part of every Catholic's life. We should read the Sacred Scriptures routinely and make Bible passages a regular part of our prayer life. St. Jerome is known for having said that ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ. We cannot fully know who God is if we are not familiar with the way He has revealed Himself through His Word, which He Himself has given to us through the sacred authors of the books of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. The Word of God is so central that in the introductory instructions and materials found in the *Lectionary for Mass* (the ritual book which gives us all the readings used at Mass) we are told: “The Church has honored the Word of God and the Eucharistic mystery with the same reverence, although not with the same worship, and has always and everywhere insisted upon and sanctioned such honor.” (article 10) Think about that: we are to have the same honor and reverence for the Word of God as we do for the Eucharist (although we do not worship the Word as we do the Eucharist) — because the Word reveals to us the presence of God.

The highest actualization of the presence of God in the Sacred Scriptures is achieved when that Word is proclaimed at Mass. *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, at article 29, teaches us, “When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel.”

These words set before us a profound truth

that we need to ponder and make our own. The words of Sacred Scripture are unlike any other texts we will ever hear, for they are the vehicle God uses to reveal Himself to us, the means by which we come to know the depth of God's love for us, and can know the responsibilities entailed by being Christ's followers, members of His Body. Moreover, this Word of God proclaimed in the liturgy possesses a special sacramental power to bring about in us what it proclaims. We speak of the Word of God proclaimed at Mass as being “efficacious” — that is, it not only tells us of God and God's will for us, but it also actually helps us to put that will of God into practice in our own life.

The richness and depth of the Word of God, and the way that Word functions in our individual spiritual life and in the life of the Church, is inexhaustible. It is good indeed for us to take the time to focus on the Word, and to highlight it as we are doing this weekend. One way we have done this is to highlight the proclamation of the Gospel with a special procession and enthronement of the Book of Gospels after the Gospel reading. Also, we have set up a special shrine in the north side chapel for the Word of God, which is where the enthronement will be. I hope you will take, or took, advantage of the opportunity to spend some time in private reverence and meditation before the enthroned Word before or after Mass.

Living the Eucharist 2023

As you have seen from the ad which has been running in the bulletin for several weeks now, we're gearing up to once again hold the LIVING THE EUCHARIST Program here at OLPH during Lent. This program, which has been so successful in the past, will again function as our Parish Lenten Mission. Those who participated in prior years absolutely loved it, and have given us overwhelmingly positive feedback about it, so we're happy to be able to present it again.

Through LIVING THE EUCHARIST, participants will have the opportunity to prepare for the upcoming Sunday's readings at Mass,

and to reflect on the meaning of the celebration of the Eucharist and how Eucharist connects with our everyday life. This is especially relevant in light of the Eucharistic Revival which is underway here in the United States. So, please be sure to participate in LIVING THE EUCHARIST. If you have done so in the past, you know why this is such a great thing to do again. If this would be your first time, give yourself a treat and be sure to sign up! Return your response form as soon as possible — you'll be glad you did.

Recruiting for the Ministry of Consolation

Let me give you a sneak preview of something we'll be highlighting over the next few weeks: we'll be asking for more people to join the Ministry of Consolation. This ministry impacts peoples' lives at a very important time, namely, at the time of the celebration of the Funeral Mass. Because of the wonderful work that is done, it is often a vehicle for bringing people back to Mass after they have been away for a long time. It is far from a depressing ministry; in fact, it is life-giving and life-affirming in the way it touches people on a deep level.

Look for the ad, which will give more information, in the weeks ahead, and give serious and prayerful consideration to coming on board. If you are recently retired or suddenly find yourself with some extra time on your hands, you're a perfect fit for this, and there are a variety of levels of involvement and different things to do. More to come in the weeks ahead as we give a "push" to our parish's Ministry of Consolation.

Brick Memorialization

The memorialization of bricks in the Let the Children Come to Me Prayer Garden continues! 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!

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,



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!

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



This weekend we congratulate the people who are becoming **catechumens** in a ritual taking place at the 12:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, January 22. This is the participants' first official stage in the process of initiation into the Catholic Church. This **Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens** is an occasion of great joy for them and for us as a parish community. We offer our prayerful support and best wishes to our catechumens **Helen Pettinatto, Aylen Pettinatto, and Diego Pettinatto**.

Beginning next Sunday, the catechumens will attend a parish Mass together and will be dismissed with a special prayer after the Liturgy of the Word, to continue their prayer, reflection, and formation in Catholic Christianity. This dismissal is meant to be a sign of our special care and hospitality for these people as we pay special attention to them, nurturing them in the faith, since they are not yet able to share in the Eucharist. It is also meant to create a special hunger in them for receiving the Lord in the Eucharist, and their dismissal can also be for us a stark reminder of the privilege and gift of being able to share in the Eucharist.

Please feel free to greet and welcome these new members of our worshipping community, and please remember them in your prayers as they journey toward the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, at a future Easter Vigil.

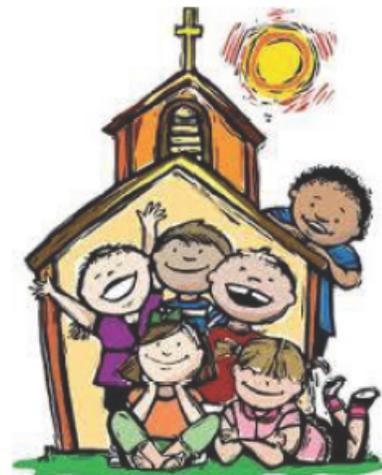
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

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're celebrating the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God by incorporating these elements into all the Sunday Masses:

† The music selected for all Masses includes 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 the sanctuary 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.



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!

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.



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.

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.



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

52. Among the ritual acts that belong to the whole assembly, silence occupies a place of absolute importance. Many times it is expressly prescribed in the rubrics. The entire Eucharistic celebration is immersed in the silence which precedes its beginning and which marks every moment of its ritual unfolding. In fact, it is present in the penitential act, after the invitation “Let us pray,” in the Liturgy of the Word (before the readings, between the readings and after the homily), in the Eucharistic prayer, after communion. Such silence is not an inner haven in which to hide oneself in some sort of intimate isolation, as if leaving the ritual form behind as a distraction. That kind of silence would contradict the essence itself of the celebration. Liturgical silence is something much more grand: it is a symbol of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit who animates the entire action of the celebration. For this reason it constitutes a point of arrival within a liturgical sequence. Precisely because it is a symbol of the Spirit, it has the power to express the Spirit’s multifaceted action. In this way, going over again the moments I just mentioned, silence moves to sorrow for sin and the desire for conversion. It awakens a readiness to hear the Word and awakens prayer. It disposes us to adore the Body and Blood of Christ. It suggests to each one, in the intimacy of communion, what the Spirit would effect in our lives to conform us to the Bread broken. For all these reasons we are called to enact with extreme care the symbolic gesture of silence. Through it the Spirit gives us shape, gives us form.

53. Every gesture and every word contains a precise action that is always new because it meets with an always new moment in our own lives. I will explain what I mean with a simple example. We kneel to ask pardon, to bend our pride, to hand over to God our tears, to beg his intervention, to thank Him for a gift received. It is always the same gesture which in essence declares our own being small in the presence of God. Nevertheless, done in different moments of our lives, it molds our inner depths and then thereafter shows itself externally in our relation with God and with our brothers and sisters. Also kneeling should be done with art, that is to say, with a full awareness of its symbolic sense and the need that we have of this gesture to express our way of being in the presence of the Lord. And if all this is true for this simple gesture, how much more will it be for the celebration of the Word? Ah, what art are we summoned to learn for the proclamation of the Word, for the hearing of it, for letting it inspire our prayer, for making it become our very life? All of this is worthy of utmost attention — not formal or merely exterior, but living and interior — so that every gesture and every word of the celebration, expressed with “art,” forms the Christian personality of each individual and of the community.

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, *February 18, 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. George is known for slaying a dragon (which was thought of as an enemy of Christ). He lived in the third century A.D. and was a soldier. As legend has it, when he was in his twenties he found a village that could not get water because of a dragon that ate people that came near her nest. The people would give it sheep to eat, and would get their water while she was eating. When they ran out of sheep the people started sacrificing young girls. One day they chose the princess to sacrifice, but St. George came, made the sign of the cross, and slayed the dragon, saving the princess and the people! Today, we know the dragon was actually a crocodile.



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

1st and 3rd Saturdays: 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we find that Jesus “... went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.”

Last month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to proclaim the good news of the kingdom to the poor, by assisting 166 adults, 101 children, and 41 seniors, for a total of 112 families. Thank you!

NEW Food Pantry List!

COFFEE (SMALL CANS)

PANCAKE MIX

PANCAKE SYRUP

CEREAL

CANNED FRUIT

JELLY

INSTANT POTATOES

TOILET PAPER

SHELF STABLE MILK

CAKE FROSTING

Thank you

for your continued generosity.

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

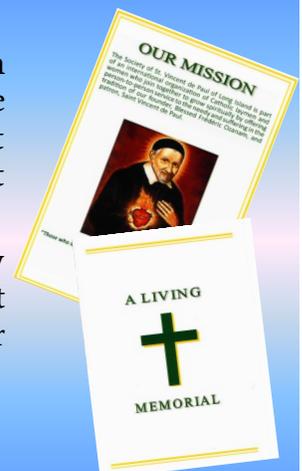
THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has expanded our Memorial Card program. In addition to updated *Living Memorial* cards, we offer *Special Occasion* cards. These are a great way to commemorate a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, get well, thank you, holiday, etc.) while supporting SVDP’s efforts to provide not just food, but also financial, material and spiritual aid to our neighbors.

Memorial/Special Occasion card envelopes are available in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. The Memorial or Special Occasion Card acknowledging your donation will be sent to the person/family indicated on the form.

Please contact the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for more information.

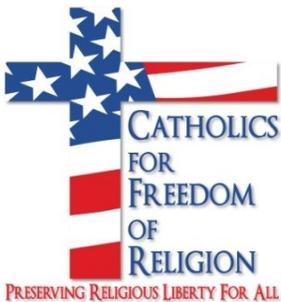


YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

South Shore Young Adult Ministry at OLPH
Ages 21-39

For info about monthly meetings contact
Director, Bridget Jordan, Phone: (631) 226-7725 x 253, email: bjordan@oloph.org

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



From Catholics for Freedom of Religion

www.cffor.org

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."
1 Corinthians 16:13

Defending Freedom to Pray in Public Americans Who Are Not Afraid to Show Their Faith in Public

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to consider a long legal battle concerning a public prayer vigil in Ocala, Florida. The litigation has been in the court system for eight years and in July 2022 a decision from the Eleventh Circuit opened the way to a Supreme Court appeal where this case has the potential to achieve legal landmark status.

The circumstances of the case are as follows: In 2014, the City of Ocala experienced a crime spree causing serious injury to several children. The police knew the identity of the shooters but were unable to persuade frightened witnesses to testify. Following community policing standards, Police Chief Graham met with local leaders who suggested the Police Department reach out to the faith-based community for help persuading witnesses to come forward. These leaders decided to hold a community prayer vigil, planned and organized by private citizens.

Volunteer chaplains led the vigil that was widely supported and well attended. At the request of the organizers, Chief Graham posted a letter encouraging unity and prayer and attendance at the vigil. Atheists, offended by the idea of a prayer vigil, demanded city officials cancel the event and later sued the city for allegedly promoting the vigil.

Now, eight years later, following reversals at the lower courts, this case will be presented to the Supreme Court. The ACLJ petition, on behalf of the City of Ocala, will be the first to raise the issue of whether "offended observer" standing is sufficient to bring a case. Recently, commenting on the decision in another case, Justice Gorsuch and Justice Thomas said that the lower courts "invented observer standing for Establishment Clause cases in the 1970's in response to this Court's decision" in a similar lawsuit that has recently been overturned.(1) Thus, the ACLJ is hopeful that the Supreme Court will take up this important case that will be a major moment for prayer and religious liberty.

"The secret to happiness is freedom; the secret to freedom is courage."
—Thucydides, Greek philosopher

(aclu.org, 8/24/22; aclj.org, 12/16/22(1); TFP.org, 7/25/22)

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

REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

Please remember that we are supposed to observe a Communion Fast before receiving Holy Communion. This means we do not eat any foods or drink any liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion, the only exception being water or medicine. This also means that we are not to chew gum during Mass, and certainly not while we are coming forward to receive Holy Communion. Let's be sure we are appropriately prepared to receive Holy Communion by observing this important rule of the Church.

MASS MEMORIALS

A beautiful way to remember a loved one!
Memorials are used during the Masses.

Altar Bread and Wine or Altar Candles

Will be published in the bulletin as
"In Memory of"
and "Requested by"

*Please contact the Parish Office at 631.226.7725
for other options for memorials.*

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

***Gaetano Antonacci
Joseph V. La Bianca Jr.***

"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."

**HOPE IS BEING ABLE
TO SEE THAT THERE IS
LIGHT DESPITE ALL
OF THE DARKNESS.**

- DESMOND TUTU

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

*Sal Falcone
Diego Sarmiento
Thomas Grogan
Rolando Pulla
Joan Hosey
Helene Calabrese
Wolfgang Unterschuetz
Patty Santopadre
Rolanda Pulla
Elvira Treanor
Mary Lou Klammer
Donald Wright
Christopher De Palma*

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.

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.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MONDAY, January 23—
Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children**

6:30	Joseph Micovski
12:15	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

**TUESDAY, January 24—
Saint Francis de Sales,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

6:30	Frank Kowalski
12:15	Brian Donnelly

**WEDNESDAY, January 25 —
Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle**

6:30	Eulio Baez Batista
12:15	Rocco Pamatico

**THURSDAY, January 26—
Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, Bishops**

6:30	Dolores & Richard Gill
12:15	Nicholas A. Vilardi

**FRIDAY, January 27—
Weekday
(Saint Angela Merici, Virgin)**

6:30	Louis Edwardo Vargas
12:15	Sr. Jean Albert Fry

**SATURDAY, January 28—
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest
and Doctor of the Church**

8:00	Margaret Campell
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**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

5:00	For the People of the Parish
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**Sunday, January 29—
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 794
10:00	Stefan Ciecwierz
12:00	Fred Cassara

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, January 23, 2023

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.	Devotions	Church
1:30 p.m.	Pastoral Staff Meeting	St. Lucy Room
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
6:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Family Life Meeting	Room 3
7:30 p.m.	Adult Confirmation	St. Mark's Room

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus
5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Levels 6, 7 and 8: Classes	School

Thursday, January 26, 2023

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria

Friday, January 27, 2023

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12

Saturday, January 28, 2023

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5: Classes	School
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
4:00 p.m.	Confession	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:30 a.m.	K of C 5th Sunday	Cafeteria
10:00 a.m.	OCIA	Room 18
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

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>

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.

Reflexiones de las Lecturas del domingo 25 de Enero del 2023

Que Cristo, la verdadera luz del mundo, inspire y alegre las vidas de ustedes. Y de los suyos
Que nuestros rostros reflejen su calor y su amor, y que este siempre vivo en sus corazones.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 8, 23b. 9,3): Las Promesas de Dios Son Luz para su Pueblo

En los días oscuros de opresión y deportación, Dios promete a su pueblo la luz de la alegría y la salvación.

Segunda Lectura (1 Corintios 1,10-13.17): ¡Estén Unidos en Cristo!

Los cristianos de Corinto están divididos en facciones, cada uno dando culto a la personalidad de los que les predicaban el evangelio. Pablo les dice: ¡No dividan a Cristo; vivan unidos en él!

Evangelio (Mateo 4,12-23): Cristo, Luz para Todos los Que Viven en Oscuridad

Jesús cumple la profecía de Isaías: Él es la luz prometida, porque nos trae la Buena Noticia de Salvación. Estamos convencidos de que la venida de Jesús supuso un cambio radical para el mundo. Con él la luz de Dios comenzó a brillar en un mundo sumergido en las tinieblas. -- Hoy ¿se ha disipado acaso la oscuridad de nuestro mundo? ¿Incluso la de su Iglesia? ¿Es Jesús todavía hoy nuestra luz? Nuestras vidas habrían de reflejar la luz de Dios a todos los pueblos, cercanos y lejanos.

¿Aclamamos a Jesús, que está aquí entre nosotros como luz de nuestra vida?

¿Ha hecho resolución de año nuevo? Si no, todavía hay tiempo y Papa Francisco tiene algunas ideas para usted.

Estas son las diez cosas que él llamado a los empleados del Vaticano para hacer:

1. "cuidar su vida espiritual, tu relación con Dios, porque esta es la columna vertebral de todo lo que hacemos y todo lo que somos."
2. "cuidar de su vida familiar, dando a sus hijos y seres queridos no sólo dinero, pero la mayoría de su tiempo, atención y amor."
3. "cuidar de tus relaciones con los demás, transformando su fe en la vida y sus palabras en buenas obras, especialmente con los más necesitados".
4. "tenga cuidado de cómo habla, purificar la lengua de palabras ofensivas, la vulgaridad y la decadencia mundana."
5. "curar las heridas del corazón con el aceite del perdón, perdonando a quienes nos lastimaron y medicar las heridas que hemos causado a otros."
6. "cuida tu trabajo, hacerlo con humildad, entusiasmo, pasión y con un espíritu que sabe cómo dar las gracias al Señor".
7. "ten cuidado de envidia, lujuria, odio y sentimientos negativos que devoran nuestra paz interior y nos transforman en personas destruidas y destructivas".
8. "cuidado con la ira que puede conducir a la venganza; con la pereza que conduce a la miseria existencial; no señalar con el dedo a otros, que conduce al orgullo; ni quejarse continuamente, que conduce a la desesperación."
9. "tenga cuidado de hermanos y hermanas que son más débiles... los ancianos, los enfermos, los hambrientos, los desamparados y extraños, porque seremos juzgados por esto."
10. "asegurándose de que la Navidad es acerca de Jesús y no acerca de las compras".

Es una buena lista: claramente tiene sus raíces en las enseñanzas católicas, pero presentados de una manera que no católicos puedan entenderlo y practicarlo.

Como las tinieblas son signo del mal y de la noche; así la luz es símbolo del bien y de la vida.

**OFFERING UPDATE
January 14/15**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	242	89	\$2,222.00
8:00 a.m.	177	82	3,104.00
10:00 a.m.	293	79	2,149.00
12:00 a.m.	320	63	1,908.00
Total coin:			11.06
Faith Direct			3,351.00
Children's Env.		17	155.00
Mail-ins:			403.00
TOTAL	1,032	330	\$13,303.06
2022	863	277	\$14,462.92
Candles			\$811.92
Poor Box			\$337.14



The new year is filled with hope and promise as we seek to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2023, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish is reaching out to our parishioners.

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2023 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY286, or text 'Enroll' to (631) 201-5664.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

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.

**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 29—deadline passed
February 5—January 27 deadline
February 12—February 3 deadline

**SUPER 72 RAFFLE
JANUARY 2023 WINNERS**

- \$1000 - Barbara Sagesser**
- \$250 - Ruperta Torres**
- \$100 - Nancy Chille**
- \$100 - Lorraine Zingraf**
- \$100 - Donna Milone**
- \$100 - George Crisostomo**

Special \$150 New Year Drawing:

Alaina Vezzi

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Jesus began to teach them, saying,
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 5:2-3

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Zephaniah was a prophet during the reign of King Josiah, one of the few righteous kings of Judah, not long before the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C., perhaps at the same time that Jeremiah prophesied. Zephaniah's prophecies warn of the devastation to come “on the day of the Lord's anger” because the people, in general, had turned away from the one true God to worship other idols and to rely on other nations for protection rather than on the Lord. But today's verses are addressed to the few faithful ones left in Jerusalem who have served the Lord by worship of God alone. On the Day of Judgment, they will be deemed humble, without deceit, and steadfastly reliant on God. As such, they will enjoy protection and rest from that day's cataclysmic events. Peace will come to us, too, when we live out our true identity as children of God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Today's reading has Paul talking to those who are too caught up in the wisdom of the world to see God's wisdom in sending his Son to die for us. Because Corinth was a large, cosmopolitan port city at the time, the people there had been exposed to many of the varied religions and philosophies of the day, especially Greek philosophy with its emphasis on human reason and abstract ideas. Paul asks them to think not of vague concepts but of their own experience. They were all redeemed and made whole and justified by Christ not by their own merit. God has reversed the order of things. Divine wisdom has given the great gifts of righteousness, sanctification, and redemption to the lowly, the despised, the foolish, and the weak of this world so that no one can boast of their own accomplishments but that “whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.”

Matthew 5:1-12a

This reading, taken from a longer section often called the “Sermon on the Mount,” portrays Jesus as the true Teacher and interpreter of the Law of Moses, bringing his ministry to both Jew and Gentile alike. It's the first of five extended sections of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's account of the Gospel. Jesus, like Paul who came after him, teaches a reversal of the expected order of things: the Kingdom of Heaven will reverse the fortunes of the lowly, the poor, and the grieving. Blessed will be those who are meek, poor in spirit, merciful, clean of heart and peacemakers. These are called the “Beatitudes.” They also include blessings for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness and being faithful to God, just as prophesied by Zephaniah, blessings not only for the people of Jesus' time but ours as well.

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. Can the Beatitudes become a way of life for you? If one of them becomes important to you, might the others follow?
2. Pope Francis offered us six new Beatitudes. How do these “confront the troubles and anxieties of our own time with the spirit and love of Jesus”?

•Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others, and forgive them from their heart.

•Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closeness.

•Blessed are those who see God in every person, and strive to make others also discover him.

•Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

•Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

•Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.

All these are messengers of God's mercy and tenderness, and surely they will receive from him their merited reward.

Holy Mass in Swedbank Stadion, Malmö Switzerland, Nov. 1, 2016

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, January 23, 2023:

Hebrews 9:15, 24-28 + Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 24, 2023:

Hebrews 10:1-10 + Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 25, 2023:

Acts 22:3-16 + Mark 16:15-18

Thursday, January 26, 2023:

2 Timothy 1:1-8 + Mark 4:21-25

Friday, January 27, 2023:

Hebrews 10:32-39 + Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, January 28, 2023:

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 + Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, January 29, 2023:

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
+ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
+ Matthew 5:1-12a

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

A marriage-saving program is coming to the New York/Metropolitan Area **January 27th, 2023** • Is your marriage tearing you apart? • Do you feel hurt and angry? • Does talking make it worse? • Thought of leaving or divorce? Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction? Retrouvaille can help. To register or for more information: 1-800-470-2230 <https://www.helpourmarriage.org> info@HelpOurMarriage.org **Retrouvaille** is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not a marriage retreat, nor counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story. Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage. Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are encouraged to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities worldwide. To contact the Long Island/New York Business Office: 516.920.9337/ LongIsland@HelpOurMarriage.org

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: smtschool.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”

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 Language of Love: The Liturgy of the Word

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, many Catholics did not read the Bible, nor was reading it encouraged. Church authorities were concerned that the laity would not know how to interpret Scripture, or worse, would interpret it incorrectly.

With the Second Vatican Council, that thinking changed. The Council document the *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* states, “Easy access to Sacred Scripture should be provided for all the Christian faithful” (22).

This increased emphasis on the Word of God is clearly evident in the amount of Scripture proclaimed during the liturgy. Before the Council, the readings followed a one-year cycle, with two readings proclaimed during Mass. With the reform of the liturgy, the faithful hear a much greater portion of the Bible proclaimed.

The readings for the liturgy now follow a three-year cycle with three readings and a psalm proclaimed during Sunday Mass. Typically, the order of the readings follows the format of a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from the New Testament, and a Gospel reading.

The synoptic Gospel accounts, those from Matthew, Mark, and Luke, are divided over a three-year period. In Year A, Matthew’s Gospel account is heard, in Year B, Mark’s account, and in Year C, Luke’s. John’s Gospel account is used throughout the three-year cycle, in particular during Lent, the Triduum, and Easter. This expansion of the number of readings at Mass affirms the statement in the Vatican II document the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, which called the use of Sacred Scripture in the liturgy “of the greatest importance” (24). The document went on to state:

The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful. In this way a more representative portion of the holy Scripture will be read to the



Reflection on the readings at Mass helps the Scripture to become a lamp to light our path.

people in the course of a prescribed number of years. (51)

Since the Lectionary includes only portions of Scripture, reading the surrounding text of the day’s reading will enhance understanding. The text that comes before and after the reading provides the context for the portion proclaimed in the liturgy. That context may give insight into the intent of the author, which often reveals a new and deeper understanding of God.

The ambo, the place where the readings are proclaimed during the liturgy, is intended to reflect the dignity and nobility of God’s word. The US bishops’ document *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship*, 61, explains, “Here the Christian community encounters the living Lord in the word of God and prepares itself for the ‘breaking of the bread’ and the mission to live the word that will be proclaimed.”

Reading and meditating on the Scriptures, exploring them during Bible study, or sharing their meaning for our lives with others in a small faith community enhances the experience of hearing the Word proclaimed at the liturgy. Reflection on the Scripture helps it to become for us a living Word, a lamp for our feet and a light for our journey.

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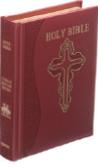
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