

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

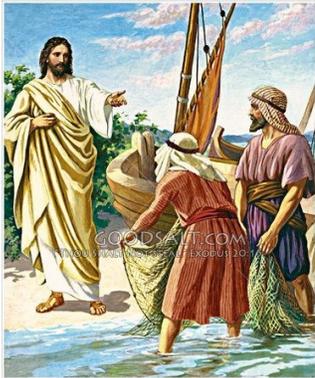


1871

Celebrating 150 Years

2021

Go to www.olph150th.com to order great 150th Anniversary Memorabilia!



*Come after me,
and I will make you fishers of men.*

Mark 1:17

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 24, 2021

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero, Reverend Emmanuel Okonkwo

Deacons: Deacon William Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith, Deacon Robert A. Becker

Business Manager: Mr. Thomas Crennan

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open

6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. seven days a week,
except for Thursdays when it closes
after the 12:15 p.m. Mass for cleaning.

Come in and spend some time in prayer.

Face covering and social distancing required.

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.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday at 4:00 p.m.,
each Sunday at 7:00 p.m., and

Morning Prayer each Sunday at 9:15 a.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.

Confessions are being heard in classrooms
in the “new school annex” near High Street.

See inside bulletin for safety protocols.

Also available by individual appointment
with one of the priests.

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

Monday afternoons
at 12:45 p.m. in the church

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

First Saturday: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

THIS WILL BE OUR PARISH LENTEN MISSION THIS YEAR!

“THE EUCHARIST...CONSTITUTES THE SOURCE OF THE CHURCH’S LIFE ITSELF. FROM THIS SACRAMENT OF LOVE, IN FACT, FLOWS EVERY AUTHENTIC JOURNEY OF FAITH, OF COMMUNION, AND OF WITNESS.”
- Pope Francis



Begins
week of
February 15

Join a Living the Eucharist small group during Lent.

Your participation can enrich your life in ways subtle and amazing. During the next six weeks you can grow in your understanding of the Mystery of the Eucharist, participate more fully in Sunday Mass, and leave Mass in a renewed zeal to let the light of Christ shine.

You will nourish your spiritual life by focusing on six topics during weekly 90 minute sessions.

Sign up now to get the materials needed before the sessions begin.

Deadline to join is January 31!

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

Lenten sign-up form on next page.

For office use:

Date material received by participant _____ (check items received below)

Participant Guide: _____; Exodus to Easter _____; Prayer Card _____; Family Activity Booklet _____



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Living the Eucharist



LENTEN SIGN-UP FORM

To be completed by each participant receiving a packet.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ CELL _____

EMAIL: _____

AGE (if under 21): _____

Small Groups:

Will you commit to a small Group Participation for six weeks, via a Zoom session on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (90 Minutes)?

Yes, I will attend the six Zoom sessions _____ No, I will not attend _____

If joining as a family, will you be joining as a family group during the Zoom session or will individual family members participate separately using separate Zoom user names?

Circle One: Group Individually

If a group, how many family members will be joining the Zoom session? _____

Families:

There is also a Family Activity Booklet targeted for families with children with ages ranging from pre-school to pre-teens that can be used within your own group setting. Would your family like to pray and share faith together, using the *Living the Eucharist* Family Activity Booklet?

Yes _____ (One per family) No _____

Please return this form to the Rectory, in exchange for the Prayer Card, Small Group Participant Booklet and Daily Journey Book (*From Exodus to Easter*).

Zoom information will be forwarded via e-mail.

View videos on the *Living the Eucharist* website at -- <https://www.livingtheeucharist.org/adults/>

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

January 31, 2021 is the deadline to submit form in order to receive material.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Sunday of the Word of God—This Sunday

Last year, Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (this year, January 24) is to be 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. In

particular, I hope you took advantage of the opportunity to spend some time in private reverence and meditation before the enthroned Word before or after Mass, as everyone was invited to do.

Spiritual March for Life: Friday, January 29, 2021

This Friday, January 29, is when we as a parish will participate in a spiritual March for Life. This Friday is the date when the March for Life in Washington, D.C. would have been held this year, but this is not possible this year due to Covid. However, everyone is invited to do a "spiritual March for Life" by participating in the 12:15 p.m. Mass this Friday, January 29, and then also participating in the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will immediately follow the Mass. Exposition will continue until 3:00 p.m., and the Rosary and prayers for life will be a part of the prayer time. Do make every attempt to be there for all or part of it!

As you know, opposition to abortion and supporting the right to life and the God-given dignity of life in all stages, from conception to natural death, are central tenets in Catholic morality. The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our parish Respect Life Committee, which is very vibrant and involved in all issues of Respect Life, the members of which work tirelessly throughout the whole year in this beautiful ministry. Special thanks go to the head of our Respect Life Ministry, Louise Perrotta, who is extremely dedicated to this work.

Living the Eucharist

Well, you've heard about it at Mass for the past two weekends, and information is again in our bulletin — I'm talking about the amazing LIVING THE EUCHARIST Program which we are undertaking together, as a parish, during Lent this year, in place of a Parish Lenten Mission. In essence, our Lenten Mission will last all of Lent as we journey through this program of prayer, discussion and learning. Through LIVING THE EUCHARIST we 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. Our parish will be enriched as we all encounter Christ in new and profound ways through this program.

I strongly urge you to take advantage of this and to participate in it. If you need further information you can contact Jim Totino at jtotino01@gmail.com and he will answer all your questions. We're doing this special program in celebration of our 150th Anniversary Year, so let's make the most of it and bring many, many blessings to our parish by LIVING THE EUCHARIST.

Journal Ads for the 150th Anniversary Journal

There's still time to take out your ad in the special Commemorative Journal for the parish's 150th Anniversary; the order form can be found in this bulletin.

Offer your congratulations to our parish on our 150th Anniversary; advertise your business, or honor someone you love, living or deceased. The Commemorative Journal is an important fund raiser for our Anniversary Year.

Anniversary Year Commemorative Items for sale

We still have all the beautiful items for sale commemorating our 150th Anniversary. Use the order form in this bulletin, or use the special link on the homepage of our website to order online. Your purchase of these items is a great support to the parish. Tell your family and friends about this, too! These items make great gifts.

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.

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,



BRING PALMS TO BE BURNED FOR USE AS ASHES...

You might still have some at home!



We are all familiar with the practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 17. The ashes are a sign of the public penance to which we are all called during the Lenten season. As we promise to repent and believe in the Gospel, the ashes are a sign of our commitment to the journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, a journey which ends with the new life of baptism and baptismal renewal during Easter Time. Penitential acts are undertaken as a community, as together we journey to the cross and resurrection.

What you may not know is where the ashes come from. Very simply, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are the ashes from palms saved from Palm Sunday the previous year, which have been burned.

This year we once again invite you to share in our communal celebration of Ash Wednesday in a special way. **We ask you to bring old palms from your home and deposit them in the baskets which will be available. These palms will then be burned at our Mardi Gras celebration on February 16 and used as ashes on Ash Wednesday.**

Yes, we remember... we know that due to the pandemic, palms were not distributed last year. Still, you might have old palms at home from previous years that you kept forgetting to bring in, or maybe you managed to get palms from somewhere last year. So, we still wanted to provide this opportunity. We'll be happy to take whatever palm might still be out there, and we'll burn whatever we get, even if it's only a little!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

EVERY SUNDAY ON YOUTUBE - [OLPH CHURCH LINDENHURST](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqLPH)



LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY TO ENGAGE YOUR CHILD IN THEIR FAITH FROM HOME?

JOIN US WEEKLY TO BREAK OPEN THE GOSPEL AND LISTEN TO A REFLECTION ON THE OLPH YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

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



Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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

Monday, January 25—12:45 p.m.

Monday, February 1—12:45 p.m.

Monday, February 8—12:45 p.m.

**ADORATION OF
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
Wednesdays 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
in the church after the 12:15 p.m. Mass

IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR BEING IN CHURCH

FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE, ALL WHO ENTER MUST:

- ▶ **WEAR A FACE MASK OR FACE COVERING – NO EXCEPTIONS**
- ▶ **REMAIN AT LEAST SIX (6) FEET APART, SIDE-TO-SIDE AND IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND YOU**
- ▶ **SIT IN DESIGNATED SEATS ONLY**
- ▶ **ENTER ONLY THROUGH WELLWOOD AVENUE DOORS**
- ▶ **EXIT ONLY THROUGH SIDE DOORS ON NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE**

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are being celebrated in the school building, in classrooms in the “new school” annex along High Street every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. until further notice.

Each priest will be in his own classroom.

These are the protocols that must be followed for going to Confession:

- ▶ **Entry is only via the blue doors at the north end of the hallway (off of the small parking lot)**
- ▶ **Exit is only via the doors at the south end of the hallway (into the large parking lot)**
- ▶ **Everyone – priests and penitents – is required to wear face masks or face coverings**
- ▶ **Lines on the floor will indicate a 6-foot social distance between those waiting on line outside each classroom**
- ▶ **Signs on easels outside the classroom will indicate the name of the priest who is in the classroom**
- ▶ **Social distancing and plexiglass dividers will keep a safe distance between priest and penitent, whether the penitent celebrates anonymously or face-to-face (both options are available)**

IF YOU CANNOT YET COME BACK TO MASS...

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 Facebook page: @olphlindenhurst
- OLPH YouTube Channel: OLPH Church Lindenhurst



DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

Step 1: Open App Store or Google Play



Step 2: Search "myParish app" & press download 



Step 3: Open up the myParish app and type in "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church"

Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

Step 5: Explore the great features in our parish app!



FORMED[®]

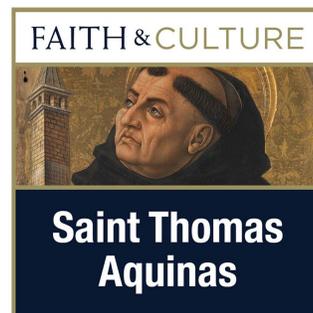
PICK OF THE WEEK

January 24, 2021

WATCH

LEARN

LISTEN



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

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)



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Celebrating 150 Years

2021

2020/2021 ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL PRICING

**BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR AND SUPPORT OLPH!
PLACE AN AD IN OUR COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL!**

One of the highlights of the Anniversary Year will be a **Commemorative Journal**, available in conjunction with our Anniversary Year Dinner Dance on April 23, 2021.

Support the parish by placing an ad in our journal! Ads can be taken in the name of your family, or your business, and can include congratulatory wishes to the parish, or it can be a memorialization of deceased loved ones, or an expression of gratitude to God. Honor that special priest, family members living or deceased, or just say thanks for the memories. If you're creative, prepare your own ad; if you're not that creative, just send us your message and our team will create the ad for you! There are many possibilities!

Note the deadline date of March 15, 2021!

Don't miss out! Send in your ad copy and payment TODAY!

If you need additional information, or have questions, contact Bob Dobres 631-592-8697 or Mike Hearney 631-560-0451.

PLEASE INDICATE AD SIZE AND TYPE

- GOLD FULL PAGE \$350
- B/W FULL PAGE \$150
- B/W HALF PAGE \$100
- B/W 1/4 PAGE \$75

For more information call Bob Dobres at 631-592-8697 or Mike Hearney at 631-560-0451

AD DIMENSIONS

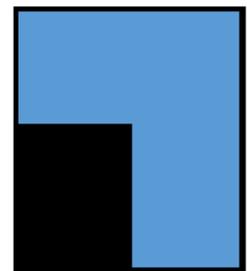
(WIDTH X HEIGHT)



Full Page and Cover
8.5 x 11"



Half Page
8.5 x 5.5"



Quarter Page
4.25 x 5.5"

Please submit payment along with ad materials no later than March 15, 2021.

Mail hard copy to rectory address above and attach copy of ad or materials (ad text, photos, images) to this form or write copy on back.

Email electronic version to 150thjournal@oloph.org. Please email a .pdf or .jpg file format.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

1871

Celebrating 150 Years

2021

Use this form to order great 150th Anniversary Memorabilia!

150th Anniversary Memorabilia of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Name: _____ Date: _____

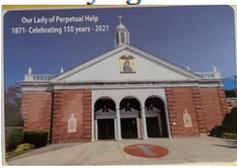
Phone (cell/home) _____

E-mail: _____

Thank you for celebrating with us! Bring this form & hand it in to the rectory with precise payment of either cash (in a ziplock bag) or check. You will be notified when your order is ready for a pickup date.

You may also check the website for a closer look at these products!

<http://olph150th.com>

Item	Price	Quantity	Item	Price	Quantity
 Keychain	\$10.00		 Tote bag	\$10.00	
 T-Shirt	\$15.00	S ___ M ___ L ___	 Pen with Stylus	\$3.00	
 Sweatshirt	\$40.00	M ___ L ___ XL ___	 Playing cards	\$12.00	
 Tumbler	\$15.00		 Magnet	\$ 3 2 for \$5	

For Office Use Only

Total Price: _____ Number of items: _____

Received by: _____

Date: _____

Order Placed: _____ Order Received: _____

Pickup date: _____ Notified Date(s): _____

Picked up by: _____

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 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**



LEVELS 6-8

Midterm Exams will take place on
Wednesday, January 27 during your
 regularly scheduled class time!
 Be sure to take the time this week
 to study hard so you can do well!

CONFIRMATION FEE
 Please return the Confirmation fee
 and all paperwork to the office.



The fee and
 the paperwork
 are due by
February 10, 2021.

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. John the Baptist

John the Baptist is known from Scripture as the cousin of Jesus. His parents are Saint Elizabeth and Saint Zechariah. He baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. When he baptized Jesus, the sky opened and the voice of God said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." John had many followers whom he taught about Jesus. He encouraged the people to follow Jesus. John's feast day is June 24th.

COMMUNION FEE

Please come to the office to pay the Communion fee and to pick up the Communion banner. The student must make the banner at home, and it will be due on March 20th.



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
- † Community Meal: Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631. 921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † 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—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Virginia Beyrer—631-226-6635
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

NEW Food Pantry List!

**CANNED CORN/SPINACH
GRAVY
PANCAKE MIX
CEREAL
CANNED FRUIT
SHELF STABLE MILK
COFFEE/TEA
HOT CHOCOLATE
PAPER PRODUCTS
TOILETRIES**

Please bring items to the SVdP office:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday:

9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

and on 1st and 3rd Saturdays:

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the School Building
Use Parking Lot located on corner of
Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

Our regular office hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. and

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

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus says: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” As disciples, we are called to continue God’s work on earth. Taking care of God’s poor is indeed living gospel values.

In December, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 72 children, 100 adults, and 17 seniors, which includes 25 families that received Christmas dinners and gift cards thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. May God bless you!

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL AT OLPH

During these very difficult times many of us find ourselves in financial difficulty, often for the first time. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is here to help. Please don’t feel embarrassed—you are not alone. We want to assure you that all matters relating to SVDP are completely confidential. All volunteer workers in the Food Pantry are Vincentians who are pledged to follow the “Rule” in dealing with our friends and neighbors. We reach out to those who come to us with kindness, sincerity and total confidentiality. You may come to the pantry for food every two weeks. The money that would have been spent on this food can then be used to pay other bills. Please reach out to us by calling our Food Pantry office at 631-226-7725 x. 234. Our regular office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. We’re here for you.

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

Our Story: Religious Freedom in Peril

In 1775, Paul Revere rode through the streets of towns and villages, country roads and dirt paths, calling out to his countrymen and neighbors to wake up, and to prepare for an imminent attack on their freedoms.

In 2012, a group of Catholics came together bound by a common concern: the federal government's denial of freedom of conscience. Much like Paul Revere, they recognized the urgent need to alert their friends and neighbors to an attack on our foundational freedom — our freedom of religion.

"The constitutional freedom of religion is the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights." —Thomas Jefferson

The group was roused by the government's mandate that forced all employers, except churches, to provide abortion-inducing drugs, contraception and sterilization as part of their health insurance. These Catholics recognized that this was an extreme denial of religious freedom — and it was unconstitutional. The federal government was claiming the ability to deny First Amendment rights through regulations and excessive fines.

The Catholics — who were retired professionals, enjoying time with their families, and volunteering in their communities — saw that this information was not reaching Catholics in the halls of their schools and the vestibules of their churches, and they felt compelled to act. Their mission was clear: to draw attention to the ongoing erosion of religious freedom in the US and around the world.

"It's the duty of everyone to defend religious freedom and promote it for all people." —Pope Francis

It was clear that secularism was being hard-pressed on the heart of one of the most basic conscientiously-held beliefs — the sacredness of human life. The group knew from the world's history of religious intolerance and persecution that all Americans were in great jeopardy, particularly since religious freedom, the right of conscience, is the first of all our inalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The group ultimately decided to mobilize and the Catholics for Freedom of Religion (CFFR) nonprofit organization was formed, embodying the group's commitment to grassroots action. This has involved nine years of building resources and expanding volunteers to reach more fellow lay Catholics and bring attention to denials of religious freedom. Together, we continue to educate our fellow Americans about the facts and importance of religious freedom, how dearly it was purchased for us and how easily it is diminished and denied when we are not vigilant. To learn more and to get involved, visit www.cffor.org.

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."—Edward Everette Hale

RIGHT TO LIFE



2021 MARCH FOR LIFE

Due to the pandemic, OLPH will not be participating in the physical March for Life in Washington, D.C. this year. However, we will still participate in the March for Life—spiritually, through prayer! Please join us for the 12:15 p.m. Mass on **Friday, January 29**. Mass will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 3:00 p.m., which will include the Rosary and prayers for life. The babies, mothers, and those physically marching in Washington, D.C. need our support! You can also participate in the Virtual Rose Dinner with Tim Tebow and others who are speaking, for \$25. Go to <https://marchforlife.org/annual-rose-dinner/> to participate. For information and updates, check the DRVC's 'microwebsite': drvcmarchforlife.com & respectlife@drvc.org

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
Thomas Crennan, Business Manager	204	tcrennan@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Rite 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

Vincent Boccanfuso
Eileen Corticchia (Chair)
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Jeffrey Gaab
Joselyn Kalt
Mary Leon
Rachelle Louis-Jacques
Carlton Mitchell
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
Adele Venezia

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
Bill Bendernagel
Gerry Chille (Chair)
Thomas Crennan
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
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
Chris Ferraro
MaryAnn Haas
Jenine Jimenez-Spina
Denise Martinez
Barbara McPhail
Deacon Doug Smith
Mike Williams
Fr. Frank Zero

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

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.

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.

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish community this week.

*Arthur McAnany
Patricia Riccio
Teresa Roberti*

"O God, who through the ending of present things open up the beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption."

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Janet Novotny</i>	<i>Deacon Bill Crosby</i>
<i>Heather Ventimiglia</i>	<i>Anne Therese Walters</i>
<i>Laura Fischer</i>	<i>Diane Mahlstadt</i>
<i>Dorothy Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Lisa Hulsen</i>
<i>Catherine Leavy</i>	<i>Ann Fisher</i>
<i>Lindsey Quinn</i>	<i>Tony Gillick</i>
<i>Catherine Michalewicz</i>	<i>Leonard Fries</i>
<i>Kinsley Apfelbaum</i>	<i>Bill Trigg</i>
<i>Danielle and Baby Leach</i>	<i>Nancy Beavers</i>
<i>Aurora and Reynold Ruiz</i>	<i>Arthur Webb</i>
<i>Mark Kuller</i>	<i>Patricia Pedcina</i>
<i>Christopher Rivola</i>	

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. To have your name or the name of a loved one listed in our parish bulletin, please call the Parish Office. **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 about four weeks.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, the support of your Catholic faith community should be a source of comfort and strength. A bereavement group run by trained facilitators helps grieving people learn skills for navigating their loss and opportunities to share their stories of loss. The **Bereavement Support Group** is a parish-based ministry responding to the needs of the recently bereaved by offering emotional, and sometimes practical, support as they learn to cope with their loss.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to know more about the **OLPH Support Group Program**, please contact Linda Arpino at 631-592-1062 or Marige Reyes at 631-608-3658. You may also leave your name and contact information with the receptionist in the rectory.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, January 25— Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle	
6:30	Raymond O’Neill
12:15	Rocco Pomatico
TUESDAY, January 26— Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops	
6:30	Lucia Manna
12:15	Lorraine Grandinetti
WEDNESDAY, January 27— Weekday <i>(Saint Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder)</i>	
6:30	Harriet Lefebure
12:15	James Mirabile
THURSDAY, January 28— Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church	
6:30	Jose Julio Cevallos
12:15	Theresa Marcello
FRIDAY, January 29— Weekday	
6:30	Robert & Maureen Murphy
12:15	Daniel Anderl
SATURDAY, January 30— Weekday	
8:00	Stanley Cimaszewski
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
5:00	For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
Sunday, January 31 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8:00	Living & Deceased Members of the OLPH Knights of Columbus #794
10:00	For the People of the Parish
12:00	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, January 25, 2021		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24
Tuesday, January 26, 2021		
7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Staff Meeting	Zoom
Wednesday, January 27, 2021		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Level 7 and 8 Classes	School
Thursday, January 28, 2021		
1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
Friday, January 29, 2021		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
12:45 p.m.	Exposition for the Right to Life	Church
Saturday, January 30, 2021		
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5 and Special Ed. Classes	School
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	School
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
6:15 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Exemplification	Church
Sunday, January 31, 2021		
7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour	Church

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

"Informed: Life is Worth Living" Film Presentation
 Long Island Coalition for Life will show the film *Informed: Life is Worth Living* at its meeting on Monday **January 25, 2021, 7:30 p.m.** at St. Regis Council K of C Hall (Rosevale Ave. & Pond Rd., Ronkonkoma). This video, produced by Human Life Alliance, interviews people who have dealt with life and death health situations involving themselves, their family, and medical practitioners. The film (~1 hour) discusses end-of life decisions and experiences with assisted suicide, adverse prenatal diagnosis, organ donation, hospice and withholding of medical care. Please join us and become informed. Information: info@prolifeLI.org; 631-243-1435.

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.

Lecturas del 3rd domingo del tiempo ordinario - Ciclo B 1/24/21

VENGAN Y BEAN DISE JESUS.

Muéstrate propicio, Señor, a los deseos y plegarias de tu pueblo; danos luz para conocer tu voluntad y la fuerza necesaria para cumplirla. Por nuestro Señor. Amen.

Primera Lectura (Jonás 3,1-5. 10): También los Paganos Son Llamados a la Conversión

El profeta Jonás, pensando que la salvación estaba reservada sólo a los judíos, predica de mala gana la conversión a los paganos. Éstos escuchan la palabra de Dios y se alejan del mal.

Segunda Lectura (1 Corintios 7,29-31): El Estilo de Vida Imparcial de los Cristianos

Ya que los cristianos se convierten y vuelven a Dios, se espera que vivan para el reino. Por lo tanto, habrían de usar las cosas de este mundo sin apegarse a ellas.

Evangelio (Marcos 1,14-20): Arrepiéntanse y Crean en la Buena Nueva de Salvación

La Buena Nueva de salvación proclamada por Jesucristo exige conversión y compromiso de fe. Los apóstoles responden con total generosidad y lanzarán sus redes al mundo para reunir a todos y cada uno en Cristo

1. La misión de Juan termina

San Marcos nos presenta el inicio de la vida pública de Cristo con este pasaje. El Bautista ha cumplido su misión de preparar el camino, y se acerca el momento en que dará el supremo testimonio de la entrega de su vida. Por los designios divinos, Cristo quiso que un hombre le preparase el camino. En cierto modo, quiso sentir necesidad de un mensajero que preparase a los hombres para su venida. ¡Como si Él no fuese lo suficientemente potente para salvar al mundo! Cristo, como Dios, sí es omnipotente; es más, podría haber salvado a todo el género humano con el más pequeño deseo de su voluntad. Pero, como vemos en el Antiguo Testamento, Dios quiere que su salvación venga a través del mismo hombre, a través de instrumentos que le dejan actuar, que ofrecen su libertad ante la voluntad de su Señor.

2. La misión de Cristo, misión compartida

Juan el Bautista es detenido. Y Jesús entra en acción. Pero sigue «sintiendo necesidad» de ayuda. No se lanza a predicar como un solitario prepotente, a quien todos deben someterse implacablemente. No. Lo primero que hace es buscar colaboradores, discípulos, que vivan con él y le ayuden en su misión de salvar a todo hombre, a cada hombre. En esta búsqueda de colaboradores, nuestro Señor llama a gente sencilla, gente del pueblo, pescadores. Y les llama con una palabra, con autoridad pero respetando plenamente su libertad. ¿Qué hubiera pasado si Pedro o Andrés hubieran dicho a Jesús: no quiero seguirte? Jesús hubiera respetado su libertad. Tenemos un ejemplo muy claro en el Evangelio: el caso del así llamado «joven rico». Cristo, el Dios todopoderoso, respeta humildemente la libertad del hombre. Él, Señor de todo cuanto existe, se expone a que le digan «no».

"Ha llegado el tiempo, y el reino de Dios está al alcance de la mano.

Arrepiéntanse y crean en la Buena Nueva de salvación".

Que ojalá estén ustedes atentos a sus palabras

y que el Señor esté siempre con ustedes

Hemos de orar con perseverancia, especialmente manteniendo la vigilancia y oración con los salmos. También hemos de ser revestidos con la armadura espiritual para vivir en comunión fraterna, expresada a través de la celebración diaria de la Eucaristía...

**OFFERING UPDATE
January 9/10, 2021**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	147	58	\$1,356.50
8:00 a.m.	126	78	2,206.00
10:00 a.m.	200	62	2,516.00
12:00 p.m.	178	49	1,613.00
Coin			1.25
Mail-ins:			2,513.68
Children's Env.		7	16.00
Faith Direct			2,905.00
TOTAL	651	254	\$13,127.43
2020 total	1,576	539	\$15,065.91
Candles			\$785.58
Poor Box			\$295.39

**OFFERING UPDATE
January 16/17, 2021**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	159	64	\$2,203.50
8:00 a.m.	148	86	3,196.00
10:00 a.m.	190	71	2,215.00
12:00 p.m.	190	45	1,488.00
Coin			6.71
Mail-ins:			2,828.00
Children's Env.		10	88.00
Faith Direct			2,905.00
TOTAL	687	276	\$14,930.21
2020 total	1,544	488	\$15,509.82
Candles			\$776.11
Poor Box			\$257.16

**2021 OLPH CONTRIBUTION
TAX LETTERS**

Tax letters for the 2020 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address & envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DEADLINES FOR
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

January 31—January passed
February 7—January 29
February 14—February 5

**SUPER 72 RAFFLE
JANUARY 2021
WINNERS**

- \$1000 - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Salvia**
- \$250 - Robert Koster**
- \$100 - Carol Previti**
- \$100 - Kelly Dolan**
- \$100 - Kathleen Bryzcorma**
- \$100 - Jane A. McGrath**

Special New Year Drawing:

\$150—Anna Star

*The final totals
for Christmas Day
and Christmas Flowers
will be published soon.*

PREPARING FOR
Sunday, January 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching,
 for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.*

Mark 1:22

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell speech to his people before they enter the Promised Land. He will not go with them. He consoles his people by telling them that God will raise a prophet like Moses and he will speak through him. The promise of a future prophet led the Israelites down through the centuries to wonder whether or not a particular individual might in fact be this promised prophet. The early Christians saw Jesus and his ministry as fulfillment of Moses' prophecy.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Some today maintain that Paul is opposed to marriage. Though here he seems to prefer the unmarried state, it is because he believes that the endtime is fast approaching and he wants the Corinthians to be free from the kind of anxieties that accompany marriage. The real contrast that he draws is between commitment to the Lord and overinvolvement in the things of this world. Paul knows that those involved in the things of the world can be very committed to the Lord and yet possess a very shallow spirituality. He is more concerned with the quality of commitment than with the particular state of life.

Mark 1:21-28

Having called a handful of disciples, Jesus begins his teaching and healing ministry. Mark notes how impressed the people are with Jesus. They are spellbound by him. He teaches with authority unlike their own scribes. What is this authority? It is the authority of God. Like the prophets of old, Jesus is anointed with God's Spirit, which enables him to touch people's hearts. His teaching is accompanied by signs and wonders. When Jesus teaches, things happen: the sick are healed, the cripple walk, and the oppressed are liberated. All of this leaves the people in awe. The Gospel builds on the first reading: Jesus is seen as the prophet whom Moses spoke about. Mark uses this story to teach and encourage his community 30 or 40 years later. They are experiencing "hostile voices" in their persecution by Jewish leaders and the Romans. If their lives are firmly rooted in Christ, they will be able to withstand the evil forces attacking them. And so it will be with us today.

Gospel Reflection

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

1. Jesus "taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Was there an incident that confirmed Jesus' teaching and showed people its authenticity? If you can't have absolute confirmation, as they did, what will work for you? Trust? Explain.

2. "The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him." On Jan. 6th, sixty-four African migrants died due to the shipwreck in the Mediterranean after a trafficker's overcrowded rubber dinghy started taking on water. Would you call human trafficking one of today's "unclean spirits" that needs to "come out," as they did in this Gospel? What are some other ones?

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, January 25, 2021:

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

Tuesday, January 26, 2021:

2 Timothy 1:1-8 + Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 27, 2021:

Hebrews 10:11-18

+ Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 28, 2020:

Hebrews 10:19-25

+ Mark 4:21-25

Friday, January 29, 2021:

Hebrews 10:32-39

+ Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, January 30, 2021:

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

Sunday, January 31, 2021:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

+ 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

+ Mark 1:21-28



THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN THE LITURGY

When they crossed through the Red Sea, the Old Testament people praised God in song (Exodus 15). The psalmist tells of people who danced and sang with timbrels and harps (Ps 149). Long before the role of the cantor emerged in synagogue practices, the people publicly chanted prayers and the Torah. Jesus and his disciples sang on their way to the Mount of Olives. Paul told the Colossians to “sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (3:16). Generations of Christians have composed music to praise God — a simple melody or a polyphonic masterpiece, accompanied by large orchestras or a crude drum, voiced by a soloist or an assembly of thousands.



WHY SING?

We value music. It engages the heart, expresses emotions and stirs the soul in ways that the spoken word cannot. But music is not merely an optional decoration of our liturgy. It is integral to it. We do not sing at liturgy, we sing the liturgy! Since music expresses and fosters faith, it allows us to enter more deeply into the mystery we celebrate.

The Bishops at Vatican II recognized this when they noted that the “full, conscious and active participation of the people was the aim to be considered before all else” (SC 14). The new Order of Mass had more than a dozen parts that could be sung, as well as numerous options for the priest celebrant. No longer were the people to be silent spectators.

Liturgical music’s primary role, then, is ministerial — it serves the liturgy. It allows the people to be more actively engaged, harmonizes with the liturgical season and day and supports the structure of the rite. It allows the rite to unfold without overshadowing the ritual words and actions (Sing to the Lord, 68). Sometimes music accompanies a ritual action (Lamb of God); sometimes it supports a ritual action (an entrance hymn); and sometimes it is the ritual action (the Gloria).

WHAT DO WE SING?

Not every part of the Mass is sung, but among those that are, we can recognize various categories. Knowing what they are helps us to appreciate some ancient traditions, to choose music wisely and to give priorities to what should be sung.

Dialogues are exchanges between the presider and assembly, e.g., “The Lord be with you/And with your spirit.” They are part of the presider’s communication with us and they both signify and bring about communal celebration (STL 115).

Acclamations are “shouts of joy” from the assembly and, by their very nature, should be strong and musically appealing. Among these are the Gospel Acclamation — an Alleluia and a verse before we listen to the words of Jesus. (In Lent, another verse replaces it.) We respond to the General Intercessions with *Lord, hear our prayer* or some other sung response. We “interrupt” the Eucharistic Prayer several times with our acclamations. We sing the *Holy, holy, holy* at the conclusion of the Preface. The memorial acclamation (e.g. *We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection,*

until you come again) expresses our faith in the Paschal Mystery. In the Great Amen, we offer our final assent to the full Eucharistic Prayer.

The **psalms** are “the voice of Christ and the voice of the Church at prayer” (STL 116, quoting *Laudis canticum*, Paul VI, 1970). Since they are songs of praise and petition, they are meant to be sung.

The original place for **hymns** in the liturgy was actually the Liturgy of the Hours. A four-hymn structure was first added to the Latin Mass to allow participation. Now, vernacular hymns may be used to accompany the entrance, the presentation of the gifts, Communion, and, if desired, a recessional. These processional songs create a sense of community. The entrance song helps us to enter into our celebration and prepares us to hear the word of God (GIRM 46). The Communion hymn fosters a sense of unity as we partake of the sacrament of unity.

Supplemental songs have no specified texts. These include a prelude, a preparation hymn, or the song after Communion (GIRM 164).

Other parts of the Mass also may be sung, including the Lord’s Prayer; the Profession of Faith or Creed may be sung, but a simple setting should be used (GIRM 68). The Gospel also may be chanted.

HOW DO WE CHOOSE MUSIC?

Many parishes are blessed by trained pastoral musicians who, with the pastor, coordinate liturgical music. Liturgies always are prepared as a whole, not by selecting distinct elements. So music is chosen by looking at the readings and prayers of the Mass, as well as any ritual action it may demand.

Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship (USCCB 2007) offers valuable lessons for those who select music. These are often referred to as “The Three Judgments” (see STL 116-119).

The liturgical judgment — Is this music capable of serving the structural and ritual aspects of the rite? Does it match the ritual action, e.g., are we singing about Holy Communion as we process? Is this antiphon or verse called for in the liturgical books?

The pastoral judgment — Does this music draw the people closer to the mystery they celebrate? Does it help form their faith? Does it respect the age, culture, language, or education of a particular assembly?

The musical judgment — Does this piece of music have the aesthetic qualities to bear the weight of the mystery being celebrated? Is it worthy music? Neither popular songs nor songs with cheap or trite musical styles are suitable for liturgy.

While the Church may applaud Gregorian Chant, the Church has never adopted any one particular musical style, but has admitted styles of music from every period (SC 123).

To these three qualities, we might add the “theological judgment” so that one may carefully examine all lyrics in light of sound doctrine.

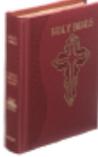
WHO SINGS?

The simple answer to this is that we all do! Bishops, priests and deacons have texts that are assigned to them. Skilled cantors, choirs and instrumentalists lead our singing. But the assembly is the primary musical minister. All of us participate in sung liturgy — young or old, gifted with a great voice or not, we all must raise our hearts and voices to God in song. After all, all liturgy anticipates the heavenly liturgy and we are just warming up for the heavenly choir! ■

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Written by Rita Thron adapted from an article which first appeared in Faith Magazine 2011

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