

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



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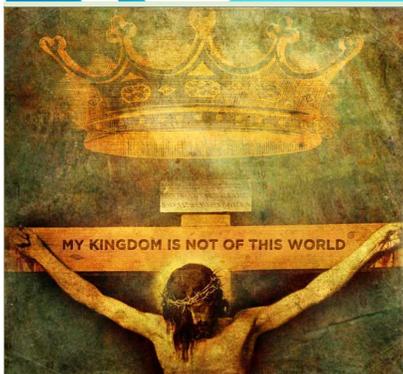
Download instructions on page 2

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*My kingdom does not belong
to this world.*

John 18:36a

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

November 21, 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. William D'Alessio

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

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 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.

*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, Saturday and Sunday:
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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!

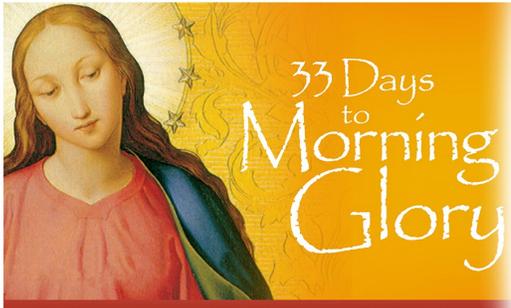


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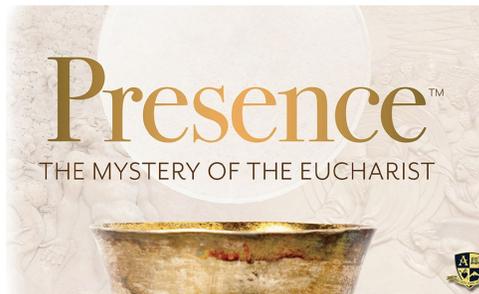
PICK OF THE WEEK

November 21, 2021

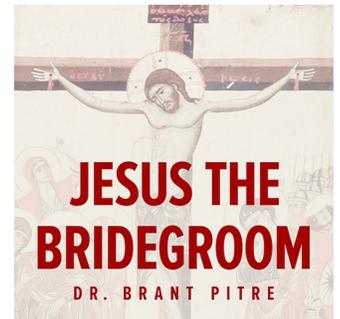
WATCH



LEARN



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PASTOR'S PAGE

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

This Sunday, the Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, is the last Sunday of this liturgical year, and is always celebrated as the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This Solemnity was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

This Solemnity is a fitting celebration to the end of Ordinary Time, since it provides a nice transition into the call we hear in the first weeks of Advent to prepare for the coming King. Christ's kingship is eschatological, which means Christ's Kingdom is both already present in the Church, yet is also to be fulfilled at the end of time. Consequently, this Solemnity turns our thoughts to the "last things." It gives us a preview of the coming fulfillment of the reign of Christ at the end of time, which is also how we begin Advent next week — by reflecting on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time (notice the smooth transition from one liturgical season to the next).

Take special notice of how this Solemnity causes us to rethink our conventional understandings of kingship and power; Jesus transforms what true kingship and power really are. The way of Christ, and therefore the way for all Christians to live, is the way of humble service and of caring for others. True kingship stems from making oneself low; true power comes about by being selflessly and generously concerned with the needs of others. Christ's kingship lies not in worldly power or authority, but rather in His self-sacrificing love that gives life to others.

The Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer used at Mass for this Solemnity sums it all up very well for us: Christ's Kingdom is "a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace."

Blessings to you on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe!

Advent begins next weekend!

Take note! Since this Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, that means next Sunday begins a new liturgical year. Yes, next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent! Next

week we begin "Year C" of the three-year cycle of Lectionary readings (designated A, B and C) for Sunday Mass. The primary evangelist for Year C is St. Luke, so we'll be hearing a great deal of St. Luke's Gospel on the Sundays in Ordinary Time during the upcoming year.

It seems there's always something exciting about Advent Time; it always seems to bring something fresh and new, and as we are continuing to emerge from the pandemic, we certainly need to continue to celebrate renewal in 2021 and into 2022! Advent gives us the time to prepare for Christ coming among us anew into our life and into our heart. One liturgical year ends as another begins, and so too with our life in Christ: there is always a new beginning to be found with the One who came into the world to save us.

There's no secret about how important I feel it is for us to keep Advent, and to not celebrate Christmas until it is Christmas Time; I kind of harp on this subject every year, and will do so again this year. I really do believe it is vitally important for the rhythms of the liturgical year to be spiritual rhythms and focal points that we put into concrete practice in our life; they are not just cute mental notes to give lip service to or to pay attention to only when we are at Mass — they must become part of the fabric of our very life. We should not compartmentalize our lives and observe one thing when we're in church, but something different in our personal spiritual life; we should really live these things. It is upsetting to me when Catholics (especially those who should know better) seem dismissive of Advent (or, even worse, buy into secular phrasing such as using the word "holiday" in place of "Christmas"). We've all heard the phrase "Keep Christ in Christmas," but how about "Keep Advent in Advent Time"?

In the week ahead, think about how you and your family will give yourselves the very special and irreplaceable gift of letting Advent be Advent, instead of celebrating an elongated Christmas. Such extensions of Christmas Time serve no purpose other than to water down the meaning of the season and to feed into the crass commercialism and superficiality of our secular society. It's no wonder that we feel stressed out

by Christmas, if we have been celebrating it for four or even eight weeks before December 25 ever arrives! Make some concrete decisions as to how you and your family will celebrate Advent as Advent. Be sure to celebrate a Christian Advent, with a true Christian spiritual and liturgical focus, and not a mere secular Advent of just simply counting down days.

Starting next week, we'll be publishing information in the bulletin to help you and your family keep Advent time. Please take the time to read and use these resources to help you keep Advent in Advent Time!

Little Blue Book for Advent

As one resource to help everyone keep Advent, we have once again made available the *Little Blue Book* with daily meditations for Advent and Christmas Time. I don't know if there are still any left on the pew ledges in the church, but if there are and you haven't already taken one, please do so. The reflections and meditations are new and updated for this year, as they are every year. I hope you enjoy the books again this year.

We always provide the books free of charge as a pastoral service to you. If you would like to make an extra donation to help cover the cost of the books, such a donation would be greatly appreciated. You can simply increase your weekly offering for one week, or send in a separate offering marked "For the Little Blue Books." Thank you.

Knights of Columbus Annual Memorial Mass

This Tuesday, November 23, I will once again have the honor of presiding at the annual Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass, where we remember and pray for the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Auxiliary. As part of our November month of remembrance of our beloved dead, this is always an important moment in the life of OLPH. The Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Auxiliary continue to be a vital part of OLPH and it continues to be my pleasure and my honor to be the Chaplain to the Knights. Blessings to all the Knights for all they do for OLPH!

Thanksgiving Day

This Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. I hope

it will be a day that will be special for you and your loved ones, one full of much joy and love and many blessings.

In many ways, saying "thank you" to God could be said to be the one and only essential prayer; how crucial it is as part of our spiritual life that we recognize we are dependent on God for everything, and that everything we have and everything we are comes to us as a free gift from God! In fact, I often say that gratitude is the fundamental Christian attitude, and it's the unwavering stance we should have toward all of life. The beautiful thing about Thanksgiving Day is that it is kind of a "natural Holy Day." There's just something both natural and spiritual about setting aside a day for giving thanks and focusing on what's really important in life.

Unfortunately, the forces of greed and consumerism encroach more and more on what should be time set aside for relaxation and re-creation of the human spirit in God. "Black Friday" creeps earlier and earlier into Thanksgiving Day, and even before that day, and, in my opinion, Thanksgiving Day itself is in danger of being lost. Maybe this is something we all need to think and pray deeply about; we all need to make conscious and daring decisions to keep values such as family life, spirituality, thankfulness and shared time together as the center of our life.

Our parish celebrates Thanksgiving Day by having one Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. Some special highlights of our Thanksgiving Mass are as follows:

- There will not be the usual collection of money. Instead, everyone is invited to bring a non-perishable food offering for the poor, as described elsewhere in this bulletin, or some other item to assist the homeless. **These offerings will be brought forward in procession with the offerings of bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist, so do not drop off your food offering on the sanctuary steps when you enter the church — hold on to them until the assembly is called forward to carry them up in procession.**

- We will offer a special blessing of your Thanksgiving table food. Bring some food item from your table to be blessed at Mass.

- As you exit, special table blessing prayer cards will be available for you to take home,

handed to you by the Ushers, to use as your grace before the meal if you so choose.

Also, we will need some help immediately following the Mass; we need folks to carry the offerings for the poor over to the St. Vincent de Paul office in the school building. If you can give ten minutes or so after the Mass to help out, we would appreciate it.

I absolutely love the Thanksgiving Day Mass each year; it gives me the opportunity to reflect on my own gratitude for the gift that all of you are. OLPH is a wonderful, warm place with very caring and generous people. Being able to be Pastor here is a gift for which I am very grateful, and I will be sure to say thank you to God for that on that day. I cannot think of any other place I would rather be other than here, "the place to be!"

Lessons and Carols this coming Sunday, November 28, 4:00 p.m.

This coming Sunday, November 28, is our annual celebration of Lessons and Carols. There's truly no better way for us to begin our holy time of Advent than by attending Lessons and Carols! I hope you will make it a priority to be there.

The "Lessons" (Scripture readings) and "Carols" (hymns — some sung by the choir alone, and some by everyone) are rich in Advent imagery and Advent mood. If you have attended in the past, you know how beautiful and worthwhile it is, and I know you want to be there again. If you have never attended before, you have been missing something great and I urge you to be there. This is a great thing to do together as a family; come and join in the service, and then go out for a pizza or something afterward and make a real "family Sunday" out

of it! Please make every effort to attend Lessons and Carols. I'll be there; I look forward to it every year, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Plan now on when you will get to Confession during Advent

Our parish-wide mailing with our Advent and Christmas schedule has gone out, so you should have received yours. I want to urge you to make your plans now for when you will go to Confession during Advent; take note of the times we are offering the sacrament. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the perfect way to "prepare the way of the Lord" during Advent so that we are spiritually ready for the great feast of Christmas. We priests want nothing more than to celebrate with you the great gift of God's forgiveness. *See you at Confession!*

SUPER 72

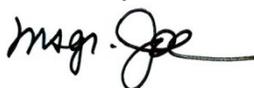
Finally, let me offer a brief reminder, asking you to be sure to participate in our next **SUPER 72** game (see the flyer elsewhere in this bulletin for more details). The **SUPER 72** continues to be another important fund raiser for the parish, so I ask everyone to buy some tickets. Tickets were mailed out, and are also available at the rectory.

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,



ALTAR SERVERS

ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS (INCLUDING NEW ONES): **NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

All our young people who serve as Altar Servers are reminded to attend the very important meeting on **Monday, November 29 at 4:15 p.m. in the church**. Among other business items, we will discuss **assignments for the Christmas schedule**. All Altar Servers are expected to attend, and this includes the new servers who are now being trained! One parent should attend as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP



Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

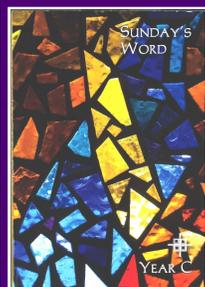
Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take some time each

Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Please note that there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, November 24 (the day before Thanksgiving). It is necessary to cancel Exposition that day because the cleaning of the church must be moved from Thursday to Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for your understanding.



NEW SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the upcoming new liturgical year (Cycle C) starting with the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, are now available at the rectory for purchase, for \$4.00.

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS FOR ADVENT ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please take home a *Little Blue Book* which contains daily reflections for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This book provides the opportunity for prayerful sacred reading for every day of Advent and Christmas Time. Let God speak to you during this special and holy time of the liturgical year by taking a few minutes for quiet reflection using the *Little Blue Book*. They are provided free of charge for your spiritual enrichment, but if you would like to put an extra two (2) dollars into the collection basket to help cover the cost of the books, it would be appreciated. Thank you!

THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS
2020-2021

Six-minute reflections
on the Sunday Gospels of Year B

ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE

During the month of November, we remember in a special way our loved ones who have died.

Our Liturgy Committee prepares a special Altar of Remembrance in the Divine Mercy Chapel.

You are invited to place a picture on the altar so that we may remember your loved ones and pray for each other. Please limit the size of your photo (perhaps no larger than 4 x 6) so that there is room for everyone who wishes to participate. You may place the picture in a small frame.

Write your name and phone number on the back of the picture.

We ask you to pick up your picture by Friday, November 26.



BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD



A special book has been placed in the Divine Mercy Chapel for members of our parish community to write down the names of loved ones who have died. The names in this book will be remembered at our Masses throughout the month of November.

Please note: this is not the Book of Intentions, and only the names of the deceased, without any intention, should be written in this book.

“LET US GIVE THANKS”



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 25th

9:00 a.m.

As our entire parish family gathers to celebrate the Eucharist on this day of giving thanks, please note these special elements concerning this Mass:

- You are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Pantry (see the list on page 16), or bring items such as men’s gloves, knit hats, socks, etc., for our Ministry to the Homeless;

- Those offerings will be brought forward in Procession along with the offerings of bread and wine in the middle of Mass, so keep them with you until they are called for—don’t drop them off when you come into the church;

- Bring something from your Thanksgiving table to blessed; we’ll bless these items at the end of Mass;

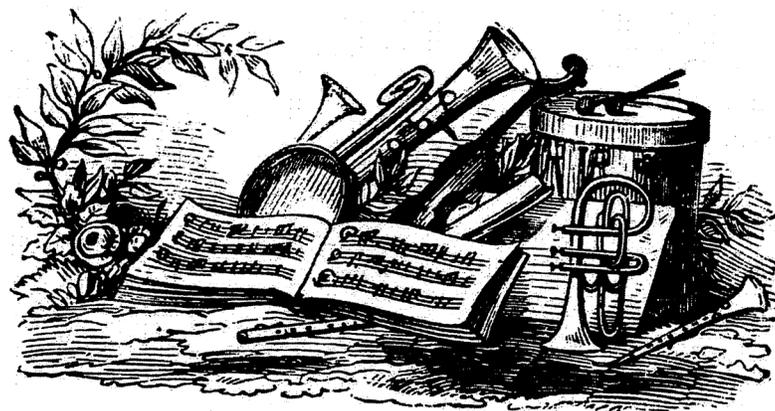
- Be sure to take home a special Table Blessing Prayer which we will hand out as you leave the church.

Please note that this will be the only Mass celebrated on Thanksgiving Day!

Will also be live-streamed on the OLPH Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

LESSONS & CAROLS NEXT SUNDAY

Advent Lessons & Carols



Sunday,
November 28
4:00 p.m.
in the church

Reception to follow in the auditorium

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of the Lord

How well do you know Jesus?

Do you know how and what he prayed?

One certainty is that Jesus studied and prayed the Book of Psalms from his youth until his death. This Advent season, as we prepare for the coming of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering a new and uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of Christmas. Beginning on **Sunday, November 28** and continuing every Sunday through **December 19**, we will offer parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist. We will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each Sunday to examine and discuss the joyful message of Christ's coming. Each session will feature a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by the members of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Bring your Bible and join us to break open the Word of the Lord.

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?



Every year on Pentecost, a group of adults completes their initiation into the Church by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. By Confirmation, the baptized are joined more perfectly to the Church and strengthened in their faith. Catholics who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation should receive it before being married.

Preparation for receiving Confirmation as an adult includes ten hours of classroom meeting, weekly attendance at Mass and additional study through Catholic instructional material such as the *Formed* multimedia platform. Classes meet in the evenings, usually twice a month, with some outside reading and preparation required. A fee of \$20 covers the cost of books and materials.

Classes begin on **Tuesday, December 14**. For more information contact Deacon Robert Becker at DeaconRobert@olph.org or by leaving your contact information at the rectory.

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

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](https://www.facebook.com/olphlindenhurst)
- OLPH YouTube Channel: [OLPH Church Lindenhurst](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



FR. FIDELIS HAS A YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Hear Fr. Fidelis give weekly reflections and more on his YouTube channel!

You can go to YouTube and search for **FADA PRINCE** (with the logo at left) and click on the **SUBSCRIBE** button.



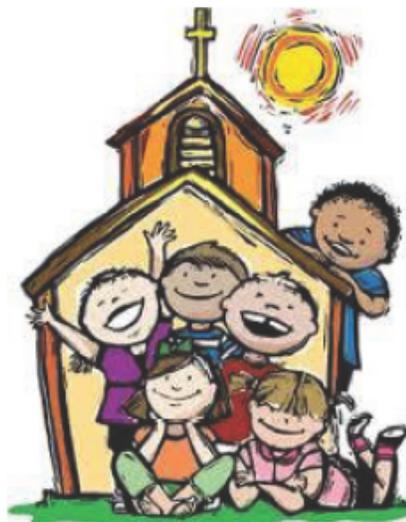
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

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



NEW BOXES OF CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The new boxes of **Children's Envelopes** for the upcoming liturgical year are now available! Children should use these envelopes to make their offering in the weekly collection basket at Mass, in addition to their family's offering.

The purpose of the envelopes is not a money-raising one, but rather to provide parents a tool to reinforce in their children the idea of stewardship for their Church and responsible giving toward others. It's a great way to teach children the value of being thankful for the gifts God gives us and the importance of sharing the abundance of those gifts with others. Ideally, the money — whatever amount is placed in the envelope (there is no minimum or maximum!) — comes from the children themselves, *e.g.*, out of their allowance, rather than being just handed to them from the parents. In this way, Christian attitudes are nourished in the children, and this can be yet another avenue for parents and children to discuss responsible Christian living.

New boxed sets of Children's Envelopes for the entire new liturgical year (starting with Advent 2021) are available in baskets throughout the church. Families who wish to use them should simply take a box which contains envelopes for the entire year, with the children then returning one envelope each week, dropping it in the collection basket at Mass. The envelope should have the child's name and amount of the offering written on it. The design on the envelope may be colored in and decorated in other ways if desired. The amount collected in the children's envelopes is published in the bulletin each week. As with the usual collection offerings, the money will go toward supporting the mission of and programs at OLPH.

Encourage your children to use these envelopes as a way of growing in Christian stewardship and responsibility!

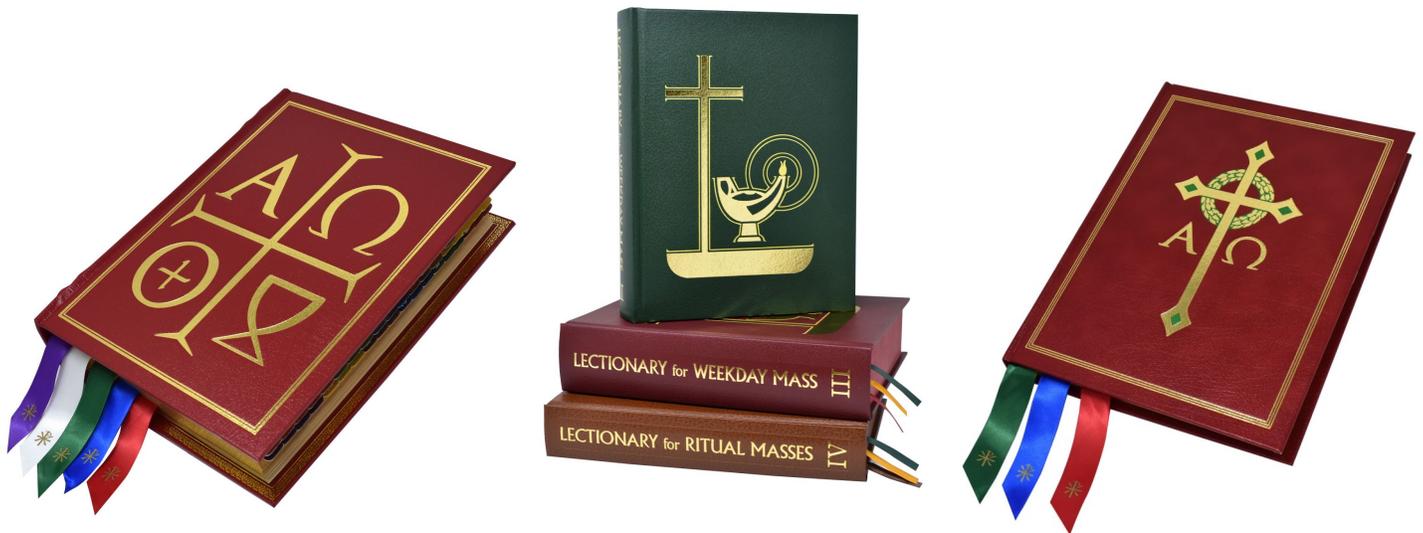
MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES—NEW RITUAL BOOKS

“Churches, therefore, must be places “suited to sacred celebrations,” “dignified,” and beautiful. Their suitability for worship is determined by their ability through the architectural design of space and the application of artistic gifts to embody God’s initiative and the community’s faithful response.”

- #18, *Built of Living Stones: Art Architecture and Worship*, a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.

For more than a thousand years, the Church has used ritual books in the celebration of the sacred Liturgy. These books contain the rubrics or instructions about the particular ritual(s) contained inside and also the actual texts of the prayers and Scriptures that we hear proclaimed. Often the ritual books are beautifully adorned with sacred art to remind us of God’s majesty and glory.

Here at OLPH, a very busy parish, our books are used many times over the course of a week. Over time, they do get worn and every so often, they need to be replaced. The sanitizing and cleaning that was done in the early part of the COVID-19 Pandemic also wreaked havoc on our books. The time has now come to replace many of our ritual books and we invite you to consider memorializing them in memory of a loved one who has died or by marking a special occasion such as milestone wedding anniversary or the birth of a child or grandchild. The memorials will be acknowledged in the bulletin and also with a special label that will be placed inside the front cover of the book. **Contact or stop by the rectory in order to memorialize a ritual book.**



- ◆ 3 large and 3 small editions of *The Roman Missal* which contain the prayers and instructions of the Mass - \$250 for each large edition, \$175 for each small edition
- ◆ 2 *Excerpts from the Roman Missal* which is held by the altar server during the Collect and Prayer after Communion - \$125
- ◆ 2 three-volume sets of the *Lectionary for Weekday Mass* which contain the readings for Daily Mass - \$500 for the complete three-volume set or \$175 for each book
- ◆ 2 *Lectionary for Sunday Mass* which contain the readings for Sunday Mass - \$200 for each book



Celebrating 150 Years

2021

OLPH Family Photo Album

We are pleased to announce that as part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we will be offering for sale a Family Photo Album. The Album will include pictures of Parishioners and their families, our Priests and OLPH Staff. There will also be a history page about our Parish, a collage of different OLPH events that took place during our Anniversary celebration year and a message from our Pastor, Msgr. Joe. Won't you please take part by submitting a beautiful family photo? (Details below). Go ahead, "dress to impress".

Types of Photos

Pictures may include a special family photo celebrating a Sacrament (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, a Wedding, etc...), a birthday or other special family celebration, a professional family photo.

Size of Photo

Please submit a 3X5 or 4X6 photo by November 30, 2021.

Where

- Pictures may be sent to: socialmedia@oloph.org (this is a private OLPH email address).
- Subject line should include: OLPH Family Photo Album - [family name]
- In your email, please simply include the names of the persons in the photo, Family last name and number of Albums you wish to purchase.
- As an alternative to emailing, the below form may be completed and dropped off at the Rectory with your family photo in an envelope marked to the attention of "OLPH Family Photo Album".

If you have any questions, please call Helene at 917-679-0376 or send your question to the above email address, attention: OLPH Family Photo Album.



OLPH Family Photo Album Order Form



Date: _____ Name: _____

Tel/Cell: _____

Email: _____

Names of persons in the photo and family last name:

Number of Albums: _____ (Each Album: \$35)

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

ALL LEVELS, 1-8

There will be no class on Wednesday, November 24, and Saturday, November 27, due to the Thanksgiving break! Enjoy the time with your families, and let's not forget to thank God for all of our blessings!

HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of classroom helpers for Levels 1-5 on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and/or 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Do you have the time to give one hour and share your God-given gifts with the youth of OLPH? This is a great way for high school and middle school students to get hours required for school or other extracurricular activities!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We need your help! We are looking for a person to lead the choir of angels and shepherds in music during the Christmas Pageant. The rehearsal dates are as follows:
 Tuesday, December 7, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 14, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
 Friday, December 17, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Saturday, December 18 (Day of Pageant):
 6:30 p.m. Call Time; 7:30 p.m. Show Time
 Contact Bridget at bjordan@oloph.org

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. Roch is the patron saint of epidemics, plagues, and pandemics. Now might be the best time to pray for his intercession, with all that is going on in the world these past two years! He lived in Italy at the time of the Plague, and went to go help heal the sick and the poor. He soon became sick from this deadly disease but was miraculously healed. He then went to heal more people after he was better. When he returned home, people thought he was a spy, and he was sent to prison. His uncle, the Governor, did not recognize him until after he died and it was too late to free him.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, MUSIC MINISTRY & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant
Saturday, December 18, 2021
7:30 p.m. in the Church



We would like to involve as many members as possible of our parish community, especially all parish children! We have many speaking parts for children who can memorize a few lines and speak loudly and clearly. There are roles for: Mary, Joseph, Herod, Three Kings, Innkeeper, Angels and of course the shepherds. Masks will be required for all participants.

Please indicate if your child is interested in having a speaking role. Parts will be given out at the tryouts on Saturday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium. Anyone wishing to have a speaking part must be able to attend all rehearsals. There is something for children first grade and up!

College Students (especially those coming home for Christmas) and Adults: We need help with supervision of angels and shepherds, assistance with hospitality and more! If you can help, please contact Bridget Jordan at (631) 226-7725 X 253 or e-mail bjordan@oloph.org.



Tryouts for speaking roles will take place on Saturday, December 4, at 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium!

Pageant Practices

Tuesday, December 7th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium

Tuesday, December 14th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church

Dress Rehearsal: Friday, December 17th 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the church

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name _____

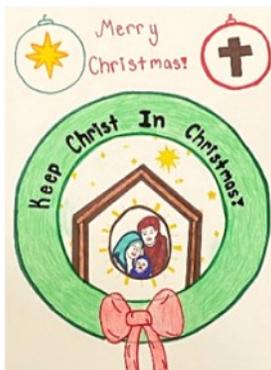
Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Grade _____

_____ My child is interested in having a speaking role!

Knights of Columbus Council #794 /OLPH Holy Name Society Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest



Open to Children between the ages of 5 to 14
Take part in the **2021 “Keep Christ in Christmas”** poster contest.

Contest Rules:

The wording: **“Keep Christ in Christmas”** must appear on the poster

Paper: any color oak tag (recommended) or similar style construction paper. Poster must be approximately 11 x 17 inches

Medium: There are no restrictions on colors, types of print, pencils, pastels or crayons, or number of colors. NO THREE-DIMENSIONAL work of any type. NO GLUEING on of objects. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used, please laminate or cover in clear plastic to protect the artwork.

Artwork: must be completely the work of the STUDENT.

All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Society.

Return poster to your Religious Education Teacher, or to OLPH Rectory during business hours

On the back of the poster glue or tape, the following:

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Age: _____ DOB: _____

Grade: _____

I certify that this poster is the original work-product of the applicant.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

**For additional information, please contact Mike Hearney at 631-560-0451,
Bob Newberry at 631-317-9718 or Alex Keller at 631-226-3831**

All Posters must be turned in by Sunday December 12, 2021

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— cdefeldman@optonline.net
- † 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@optimum.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

Food Pantry List

ITEMS MOST NEEDED:

CANNED PORK & BEANS
SMALL PKGS. RICE
HOT CEREALS
PASTA SAUCE
INSTANT POTATOES
TEA/ HOT CHOCOLATE
SHELF STABLE MILK
FRUIT JUICE
JELLY OR JAM
COOKIES/DESSERTS

*Please bring items to the SVdP office:
 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.

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring God's kingdom of love and mercy to 101 adults, 81 children, and 23 seniors, for a total of 59 families. God bless you!

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has an expansion of 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.



OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE IS STARTING NOVEMBER 27!

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25

The Final Judgment in the Gospel of Matthew should serve as a call to action for each and every one of us. Our parish Advent Giving Tree is one way to respond! Our parish social ministries are working together to support life at all stages. There are tags on our Giving Tree to help the hungry, the unborn, the sick, the immigrant and those in prison. You need to empty the tree of the tags and return them no later than **Sunday, December 12**. Below are descriptions of some of the agencies we will be **supporting this year**. If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Ryan at jennx@optonline.net. **Gifts for St. Vincent de Paul (green tags) should be wrapped. All other gifts should not be wrapped.**

St. Vincent de Paul

Each year, our parish supports many families at Christmas with food, toys and clothing. Read more in our bulletin about our parish's outreach efforts.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Support the work of our Middle Ages group in providing Christmas gifts and necessities for our local veterans.

LIFE CENTER

The Life Center assists pregnant women as they prepare to give birth to the gift of life in their own lives. Learn more about the life center at www.lifecenterli.org



HOPE HOUSE MINISTRIES

Hope House Ministries supports young men struggling with addiction and brokenness in their own lives. Learn more about Hope House at www.hhm.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Immigration Services

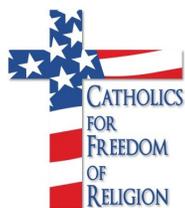
Support our brothers and sisters and their families who are just coming to our country. Read more at www.catholiccharities.cc

The Giving Tree

Prison Families

Support our Diocesan Prison Ministry as they provide gifts for the children of men and women in prison.

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

"Socialism (is) the most bitter enemy of Christian principles."
—Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922)

Warnings from Nine Popes about Socialism and Its Threat to Religious Freedom (continued)

The Catholic Church has condemned socialism in all its forms — so-called Christian socialism as well as atheistic socialism — without exception. But why? What is the error of socialism?⁽¹⁾

Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) said, "The fundamental error of socialism is...[it] considers the individual person simply as an element, a molecule within the social organism, so that the good of the individual is completely subordinated to the functioning of the socio-economic mechanism."⁽²⁾ However, Christianity holds the belief that each individual must be free to assume responsibility for his own choices. Jesus came to save each person individually and not a collective called "people."

In 1891, Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) wrote, "It is clear that the main tenet of socialism, community of goods, must be utterly rejected, since [it is] directly contrary to the natural rights of mankind and would introduce confusion and disorder into the commonweal." Socialism advances the error that private property is not a human right but can be taken away from individuals by the state and given to others.⁽³⁾

Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) explained, "Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is injustice and a grave evil to assign to a higher association [big organization or government] what a lesser and subordinate association [local organizations or government] can do."⁽⁴⁾

"No Catholic could subscribe even to moderate socialism [since] socialism is founded on a doctrine of human society which...takes no account of any objective other than that of material well-being. It proposes a form of social organization which aims solely at production; it places too severe a restraint on human liberty," wrote Pope John XXIII (1958-1963) in his 1961 encyclical *Mater et Magistra* ⁽⁵⁾

(fatima.org, 5/19/20(1)(3)(4); *Pope John Paul II-quotable quotes* (2); tpfstudentaction.org, 4/8/10(5) tfp.org, 2/24/10; aei.org, 9/27/15)

"The state which would provide everything, absorbing everything into itself, would ultimately become a mere bureaucracy incapable of guaranteeing the very thing which the suffering person — every person — needs: namely, loving, personal concern."
—Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013)

OUTSIDE ALL MASSES NEXT WEEK



OLPH Christian Mothers

will be selling

Keep Christ in Christmas magnets

after all masses on

November 27/28 and December 4/5.

Please support our parish and purchase one.

Thank you.

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Phone: (631) 226-7725 Parish Fax: (631) 225-9597

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
William D'Alessio, Business Manager	204	bdalessio@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)
William D'Alessio
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

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Third Announcement:

Matthew Ingenito & Danielle Devecchis

Second Announcement:

Frank LaFata & Megan Fazio

Robert Fitzpatrick & Ann Lauricella

First Announcement:

Edward Hennessy & Theresa O'Neill

WE CELEBRATE

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

-Rite of Baptism

Nicolette Josephine Bamundo

Colin William Bopp

Jack Paul Cunningham

Luna Makowski Ally

Levi Nicholas Mauriello

Meadow Anna Petrowitz

Luca Daniel Sciortino

Frank Robert Weidenburner

Gabriel Kajetan Zoladz



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

WE REMEMBER

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

Raymond P. Kenny Jr.

Josephine Falbo

Ryszard Zdunczyk

Andrea Seaman

Frances Brosan

Frank Protano

“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...

Dianne Bendernagel

Jimmy Gridley

Leslie Cassidy

Sr. Catherine Benedict Hagens

Dolores Otten

Karin Kienle

John Bryzgornia

Janet Leyden

Tommy Fanning, Jr.

Ethan Insigne

Rose Pentaleri

Dina Zulueta

Roberto Mato

Carol Bafundo

Andrew Donovan

Mildred Caliendo

Rose Pezzanite

Grace Grasso

Louise Sturgeon

Lindsay P. Henry

Elizabeth Astacio

Janet Novotny

Angela Pagnotta

Baby Cameron Bensen

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 at least 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 help 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.

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



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, November 22— Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr <i>(Thirty-fourth or Last Week in Ordinary Time)</i>	
6:30	Olivia Keim
12:15	James Aloysius
TUESDAY, November 23— Weekday <i>(Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr; Saint Columban, Abbot; Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr)</i>	
6:30	Scott Dawes, Jr.
12:15	Rodolfo Sta. Ines
WEDNESDAY, 24— Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	
6:30	F. Joseph Lagone
12:15	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton
THURSDAY, November 25— Weekday <i>(Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr; Thanksgiving Day)</i>	
9:00	Frank Mehm
FRIDAY, November 26 Weekday	
6:30	Thomas Glynn III
12:15	Agnes Storz
SATURDAY, November 27— Weekday	
8:00	The Souls of Cynthia & Paul Breitfeller
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
5:00	For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
Sunday, November 28— FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
8:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus
10:00	James White
12:00	For the People of the Parish

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, November 22, 2021		
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
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business	Room 24
4:15 p.m.	Altar Server Training	Church
5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
Tuesday, November 23, 2021		
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
8:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass	Church
9:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Reception	Cafeteria
Wednesday, November 24, 2021		
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.	<i>No Exposition</i>	
1:00 –on	Church Closed for Cleaning	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Off Campus
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Levels 7 and 8 Classes	School
Thursday, November 25, 2021		
ALL RECTORY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES ARE CLOSED AND ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY.		
Friday, November 26, 2021		
3:00 p.m.	Wedding	Church
Saturday, November 27, 2021		
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
Sunday, November 28, 2021		
11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation—Psalms of Advent	North Sacristy
2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
4:00 p.m.	Lessons and Carols	Church
7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

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

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

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

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

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

Liturgia Viva del Domingo 34° del Tiempo Ordinario.

Jesucristo, Rey del Universo - Ciclo B

Domingo, 21 de noviembre de 2021

SOLEMNIDAD DE CRISTO REY (Ciclo B)

Un Rey Diferente, como Ninguno

Un Rey en el Trono de la Cruz

Para ustedes, todas las bendiciones de Jesucristo, nuestro Rey y Señor salvador,

el principio y fin de todo lo que existe,

el que es, el que era y el que viene.

Que su paz y su gracia estén siempre con ustedes.

Primer Lectura (Daniel 7,13-14): Hijo del Hombre y Rey Eterno

En la visión de Daniel, un “hijo del hombre” unificará al pueblo en su reino. Este “hijo del hombre” apunta precisamente Jesús.

Segunda Lectura (Apocalipsis 1,5-8): Todo Poder y toda Gloria a Cristo

Hemos sido escogidos para participar en la victoria de Cristo sobre el mal y la muerte, y para invitar a todos los hombres y a todo el mundo a dar culto a Dios.

Evangelio (Juan 18:33b-37): Mi Reino no es de Este Mundo

Jesús reconoce ante Pilatos que es rey. Pero su reino no se basa ni en fuerza ni en violencia. Es el reino de los que aceptan libremente la verdad y la vida de Cristo.

Un Rey diferente, como Ninguno

La palabra “Rey” nos remite a poder, riquezas, esplendor. En la fiesta de hoy de Cristo Rey, ¿qué clase de rey se nos presenta? Un hombre que lleva una corona de espinas, vestido con un manto de púrpura para mofarse de él como de un rey farsante, y de pie como un criminal acusado ante Pilatos, quien representa a los poderes del mundo. ¿Dónde se puede encontrar el verdadero poder de Cristo como Rey? En la verdad del poder del amor de Dios, para el que Cristo vino a testificar, amando hasta el fin con auténtica actitud de servicio. Dios Padre nos ama totalmente en su Hijo Jesús. Por eso Jesús es nuestro Señor y Rey.

Un Rey en el Trono de la Cruz

Jesús colgó de la cruz, y así murió. Junto a él había uno de los dos criminales que morían también con él. Y allí tuvo lugar uno de los más extraños diálogos nunca realizados: El bandido, impresionado por la mesura y serenidad de Jesús, le dijo, “Señor, acuérdate de mí cuando estés en tu reino”. Y Jesús respondió: “Hoy estarás conmigo en el paraíso.” ¡Un hombre condenado a muerte, agonizando en la cruz aparentemente por una causa criminal, promete un reino y un paraíso de felicidad! Esto proclama por sí solo, fuertemente, qué clase de rey celebramos hoy: Cristo, el rey no de poder y riqueza, sino de verdad, entrega, amor y paz.

PREPARING FOR
Sunday, November 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Be vigilant at all times and pray.

Luke 21:36a

Jeremiah 33:14-16

We hear in this short passage God assuring the prophet Jeremiah, who was in prison at the time, that even though the people of Jerusalem had endured a long period of corrupt government and unfaithful leadership, a ruler will come from the line of David who will restore justice and righteousness to the land. The decades-long threat of invasion and suppression by foreign nations will end; safety and security will be established. This act of divine intervention will demonstrate the power of God's Word and actions.

1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

The earliest Christian traditions expected Jesus to return soon after his resurrection. We hear echoes of this expectation in this letter which is believed to be Paul's earliest one. In it he urges the community to live fully in accord with Jesus' command to love. Anyone who does so will be found blameless when Jesus returns.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

This passage from Luke presents an apocalyptic vision of Jesus' return, using images of cosmic upheaval and national catastrophe. This suggests that the powers of good and evil are warring for supremacy. This highlights the fact that the Gospel, the "Good News" of Jesus' death and resurrection, faces enemies who want to stamp it out. This is nothing new. All the prophets including Jeremiah faced it, as we heard in the first reading. In response Luke gives us a classic Advent message: "Be vigilant at all times and pray." The assault of evil in the last days will come upon all people. We know not the day or hour. Advent reminds us to always be watchful and ready in prayer, for Jesus tells us that when that last day comes, "stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Good news indeed!

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, November 22, 2021:

Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20 + Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 23, 2021:

Daniel 2:31-45 + Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday, November 24, 2021:

Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
+ Luke 21:12-19

Thursday, November 25, 2021:

Daniel 6:12-28 + Luke 21:20-28
*For Thanksgiving any readings from the
 Lectionary for Mass nos. 943-947*

Friday, November 26, 2021:

Daniel 7:2-14
+ Luke 21:29-33

Saturday, November 27, 2021:

Daniel 7:15-27
+ Luke 21:34-36

Sunday, November 28, 2021:

Jeremiah 33:14-16
+ 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
+ Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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. Could much of this Gospel passage have been written today (roaring sea, drowsy hearts, dying of fright, anxieties, carousing, imminent tribulations)? Jesus tells us to pray for strength. Do you believe that if you ask for strength you will receive it? Could God send it through other people? Could you be a source of strength for others?

2. Jesus is God's last Word to us (Christ's Incarnation). Discuss this truth.



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Memory and Hope in the Psalms

For a long time, I dreamed of going to graduate school. A visit to the school of my choice all but sealed the dream, or so I thought. I filled out the application, wrote the essays, secured the transcripts and references, and wrote the check. In my mind, I was already there as I awaited the acceptance letter.

When the letter of rejection finally came, I was devastated. I felt that my hopes and dreams were crushed. To make matters worse, the letter came on my birthday. Since the day also was Good Friday, hours later I sang a particularly pertinent psalm refrain, "Father, I put my life in your hands."

The psalms capture the raw emotions of our human experience. The composers of the psalms knew that life was marked by joy and happiness, pain, suffering, betrayal, and loneliness, and they had no trouble laying bare their emotions before God. Expressing the depths of our pain and the height of our joy, as well as other emotions in between, the psalms became Israel's hymnal.

The dialogue in the psalms depicts what it means to be in a covenant relationship with God. The speech utters everything from profound praise: "I will praise the Lord all my life, / sing praise to my God while I live" (Psalm 146) to unspeakable anger and despair, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? / Why so far from my call for help, / from my cries of anguish?" (Psalm 22). Yet near the end of this psalm of lament in verses 24–26, praise abounds:

"You who fear the LORD, give praise!
All descendants of Jacob, give honor;
show reverence, all descendants of Israel!
For he has not spurned or disdained
the misery of this poor wretch,
Did not turn away from me,
but heard me when I cried out.
I will offer praise in the great assembly."



The psalms capture the range of human experience as they express pain but also joy and gratitude in the mercy and love of God.

How can there be this shift from utmost despair to profound hope? The psalmist remembers how God has acted in the past and believes that God will act with favor again.

For our Jewish ancestors, remembering the goodness of God was a way of life. When the people lamented their present situation, they called upon the Lord to remember how he had been there for them in the past as a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness. Remembering how God had acted on their behalf caused them to hope that God would act in the same way in the present. Trusting that their situation would change transformed their despair and allowed them to praise, bless, and give thanks to God. Israel's prayer book is also ours.

Centuries later, the psalms continue to offer the language to speak of our deepest pain, our highest hopes, and all of the feelings in between. May we have the courage to pray as the psalmists, with honesty, that even our laments may turn to praise.



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