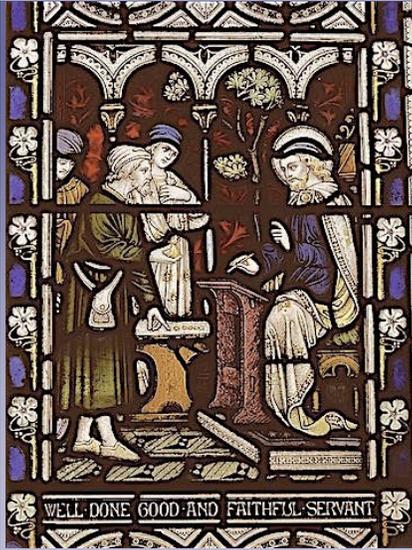


# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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



*Amen, I say to you,  
whatever you did  
for one of the least brothers of mine,  
you did for me.*

Matthew 25:40

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

**November 26, 2017**

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

**Pastor:** Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

**Parochial Vicars:** Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero

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

**Business Manager:** Mr. Frank Pokorney

**Director of Faith Formation:** Mrs. April Kleinlaut

**Music Director:** Mr. Christopher Ferraro

**Pastor Emeritus:** Reverend Monsignor Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

## **COME IN 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.

## **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.,

12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

## **LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday and Sunday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

We pray Daytime Prayer each Wednesday at 1:50 p.m.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Monday – Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass (except on Holy Days of Obligation)

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available by making an appointment with one of our priests.*

## **OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS**

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Church (unless otherwise announced)

## **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**Monday Evening:** after OLPH Novena Devotions

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

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

**First Saturday:** 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday- Friday:** 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

# Advent Lessons & Carols

And

International Peace Light Ceremony

Sunday, December 3, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
210 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst



**I**n the peak of winter darkness, we will gather in the quiet church, with candles lit from the Peace Light originating from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, to hear the Scriptures and beautiful music of Advent. Based on the traditional service from Kings College, Cambridge, OLPH parish will add its own touch, with readers of all ages and music led by the adult choir, youth band, youth choir, cantors, and instrumentalists. The assembly is as much a part of this service as the choirs and joins in singing the great hymns of Advent. Join us as we prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts and pray for peace throughout our troubled world.

Please bring your own lantern if you wish to bring the Peace Light home.

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

We have arrived at the last Sunday of this liturgical year (technically, the Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), which 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, and it provides a nice transition into the Advent call to prepare for the coming King. Christ's kingship is eschatological, which means it is already present in the Church, but is also yet 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 the Solemnity sums it all up 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."

### *Advent begins next weekend!*

As alluded to above, 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! (This is where we say, "Where did the year go?!?!") We enter into "Year B" of the three-year cycle of Lectionary readings (designated A, B and C) for Sunday Mass. The primary evangelist for Year B is Mark, so we'll be hearing a great deal of Mark's Gospel on the Sundays of this year, although there are some Sundays when we'll be hearing from John's Gospel.

I love Advent! Because it's a season of preparation and joyful expectation and anticipation as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Incarnation

(God taking human flesh and living a human life), it seems there's always something exciting about Advent Time; it always seems to bring something fresh and new. 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 in the One who came into the world to save us.

Each year I make known my feelings about how important it is for us to keep Advent, and to not celebrate Christmas until it is Christmas Time. I 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 for our own spiritual good; 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. 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 even arrives! Make some concrete decisions as to how your family will celebrate Advent as Advent.

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

### *Little Blue Book for Advent*

To help everyone keep Advent, we once again have available the *Little Blue Book* with daily meditations for Advent and Christmas Time. This book has been a favorite in past years, and we make it available to you again free of charge to help you make the most of Advent time. Be sure to take one;

## PASTOR'S PAGE

they are on the pew ledges throughout the church. 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.

### *Plan on coming to Lessons and Carols*

Next Sunday night, December 3, at 7:00 p.m., we will have our annual celebration of Lessons and Carols. What a gift it is to have it so early this year, on the First Sunday of Advent! This will truly launch our Advent Time in a special way.

For me, Lessons and Carols is what makes my Advent each year. It's a traditional service of "Lessons" — Scripture readings — and "Carols" — hymns. Both the readings and songs are rich with Advent imagery and Advent themes and provide beautiful and moving reflections that help us to enter into the spiritual preparation which is the heart of this liturgical season. Some of the songs are done by one or more of our choirs alone, and some involve congregational singing. Our Music Ministry always does a fantastic job, and I am very grateful to Mr. Christopher Ferraro, our Director of Music, for his leadership with this, and to all who work with him.

If you have been to this 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 in the past, you have been missing something great and I urge you to be there. This is a great thing to do together as a family; go out for a pizza or something beforehand, and then come to the church for 7:00. I urge everyone to make every effort to attend Lessons and Carols next Sunday night, December 3. I look forward to seeing you there!

### *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,



### **ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS: MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5**

All our young people who serve as Altar Servers are reminded to attend the very important meeting on Tuesday, December 5, at 4:30 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 one parent should attend as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



*Solemnity of the  
Immaculate Conception*  
**Thursday, December 7**  
**Eve of the Holy Day**

**5:00 p.m. Mass**

**Friday, December 8**

**Mass Schedule:**

**6:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.**

*Exposition will be held from 8:30 p.m.—Midnight  
Annual Night of Prayer for the Unborn*

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### Prayer for Peace

Please join us for a special Holy Hour devoted to praying for world peace within our own country and throughout the world. **This Holy Hour for Peace, with prayers focusing on the intention of peace, will be held on the second, third and fourth Sunday evenings of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The Holy Hour of Reparation which has been held on the first Sunday of the month will continue every first Sunday evening as usual, with the prayers that are usually said for that first Sunday Holy Hour.

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
who are called the Prince of Peace,  
Who are yourself our peace  
and our reconciliation,*

*Who so often said 'Peace to you',  
Grant us peace!*

*Make all men and women witnesses  
of truth, justice and brotherly love.*

*Banish from their hearts  
whatever might endanger peace.*

*Enlighten our rulers  
that they may guarantee  
and defend the great gift of peace.*

*May all peoples of the earth  
become as brothers and sisters.*

*May longed-for peace blossom forth  
and reign always over us all.*

**AMEN**

*Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!  
(Pope Saint John XXIII)*



### 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. Following the Novena prayers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place. The evening concludes with veneration of a relic of St. Catherine Labouré. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

**Monday, November 27—7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, December 4—7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, December 11—7:00 p.m.**

### Evening Prayer



All are invited to pray Evening Prayer on Saturdays and Sundays after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Here we pray the psalms, listen to the

Word of God and give thanks to God for the blessings of the day. Evening Prayer is usually about ten to fifteen minutes in length.

So come and pray...

**Saturdays  
and Sundays**

**After the 5:00 p.m. Mass**

*"The Liturgy of the Hours is intended to become the prayer of the whole People of God. In it Christ himself 'continues his priestly work through his Church....Pastors of souls should see to it that the principal hours, especially Vespers (Evening Prayer) are celebrated in common in church on Sundays and on the more solemn feasts.'"*

**-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1175**

### **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.

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### FIRST FRIDAY, FIRST SATURDAY & FIRST SUNDAY DEVOTIONS

*All are invited to come  
and pray with our parish community.*

**First Friday Devotions** will take place **December 1** after the 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses.

**First Saturday Devotions**—in honor of Our Lady of Fatima—will be conducted Saturday, **December 2** beginning with the Rosary at 7:40 a.m., Mass at 8:00 a.m. and continued devotion following Mass.

Each month, all are invited to join the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society for Eucharistic Adoration. **Adoration will be held on Saturday, December 2 from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.** Reflecting the diverse community present at OLPH, each hour of the evening is celebrated in different languages (Spanish, Polish, English). The evening concludes with Benediction at 11:00 p.m.

#### First Sunday

**Devotions** —Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will **not** take place on Sunday, **December 3** due to Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m. in the church.



## SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

### Mass for People with Special Needs

This vital ministry offers experiences for those with special needs and their families, including special Masses, various activities and opportunities to come together as a parish community.

## Saturday, December 2

4:00 p.m.

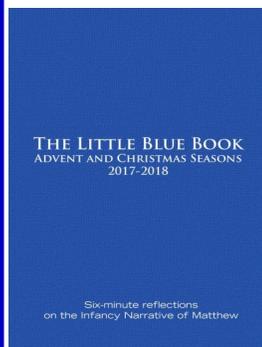
School Auditorium

*All are welcome  
come celebrate Mass with us!*

*We can use some help in preparing for our monthly Mass and other special needs events. How about you? Contact Jessica Becker at 631.226-7725 X 252 or email to [jbecker@oloph.org](mailto:jbecker@oloph.org)*

## 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 available on the pew ledges in the church.

## ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE

### PLEASE TAKE YOUR PICTURE BACK

*As our month of remembrance draws to a close, please remove your picture from our Altar of Remembrance in the Divine Mercy Chapel no later than this Wednesday, November 29. Thank you.*



## 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 2017) 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!

## CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION

### Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)



#### Thanksgiving: The Religious Freedom Holiday

The Pilgrims who established the first Thanksgiving Day were in search of the freedom to practice their faith after being persecuted, arrested and fined for their form of Christianity. After fleeing England, their beloved mother country, and a ten-year sojourn in Holland, these so-called "separatists" prayerfully decided to depart for America to find what the governor of Plymouth, William Bradford, called "**freedom of religion for all men.**"

There were 102 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower who suffered the 67 days of rough sailing before they finally landed at Plymouth Bay in November, 1620.

After indescribable hardships, by March, 1621, less than a year after arriving, only 51 of the original 102 remained alive. Fortunately, some Native Americans taught the Pilgrims survival skills in this new land, and at the end of their first harvest, they decided to hold a feast of celebration and **thanksgiving to God** for their harvest, newfound friends, and **freedom to worship** as their hearts desired.

Now, almost 400 years later, let us reflect on the sacrifice of these brave souls who valued their **freedom of religion** above all security and comfort and have bequeathed to us this gift.

#### Proclamation: Thanksgiving Day 1789

*"I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be ... our sincere and humble thanks."* President George Washington

(footprintsofhope.com; mormonnewsroom.org, 11/21/11; pilgrimhallmuseum.org)



**ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!****SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 14, 2018**

All parish leaders and heads of all ministries, societies and organizations, and anyone in the parish who has taken the Strengths Finder Survey to learn about your Top Five Strengths, should save the date of **the afternoon of Saturday, April 14, 2018**. That's when we will hold our next Parish Leadership Meeting and include all parishioners who have taken the Strengths Finder survey. We'll discuss the process we are using to build engagement in the life of the parish and do important planning for the future direction of the parish. Don't miss it, and mark your calendar now! Invitation letters and more details will follow in the coming months.

**COMPUTER PERSON NEEDED TO MAKE FUNERAL BOOKLETS**

We are in need of additional people to be in a rotation to serve as computer people for our **Ministry of Consolation**. Your ministry would be to create on a parish computer, and then run off on our copy machine, the booklet (participation aid) which will be handed out at the Funeral Mass. The booklet is put together from a template, so only basic computer skills are needed; you are not creating the booklet from scratch, but you are simply making choices from a template. It's a great ministry for someone who might only be available in the evenings. It does not involve contact with families, and it takes only an hour or two to do it. Attention to detail is a plus! You would be part of a rotating team, and anyone — college students, young adults, moms or dads with families looking to do just a little something to get out of the house and help out once or twice a week, or retirees — can do it! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact MaryAnn Haas at [hosta7@yahoo.com](mailto:hosta7@yahoo.com) or Msgr. Joe at the rectory. Thank you!

**COMING  
SOON**

**Brick Memorialization, Phase Three**

- Walkway to the Blessed Mother
- Our new "Let the Children Come to Me" statue

*Watch the bulletin for further details coming soon!*



**TELECARE**

*The Best in Catholic Television!*

OLPH's Fr. Frank Zero will be on Telecare's "It's A Wonderful Life." It can be seen on channels 29/137 (Optimum), 296 (Verizon) and 162/471 (Spectrum).

The premier showing will be Tuesday, **December 12 at 7:00 p.m.** and repeated Thursday, December 14 at 9:15 a.m., Saturday, December 16 at 8:30 a.m. and Tuesday, December 19 at 9:15 a.m.

You can watch Telecare live anytime at the following link: [http://www.telecaretv.org/mediaPortal/player.dbml?db\\_oem\\_id=24700&DB\\_OEM\\_ID=24700](http://www.telecaretv.org/mediaPortal/player.dbml?db_oem_id=24700&DB_OEM_ID=24700)

**Save the date...**

*On Saturday, December 2 starting at 9:00 a.m.— We will need a few extra hands to help decorate the church outdoor grounds for Advent. Please come ready to work! We will also be decorating the inside of the church from 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.*



**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**

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

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Friday: CLOSED  
 Saturday: By Appointment

**Level 5**

**Penance Service on**  
**Saturday, December 2,**  
**at 11:15 a.m.**  
**in the church!**

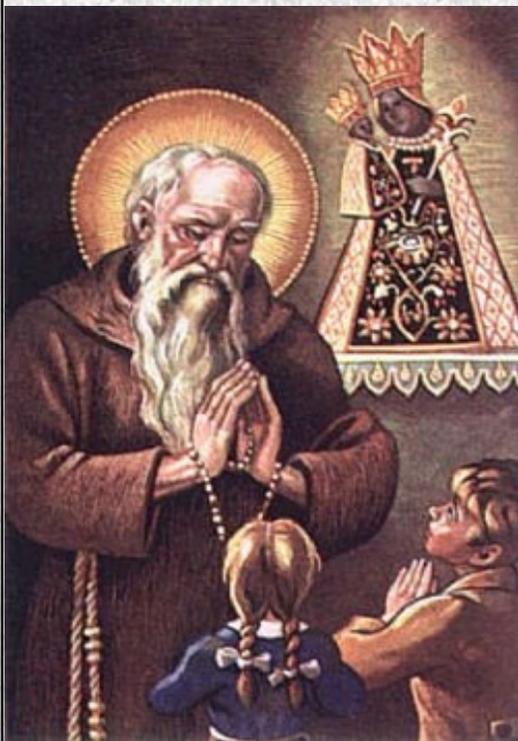
**Parents and students**  
**must attend! This will**  
**take the place of your**  
**normal class.**

**Levels 6-8**

Make sure you are keeping up with your  
**Mass Reflections!**  
 Advent starts next week!  
 Did you finish your  
 November Mass Reflections?

ONE KIND WORD  
 can change  
 someone's  
 entire day

The Golden Rule



**Saint of the Day**  
**St. Conrad**

St Conrad (died in 975) was of the famous Guelf Family and son of Count Henry Altdorf. He was educated at the Cathedral School of Constance and was ordained. He was made Provost of the cathedral and in 934 was elected Bishop of Constance. He gave his share of his inheritance to the Church and to the poor, building and renovating many churches. He accompanied Emperor Otto I to Italy in 962, though he concentrated on church matters and avoided secular affairs during the 42 years he was bishop. He was canonized in 1123.

# FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

## Children's Christmas Pageant Friday, December 22, 2017 7:00 p.m. Church



We would like to involve as many members 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.

**Please indicate if your child is interested in having a speaking role.** Parts will be given out at the first rehearsal, so anyone wishing to have a speaking part must be able to attend all rehearsals. There is something for children of every age!

**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 Trish Buckley at 631-561-5790 or e-mail [buckleyt@optonline.net](mailto:buckleyt@optonline.net).



We especially need parishioners to be part of our **Christmas Pageant Chorus and Music Group!** We need instrumentalists, singers, etc. For more information, contact Christopher Ferraro at [cferra-ro@oloph.org](mailto:cferra-ro@oloph.org)

### Pageant Practices

Thursday, December 14th 4:30-6:00 p.m

Tuesday, December 19th 5:30 —7:00 pm

Thursday, December 21st 5:30-7:30 pm **Dress Rehearsal**

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My child is interested in having a speaking role!

# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † 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: Gigi Gracey—631.943.0095—gigigracey1962@gmail.com—Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Golden Age Society: Dolores Barone—631.957.3432
- † 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. Bernard League: Deacon Doug Smith—631-226-7725—dsmith4475@aol.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Deborah Deasy—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Fran Grasso—631.956.3003—sixfingers13@gmail.com
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org—Caroline Grogan—631.225.7688—straightclaw@optonline.net

## NEW Food Pantry List!

- STUFFING MIX**
- CORN MUFFIN MIX**
- CRANBERRY SAUCE**
- SMALL PKGS. RICE**
- PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP**
- COFFEE**
- SHELF STABLE MILK**
- SNACKS (CHILDREN)**
- JUICE/WATER**
- TOOTHPASTE/TOILETRIES**

*NO PASTA OR BEANS AT THIS TIME,  
PLEASE.*

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**  
*Cut out this list and bring it with you  
when you go shopping!*

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in Room 24 of the School  
Use Parking Lot located  
on corner of Gates & High Streets  
**631.226.7725 x. 234**

*The office is open:*  
**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon  
**1st & 3rd Saturdays: 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, we hear Jesus say: "...whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

**Knowing that we find the face of Christ in the poor, this month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to serve families and individuals, providing food and assistance in their time of need. Thank You!**

## † A LIVING MEMORIAL

**THANK YOU!!!** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul OLPH Conference wishes to thank those who have supported our Living Memorial Card program. Your donations are used to offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering within our parish.

Memorial donation envelopes are available on the pews, in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. A beautiful memorial card acknowledging your donation is sent to the bereaved.

Please contact Janet Hume at the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for further information.

### OUR MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Long Island is part of an international organization of Catholic laymen and women who join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, Saint Vincent de Paul.



*"Those who love the poor in life will have nothing to fear in death..."*  
- Saint Vincent de Paul

*As a Living Memorial  
to the life of*

*A donation has been made by*

*To the  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
of Long Island*

*Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss.*

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

### HOMELESS MINISTRY DONATIONS

*We are in need of the following items:*

Men's pants (jeans & sweat pants) - larger sizes  
 Women's new underwear (sizes 5,6,7)  
 Heavy hoodies - L to 3 XL  
 Winter hats (skull type)/gloves - men & women  
 Sneakers - 10, 11, 11.5, 12, 13, 15  
 Shampoo - 1.5 oz  
 Lotion - 1.5 oz  
 Deodorant  
 Lip balm  
 Back packs  
 Gently used tents  
 Waterproof blankets

*If it is easier, we can always use Kmart gift cards (and the like) or financial donations, and we'll do the shopping.*

*Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office from 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. daily and 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. on the weekends.*

### MIDDLE AGES

Are you a woman  
 in your late 40s, 50s, or early 60s?

**Tuesday, December 5**

Make Van lunches  
 Finalize holiday dinner plans  
 in Room 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the first and third weeks of the month in Room 24 of the "new" school. For more information, call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or e-mail at [gtonness@optonline.net](mailto:gtonness@optonline.net).

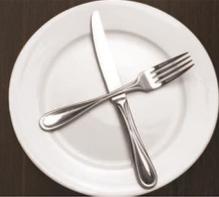
### SENIOR MOMENTS

*Give yourself a Challenge*  
*The Senior Moments Ministry is a committed spiritual family who meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.*

**Tuesday, December 12**

Fran Grasso—631-956-3003  
[sixfingers13@gmail.com](mailto:sixfingers13@gmail.com)

There is a  
 place for  
 you at  
 our table...



### COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

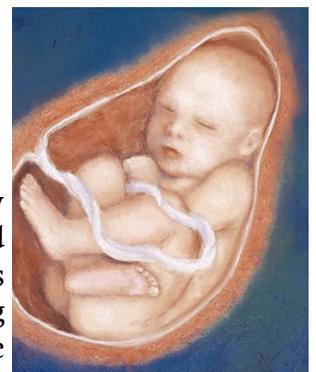
OLPH's **Community Meal Ministry** has served hundreds of meals to members of our parish community. Generally held each month, the Community Meal seeks to provide a place of good food, good fellowship and good times for all who come!

*Our next Community Meal is  
 Sunday, December 3  
 Come and pray with us at the  
 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us  
 for "Sunday Dinner" at 1:00 p.m.*

### SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

#### MONTH 8 -

"I like to listen  
 to my Mommy's  
 voice!"



Now your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; she might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size. She will need a layer of fat to help her stay warm after she leaves the perfect temperature inside her mother's womb. For some weeks now she has recognized her mother's voice. In a short time, her baby will be born. Your baby's mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.

# OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

*“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 judgement 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 **Saturday/Sunday, December 9/10**. Below are descriptions of some of the agencies we will be supporting this year. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ronessi at [dronessi@verizon.net](mailto:dronessi@verizon.net) or 631.225.4115. 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.

## Community Meal Ministry

Our Community Meal Ministry needs your help to provide a “little bit of Christmas” for our guests.

## OLPH HOMELESS VAN MINISTRY

Help our parish provide basic necessities for the local homeless during this season.

## 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](http://www.lifecenterli.org)



## SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

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

## 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](http://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.

## 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](http://www.hhm.org).

# PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

## **WE REMEMBER**

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

***Joan***

*“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>Richard Northorn</i>	<i>Joseph Chiusa Jr.</i>
<i>Juliette Silvestri</i>	<i>Kathleen Stanton</i>
<i>William D. Hinds</i>	<i>Jerry Caporaso</i>
<i>Marjorie Hildemann</i>	<i>Joan Caporaso</i>
<i>Robert Scott Sr.</i>	<i>Catherine Lang</i>
<i>Lily Elle Schlachter</i>	<i>Peter Masak</i>
<i>Haley Kerwin</i>	<i>Dolores Rossetti</i>
<i>Peter Leyden</i>	<i>Robert Stoss</i>
<i>Jim Barlotta</i>	<i>Ted Zimms</i>
<i>Justin Rodgers</i>	<i>Connie Bulzomi</i>
<i>Robert Flesher</i>	<i>Douglas Ferraro</i>
<i>Laura Long</i>	<i>Ronnie Buonpastore</i>
<i>Fara Pellerito</i>	<i>Reynold Ruiz</i>
<i>Helga Popko</i>	

## **BRINGING FORWARD**

### **THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE**



If the announced intention at Mass is for your intention, or if you have memorialized the bread and wine, and you would like to carry those offerings forward at the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, please be sure to let the ushers know this before the Mass begins. They will be happy to have you do this. If no one steps forward to specifically request this, then they will select people from the assembly.

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 having their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks depending upon space.

## **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.

If you or a family member are ill and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. One of our parish priests will come visit you and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Community will then visit each week.

We pray for the sick and the homebound of our parish at each and every Mass.



## **NEW SUNDAY'S WORD**

### **BOOKS AVAILABLE**

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the upcoming new liturgical year (Cycle B) starting with the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, are now available at the rectory for purchase, for \$3.00.



# MASS INTENTIONS

## MONDAY, November 27— Weekday (Last week in Ordinary Time)

6:30 Patrick Castiglia

12:15 Michael Babish

## TUESDAY, November 28— Weekday

6:30 Aurora & Ysmael Paz

12:15 Caroline Heck

8:00 Deceased Members of the K of C

## WEDNESDAY, November 29— Weekday

6:30 Francis J. Venezia

12:15 Dwight Evans

## THURSDAY, November 30— Saint Andrew, Apostle

6:30 Lois Schrader

12:15 James Airoidi

## FRIDAY, December 1— Weekday

6:30 Mildred Sredniawski

12:15 Francis J. Venezia

## SATURDAY, December 2— Weekday

8:00 James (Jim) Faulhaber

## Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 Special Needs Mass (Auditorium)

5:00 Frank & Betty Sposato

## Sunday, December 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 Florence Porreca

10:00 John Sureau, Sr.

12:00 For the People of the Parish

5:00 Yvette Meeham

## Monday, November 27, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Room 24
7:00 p.m.	Devotions	Church
7:15 p.m.	Level 8 Classes	School

## Tuesday, November 28, 2017

6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16
8:00 p.m.	Squires	Room 19

## Wednesday, November 29, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
1:45 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 10
7:30 p.m.	Level 7 Classes	School
7:30 p.m.	Family Life Monthly Meeting	Cafeteria

## Thursday, November 30, 2017

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball Practice	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
7:30 p.m.	CCOS Executive Board	St. Lucy
7:30 p.m.	RCIA	Room 18/3
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

## Friday, December 1, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
7:00 p.m.	Holy Name Society Meeting	Room 10
7:30 p.m.	Catholics for Freedom of Religion	Room 18

## Saturday, December 2, 2017

8:30,10:00 a.m.	Levels 1 - 4 Classes	School
11:15 a.m.	Level 5 Penance Service	Church
1:00 p.m.	Decorating for Advent	Church
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
1:30 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
8:00 p.m.	Adoration	Church

## Sunday, December 3, 2017

10:00 a.m.	RCIC	Room 18
11:00 a.m.	Getting Ready for Advent	Auditorium
12:45 p.m.	Junior Legion of Mary	Room 24
1:00 p.m.	Community Meal	Cafeteria
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	(No Evening Prayer)	
7:00 p.m.	Lesson & Carols	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria



## Living in God's Time

We talk about having time, making time, and wasting time. We spend time, kill time, and count time. Time flies and time heals. It appears that "time" is quite the companion on our human journey!

The Church also speaks in a special way about time, using two words coined by the ancient Greeks. *Chronos* is clock time—as we indicate in the word *chronological*. It's the seconds, minutes, hours, and years of our lives.

*Kairos* is a different kind of time. *Kairos* speaks about the quality of time. It's what we mean when we speak of the "right time," the "perfect time," or an "opportune time." It could be a rich moment or an extended period of clarity and presence. Many of us have had experiences that were so crystalized that we felt as if time stood still. That's *kairos*!

**As Christians, we believe that the universe is pulsing with the grace of God.**

When we speak of "God's time," we use the word *kairos*. It is the "fullness of time," as mentioned in Paul's letter to the Galatians (4:4–7), and what the Second Letter of Peter references with the statement "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day (2 Peter 3:8). *Kairos* is the space in which the temporal and the eternal meet. When we are swept up in prayer, when we are no longer checking our watch. When we are fully in the moment, we are in the sacred time of *kairos*.

A wise Benedictine scholar and professor regularly asked his students, "Are you an openness, or a closedness?" Upon hearing this, the students became a bit testy, and not just because the sentence sounded odd. They wondered what it meant to live as an "openness." Some of the students began thinking about the question, and one began observing stunning sunrises that had gone unnoticed on her long drive to class. Another found himself stopping and looking at the beautiful, small gardens that peppered the campus.

As Christians, we believe that the universe is pulsing with the grace of God. We only have to stop and see to begin expanding our experience of sacred time. In Mark 8:18, Jesus



When we live in God's time, we are able to take in what the divine has presented to us.

asks all of us, "Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear?" What are you not seeing? Hearing? Sensing? Feeling? Have a conversation with your children about how you "spend" your time. Do you rush a lot as a family? Do you make time to sit and have an evening meal, lingering and talking for a while? If time was truly something precious and sacred, how would you spend it differently? Let your inquiry into sacred time be rich. Our God-in-time will be with you!

Text by Trish Sullivan Vanni. Art by Gertrud Mueller Nelson. © 2016 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 1-800-933-1800; www.LTP.org. *Pastoral Liturgy*\* magazine, July/August 2016, www.PastoralLiturgy.org.

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# 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
Patti Chavis, Parish Secretary	212	pchavis@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religiously@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Frank Pokorney, Business Manager	204	fpokorney@oloph.org
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 rabecker@optimum.net at the Parish Office.

### THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

## YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jean Bjork  
Tricia Buckley (Chair)  
Eileen Corticchia  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Greg Guido  
Sonia Hansen  
Joselyn Kalt  
Melissa McLaughlin  
Kevin Sabella, Jr.  
Kevin Sabella, Sr.  
James Totino  
Peter Triolo  
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)  
Ed Cirella  
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Bob Meade  
Frank Pokorney  
John Reynolds  
Sandra Tandoi

*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  
Lynn Bergin  
Mark Costantino  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Chris Ferraro  
MaryAnn Haas  
Jenine Jimenez-Spina  
Barbara McPhail  
Deacon Doug Smith  
Rosaleen Walters  
Mike Williams

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

# KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

## 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 2017 “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest.

### Contest Rules:

1. The wording: “Keep Christ in Christmas” must appear on the poster
2. **Paper:** any color oak tag (recommended) or similar style construction paper. Poster must be approximately 11 x 17 inches
3. **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.
4. **Artwork:** must be completely the work of the STUDENT.
5. All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Society.
6. Return poster to your Religious Education Teacher, or to OLPH Rectory during business hours
7. 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 917-613-7848 or Alex Keller at 631-226-3831

All Posters must be turned in by December 9, 2017

**OFFERING UPDATE  
Nov. 18/19, 2017**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.			
8:00 a.m.			
10:00 a.m.			
12:00 p.m.			
5:00 p.m.			
Coin			
Mail-ins:			
Children's			
Special			
Faith Dir			
<b>TOTAL</b>			
2016 total			
Candles			
Poor Box			

*Due to earlier printer deadlines the collection totals for last week will be printed in a later bulletin.*

**SUPER 72 RAFFLE  
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
NOVEMBER WINNERS**

- \$1000** - Lucille M. Sullivan
- \$250** - Kathy McCormick
- \$100** - Heather English
- \$100** - Helen & Steve Damm
- \$100** - Maryann Santamaria
- \$100** - Rago Family

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**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](mailto:cbecker@oloph.org).  
*Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

- December 3—passed**
  - December 10—December 1**
  - December 17—December 8**
  - December 24—December 8**
  - Christmas Day—November 24**
- Due to the Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays earlier printing deadlines have been made by the printer. Thank you for your cooperation.*



With Thanksgiving here and the Season of Advent coming up, enrolling in Faith Direct is a great way to ensure your gifts to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish are received even while you are traveling for the holidays.

Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account.

Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: NY286.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

God Bless You,

*Msgr. Joe*

**PREPARING FOR** Sunday, December 3, 2017—**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***Jesus said, “Be watchful! Be alert!**You do not know when the time will come.”*

Mark 13:33

**Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7**

When the Israelites returned from exile in 539 BC, they found that their land had been pillaged and their buildings, including the Temple, had been destroyed. In this reading, we hear a prayer wherein they express their feelings that God has abandoned them. They feel that God has “hidden his face” from them (a vivid imagery of those times when we experience dryness in prayer). The prayer also acknowledges their sinfulness (“You are angry, but we have sinned. We have become like unclean people. So please, God, come and help us. Heal us. You are the Potter and we are the clay.”). To be clay is to know we are vulnerable and breakable and entirely dependent on God to redeem us, heal us, and guide us. To be clay is to know we are a work in progress, willing to surrender ourselves to God’s creation of us. The prayer in this first reading is a beautiful example of a people praying from their hearts.

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

This reading is filled with confidence that God has and will continue to rescue us in Christ as the final judgment approaches. Paul reassures his readers that God ‘will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ The Corinthians — and we Christians today — are reminded that in Christ we are ‘in every way enriched’ and that we lack for nothing as we ‘wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ The way in which a faithful Christian awaits the second coming is not fearfully and in dread, but rather, with joyful anticipation and boundless confidence.

**Mark 13:33-37**

Our annual Advent season is not just about remembering the First Coming of Jesus many years ago and looking forward to his Second Coming. It also calls us to be alert and awake for present comings of Christ into our lives. We are like the servants in Jesus’ parable. Each of us has our work to do. As we go about our work, we are to be watchful for the many ways Jesus may break into our lives.

## Readings for the Week

*Take time each day to read the daily readings of the Church.***Monday, November 27, 2017:**

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

**Tuesday, November 28, 2017:**

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

**Wednesday, November 29, 2017:**Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28  
+ Luke 21:12-19**Thursday, November 30, 2017:**Romans 10:9-18  
+ Matthew 4:18-22**Friday, December 1, 2017:**

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

**Saturday, December 2, 2017:**

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

**Sunday, December 3, 2017:**Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7  
+ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
+ Matthew 13:33-37**Gospel Reflection Questions....**

*After reading next Sunday’s Gospel take some time to pray on it before you come to Mass. Use the questions below to aid your reflection.*

1. As vigilant gatekeepers watching for the Lord of the house, what signs do you see that tell you God is present in the world and in your life?

2. As gatekeepers we are responsible for the preservation of God’s gift of the earth. The Iowa Catholic Conference is sponsoring a plan for clean water. What is the Church’s responsibility in the maintenance of the earth’s life? What is your responsibility in this?



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