

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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*Jesus said, "Stay awake!  
For you do not know  
on which day your Lord will come."*

Matthew 24:42

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 1, 2019

## 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. Thomas Crennan

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

**Music Director:** Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

## COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open **6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** seven days a week, except for Thursdays when it closes after the 12:15 p.m. Mass for cleaning. Come in and spend some time in prayer.

## 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

Mondays 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 afternoons at 12:45 p.m. in the Church  
(Beginning December 2)

## 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.

# DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

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

**Step 4:** Set OLPH as your main parish

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



## FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



### Lectio: Mary Episode 1 - The New Eve

#### *The New Fulfills the Old*

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."

WATCH ON  
FORMED.ORG

POWERED BY THE  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

#### **Q: How do new parishioners register for an account?**

A: Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)

Select your parish

Register with your name and email address

Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

#### **Q: Do parishioners still need to use our parish code or custom registration URL?**

A: Registering has become a lot easier and parish codes and custom registration urls are no longer needed for your parishioners to register for FORMED through your parish! Now, parishioners simply need to go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and find your parish to register.

#### **Q: Will parishioners user emails and passwords still work?**

A: Passwords are being phased out. Parishioner emails will still work. Parishioners do not need to re-register to sign in.

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### *Update on my condition*

I want to thank everyone for your good wishes and prayers as I continue to work toward a full recovery from my pinched nerve and sciatica issues. As so many of you know who have the same problem, the pain is brutal, and it takes a long time to heal. I admit to becoming a little impatient with it all, because I cannot function to full capacity and I still cannot return to all the things I should be handling. There is slow progress, but I'm afraid I must ask your continued patience and indulgence if I am not yet able to be back to things as I should be, or if it takes me longer to handle things or respond to e-mails and other business. I hope to be back to 100% as soon as possible. *(Then I'll make up for lost time, so watch out!)*

### *First Sunday of Advent*

This weekend we begin the new liturgical season of Advent, and, in fact, we begin a whole new liturgical year.

There's little doubt that Advent is a very challenging season for us; our secular, consumer-oriented, profit-driven (greed-driven) society has already been celebrating Christmas for a while now; in fact, it seems like the Thanksgiving holiday gets overshadowed, much to our detriment. No wonder we're often tired and cranky by the time Christmas Day comes!

Yes, it's hard to keep Advent, and it's very counter-cultural and against the tide of society, but I think there's a real spiritual lesson to be learned: God is the one in control of time. Patiently and spiritually celebrating Advent without getting to Christmas too quickly can remind us that there are many things in life we cannot have the way we want when we want them; acknowledging our lack of control over the flow of time is a basic spiritual lesson we all need to learn. Maybe Advent is the perfect time to practice the spiritual virtue of letting things be on God's time schedule, not on ours. (I've certainly had to learn that lesson over the past several weeks!)

So, as Catholics, let's resist superficial and devoid-of-any-true-meaning attempts to create a secularized "holiday" marathon season, and instead, in our hearts and in our homes, let's mark Advent time in the way the Church intends. To do so, we must let Advent be Advent. We must do the hard work of waiting, sitting still, being quiet, and not thinking we are in control of time. We must be PATIENT!

Turn to the daily readings (which can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) to help you do this. Spend time

with the great figures we meet in the Scriptures who are so central to Advent: Isaiah, John the Baptist, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. As this new liturgical year begins, let's bring ourselves to the symbols and stories of Advent with open hearts and with readiness for something new to happen, to us and to the world around us. Such newness is the heart of Advent longing, hoping and waiting.

Try extra hard to listen carefully to, and to enter into, the prayers at Mass during Advent; those texts are filled with words, phrases and images that sweep us along in the meaning of the season. For example, right from the beginning of the Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, with the Collect (the opening prayer), the mood for the new liturgical time is set: *"Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming..."* There is a great sense of urgency, of expectation, and of longing, because Christ is coming, and the best way for us to meet Him is through our deeds of love, mercy and compassion.

The beginning weeks of Advent look toward the Second Coming of Christ, and this is reflected in the Prayer over the Offerings for the First Sunday of Advent, when, in asking God to accept the offerings, we ask that those offerings may *"gain for us the prize of eternal redemption."* This is a reference to our participation in the heavenly liturgy and in the fullness of the Kingdom when Christ returns. The Prayer after Communion also reminds of the Second Coming of Christ and of the Kingdom of God, particularly when it asks that the mysteries that we celebrate in the Eucharist will *"...teach us...to love things of heaven and hold fast to what endures."*

The Preface (beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer) for this Mass describes for us the two comings of Christ, namely, His first coming, when He assumed the lowliness of human flesh, and His Second Coming, the day that we watch for as we look forward to inheriting the "great promise" which is the foundation for our hope. As I mentioned, listen carefully for all of these beautiful prayers at Mass and get caught up in the feel of Advent.

Pay attention also to the music we will be singing, especially the words and music during the Entrance Procession each Sunday in Advent, when we will be singing the Entrance Antiphon for the day. These words are specially chosen by the Church to convey to us the meaning of what we are celebrating.

In addition, notice that we have a special insert in today's bulletin which explains many aspects of the liturgical time of Advent and offers thoughts for

Advent spirituality. I hope you will use this insert in your prayer at home during the week. We'll be running a special insert for each week of Advent throughout the season.

***Lessons and Carols this coming Saturday night, December 7, 7:30 p.m.***

This coming Saturday, December 7, 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; go out for a pizza or something beforehand, and then come to the church for 7:30 p.m. 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!

***Strengths Workshop held on Saturday, November 23***

I want to offer a word of thanks to all those who participated in our Strengths Workshop on Saturday, November 23. I am deeply grateful for your presence, your participation, and your commitment to this pastoral initiative. We are using the Clifton Strengths Finder as a tool to try to enhance our leadership skills and deepen everyone's engagement in the life and mission of the parish. It was a very exciting, energizing and unifying afternoon, and I'm grateful to our guest speaker, Msgr. Bill Hanson, and his team, for the insights they brought.

Thanks too go to everyone here at OLPH who helped put the day together, especially Christine Ferris who helped with hospitality, Chris Ferraro, who helped the speakers with technology needs, and Deacon Robert Becker who assisted with materials and some set-up organization. Special thanks go to my secretary, Josephine Vagelatos, for all her work in putting all the materials together.

***OLPH Christmas cards for sale***

We are continuing to sell our beautiful OLPH Christmas cards; have you purchased yours yet? It's such a bargain — 25 cards and envelopes for \$20, with a gorgeous picture of our church sanctuary, fully decorated for Christmas, gracing the cover of the card. We're doing this as a fund raiser for the

parish (you know we're working hard to do all we can to keep us afloat financially), so your support is not only greatly appreciated, but also greatly needed. Please be sure to buy a box or three, at the Wellwood Avenue entrance of the church after Sunday Masses, or at the rectory anytime.

Thanks go to Deacon Robert Becker who has headed up this project, the members of the Liturgy Committee who have supported it and worked on it, and to Al Wickenheiser who worked on all the printing details. Great job, everyone!

***Silence before Mass***

How are you doing with our parish-wide effort to pay more attention to being silent in the five minutes before Mass begins? What a great way to prepare for Mass — by giving each other the gift of silence, so that we might all enter into prayerful reflection and recollection, and be ready to celebrate the sacred mysteries with attentive and focused minds and hearts! Join in the common effort: when the tower bells ring five minutes before Mass, silence please! Especially during Advent, a time of longing and anticipation, we should be preparing our hearts for the Lord by making a space of silence for Him. Let's all do this together! Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this.

***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 MONDAY, DECEMBER 2**

All our young people who serve as Altar Servers are reminded to attend the very important meeting on **Monday, December 2, 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 of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**Monday, December 9**

#### Mass Schedule:

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

## SILENCE BEFORE MASS

In his book *Meditations Before Mass*, the liturgist Msgr. Romano Guardini wrote:

*"When we come into church from the outside our ears are filled with the racket of the city, the words of those who have accompanied us, the laboring and quarreling of our own thoughts, the disquiet of our hearts' wishes and worries, hurts and joys. How are we possibly to hear what God is saying? That we listen at all is something; not everyone does. It is even better when we pay attention and make a real effort to understand what is being said. But all this is not yet the attentive stillness in which God's word can take root. This must be established before the service begins, if possible in the silence on the way to church, still better in a brief period of composure the evening before."*

This passage reminds us of the importance of **silence and quiet** as preparation before we celebrate the Eucharist.

We are asking everyone to be attentive to the need for silence in the minutes leading up to Mass. Think of being silent as a gift: it's a gift to yourself and to everyone else.

So, here's what we're asking: starting about five (5) minutes before every Mass begins, let's all quiet down and hold off on conversations. If it's necessary to greet someone, do so with a nod of the head, a smile, and, at most, a whispered "hello." Let's all promise to do this together; let's all give each other the gift of quieting down and sitting silently in the five minutes before Mass begins. Since bells usually ring at that time, let the bells be our signal to be quiet.

So, with all love and gentleness and friendship, we respectfully ask everyone: "When the bells ring five minutes before Mass begins—*Silence, please!*"

**ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS THIS WEEK!**

# Advent Lessons & Carols

And

## International Peace Light Ceremony

### Saturday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.

### In the church

In 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.*

# PRAYER AND WORSHIP

## 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.



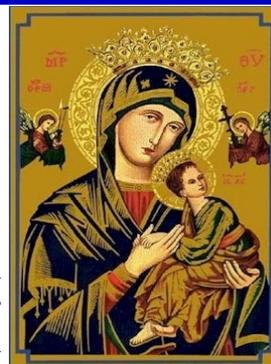
Evening Prayer is usually about ten to fifteen minutes in length. So come and pray...

**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

## 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, concluding with veneration of a relic of St. Catherine Laboure. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

**Monday, December 2—12:45 p.m.\***

***\*Note new time beginning December 2.***

**Monday, December 9—12:45 p.m.**

**Monday, December 16—12:45 p.m.**



## **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH**

We'll again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21-22**. You are invited to bring to Mass that weekend your figure of the Christ Child from your home crèche (Nativity scene). We'll offer a blessing of these figurines at all the Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent that weekend. Don't forget to bring your Christ Child figure to Sunday Mass December 21-22!



## Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards

Join in the Mass intentions for the Masses of Christmas by using the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards which are now available throughout the church. These cards are a wonderful and meaningful way for you to remember your loved ones at Christmas and to have them prayed for at our Christmas Masses. Return the envelope with your donation in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory, and keep the card to send your Christmas Spiritual Bouquet.

## Mass for All People With Special Needs December 7

The *Special Needs Ministry* hosts a monthly celebration of the Eucharist in a smaller setting designed to provide a fulfilling worship experience for all adults and children who may be uncomfortable in a larger setting.

Please join us on **Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium.** Let's all come together and worship together! After Mass we have Hospitality!

Levels 6—8 and Teens may join us early to help the ministry with set up and to gain Confirmation Service hours. Call Jessica at the Religious Education office 631-226-7725 X 252 to let her know you are coming.

*We can always 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)*

*After December 7, our next Special Needs Mass is January 4 at 4:00 p.m.*



FIRST FRIDAY,  
FIRST SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY  
DEVOTIONS

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

**First Friday Devotions** will take place **December 6** 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 7** 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.

**This month Adoration will be held on Friday, December 6 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. due to Lessons & Carols.** It will return to the regular schedule next month.

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 take place Sunday, **December 8** at 7:00 p.m.

## LITTLE BLUE BOOKS

FOR ADVENT  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE

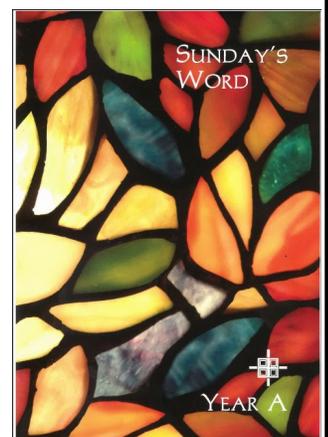
Please take home a *Little Blue Book* which contains daily reflections for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This book provides the opportunity for prayerful sacred reading for every day of Advent and Christmas Time. Let God speak to you during this special and holy time of the liturgical year by taking 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 dollar or two 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  
2017-2018

Six-minute reflections  
on the Infancy Narrative of Matthew

## SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the upcoming new liturgical year (Cycle A) starting with the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, are now available at the rectory for the purchase price of \$3.00.



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## About the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice — that time in the year when the sun reaches its southern-most point in the heavens and the days are the darkest and most gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls.



There they awaited the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the “nativity” of the sun—the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: the nativity of the Savior. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam’s sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for His saving birth.

## Thoughts to Ponder during Advent...

*Advent is much more than the beginning of a new liturgical year; it is a time of waiting, hoping and expectations, of dreaming, pregnancy, dissatisfaction, longing, echoing, listening, growing, and building up. This season speaks the restless urging of a soul longing and searching for God. Advent is John the Baptist, Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, each with a role to play and each with a message to give.*

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*“Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.” (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar)*

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*Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect of the Mass for the First Sunday of Advent)*

*Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen. (Another prayer for the First Sunday of Advent)*

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*Advent is the time for rousing. We are shaken to the very depths, so that we may wake up to the truth of ourselves. The primary condition for a fruitful and rewarding Advent is renunciation, surrender. We must let go of all our mistaken dreams, our conceited poses and arrogant gestures, all the pretenses with which we hope to deceive ourselves and others. If we fail to do this, stark reality may take hold of us and rouse us forcibly in a way that will entail both anxiety and suffering. —Alfred Delp*



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## *Blessing Your Home Advent Wreath*

Use this blessing to bless your family's Advent wreath at home.

*All make the sign of the cross as the Leader says:*

**Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

*All respond: Who made heaven and earth.*

**Leader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.**

*A family member now lights one purple candle. Then the Scripture is read (Isaiah 9:1-2, 5-6):*

**Reader: Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah.**

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever.**

**The word of the Lord.**

*All respond: Thanks be to God.*

*The Leader continues: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.*

**Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Leader concludes by saying: Let us bless the Lord.*

*All make the sign of the cross and respond: Thanks be to God.*



## *Lighting Your Advent Wreath* *During the Week*

Each day during the first week of Advent, at the evening meal, one purple candle is lighted. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candle.

*All make the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Someone at table reads the Scripture assigned to the liturgy of the day (one or both of the readings may be used). See the list of daily readings printed elsewhere in this bulletin. Then the Leader continues: Lift up your hearts.*

*All respond: We lift them up to the Lord.*

**The Leader prays: God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these your gifts with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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*After the meal, the Leader says: Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*All respond: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen., now and forever. Amen.*

## CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLPH

**Christmas Eve**  
**Tuesday, December 24**  
 5:00 p.m. and  
 12:00 Midnight Mass

*Christmas Carols begin  
 at 4:30 & 11:15 p.m.*

**Christmas Day**  
**Wednesday, December 25**  
 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.  
 and 12:00 Noon

*The 5:00 p.m. Mass will not be  
 celebrated on Christmas Day.*

## CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

**Saturdays:**

**December 7 and 14: 4:00—4:45 p.m.**

**December 21: 3:00—4:30 p.m.**

**Mondays:**

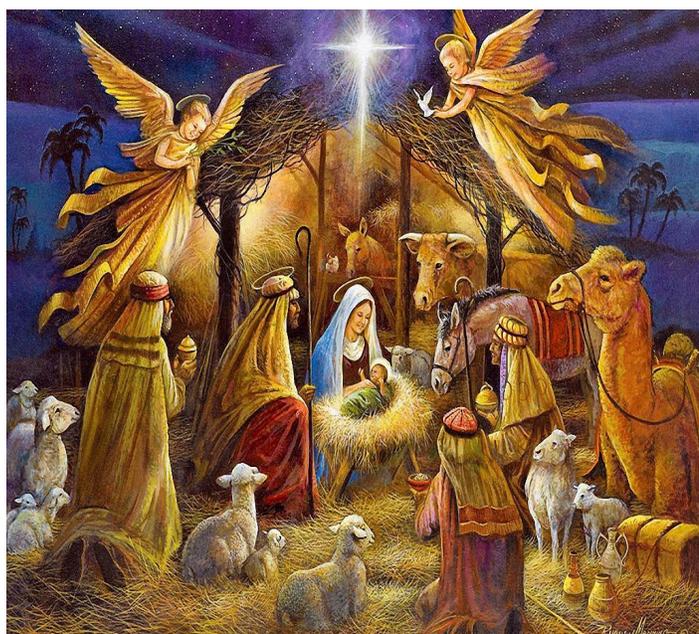
**following the 12:15 p.m. Mass**

**Tuesday, December 17:**

**7:00—8:00 p.m.**



## JANUARY 1—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



**Solemnity of Mary,  
 the Holy Mother of God**  
*(Holy Day of Obligation)*  
**Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**Mass Schedule:**

**Eve of the Solemnity,  
 Tuesday, December 31, 2019:  
 5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020:  
 10:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.**

## 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 2019) 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!

## ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS BEING FORMED



### *Are you missing something?*

Every year on Pentecost, a group of adults complete their initiation into the Church by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Through 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. Prospective godparents and sponsors for youth Confirmation must also have received this sacrament.

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 Monday January 13, 2020. For more information contact Deacon Robert Becker at [rabecker9550@gmail.com](mailto:rabecker9550@gmail.com) or by leaving your contact information at the rectory.

## THE RESPONSORIAL PSALMS OF ADVENT

During Advent the OLPH Adult Faith Formation Ministry offers a program of study focused on the Responsorial Psalms used in the Mass during the season of Advent. There is no registration or fee for the program; we will simply meet in the **Saint Lucy Room** in the basement of the rectory from **11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** on the dates listed below for a consideration and discussion of the Responsorial Psalm offered in the Sunday Mass. Bring your Bible and join us for a celebration of the coming of the Lord. For more information, contact Deacon Robert at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to [rabecker9550@gmail.com](mailto:rabecker9550@gmail.com).

Date	Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalms of Solemnity of Christmas</i>	Presenter
December 1	Psalm 122	<i>Psalm 89</i>	Deacon Robert
December 8	Psalm 72	<i>Psalm 96</i>	April Kleinlaut
December 15	Psalm 146	<i>Psalm 97</i>	Deacon Bill
December 22	Psalm 24	<i>Psalm 98a</i>	Father Frank

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, MUSIC MINISTRY & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY**

# Children's Christmas Pageant

**Friday, December 20, 2019**

**7:00 p.m. in the 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 preschool 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](mailto:bjordan@oloph.org).



**Tryouts for speaking roles will take place on Saturday, December 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium!**

**Pageant Practices**

Monday, December 9th: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 16th: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Dress Rehearsal:** Thursday, December 19th: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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



# OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

## OFFICE HOURS

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

**On Wednesday, December 4  
Level 7 students will meet in the  
church with a parent or a guardian  
for their Penance Service.**



**On Saturday, December 7 Level 3 will be  
having their Parent/Child Workshop in the  
auditorium during their normal class time.  
All students must have a parent  
or guardian present!**



### Happy Saint of the Day! St. Barbara!

St. Barbara was an only child who was loved very much by her rich father, especially after her mother died. Her dad knew she was very beautiful and he wanted to keep her safe so he locked her up in a tower where no one could get to her. Her family was pagan but while being kept alone and gazing out into the beautiful world made by God she soon became a Christian even though her dad didn't want her to.



**First Sunday of Advent**

Any act of *Kindness* is never wasted. God knows your heart and sees it all. Some people may not accept your kindness, but *give it anyway.*

# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631.225.9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Community Meal: Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631.921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: 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

## 12/1 Food Pantry List!

**CANNED MEATS**  
**PORK & BEANS**  
**INSTANT MASHED POTATOES**  
**PEANUT BUTTER**  
**JELLY/JAM**  
**CANNED FRUIT**  
**SHELF STABLE MILK**  
**DESSERTS/COOKIES/SNACKS**  
**TOILETRIES**  
**TOILET TISSUE**  
**PAPER GOODS**

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 the "New" School Building  
 Use the parking lot located on the corner of  
 Gates & High Streets

**631.226.7725 x. 234**

*The office is open:*

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
 9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

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

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, and of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves, for we long for the coming of the Lord.

As you put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor to long for the coming of the Lord.

## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

**TO OUR ANONYMOUS SUPPORTERS WHO LEAVE FOOD ON THE SANCTUARY STEPS AND MONEY IN THE POOR BOXES...THANK YOU!**

*....when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing*  
*(Matthew 6:3)*

*This teaching of Jesus is lived and practiced by so many of our fellow parishioners at OLPH. We are blessed by secret benefactors who anonymously make regular donations of food and other necessities, leaving them on the steps of the sanctuary, or dropping off at the Pantry during office hours. Also, take a look in the Sunday bulletin weekly collection breakdown. The contributions put into the poor boxes as you leave church add up and are the major source of our funding. You know who you are, but we're not sure that you realize how much your quiet acts of charity mean to the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at OLPH, and to those whom we strive to serve. Thank you and may God bless you!!!*

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

### HOMELESS MINISTRY

#### DONATIONS:

We can use gift cards (Visa, Amazon, etc.) or financial donations, and we'll do the shopping for the items most often needed.

**We have a DESPERATE need for:**

New packages of men's underwear S-3XL

New packages of men's socks

Hats and gloves

Clean, gently used men's jeans,

hoodies, waterproof coats and sneakers

*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.*

Our next Community Meal is

*Sunday, December 15*

Come pray at the 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us for

**“an Italian Christmas menu” at 1:00 p.m.**

***Special Musical performance by the OLPH Youth Choir***

Offerers are needed to help with this special meal – cooking, serving, setting up.

Please contact Gail Tonnessen: 631-957-1449; gtonness@optonline.net for more information

### MIDDLE AGES

*Are you a lady in your 40s, 50s, or 60s?*

*Are you looking to meet other women who share your interest in spirituality, socializing and social action?*

Our next meeting:

**Tuesday, December 17**

*(No Meeting on December 3)*

**7:00 p.m. in Room 24**

Call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449

## BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE SALE

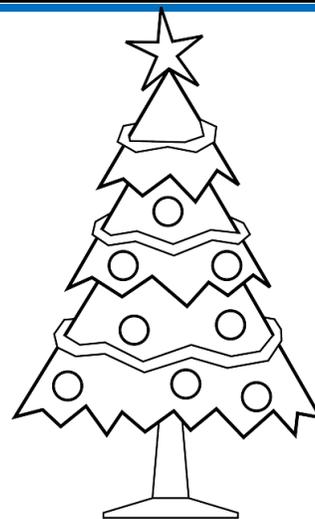
### BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IS NOW OPEN!!

Need a Christmas tree, ornaments or other holiday decorations? Shop at the Blue Door Boutique Christmas Shoppe **first** for the lowest prices on everything you need to make your home perfect for Christmas.

#### BAG SALE!!!

Quarterly bag sale also taking place from now until January 6th. Fill a bag for just \$5.00. Most everything in the Blue Door Boutique is included.

Some items excluded: specifically new items with tags and some dressy dresses.



Artificial Trees \* Ornaments \* Dishes \*  
Tree Skirts \* Stockings \* Ugly Sweaters \*

THE  
*blue*door  
BOUTIQUE

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

M, W, F

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

1st & 3rd SATURDAY

1:30-3:00 p.m.

# 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 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 15**. 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.



# The Giving Tree

## 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)

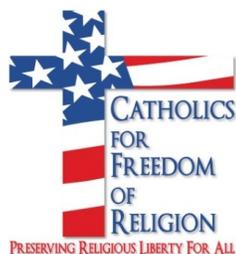
## Prison Families

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).

## CATHOLICS FOR THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION



### FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

#### Dishonest Language — Example #2

#### Deceptively Named "Equality Act" Would Harm Religious Liberty and Free Speech

*(Deceit: The act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid.)*

Misinformation on the intent and implications of the so-called "Equality" Act, conceived to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May. This H.R. 5 bill would make possible nationwide religious discrimination against people of faith as well as free speech, by redefining the word "sex" in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classes throughout the federal code.

This bill purports to equate newly defined "sex rights" with the current rights found in the Civil Rights Act. However, "sex" is a biological fact determined at birth; biological "sex" is objective and fact-based. "Gender identity" is more subjective and fluid. Since a feeling is subjective and not intrinsic to an individual such as a person's skin color or nationality, broadening the term "sex" to include "feelings" is inaccurate and deceptive.

If this bill is passed into law, the implications for religious freedom and free speech are far reaching. The "Equality Act" bans the use of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) as a legal defense from the government violating a person's religious liberty. In addition, it would require men and women to be treated exactly the same in terms of bathrooms, women's sports, shelters, rape crisis centers, and even in sexuality education programs that promote a particular ideology.

Former Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner Chai Feldman said, "I'm having a hard time coming up with any case in which religious liberty should win...Sexual liberty should win in most cases. There can be a conflict between religious liberty and sexual liberty, but in almost all cases the sexual liberty should win..."

*(afa.net, 5/7/19; cnsnews.com, 5/21/19; familywatch.org, 5/14/19; reason.com, 5/16/19; lcation.org, 5/31/19)*

**“When we subvert the meaning of words... we undermine the language that sustains our thinking about the law. Dishonest language leads to dishonest debate and bad laws.”** —Archbishop Charles Chaput

## MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT



### Men's Advent Retreat - Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

#### OLPH School Auditorium

Presenter: **Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco, D. Min.**

*Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Chaplain of OLPH Knights of Columbus Council #794*

#### “How Deeper Participation in the Sacred Liturgy Leads Us to Deeper Encounter with Christ”

11:30-NOON:	Registration	2:45-3:00:	Break
Noon-12:45:	Lunch	3:00-4:00:	Discussion
	<i>Hero Sandwiches, Soft Drinks/Water</i>	4:00:	Time for Reflection/Opportunity for Reconciliation, in the Church
1:00-1:45:	First Presentation		Mass in Church
1:45-2:15:	Quiet time for Reflection	5:00:	<i>(Third Sunday of Advent)</i>
2:15-2:45:	Second Presentation		

Registration Fee: \$20. Make check payable to: **OLPH Knights of Columbus #794**

**Return completed form with payment to: Stephen M. Strigaro, 131 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757 by December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ NY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME OR CELL) e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

For information and registration, contact Stephen Strigaro at [sdcjn@optonline.net](mailto:sdcjn@optonline.net).

# SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Thomas Crennan, Business Manager	204	tcrennan@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprincedchrist@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
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](mailto: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 [rabecker9550@gmail.com](mailto:rabecker9550@gmail.com)

### THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

## YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

## YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille  
John Reynolds

## YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett  
Bill Bendernagel  
Gerry Chille (Chair)  
Thomas Crennan  
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Christine Donovan  
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

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

# PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

## **WE CELEBRATE**

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

**-Rite of Baptism**

*Sarai Emilia Duran*

*Izabella Veronica Kozina-Malysiak*

*Bella Christina Mercado*

*Gianni Joseph Panetta*

*Rylie Vyllette Randall*

*Mason Zee*

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



## **WE BELIEVE**

**We pray for the sick of our parish...**

*Daniel Fowler*

*Cliff Zimms*

*Mary Farrell*

*Chris Gordon*

*Randall & Joanne Press*

*Salvatore Ferraro*

*Edward Skewes*

*Rosemary Miles*

*Dolores Otten*

*James Gallagher*

*Bunny Rieger*

*Marion Klein*

*Rose Ricca*

*Bill Doran*

*Joseph Chiusa*

*Louise Durko*

*Lawrence Falco*

*Loretto Dinardo*

*Toby Leger*

## **GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS**

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

## **PASTORAL CARE**

### **& 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 Communion will then visit each week.

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



If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. To have your name or the name of a loved one listed in our parish bulletin, please call the Parish Office. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks.

## **WE REMEMBER**

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

*Marie Nelly Dupoux*

*Paul Blefgen*

*Helene Zemel*

*"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."*

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

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

**Sessions will run Saturdays, December 7—February 1 from 12:00—1:30 p.m. or Thursdays, December 5—January 30 from 7:00—8:30 p.m.**

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

# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## MONDAY, December 2—

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:30 Mildred Sredniawski

12:15 Dotty Cascardo

## TUESDAY, December 3—

### SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

6:30 Annabelle Azua

12:15 Dotty Cascardo

## WEDNESDAY, December 4—

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

*(Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church)*

6:30 Robert Sorger

12:15 Richard Garbe

## THURSDAY, December 5—

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:30 John Farmer

12:15 Richard Garbe

## FRIDAY, December 6—

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

*(Saint Nicholas, Bishop)*

6:30 For the Repose of the Souls of the  
McCarthy Family

12:15 Lisa Cantelmo

## SATURDAY, December 7—

### SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

8:00 Rose Marie Lind

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

4:00 Alfredo Rojas  
*Special Needs Mass—Auditorium*

5:00 Linda Manzi

## Sunday, December 8

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 Giuseppe Lentini

10:00 For the Living & Deceased Members of  
the Holy Name Society

12:00 For the People of the Parish

5:00 Eugenia Mationg

## Monday, December 2, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
4:30 p.m.	Altar Server Meeting	Church

## Tuesday, December 3, 2019

4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	RCIA	Room 18

## Wednesday, December 4, 2019

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
2:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Religious Ed. Classes	School
5:30 p.m.	Level 7 Penance Service	Church
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 12
7:00 p.m.	Level 8 Classes	School

## Thursday, December 5, 2019

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
7:00 p.m.	Respect Life	Room 18
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Bereavement Ministry	Room 20/22
7:30 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class for Parents	Room 16
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:30 p.m.	Pastoral Council	St. Lucy Room
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

## Friday, December 6, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
8:00 p.m.	National Prayers for Life	Church
8:00 p.m.	Nocturnal Adoration <i>(moved due to Lessons and Carols on Sat.)</i>	Church

## Saturday, December 7, 2019

8:30, 10:00	Religious Ed. Classes	School
11:30 a.m.	Pageant Tryouts	Auditorium
12:00 p.m.	Bereavement Ministry	Room 22/24
1:30 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Pantry	Room 24
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Advent Lessons & Carols	Church

## Sunday, December 8, 2019

9:15 a.m.	RCIC	Room 18
11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	St. Lucy Room
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

# EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

## EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

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

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

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

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

### SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

#### REFLEXIONES DE LAS LECTURAS DEL DOMINGO 8 DE DICIEMBRE DEL 2019 (CICLO A)

#### SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO (CICLO A)

Bautizados con el Espíritu de Fuego. Preparen el Camino del Señor

**Primera Lectura** (Isaías 11,1-10): Un Salvador Lleno del Espíritu de Dios

El gran profeta Isaías anuncia que vendrá un Salvador, como un hombre que transformará el mundo y le traerá la paz de Dios, porque está lleno del Espíritu del mismo Dios.

**Segunda Lectura** (Romanos 15,4-9): Sigán a Cristo, Salvador de Todos

Las Escrituras del Antiguo Testamento conservaron viva la esperanza del pueblo de Dios. Nosotros participamos de la misma fe, y rogamos que esa misma esperanza se extienda a todos los hombres y a todos los pueblos...

**Evangelio** (Mateo 3,1-12): Cambien Su Conducta, y el Señor Vendrá

Juan el Bautista vino para preparar a los judíos para la venida del Salvador, Jesucristo. Su mensaje era, y todavía lo es para nosotros hoy: Cambien de conducta; ábranse al Espíritu. Porque a llegado el reino de los cielos, este es el motivo de la conversión. El reino de Dios es Dios mismo que Reyna y libera al hombre de toda esclavitud, haciéndolo que sea a su imagen y semejanza.

Adviento tiempo de esperanza y de conversión

#### **Predicación de Juan el Bautista**

3 En aquellos días Juan el Bautista se presentó predicando en el desierto de Judea, 2 y decía: «Arrepiéntanse, porque el reino de los cielos se ha acercado. 3 Este es aquel de quien el profeta Isaías dijo:

»“Una voz clama en el desierto:

Preparen el camino del Señor;

enderezan sus sendas.”»

La preparación del camino del Señor implica arrepentimiento (metanoia) y confesión sincera (exomologeo), hecha desde el corazón. Pero la confesión es pública, no silenciosa o individual. El grupo de penitentes asume responsabilidad por un estilo de vida, basado en una serie de lealtades y compromisos, que debe terminar. Un cambio debe ocurrir como preludio a la venida del Señor. Hay un gran contraste entre la sinceridad de la gente y la virtud que se atribuyen las autoridades religiosas, lo cual en el resto del evangelio será llamada hipocresía (ver especialmente el capítulo 23). La persona es comparada con un árbol y los frutos dignos de arrepentimiento son las buenas obras (3:10; 7:15-20; 12:33; 13:8, 23; 21:43). Estas buenas obras serán la base del juicio de Dios en el fin escatológico descrito en el capítulo 25.

El etnocentrismo, el considerarse "hijos de Abraham", no tiene lugar en el reino. Los privilegios culturales no sirven en el nuevo orden de cosas, donde el pluralismo y la diversidad serán la norma. Lo único que califica a la persona para participar del reino es una conversión, un cambio fundamental y una nueva orientación de vida. Aquí Mateo posiblemente se está refiriendo a conflictos reales en su comunidad entre judíos y gentiles, o entre su comunidad y la sinagoga.

Cuando Juan habla de Jesús como "el que viene tras mí" está refiriéndose a la venida histórica de Jesús la cual tiene connotaciones escatológicas, pues la sola presencia del Espíritu Santo identifica a esta era como un tiempo, un kairos, donde Dios ha comenzado a actuar y manifestarse de una nueva manera. Lo escatológico comienza en lo histórico pero lo sobrepasa al anunciar el reinado de Dios.

## OFFERING UPDATE November 23/24, 2019

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	314	140	\$3,079.00
8:00 a.m.	245	117	3,000.00
10:00 a.m.	402	107	3,295.00
12:00 p.m.	374	110	3,609.50
5:00 p.m.	212	47	1,352.00
Coin			15.15
Faith Direct			2,351.50
Children's Env.		13	34.13
Mail-ins:			979.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>\$17,715.28</b>
<b>2018 total</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>\$17,156.90</b>
Candles			\$909.98
Poor Box			\$529.65

## RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND DECEMBER 7/8

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

### DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN

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

December 8—passed  
December 15—December 6  
December 22—December 13

We will be decorating the church  
for Christmas on  
**Monday, December 23**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**

We would love to have lots of  
folks come on down to pitch in.  
Why not join the fun and come  
down to help? It's a great thing to  
do together as a family! It should  
not take much longer than an  
hour or so.

We appreciate whatever help  
you can give us.

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**PREPARING FOR**

Sunday, December 8, 2019

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

Matthew 3:1

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

Like last Sunday's reading from Isaiah, today's describes a glorious future for Israel and all God's people. He is speaking to an Israel that had repeatedly turned to foreign nations for protection from invasion and war and had grown weak in their reliance on God. Isaiah expresses hope for the coming of a righteous son of David, a righteous king who will fulfill his proper role in leading the people back to faithfulness to God. He envisions this king as God's instrument to establish a future kingdom of peace, justice, and right relationships in all creation. This king will act with the "spirit of the Lord," possessing wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and proper reverence for the Lord, qualities later known as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Centuries later, Christians understood Isaiah's vision as being fulfilled in Jesus, the Messiah.

**Romans 15:4-9**

Paul writes in this letter, about thirty years after Jesus' Death and Resurrection, how God's free gift of his Son shows the people of Israel that salvation embraces all people, Jews and Gentiles alike. Paul clarifies that God's grace through Christ brings the Old Testament Scriptures to fulfillment by revealing that the new Israel of the final age expands to include both Jew and non-Jew. All who enter this new Israel, which is the Church, through Baptism are to treat one another as members of Christ. In this way, we can all join together to praise the God of Jesus Christ "with one voice."

**Matthew 3:1-12**

In this reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, written about fifty years after Jesus' Death and Resurrection, we hear the same theme as in the previous two readings: the Kingdom of God includes people from all nations, both Jews and Gentiles alike. This was an issue of some importance to early Jewish Christians who wondered how Gentiles, considered "impure" non-Jews, could be part of the new Israel in the age of salvation. John the Baptist makes it clear to the various Jewish religious leaders that just being a descendant of Abraham is not enough. One must demonstrate true repentance to enter the Kingdom. John will baptize all with water but the one who comes after him, Jesus the Messiah, will baptize all with the Holy Spirit.

**Readings for the Week**

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

**Monday, December 2, 2019:**

Isaiah 4:2-6 + Matthew 8:5-11

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019:**

Isaiah 11:1-10 + Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019:**Isaiah 25:6-10a  
+ Matthew 15:29-37**Thursday, December 5, 2019:**

Isaiah 26:1-6 + Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**Friday, December 6, 2019:**

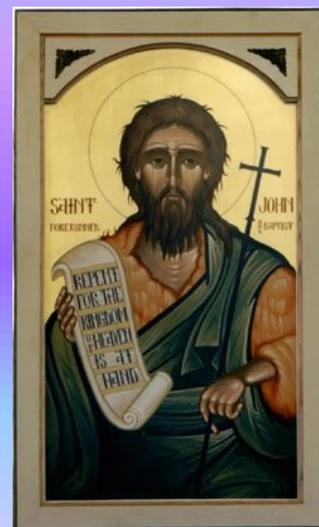
Isaiah 29:17-24 + Matthew 9:27-31

**Saturday, December 7, 2019:**Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26  
+ Matthew 9:35- 10:1, 5a, 6-8**Sunday, December 8, 2019:**Isaiah 11:1-10  
+ Romans 15:4-9  
+ Matthew 3:1-12**Gospel Reflection Questions....**

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

1. Judging by John's appearance as described in the Gospel reading, would you guess his cry was lukewarm, or was it a cry from his heart that calls for life-altering change? How would you respond to him? Is there a part of his call that is too demanding for you?

2. Compare John's baptism of repentance with Jesus' baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire. What does "baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire" mean to you? What do you think that fire is?





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December 2019 THROUGH May 2020”**

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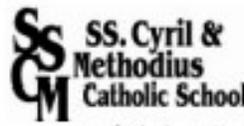
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