

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



*John the Baptist appeared in the desert
and proclaimed,
“One mightier than I is coming after me.”*

Mark 1:4-7

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 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 CHRISTMAS SEASON AT OLPH MASSES

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent
December 24**

5:00 p.m.

Saturday December 23;

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. &
12:00 Noon
on Sunday December 24

**Christmas Eve
Sunday,
December 24**

5:00 p.m. and
12:00 Midnight Mass

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

Note: *The 5:00 p.m. on December 24 Mass is for Christmas,
not for Sunday, December 24.*

**Christmas Day
Monday,
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.*

Yes, that's right, you have to go to Mass TWICE between Saturday night, December 23 and Monday, December 25—once for the Sunday, December 24, and once for Christmas, a Holy Day of Obligation! We'll see you there!

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT



Daily, Monday through Friday,
following the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Saturday, December 16, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 23, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
(Note special time on Saturday, December 23)

No Confessions on Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



**Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
Monday, January 1, 2018
10:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.**

*(Please note an error was made in the little leaflet mailed to your home;
the midday Mass on Monday, January 1 is at 12:15 p.m., not 12:00 Noon.)*

PASTOR'S PAGE

Second Sunday of Advent

As we continue our celebration of this beautiful season of hope-filled longing, expectation and preparation, the Mass prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent give voice to our desire that we may be able to live in a whole new, transformed way in order to see the salvation that is coming.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass speaks both of the urgency of our Advent journey and of the need to think in new ways: *“Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.”* What is it that we are busy about and in haste about during these days: is it really over spiritual things that prepare our hearts and our homes for Christ, or is it over things less important? Are the things that are tiring us out really worth the time and energy, or could our time and energy be better spent on deeper, more meaningful pursuits?

Also, as we “set out in haste” to meet Christ this season, we can encounter Christ only through hearts and minds that are attuned to Him, and so we need the gift and grace of “heavenly wisdom.” Advent, as a time of wonder and longing, is a time for us to change our thinking so that God’s ways become our ways. Our minds and thoughts should be expanded to trust more in the wonders that God can and will do for us.

I think a large component of “heavenly wisdom” involves the ability to be silent and to focus on spiritual realities. Last Sunday I preached about the need for us to cultivate silence in our life as an appropriate Advent spirituality of preparing for Christmas. Are we taking the time to be silent — to listen for God, and to be more alert and watchful to the many ways He is present? Can we unplug from all our devices long enough to rediscover the joy of simply being a human being, a person created for the purpose of having God speak to us in the depths of our heart? There are all sorts of new things we will discover about God’s grace and the presence of Christ in our life if we take the time to stop and be silent.

Doing so will help to accomplish what we pray for in the Prayer after Communion in the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent, when we ask that God *“... may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.”* What a great perspective on life that is — to know the difference between what is passing and what is eternal, and to live accordingly!

Consider making the above-quoted prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent a part of your prayer every day during the upcoming week.

Remember, no matter what our consumer-driven society tells us, it’s not Christmas yet! We have once again included some special pages in this bulletin to

help you and your family keep an Advent spirituality and to pray Advent at home; I hope you make use of this material. We are urged to “Keep Christ in Christmas,” but in order to do that well, we must first **“Keep Advent in Advent.”**

You must come to Mass TWICE from December 23 to December 25!

I want to make you aware of something now, so that you will be able to prepare accordingly. We have an unusual situation in the way the liturgical calendar falls this year, in that we have the shortest possible Advent season: the fourth week of Advent is only about 24 hours long! Sunday, December 24 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, but then with the 5:00 p.m. Mass on that same Sunday, we begin the celebration of Christmas, December 25! It makes for a very interesting situation.

What it boils down to is that you are required to attend Mass at two different times in order to fulfill the two different obligations: you must attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, to fulfill the Sunday obligation, and you must return very soon to attend Mass for Christmas and fulfill that obligation.

It can seem confusing at first, but here is what it boils down to:

- you have to come to Mass either at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 23 **or** at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 Noon on Sunday, December 24, in order to attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and fulfill the Sunday obligation;

- then, you have to **come back again** either at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, or at 12:00 Midnight or 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 25, for Christmas.

The key point is that there is no **“two-for-one” that applies here; you cannot have one Mass fulfill a “double duty”!** For example, coming to Mass on Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. does NOT satisfy both the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation at the same time. You have to come twice, once for each celebration.

Got it? Good! (*I am joking with people that you could come to the 12:00 Noon Mass on Sunday, December 24, for Sunday, and then just stay through in the church for the 5:00 Mass on Sunday, December 24, for Christmas... you’ll be assured of a good seat!*) Think through your Mass attendance now so you are sure to fulfill both obligations.

What about the weekend after that...December 31 and January 1?

Well, the situation of the weekend after Christmas is a little different. Sunday, December 31 is

PASTOR'S PAGE

the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and you can fulfill the Sunday obligation for that day by attending either the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 30 or any one of the Sunday Masses on the 31st, namely 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon or 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31. **Note that in this situation, unlike December 24, the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 31 counts as a Sunday Mass.**

Then, Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. In order to attend Mass for that Solemnity, you have to come back on Monday, January 1, for either the 10:00 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. Mass. Those are the only two Masses for the celebration of that Solemnity. Again, though, there are no "two-fers!" Once again, please plan accordingly.

Bambinelli Sunday—Bring your figure of the Christ Child to be blessed at Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Once again we are celebrating a "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH. We'll be celebrating it at the Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent — that means at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 23, and the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses on Sunday, December 24 (but this year not the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday—see above). "Bambinelli Sunday" is the custom of bringing the figure of the Christ Child from your crèche (Nativity scene) at home and having it blessed in church. This custom has caught on nicely here at OLPH over the past couple of years, as each year more and more people remember to bring in their figurine.

Make a note of it now and remember it for this year! Bring the figure of the Christ Child from your home Nativity scene to one of the Masses I just mentioned on the weekend of December 23-24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will bless the figures at the end of Mass.

Thank you to decorators!

Take a look elsewhere in this bulletin for some pictures showing the putting up of the outdoor decorations for Advent, and for a thank you to the outdoor crew.

We also have to mention that we had a great indoor crew working hard to decorate the inside of the church for Advent. (Doesn't it look great? Doesn't it give you a real "Advent mood?") We don't have any pictures of the indoor work, but I want to make mention of specifically thanking that indoor crew: our parish maintenance staff of Vito Cudia, Joe Huber and Bill Hughes; parishioners Gail Tonnessen, Louise

Perrotta, Jeannette Borowicz, Tricia Buckley, Sinead Buckley, and Tara (sorry, Tara, I did not get your last name!); and especially Lynn Bergin, who coordinates our indoor liturgical environment, along with her husband Des and son Jack. Our Head Sacristan Mark Costantino is always there, too, to do whatever is necessary, and our church cleaner Frank Trotta is always on hand to make sure that everything is in tip-top cleanliness after all the work is done. (I don't think I left anybody out, but, if I did, my apologies to you...and please let me know!). Thanks to this great crew, too! I am very, very grateful for the time you put into this.

Everyone will be back, I'm sure, for our Christmas decorating later in the month (see the blurb about that elsewhere)...why not come down and join us? We'd love to have you!

Thank you to all who participated in Lessons and Carols!

Once again, we were treated to an extraordinary celebration of Lessons and Carols, last Sunday night, December 3. Our hearts and souls have been filled with the spirit of Advent, and for all who attended it was an experience which will spiritually carry us through the season until Christmas. I cannot express deeply enough my enormous gratitude to all who participated and offered their time and talent, especially to everyone in our music ministry. Know that you have given a most beautiful gift to your fellow parishioners! Special thanks, as always, to Christopher Ferraro, our Director of Music, who puts together the entire service. We have a special gift in this parish of being the recipients of Chris' ministry, talents and expertise.

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,



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.



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 Laboure. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Monday, December 11—7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 18—7:00 p.m.

**Monday, December 25
No Devotions due to Christmas**

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.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week

Each day during the second week of Advent, at the evening meal, two purple candles are lighted. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candles.

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: Leader: 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.

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.

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

— Collect of the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

— Another prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

What keeps you from giving now? Isn't the poor person there? Aren't your own warehouses full? Isn't the reward promised? The command is clear: the hungry person is dying now, the naked person is freezing now, the person in debt is beaten now—and you want to wait until tomorrow? "I'm not doing any harm," you say. "I just want to keep what I own, that's all." You own! You are like someone who sits down in a theater and keeps everyone else away, saying that what is there for everyone's use is your own....If everyone took only what they needed and gave the rest to those in need, there would be no such thing as rich and poor. After all, didn't you come into life naked, and won't your return naked to the earth?

St. Basil, Fourth century



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent...

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



Father, the image of the Virgin is found in the Church. Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin, for you kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith. Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

—A Prayer Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail Mary, the most beautiful dove, which carried the word of God for us; we greet you with the Archangel Gabriel saying: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O Virgin, the glory of our race; you have borne Emmanuel for us. We pray that you will remember us before the Lord Jesus Christ, that he will forgive us our sins.

—Coptic liturgy

John the Baptist's first major theme is: Reflect, repent, convert! In every age people fall prey to the temptation to overturn the proper order of values. What is important is degraded to a minor matter, what is minor or even wrong is raised to a principal theme, the central issue of one's life. It can be greed. It can be ambition with its exhibitionistic and ruthless careerism. It can be quarrelsomeness and the insistence on always being right, or envy and a desire to dominate, or the unmastered desire for pleasure that Paul at one point so powerfully describes: "their god is their belly" (Phil 3:19). These are all products of egoism, which places one's own self in the center and degenerates into idolatry. John sees this clearly and therefore calls for reflection: Admit your offense, confess your sin and let yourself be cleansed. As a symbol of such purification he offers a baptism of repentance in the Jordan.

—from The Key to Faith:

Meditations on the Liturgical Year by Adolf Adam

Listen, a clear voice is calling. / It pierces the night and the darkness: / Awake and leave behind sleep and dreams / Christ is shining in the heavens. / This is the bright time of hope. / The dawn approaches; the day begins: / A new star begins to beam, / Before whose glow the darkness flees. / From heaven is sent one as a lamb / Who will take all our sins upon himself. / In faith we turn our faces to him / And ask his forgiveness. / So that, when again he comes in light, / And his brilliance strikes the world with terror, / He may not avenge sin with punishment, / But gently gather us to himself.

—A hymn for Advent, Author unknown



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.



Anyone interested in singing should contact Mrs.amykeller@yahoo.com.

Pageant Practices:

Thursday, December 14th 5:30 -7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19th 5:30 -7:00 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 21st 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Grade _____

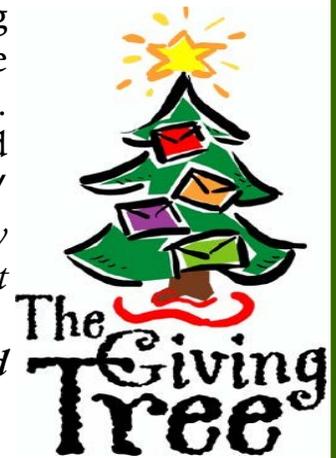
My child is interested in having a speaking role!

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

**RETURN
GIFTS
TODAY!**

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**. *If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ronessi at 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.



**PERPETUAL HELP MASS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017
AT 12:15 P.M. MASS**

William Strein	Requested by The Pannullo Family
Thomas Rea	Requested by Robert Bolt
Patricia Lella	Requested by Linda Collins

**PERPETUAL HELP MASS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017
AT 5:00 P.M. MASS**

Jeanette Cotter	Requested by Pat Wein
Vivian Felicciardi	Requested by Steve & Darlene Felicciardi
Virginia Beaton	Requested by The Stanek Family
Kazimierz Gorecki	Requested by The Stanek Family
Millie & Nick Alfieri	Requested by Linda Matera
Tonica Mrakovcic	Requested by John Mrakovcic
Carl P. Rotolo	Requested by The Becker Family
Benedict Barbera	Requested by Stella Barbera



**BAMBINELLI
SUNDAY AT OLPH**

We'll again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23-24**. 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 23-24! (Note that this does not apply to the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 24...that Mass is the Vigil of Christmas!)

DAILY VIDEO ADVENT REFLECTIONS

**ADVENT:
Christ in The Crowd**

DAILY VIDEO ADVENT REFLECTIONS
with Bishop John O. Barres
DECEMBER 3RD — DECEMBER 24TH

TO WATCH, VISIT: DRVC.ORG | TELECARETV.ORG | DRVC ON FACEBOOK

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

OLPH has welcomed the new liturgical year! Our first Sunday of Advent saw families coming together for our "Getting Ready for Advent" morning. Activities were geared toward focusing all ages on the journey of Advent—waiting, watching and wanting. The event was hosted by the Family Life Ministry with the help of our Confirmation candidates.



CELEBRATING ADVENT

Last Sunday, December 3rd, Fr. Fidelis leads the prayers before our First Sunday of Advent Community Meal in the cafeteria.



Fr. Fidelis checks out the 1st place Village of Lindenhurst winning wreath in the Adult Category, made by members of the Middle Ages Ministry as President Gail & Louise look on.



Father Fidelis & April congratulate Jenna Buckvar, our 2nd place winner, in the wreath contest, representing the OLPH Service Corp.

ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!

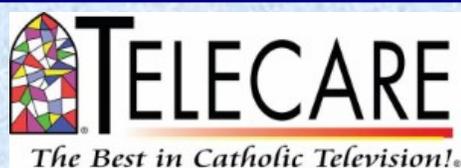
SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 14, 2018

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.

—Msgr. Joe

Context, Intellection, Input, Learner, Harmony

WATCH FR. FRANK!



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

GETTING READY FOR ADVENT

Many thanks to our Outdoor Decorating Crew who worked hard on Saturday, December 2 to give our grounds a real Advent look! Coordinated by Jean and Bill Gustavson, the great crew included Debbie and Linda Deasy, Mac Drane, and the Girl Scout Troop and parents, and Troop leaders Amy Feulner and Trina Peralta. Keith Ladolcetta is responsible for our great outdoor Advent wreath each year. (Indoor decorating in the church also took place on that day...See Msgr. Joe’s column for a mention of that!)



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE 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 7:

Don't forget your Penance Service on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30 p. m.—meet in the church! This takes the place of your class.

Level 2:

Don't forget your Parent Meeting on Saturday, December 16 during your child's class time.
Meet in the auditorium!



Treat everyone with kindness and respect, even those who are rude to you – not because they are nice, but because you are.

WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM



Saint of the Day

St. Eustace White

(Feast Day: December 10)

One of the forty martyrs of England and Wales, he was born in Louth, Lincolnshire, England. Converted to the faith, he studied for the priesthood at Reims, France, and in Rome. After ordination in 1588, he returned to England. Eustace was taken prisoner because of his missionary work and was executed at Tyburn England.

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!

- SHELF STABLE MILK**
- COFFEE**
- PORK & BEANS**
- OATMEAL**
- TUNA SNACK**
- PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP**
- CANNED MEAT**
- CANNED FRUIT**
- TOOTHPASTE**
- TOILET PAPER**

*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.

In today’s Gospel John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and by reaching out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

† 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 pew ledges, in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. 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 12 –

Wrapping Party for the Veterans Christmas Gifts
 please bring extra scissors,
 tissue paper and gift bags

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.

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

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 17
 Come and pray with us at the
 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us
 for “Sunday Dinner” at 1:00 p.m.*

THE BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE



Do you E-Bay?

Do you wish you could help the Parish Social Ministries but don't have the timeor can't commit to a set schedule?

Then, please consider becoming a “salesperson” for the Blue Door Boutique.

Occasionally donations to the Blue Door are worth more than we can charge at our Boutique. We hope to have a few parishioners offer their time and talents to sell such items on the internet. You can choose which items you want to sell and set whatever hours work for you, do it as often (or seldom) as you like, and be of great benefit to our parish.

If you are interested, please contact Tricia Buckley at 631-561-5790 or email thebluedoor@oloph.org. THANK YOU!

THE
*blue*door
 BOUTIQUE

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Second Announcement:

***Justin Guzman & Jennifer Dean
Jakob Boyke & Bridget Wendelken***

WE REMEMBER

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

“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.”

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.



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.



WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<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>	<i>Herb Otten</i>
<i>Joseph Chiusa Jr.</i>	<i>Christine Donovan</i>
<i>Kathleen Stanton</i>	<i>Marguerite Danaher</i>
<i>Jerry Caporaso</i>	<i>Mario A. Lotito</i>
<i>Joan Caporaso</i>	<i>Josephine Palazzolo</i>
<i>Catherine Lang</i>	<i>Fr Andrew Apostoli CFR</i>
<i>Peter Masak</i>	<i>Jimmy Schiavone</i>
	<i>Agostino Pecoraro</i>

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

CATHOLIC DIVORCED & SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP

Prayer Service & Information Session
Friday, December 15 from 7:00—9:00 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, Bellmore (Holy Family Chapel) located on the lower level of the Church.

An opportunity to pray and receive support from clergy and trained professionals in order to begin the healing and recovery process and to communicate with others.

LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 3, 2017



Photos courtesy of Michael Ryan

MASS INTENTIONS**MONDAY, December 11—****Advent Weekday**
(Saint Damasus I, Pope)

6:30 Patricia Hajek

12:15 Jose Zulueta

TUESDAY, December 12—**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

6:30 Bryan Steffens

12:15 Wilma De Caneo

WEDNESDAY, December 13—**Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

6:30 Zbigniew Grzegorzewski

12:15 Giuseppe Lentini

THURSDAY, December 14—**Saint John of the Cross,
Priest & Doctor of the Church**

6:30 Margaret Brogan

12:15 Kaylin Zimms

FRIDAY, December 15—**Advent Weekday**

6:30 Barbara Meador

12:15 Perpetual Help Mass (see page 9)

SATURDAY, December 16—**Advent Weekday**

8:00 Matthew Cronin

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

5:00 Eva Sciara

Sunday, December 17**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 For the People of the Parish

10:00 John J. Casey

12:00 For the Living & Deceased Members of
the Christian Mothers and Guild

5:00 Perpetual Help Mass (see page 9)

PARISH CALENDAR**Monday, December 11, 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, December 12, 2017

9:00 a.m.	Senior Moments	Room 24
6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Holy Name Society	Room 10
7:45 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Room 18
8:00 p.m.	Squires	Room 19
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16

Wednesday, December 13, 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 Penance Service	Church

Thursday, December 14, 2017

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
5:30 p.m.	Pageant Rehearsal	Church
6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball Practice	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	RCIA	Room 3
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

Friday, December 15, 2017

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

Saturday, December 16, 2017

8:30,10:00 a.m.	Levels 1 - 5 & Sp. Ed. Classes Level 2 Parent Meeting: Penance	School Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
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

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:00 a.m.	RCIC	Room 18
12:00 p.m.	RCIA	Church
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.	Evening Prayer/Holy Hour	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO ISPANO 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 PM en adelante en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Le ofrecemos el cuidado de los niños, también les enseñamos la doctrina de la iglesia.

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

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

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

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

Lecturas del Domingo 3rd de Adviento - Ciclo B

Que el Dios de paz les haga a ustedes perfectos y santos,
y les guarde sanos y libres de culpa, intachables,
para la venida de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.
Regocíjense, pues el Señor está con ustedes.

Primer Lectura (Isaías 61,1-2.10-11): Me Regocijo porque Dios Está Cerca de los Humildes. A los pobres, a los abatidos, a los cautivos de sus miedos, el profeta les anuncia en el nombre de Dios: Regocíjense, a llegado la salvación. Dios está con ustedes. Oímos primero las palabras del profeta, después la respuesta del pueblo.

Segunda Lectura (1 Tesalonicenses 5,16-24): Alégrese: El Señor Está Viniendo. Estad siempre alegres. Sed constantes en orar. Dad gracias en toda ocasión: ésta es la voluntad de Dios en Cristo Jesús respecto de vosotros

Pablo pide a sus cristianos que estén alegres y que se preparen para la venida del Señor con su vida cristiana santa.

Evangelio (Juan 1,6-8. 19-28): Ente Ustedes Está Uno a Quien no Conocen

Juan Bautista es el mensajero de Dios para anunciar la Buena Nueva al pueblo. El testimonio de Juan es ya desde el prologó, figura tanto del sabio que compréndela luz que ay en él, pero que no es el, cómo de los profetas, que han mantenido viva la promesa de Dios. Hoy se refiere su testimonio, que es siempre actual. Su actitud encarna, para los hombres de todos los tiempos, la puerta de acceso a la verdad.

El Evangelio de Juan insiste en lo que es fundamental tanto para nuestra fe como para el sentido de la Navidad: **en quien creemos y a quien esperamos.** Esto es lo que da sentido a nuestra fe: **JESÚS**, que asumió nuestra naturaleza para redimirnos y reconciliarnos con el Padre, para tener vida en Él y por Él. Jesús es el sentido y la razón de la Navidad, fuera de Él o sin Él, la Navidad pasa a ser una fiesta pagana. Juan Bautista se presenta como: “...*el testigo de la LUZ*...”. Insiste en que él no es la luz, sino que viene a darnos a conocer a Aquel que sí es **la Luz del mundo.**

Ante esta revelación, le preguntan a Juan sobre su identidad, pretendiendo saber porqué hacía lo que hacía, y le interrogan si era él, el Cristo, o Elías, o un profeta, respondiendo siempre que no; finalmente él se dio a conocer como: “...*la voz que clama en el desierto*...” Hace constar que él bautiza con agua, pero que ya estaba en medio de ellos, Alguien que era **mucho mayor que él**, a quien él no era digno de desatarle las correas de sus sandalias.

Para nosotros que nos estamos preparando para la Navidad, el testimonio de Juan es muy significativo, pues nos coloca de lleno en la motivación que debemos tener en este tiempo: que Aquel a quien esperamos no es simplemente uno más entre tantos, sino que es el esperado de todos los tiempos: el CRISTO, el HIJO DE DIOS vivo y verdadero, que ha asumido nuestra vida para darnos la vida de Dios.



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	religioused@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.

OFFERING UPDATE December 2/3, 2017

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	332	140	\$3,289.00
8:00 a.m.	268	122	3,310.00
10:00 a.m.	504	141	3,636.00
12:00 p.m.	425	150	4,135.00
5:00 p.m.	195	44	1,233.00
Coin			29.54
Mail-ins:			85.00
Children's Env.		25	70.12
Special Needs	65	13	594.00
Faith Direct			2,380.00
TOTAL	1,789	635	\$18,761.66
2016 total	1,956	754	\$18,560.36
Candles			\$1,013.32
Poor Box			\$788.24
1st Saturday			\$168.00

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION THIS WEEK DECEMBER 9/10

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Thank you Ryan Sullivan and team SUF (*Science in Unity with Fitness*) for the huge donation of food to our St. Vincent de Paul pantry. (*Deacon Doug's daughter Colleen is a member of team SUF.*)



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 23 at 1:00 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.

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

December 24— December 15
December 31— December 22
January 7— December 29

Due to early printing deadlines all materials for the December bulletins must be submitted ASAP!



In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NY286**.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

God Bless You,

PREPARING FOR Sunday, December 17, 2017—**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”*

John 1:23

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah speaks of how God commissioned him as his servant. God anointed him with his Spirit so that he could accomplish his mission to the needy. In this case, the needy are the broken-hearted exiles who have just returned to a destroyed land that needs rebuilding. These people of Israel rejoice that God has forgiven them their sins and restored them to righteousness. They rejoice that now they can rebuild God’s holy city of Jerusalem.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes this letter to the people of Thessalonica with a note of joy. Just as they accepted God’s word with joy, their lives must continue to be marked by joy even in the midst of their afflictions. Paul emphasizes the importance of a grateful heart and openness to the Holy Spirit. However, they should not believe everything they hear but should “test everything and retain what is good.” Paul concludes with a wonderful prayer for his people: “May the God of peace make you perfectly holy.”

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Last Sunday, Mark introduced us to John the Baptist. This Sunday, John the Evangelist contrasts the role of John the Baptist with the mission of Jesus. John the Evangelist is writing to a community, some of whom still believe that John the Baptist is the Messiah. John the Evangelist wants his people to be very clear that John the Baptist’s ministry is temporary and subordinate to that of Christ’s: John is a *witness* to the Light but Jesus *is* the Light. Three times John says, “I am not the Light.” When asked who he is, John replies, “I am a voice pointing people to Jesus who is the Light.”

Gospel Reflection Questions....

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

1. In the First Reading the Lord sends Isaiah with a message. In the Gospel God sends John to testify to the light of Christ. Does God send you? If you decide to “testify to the light” by helping or looking for Christ in the poor all the time, could that be “praying without ceasing”?

2. “There is one among you whom you do not recognize ...” Do you recognize Christ in all the different faces and ways he come to you each day?

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 11, 2017:

Isaiah 35:1-10 + Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12, 2017:

Zechariah 2:14-17 + Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 13, 2017:

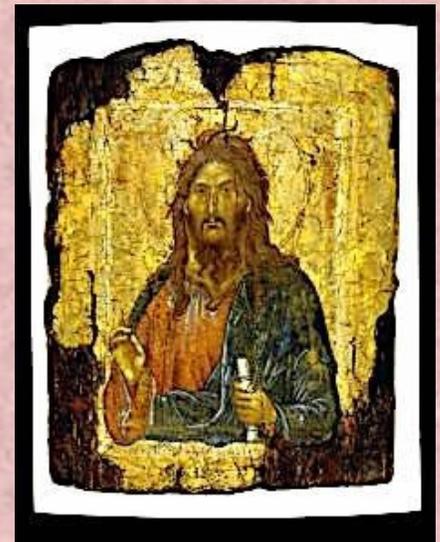
Isaiah 40:25-31 + Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14, 2017:

Isaiah 41:13-20 + Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 15, 2017:

Isaiah 48:17-19 + Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16, 2017:Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
+ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13**Sunday, December 17, 2017:**Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
+ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
+ Matthew 1:6-8, 19-28

			 <p>LINDENCREST DINER Steaks • Chops • Seafood Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner Late Night Snacks 226-1010 330 W. Montauk Hwy., Lindenhurst Serving our community with pride since 1985!</p>		<p>Donald H. Zuber <i>Painting</i> Inside and Out Paper Hanging (631) 225-9452</p>
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