Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



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Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2



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

Mark 1:4a, 7

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

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

Deacons: Deacon William R. Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith,

Deacon Robert A. Becker, Deacon James Totino

Business Manager: Mr. Gerry Chille

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut • Music Director: Miss Erin Barrett

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open **each day until 6:30 p.m.**, except on Thursdays (closed after the 12:15 p.m. Mass, for cleaning) and on holidays (closed after the 12:15 p.m. Mass). *Come in and spend some time in prayer!*

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. **Saturday Morning:** 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): 5:00 p.m. **Sunday Masses:**

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

Special Needs Mass:

First Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium (Sunday Anticipated Mass) **Holy Days of Obligation:** Consult the bulletin

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer communally, in person, each Saturday in the church immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Each Sunday, we pray Morning Prayer at 9:15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link on the home page of our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Also available by individual appointment with one of the priests.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesdays: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **First Saturdays:** 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

DEVOTIONS

OLPH Novena: Mondays following 12:15 p.m. Mass Rosary: Weekdays following 6:30 a.m. Mass Saturdays and Sundays following 8:00 a.m. Mass The Holy Face of Jesus: Tuesdays following

12:15 p.m. Mass

<u>First Fridays and First Saturdays:</u>
As announced in bulletin

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App



New number to download the Parish App!

Text to 55321

The old number **88202** is no longer in effect!





Week of December 10, 2023





The Spirituality of Advent

Dr. Tim Gray discusses the spirituality of Advent and the joy of waiting for Christ.





Our Lady of Guadalupe | Littlest Saints

A boy, his sneakers, and a giant sombrero take up the story of St. Juan Diego's miraculous encounter with the Blessed Virgin Mary. How far will Our Lady ask him to reach out in faith, trust, and confidence?

LISTEN



Yakhal/Hope | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Second Sunday of Advent

As we continue our celebration of this beautiful Advent 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. 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. Have we made the most of those times when we have had the opportunity to slow down and be silent, and, as those opportunities present themselves, can we make them into opportunities for spiritual growth?

Admittedly, being silent can be very difficult. In addition to that, if you look around, it seems as though the world is proclaiming to us that Christmas is here already! Now, of course there are preparations that we rightly have to undertake now, preparations that are in no way bad or wrong in and of themselves — things like shopping, baking, and preparing in other ways for loving and wholesome family time.

However, in the midst of it all, making it a priority to find time to be silent and to unplug from things will really 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 part of your prayer time every day during the upcoming week — maybe you can make that the reason to stop and take a little time out!

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."

Thank you for the beautiful service of Lessons and Carols last Sunday!

I take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in presenting, and all who attended, our amazing service of Lessons and Carols last Sunday night. It was truly a beautiful and holy occasion that launched us into our Advent season, and I am very grateful that we were able to celebrate it. Special words of thanks go to our Director of Music, Erin Barrett, who was in charge of the whole service, and who did an incredible job for her first time around at it. Congratulations, Erin, and thank you for all you are doing for the music program and liturgical

life of OLPH!

Get to Confession during Advent!

Here's your weekly reminder: make concrete and specific plans to go to Confession during Advent, and then follow through on those plans! Take note of the times we are offering the sacrament — they are listed in this bulletin, and were listed in the special mailing that was sent out, and, for your convenience, I'll mention the remaining times here: this coming Saturday, December 16, 4:00-4:45 p.m., with three (3) priests available; Monday, December 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, December 23, 3:00-4:45 p.m., with all four (4) of us priests available on those two occasions. No excuse for not knowing!

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the perfect way to "prepare the way of the Lord" during Advent so that we are spiritually ready for the great feast of Christmas. We priests want nothing more than to celebrate with you the great gift of God's forgiveness. See you at Confession!

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards

You can join in the Mass intentions for the Masses of Christmas by using the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards which are 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.

Bambinelli Sunday—Bring your figure of the Christ Child NEXT WEEKEND, to be blessed at Masses on the Third Sunday of Advent

Remember that next weekend is "Bambinelli Sunday" at OLPH, at all the Sunday Masses. Bring your figure of the Christ Child from your crèche (Nativity scene) at home and then, when called forward, have someone from your family bring it forward to be blessed. That's next weekend at all the Saturday night/Sunday Masses!

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,

magn. Joe

A WORD ABOUT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AND GOOD HEALTH

As we come to celebrate Mass together each week during these days when respiratory illnesses are at their peak, it's a good time to review some common-sense liturgical practices and issues, to help everyone stay healthy and to care for one another.

- Mass Attendance: MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO MASS! There is no obligation to attend Mass if you are sick; it is not a sin to miss Mass for this reason. Also, there is no need to go to Confession if you miss Mass because you are sick. Personal prayer and reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings is encouraged; many people also enjoy viewing the Mass on television. Your weekly monetary offering may be mailed to the rectory, or simply added to your offering the next time you come to Mass.
- <u>Receiving Holy Communion in the Hand Rather Than on the Tongue</u>: All are encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue; this is vastly a more sanitary method. If it is necessary for you to receive on the tongue, we ask you to wait and come up at the end of the line, to be the last communicants to receive Holy Communion. Your cooperation with this is appreciated.
- <u>Communion from the Chalice</u>: The Precious Blood will continue to be available for those who wish to receive the Precious Blood of Christ in addition to the Body of Christ. Obviously, communicants should refrain from drinking from the chalice when one has a cold or is fearful of being infected.

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



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

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

Saturday, December 16: 4:00—4:45 p.m.

Monday, December 18: 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 23: 3:00—4:45 p.m.



CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLPH

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m., (Carols begin at 3:30 p.m.)
12:00 Midnight (Carols begin at 11:15 p.m.)

Christmas Day Monday, December 25

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon



Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Schedule:

Saturday, December 30: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon

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



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024: 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

(No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 31)

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for



healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Join us Next Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass Children 1st Grade and older can join in the Children's Liturgy of the Word every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.



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



CRÈCHE WILL BE MOVED TO THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL AREA

Please note that this year the crèche (Nativity Scene) will be located in the Divine Mercy Chapel area on the north side of the church. Look for it there come Christmas!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of the Lord

How well do you know Jesus? Do you know how and what he prayed? One certainty is that Jesus studied and prayed the Book of Psalms from his youth until his death. This Advent season, as we prepare for the Incarnation of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering an uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of

Christmas. Continuing every Sunday through December 24, we will offer parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist during Advent. We will meet in the church's North Sacristy from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. to examine and discuss the joyful message of Christ's coming. Each session will feature a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by a member of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Join us to break open the Word of the Lord.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH



We will again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH **NEXT WEEKEND**, **Third Sunday of Advent**, **December 16-17**. You are invited to bring to Mass **next 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 Third Sunday of Advent next weekend. Don't forget to bring your Christ Child figure to Sunday Mass December 16-17!

CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

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 as your Christmas Spiritual Bouquet.

OLPH CHRISTMAS CARDS

"OLPH is the place to be!" AND ...

The place to buy your Christmas cards!

Once again, parishioners will have the opportunity to buy their **Christmas cards** at **OLPH**. Cards will be available for in the rectory during the week. A box of 25 cards **featuring the image of our altar decorated for Christmas** (shown here) will be available for the price of

\$10.00 per box!

(or 2 boxes for \$15; 3 for \$20)

Purchases can be made with cash or check made out to **OLPH**. Sorry, no credit or debit cards. Buy enough cards to send to all those you love!

LESSONS AND CAROLS — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023





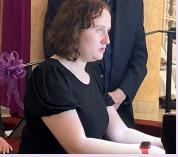










































"LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME" PRAYER GARDEN Engraved Bricks

Memorialize your loved ones or your prayer intention in our "Let the Children Come to Me" Prayer Garden!

The memorializations do not have to be only for children, though; the prayer garden is for all prayers, intentions and memorializations for loved ones of any age.

Or, you can offer a prayer intention.

Your Name(s)			
Street:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:	Email:		

Please enclose full payment of \$125 with this completed form.

Make checks payable to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Mail or return form in person to:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Attn: Brick Memorialization

Linda Coppola

210 South Wellwood Avenue

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Please print the inscription as it is to appear on the brick (3 lines/15 characters per line maximum). Each box represents one letter, number, character or space. The pavers will be engraved in all capital letters. If you would like to add a heart or a cross to your brick, it will be engraved on the left hand side.

THE	Sui	TON	28
TIM	8 +	KAR	A S
STEP	HER	13	AL



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Located in the Rectory Phone # 631.226.7725 x. 253

Email: religioused@oloph.org
Director: Mrs. April Kleinlaut
(akleinlaut@oloph.org)

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

Saturday: By Appointment Only

ALL ACTORS!!!

The second rehearsal for the annual Christmas pageant is this Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Please meet in the church at that time.

LEVEL 2 and SPECIAL PENANCE:

There will be a mandatory Parent
Meeting on First Penance, this Saturday,
December 16. Parents/guardians should
meet in the auditorium during the child's
class time.

Scripture of the Day!

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- Matthew 11:28-30

Saint of the Day: St. Rita!

St. Rita is the Patron Saint of impossible cases because most of her life she went through exactly that. When she was twelve years old she had asked to join a convent, but instead her parents arranged a marriage for her with a cruel man who had two sons. Her husband's family had been caught up in a feud with another family. Rita was able to dissuade her husband in continuing in the feud, but he still fell victim to one of his enemies and died. After this Rita sought to finally become a nun. She was told no at first because of the feud between the families. She prayed that it would be stopped, and with the coming of the plague it did. Thus, Rita was finally able to become a nun. What caused the most suffering in Rita's life was something that she prayed for from God, and that was to suffer as Jesus Christ had. The answer to her prayers

was a wound that appeared on her forehead made by Jesus' crown of thorns. She lived with this mark for the rest of her life, dying at the age of 91 from tuberculosis.



Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 22, 2023 7:00 p.m. in the church

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 April Kleinlaut at akleinlaut@oloph.org or (631) 226-7725 X 253.

Pageant Practices

Tuesday, **December 12**th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church Tuesday, **December 19**th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 21st 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- Plue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631.225.9864— cdefeldman@optonline.net
- Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631.226.6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- **†** Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- Prespect Life Ministry: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the "New" School Building
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 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 to reach 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.

NEW Food Pantry List!

CANNED SOUPS WITH MEAT
CANNED POTATOES
BAKED BEANS
MAC & CHEESE
PANCAKE MIX
PANCAKE SYRUP
JELLY OR JAM
COOKIES/SNACKS
DESSERTS
TOOTHPASTE

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

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has an expansion of our Memorial Card program. In addition to updated Living Memorial cards, we offer Special Occasion cards. These are a great way to commemorate a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, get well, thank you, holiday, etc.) while supporting SVDP's efforts to provide not just food, but also financial, material and spiritual aid to our neighbors.

Memorial/Special Occasion card envelopes are available in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. The Memorial or Special Occasion Card acknowledging your donation will be sent to the person/family indicated on the form.

Please contact the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for more information.



OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

"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. You need to empty the tree of the tags and return them no later than **Sunday, December 10. Below are descriptions of some of the agencies we will be supporting this year.** If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Doug Smith at dsmith081553@gmail.com.

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.

LIFE CENTER

Deadline

today!

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



Supporting Our Veterans

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





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
Erin Barrett, Director of Music	210	ebarrett@oloph.org
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Gerry Chille, Business Manager	204	gchille@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at jsg375@gmail.com to begin the process.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults who have been baptized Catholic and who have received Holy Communion but who still need the Sacrament of Confirmation should enroll in our Adult Confirmation Classes. Please contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to DeaconRobert@oloph.org.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Eileen Corticchia
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Jeffrey Gaab
Gregory Guido
Sonia Hansen
Joselyn Kalt
Mary Leon
Rachelle Louis-Jacques
Carlton Mitchell
Deacon James Totino

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel Bob Meade

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Bill Bendernagel (Chair)
Gerry Chille
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Marie Gagneron
Kenneth Hale
Bob Meade
Bob Mehm
John Reynolds
Jackie Totino

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste
Erin Barrett
Deacon Robert Becker
Mark Costantino
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Kenneth Hale
Jenine Jimenez-Spina
Denise Martinez
Barbara McPhail
Deacon Doug Smith
Mike Williams
Fr. Frank Zero

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.

FOR THOSE WITH CELIAC DISEASE

Special hosts are available for those with Celiac Disease who cannot receive Holy Communion using the usual bread. These hosts contain less than 0.001% gluten content and are approved for the Roman Catholic Church by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. If you need to receive Holy Communion using one of these hosts, please stop in the sacristy before Mass begins to discuss this with the priest. We will be happy to accommodate you.

PERPETUAL HELP MASS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 6:30 A.M. MASS

For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family	Requested by the Estate of Rev. Thomas J. McCarthy
Frank J. Farrugia	Requested by Lena Farrugia

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

Deacon Bill Weiss
Christopher DePalma
John Leyden
Sandra McGuckin
Anthony Pastore
Winter Pastore
Henry Batz
Jack Brzozinski
Laurell Desner
Vincent Crisotomo
Ken Brijlall
Jan Blake
Megan Kelly
Ed Loges
Joseph Abbamonte

Rosemary Curr
Roseanne Koch
Alex Betti
Roseann Koch
Joan Baffa
Baby Liam Michael Bentley
Bill Stysiack
Robert Shields
Nora McMahon
Patricia & Robert Koezkowski
Diane Schneider
Grace Germano
Rose Colonna
Bindy Lavorata
Christine Ajello-Larsen

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. Please call the Parish Office to have the name of the person added to the list. Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin. The name will remain on the list for at least four weeks and will be announced at Mass the first week only. You don't need to make the request again until after the name is removed from the list.

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

Elizabeth Stack Ann Morrow Joann Joy Andreini Glenn Arthur Brown

"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."

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, December 11— Advent Weekday (Saint Damasus I, Pope)					
6:30	Annette Walsh				
12:15	Loretta Worgul				
TUESI	OAY, December 12— Our Lady of Guadalupe				
6:30	Mary Dowling				
12:15	Carol Surdo				
WEDN	VESDAY, December 13— Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr				
6:30	Tony LeGrande				
12:15	Thomas Cramer				
	SDAY, December 14— Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church				
6:30	Eileen Whittaker				
12:15	Maureen A. Heuer				
FRIDA	AY, December 15— ADVENT WEEKDAY				
6:30	Perpetual Help Mass (Listing on p. 17)				
12:15	Eileen Whittaker				
SATUI	SATURDAY, December 16— Advent Weekday				
8:00	Eileen Whittaker				
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT					
5:00	Ann & Dominick DeGirolamo				
Sunday, December 17— THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT					
8:00	For the People of the Parish				
10:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild				
12:00	John J. Casey				

PARISH CALENDAR

	Monday, December 11, 202	3			
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23			
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12			
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church			
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24			
5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church			
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room			
	Tuesday, December 12, 202	3			
4:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Church			
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria			
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Business Meeting	Room 21			
V	Vednesday, December 13, 20)23			
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24			
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12			
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church			
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831 for information)	Off Campus			
6:30 p.m.	Levels 6, 7 and 8: Classes	School			
Thursday, December 14, 2023					
1:00 p.mon	Church closed for cleaning	Church			
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria			
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church			
	Friday, December 15, 2023				
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24			
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12			
4:00 p.m.	St. Vincent Family Pick-up	Room 23			
	Saturday, December 16, 202	23			
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5 and Sp. Ed. Classes	School			
1:00 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24			
1:00 p.m.	СҮО	Auditorium			
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church			
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church			
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria			
	Sunday, December 17, 2023	3			
10:00 a.m.	OCIA	Room 18			
11:15 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation: Psalms	North Sacristy			
1:00 p.m.	СҮО	Auditorium			
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 a Dios todos los jueves a las 7:00PM en la cafetería, en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Únete a nosotros en oración, por ti y por tu familia en Alabanzas y reflexión de la palabra de DIOS.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia Interesados favor llamar a Alina Patrón al (516) 263-9401

Para más información sobre los sacramentos del bautizo matrimonio y servicio pastorales Unción de los enfermos y la Eucaristía, llamar a la rectoría 631) 226-7725/ en español a Irma González al (631) 620-2401.

Lecturas del Domingo 2º de Adviento - Ciclo B diciembre 10.

"Aquí está nuestro Dios" entre nosotros en esta celebración.
Es como un pastor que apacienta su rebaño,
abrazándonos con su amor,
trayéndonos misericordia y consolación. Jesús el Señor,
esté siempre con ustedes.

Primer Lectura (Isaías 40,1-5,9-11): ¡Preparen el Camino del Señor!

Cuando su pueblo ha sufrido en el exilio, Dios lo consuela por medio del profeta: Dios permanece fiel a la alianza. Está dispuesto de nuevo a dirigir a su pueblo una vez más a la libertad.

Segunda Lectura (2 Pedro 3,8-14): En esta carta nos da a entender Pedro que no somos más que peregrinos en esta tierra, que tarde o temprano todo lo que a hora vemos y que muchas beses pasa in advertido desaparecerá. San pablo nos anima a mantenernos preparados Esperando Nuevos Cielos y Nueva Tierra. Aprovecha este tiempo de adviento y prepara el camino de tu corazón para recibir el que juan el bautista anunciaba, a Jesús quien vino al mundo para que todos encontráramos salvación en su nombre.

Evangelio (Marcos 1,1-8): ¡Preparen el Camino para la Venida de Cristo! Juan el Bautista preparó la venida de Cristo con su predicación y su ejemplo de vida. Nosotros nos preparamos para recibirle con la conversión de nuestros corazones.

Juan es el profeta mediador entre la vieja y la nueva alianza. El comienzo de la esperanza de la salvación ya no por la ley sino por la gracia y nos llama a la conversión no podemos recibir al Mesías prometido siendo aún el hombre viejo. Juan nos invita a un cambio basado en al arrepentimiento y el bautizo en agua y a enderezar todo lo que esta torcido en nuestra vida. Por eso el mensaje característico del Bautista es fundamental para todo el que se acerca al Evangelio, es el de la espera. Pero ya no se trata de la espera de los antiguos profetas, que esperaban un futuro remoto, sino de la atención para descubrir aun Dios presente. "En medio de nosotros esta uno que aún no conocen...A quien yo no soy digno de desatarle la correa de sus sandalias.

La venida de Cristo exige una continua conversión. El tiempo del Adviento, es una llamada a la conversión para preparar los caminos del Señor y acoger al Señor que viene. El Señor ya no quiere nacer en una cueva, el Señor quiere nacer, ahora, en cada uno de los corazones de los hombres.

Encendiendo de la segunda vela.

La segunda vela recuerda la actitud de amor de Dios para con el hombre, invitándolo también a reflexionar sobre el amor que manifiesta a los que lo rodean.



OFFERING UPDATE December 2/3							
Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection				
5:00 p.m.	258	86	\$3,015.00				
8:00 a.m.	153	61	2,495.00				
10:00 a.m.	280	65	2,033.00				
12:00 p.m.	280	68	2,210.00				
Total coin:			4.73				
Faith Direct			3,403.50				
Children's Env.		15	43.00				
Mail-ins:			1,156.00				
Special Needs	35	17	334.00				
TOTAL	1,006	312	\$14,694.23				
Candles			\$767.29				
Poor Box			\$215.02				
1st Saturday			\$146.00				

Long Island Coalition for Life College scholarship available

All current High School juniors and seniors in Nassau and Suffolk are offered a scholarship. Young people who are actively pro-life are encouraged to apply for the scholarship. For applications and requirements go to www.ProlifeED.org. Deadline April 15, 2024

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 as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at cbecker@oloph.org.

no later than the dates listed below. *Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

December 17—deadline passed December 24—Deadline passed December 31—December 15 deadline Early deadlines due to early printer demands

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

2023 OLPH GOAL: \$114,600

Total pledges: \$102,314.00 # of pledges: 408 Total payments: \$99,441.00 As of 12/5/23

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For more information visit www.drvc.org/CMA or call 516-678-5800- ext. 296 Thank You!

Important Diocese of Rockville Centre Information

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred, and the forms to use, can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page: https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, December 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rejoice always.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

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."

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 11, 2023: Isaiah 35:1-10 + Luke 5:17-26 Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Zechariah 2:14-17 + Luke 1:26-38

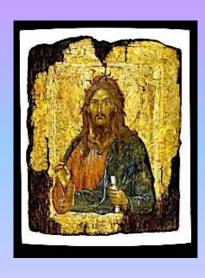
Wednesday, December 13, 2023: Isaiah 40:25-31 + Matthew 11:28-30 Thursday, December 14, 2023: Isaiah 41:13-20 + Matthew 11:11-15 Friday, December 15, 2023:
Isaiah 48:17-19 + Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday, December 16, 2023:
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
+ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday, December 17, 2023:
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
+ 2 Thessalonians 5:16-24
+ John 1:6-8, 19-28

Gospel Reflection

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

1. 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?



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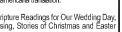




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