

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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*Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God!*

Isaiah 35:4

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 11, 2022

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

Business Manager: Ms. Jill Marie Delano

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Reilly

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

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

Come in and spend some time in prayer!

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

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

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (live-streamed), 12:00 p.m.

Special Needs Mass:

First Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m.
in the auditorium (Sunday Anticipated Mass)

Holy Days of Obligation: Consult the bulletin

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer 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

First Fridays and First Saturdays:

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.

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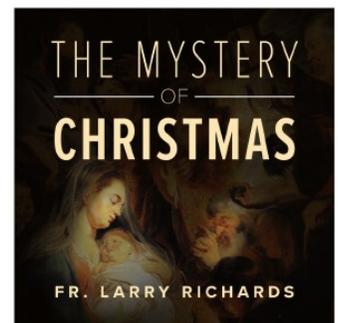
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 11, 2022

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Third Sunday of Advent

As we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, we mark an important point in our liturgical season and in our journey of spiritual preparation and vigilance.

It is Advent joy that is the overwhelming and prominent characteristic of this Third Sunday of Advent, which is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The expression of that joy is evident in the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: *"Rejoice, again I say rejoice. The Lord is near and coming soon. Your gentleness be shown to all. Rejoice, again I say, rejoice."*

The theme of joy can also be found in the lighting of the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath and in the rose-colored vestments the priest and deacon might wear. Also, this theme of joy is especially evident in this Sunday's first reading, as the Prophet Isaiah describes the joy associated with the coming of God's salvation: *"The desert and the parched land will exult...Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee."*

It might be a good spiritual exercise in the week ahead to reflect on the presence of joy in your life: What is it that has made you joyful, even in the midst of everything we have been through over the past three years or so? What should you be joyful about and thankful for in your life, because of the gifts God has given you? We might consider that one way to be more joyful about the coming of the Lord is to be more patient about His coming, and therefore more peaceful; St. James in this Sunday's second reading exhorts us to be patient until the coming of the Lord: *"Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."*

How frequently do we pray as an expression of joy, and how frequently is joyful thanksgiving a main part of that prayer? If not frequently, then we probably need to make a change.

The theme of rejoicing is echoed in the Collect (opening prayer) of the Mass as well, as we pray that as we are faithfully awaiting the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, we may be enabled *"to attain the joys of so great a salvation*

and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing."

Elsewhere in this bulletin we have a special insert for the Third Week of Advent, and, as I hope you have been doing for the previous two weeks, please refer to those pages and use them as a basis for your Advent prayer and spiritual reflections throughout the upcoming week.

Late Advent and the "O Antiphons"

On Saturday of this week, December 17, we enter into the second phase of Advent, to more directly prepare for the way the Lord will come into our hearts and our lives at Christmas.

The Church marks the days of late Advent time starting December 17 by praying the "O Antiphons." The "O Antiphons" are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle that is prayed as part of Evening Prayer (Vespers) from December 17 to December 23. The Roman Catholic Church has been singing the "O Antiphons" since at least the eighth century, so they have a long history for us! In these antiphons we have a magnificent theology that uses ancient Biblical imagery, drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament, to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but also of present ones as well. Notice how the antiphons repeatedly use the imperative "Come!" That sums up for us our longing for the Divine Messiah.

We have listed the "O Antiphons" for the upcoming week in our special bulletin insert which I previously mentioned (and will include the remaining ones next week); be sure to use these antiphons in your prayer this week. *Come, Lord Jesus!*

Extended times for Confession during Advent!

I've been urging you to make sure you get to Confession during Advent, and I hope you have had the opportunity to do so. One of the best ways to prepare for the Lord to come anew into our hearts and into our lives is to celebrate the great gift of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have not yet done so, there are two extended periods for Confession coming up this week when **all four priests** will

be available: **this coming Saturday, December 17, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. (note the special time!), and then again the following Monday, December 19, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** (and we will stay even later, as long as there are people still on line waiting to go to Confession).

Nothing will prepare us for Christmas better than being relieved of the burden of the sins we carry around by experiencing God's forgiveness and grace! Nothing will bring more Christmas joy than knowing that God has embraced us and taken away our sins through the grace of the sacrament! I promise you: the priests are there simply to proclaim to you God's love, mercy and forgiveness. There will be no scolding, no judgement, and certainly no shock at what you might say. If you haven't been to Confession in a long time, we'll help you and make it easy for you. Please, please, please come and know the joy of God's forgiveness in your life!

Return of offering the Precious Blood to the assembly

How blessed we are that this weekend we are returning to the practice of offering the Precious Blood to the assembly at our weekend Masses. It has been a real detriment that, due to the pandemic, this fullness of the Eucharistic sign had to be suspended for a time, but we are returning to it now, both because we have received numerous requests for it, but also because the very nature and dignity of the liturgical celebration demands that we celebrate Mass in all its beauty and fullness. I have been edified and uplifted by the number of people who have been thirsting to be able to receive the Precious Blood of Christ again, and who feel so spiritually nourished and affirmed that we are now offering this again.

There is a complete catechesis and explanation elsewhere in this bulletin, so be sure to read it. I invite everyone to join me in thanking the Lord that we are now able to return to this.

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 Fourth 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!

Do you have a picture of the original sanctuary in the church?

We're looking for pictures to show us what the original front of the sanctuary (altar area) in the current church building looked like before any subsequent changes were made — and especially before the current carpeted steps were added. If you happen to have a photograph, perhaps from some occasion, that shows the original front of the sanctuary, would you be willing to pass the picture on to me? If you need it back, please indicate that along with your name and address and I'll be sure it gets returned to you soon. Thank you.

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,



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week

Each day during the third week of Advent, at the evening meal, two purple candles and one pink candle are lit. 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.**

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

The weekdays from December 17 up to and including December 24 are ordered in a more direct way to preparing for the Nativity of the Lord.

— Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar

Advent is the season of hope and longing. Jesus is the One who fulfills our hopes and satisfies the longings of our hearts. As our hopes and longings intensify, even the prayer of the Church takes on a special sense of urgency. Throughout the world, Christians invoke Jesus' coming by praying the "O Antiphons." These short but powerful petitions use the ancient Messianic titles to describe who Jesus truly is and what He will do for His people.

On December 17 pray: "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation."





O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

—Collect of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

—Another prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

The glory of God is a living person and the life of each living person is the vision of God.

—Irenaeus of Lyons
Second century

Our brokenness is the wound through which the full power of God can penetrate our being and transfigure us in God. Loneliness is not something from which we must flee but the place from where we can cry out to God, where God will find us and we can find God. Yes, through our wounds the power of God can penetrate us and become like rivers of living water to irrigate the arid earth within us. Thus we may irrigate the arid earth of others, so that hope and love are reborn.

—Jean Vanier

Rise up, Lord, with mercy for Sion, for the time of mercy has come, the time has come at last.

—Cistercian liturgy

In the annual celebration of the approaching birth of the Savior this solidarity with Christ will not only be recalled in memory, but indeed will be newly established and secured through the presence of the Lord. Every Christian celebration is indeed not just a remembrance and memorial, somewhat like an annual birthday celebration. Rather, the celebration of Christmas becomes a faith-filled and loving encounter with the Lord of salvation and thereby a true coming of the Messiah into our own time. Thus Advent is not just a make-believe play, a pious piece of devotional theater, but a true approach of the Lord.

—from *The Key to Faith: Meditations on the Liturgical Year* by Adolf Adam



CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLPH

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m.,

(Carols begin at 3:40 p.m.)

12:00 Midnight

(Carols begin at 11:40 p.m.)

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

8:00 a.m.,

10:00 a.m. *(live-streamed)*

and 12:00 Noon

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



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Holy Day)

Mass Schedule:

Eve of the Solemnity,

Saturday, December 31, 2022:

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. *(live-streamed)* and 12:00 Noon

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

Saturdays:

December 17: 3:00—4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 19: 7:00—8:30 p.m.



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH

We will again be celebrating our own “Bambinelli Sunday” here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 17-18**. 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 17-18!

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 your Christmas Spiritual Bouquet.

RETURN TO OFFERING THE CHALICE!



TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT...

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states: “Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds. For in this form the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more clearly evident and clearer expression is given to the divine will by which the new and eternal Covenant is ratified in the Blood of the Lord, as also the connection between the Eucharistic banquet and the eschatological banquet in the Kingdom of the Father.” (281)

There is a richness to the theology of the Eucharistic Chalice, including: its meaning as the cup of the new covenant in the Lord Jesus (*cf.* 1 Cor 10:21; Lk 22:20); that to drink from the Chalice is to be filled with the Holy Spirit (as we hear in Eucharistic Prayers III and IV); that the Chalice expresses the festivity of the Eucharistic meal (*cf.* Ps 23:5; Ps 104:15); that drinking from the Chalice is an explicit way of uniting oneself to Christ’s redemptive suffering (Mk 10:38-39; Mk 14:36); and that the Chalice expresses the meaning of the Eucharist as the heavenly banquet of eating and drinking (Mk 14:25; Lk 22:18; Mt 26:29; 1 Cor 11:26; also, the second acclamation of “The Mystery of Faith” in the Eucharistic Prayer).

Finally and perhaps most importantly, the Institution Narrative in all Eucharistic Prayers is very clear: “*Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you*” and “*Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.*”

For all these reasons, this weekend we have returned to offering the Chalice at all Saturday night and Sunday Masses, and also at other selected Masses, so that the members of the assembly might have the opportunity, if they so choose, to receive the Precious Blood of the Lord.

We have been receiving requests for this for some time now, as things have more and more returned to normal after the pandemic. Many people strongly desire to receive Holy Communion by sharing in the fullness of the Eucharistic sign by both eating and drinking. Keep in mind that the rim of the chalice is purified after each person drinks from it, and the cup is given a slight turn so that the same place on the rim is not used over and over again, and there is alcohol present in the wine. Nonetheless, this is, of course, completely optional; if you do not choose to receive the Precious Blood, you do not have to. You are still receiving the full Eucharistic Lord, His Body and Blood, if you receive only the consecrated Host. For those who desire this, however, this option is now once again available.

There will be two Chalices, one at the head of each of the two side aisles — in front of the Blessed Mother Chapel and in front of the Divine Mercy Chapel. Communicants returning from both the center aisle and the side aisle will pass by the Chalice Minister and may stop to receive the Precious Blood if they so choose.

Thanks be to God that we are now able to restore this full sign of Eucharistic celebration!



THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF OLPH

The Music Ministry of OLPH
prepares for the coming of the Lord!

Carol Sing

*Tuesday,
December 20th
at 7:30 p.m.
in the church*

In recent years, we have celebrated an Advent *Lessons and Carols* service early in Advent to set a tone for the season in preparation, looking toward Christmas.

This year, the Adult and Youth Choirs, Schola, and Instrumentalists are preparing a *Carol Sing* on **Tuesday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m.** Though there are still some readings and choral music, the *Carol Sing* is a brief program focused more on the assembly's singing of Carols, both Advent and Christmas, as we take a focus toward the end of the Advent season and the immediate coming of Christmas in the following days.

Please join us by taking a break from the hustle and bustle of the tasks that we all associate with our own preparations for Christmas – bring the family, a friend, a neighbor, or maybe someone who may not have stepped into a church in a while – to celebrate the coming of our Savior at our *Carol Sing*. We hope to see and hear you there!

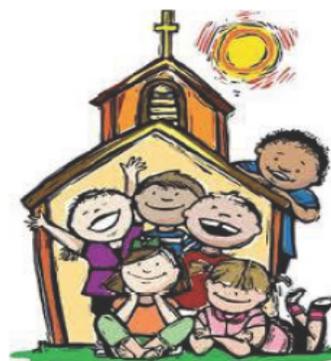
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.



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?

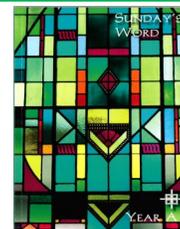
One certainty is that Jesus studied and prayed the Book of Psalms from his youth until his death. This Advent season, as we prepare for the Incarnation of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering an uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of Christmas. We are offering parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist during Advent. We conclude next Sunday, December 18 in the church's North Sacristy from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. as we 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. Join us to break open the Word of the Lord.

REMINDER: CHILDREN'S BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE 10:00 a.m. MASS EACH WEEK

Remember that we have Children's Bulletins available at the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass each week! These special Children's Bulletins are handed out at the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass, or you can ask one of the Ushers for one. There are two bulletins for children, corresponding to two different age groups: one bulletin is for younger children, aged 3-6, and the other is for older children, aged 7-12. The idea is to take the bulletin home to reinforce the message of the Gospel. Ideally, after the child completes the bulletin, the family can talk about it together, as a way of bringing home the Gospel message and connecting our liturgical celebration in church with your family's faith life at home.

NEW SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the new liturgical year (Cycle A) which started the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, are now available at the rectory for purchase, for \$5.00.



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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.

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.

REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

Please remember that we are supposed to observe a Communion Fast before receiving Holy Communion. This means we do not eat any foods or drink any liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion, the only exception being water or medicine. This also means that we are not to chew gum during Mass, and certainly not while we are coming forward to receive Holy Communion. Let's be sure we are appropriately prepared to receive Holy Communion by observing this important rule of the Church.

LIVE-STREAM MASS

We live-stream the **10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass** each week.

You can join us virtually using one of the following:

- The link at the top of the OLPH website:
www.olphlindenhurst.com
- OLPH YouTube Channel:
OLPH Church Lindenhurst



JOIN OUR LIVE-STREAM TEAM

We need new members to join our Live-Stream Team either for weekdays or weekends. If you are tech savvy, interested in broadcasting techniques and are willing to help record our liturgies, please contact Fr. Frank Zero at the rectory office at (631) 226-7725 or email fzero@oloph.org.



POPE FRANCIS ON LITURGICAL FORMATION

APOSTOLIC LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS

On June 29, 2022, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Pope Francis released his Apostolic Letter Desiderio Desideravi, On the Liturgical Formation of the People of God. It is an exquisite summary of liturgical theology and a call for serious and vital liturgical formation for all Catholics. In this letter, the Holy Father addresses the nature of sacramental encounter, of symbols and symbolic language, of the art of celebration, and the need to engage all the baptized in the fruitful celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

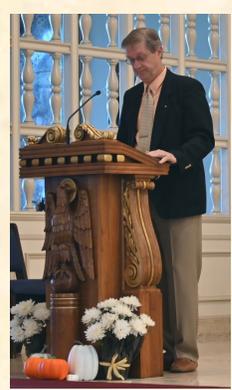
Each week we are presenting a small selection of the letter for your reading and reflection and this will continue until the entire text has been presented. The full text can be found on the Vatican website at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html

41. From all that we have said about the nature of the Liturgy it becomes clear that knowledge of the mystery of Christ, the decisive question for our lives, does not consist in a mental assimilation of some idea but in real existential engagement with his person. In this sense, Liturgy is not about “knowledge,” and its scope is not primarily pedagogical, even though it does have great pedagogical value. (Cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, n. 33) Rather, Liturgy is about praise, about rendering thanks for the Passover of the Son whose power reaches our lives. The celebration concerns the reality of our being docile to the action of the Spirit who operates through it until Christ be formed in us. (Cf. Gal 4:19) The full extent of our formation is our conformation to Christ. I repeat: it does not have to do with an abstract mental process, but with becoming Him. This is the purpose for which the Spirit is given, whose action is always and only to confection the Body of Christ. It is that way with the Eucharistic bread, and with every one of the baptized called to become always more and more that which was received as a gift in Baptism; namely, being a member of the Body of Christ. Leo the Great writes, “Our participation in the Body and Blood of Christ has no other end than to make us become that which we eat.”

42. This existential engagement happens — in continuity with and consistent with the method of Incarnation — in a sacramental way. The Liturgy is done with things that are the exact opposite of spiritual abstractions: bread, wine, oil, water, fragrances, fire, ashes, rock, fabrics, colors, body, words, sounds, silences, gestures, space, movement, action, order, time, light. The whole of creation is a manifestation of the love of God, and from when that same love was manifested in its fullness in the cross of Jesus, all of creation was drawn toward it. It is the whole of creation that is assumed in order to be placed at the service of encounter with the Word: incarnate, crucified, dead, risen, ascended to the Father. It is as the prayer over the water at the baptismal font sings, but also the prayer over the oil for sacred chrism and the words for the presentation of the bread and wine — all fruit of the earth and work of human hands.

43. The Liturgy gives glory to God not because we can add something to the beauty of the inaccessible light within which God dwells (cf. 1 Ti 6:16). Nor can we add to the perfection of the angelic song which resounds eternally through the heavenly places. The Liturgy gives glory to God because it allows us — here, on earth — to see God in the celebration of the mysteries, and in seeing Him to draw life from his Passover. We, who were dead through our sins and have been made be alive again with Christ — we are the glory of God. By grace we have been saved (Eph 2:5). Irenaeus, the *doctor unitatis*, reminds us of this: “The glory of God is man alive, and the life of man consists in seeing God: if the revelation of God through the creation already gives life to all living beings on earth, how much more then is the manifestation of the Father through the Word the cause of life for those who see God.”

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS NOVEMBER 24, 2022



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**OFFICE HOURS:**

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

LEVEL 8

On Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Student Meeting in the auditorium. The meeting will be on the topic of “Chastity and Human Dignity.”

**LEVEL 2 and SPECIAL PENANCE CLASS**

On Saturday, December 17, there will be a mandatory Parent Meeting about the Sacrament of Penance. This meeting will be during the students' class time. All students will attend their regular classes while the parents attend the meeting.

Happy Saint of the Day!

We celebrate our own parish with today's Happy Saint, Our Lady of Perpetual Help! The feast day is celebrated on June 27th. The tradition of this Marian feast day started in the 15th century. Pictured in this icon are two Archangels, Michael and Gabriel. They are holding items that represent Christ's Passion. Mary is holding Jesus in the picture to remind us that Mary is always there to protect us from any worries or fears.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and MUSIC MINISTRY****Children's Christmas Pageant**

Friday, December 23, 2022

7:00 p.m. in the church

**Pageant Practices**

Thursday, December 15th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church

Tuesday, December 20th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church

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

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 22nd 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the church

Family Life Ministry

OLPH has a strong tradition of an active and vibrant Family Life Ministry. Over the past years, hundreds of families have been impacted by the events and efforts of our Family Life Ministry.

Family Life Ministry works to serve the parish community by:

- ✝ Connecting families to the life of the parish community and the Church.
- ✝ Building community among families.
- ✝ Providing and increasing family spirituality among families in the parish.

In the past, Family Life has created, developed and organized such parish events as the Pumpkin Patch, Families in Service, the Christmas Pageant and much more! The ministry meets approximately once a month throughout the year.

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW OFFERERS TO
SHARE THEIR GIFTS WITH THIS MINISTRY!!!!**

What about you?

If you're interested, see one of the members of the Family Life Ministry, fill out the form below or contact Jenine Jimenez-Spina at 631-226-0317 or e-mail to je91971@gmail.com.

YES!!! I would like to know more about how I can become part of the Family Life Ministry!

Name _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____@_____

“...it is very important to reaffirm the family, which remains the essential cell of society and the Church; young people, who are the face of the Church’s future; women, who play a fundamental role in passing on the faith and who are a daily source of strength in a society that carries this faith forward and renews it.”

- Pope Francis



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631-592-1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631-561-5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631-225-9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631-226-2709—rmuir11@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—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631-226-7725 x 234
- † 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

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

NEW Food Pantry List!

RICE

SHELF STABLE MILK

BAKED BEANS

TUNA

CANNED CHICKEN

MEAL SOUPS

PASTA

PASTA SAUCE

INSTANT POTATOES

TOILET PAPER

Thank you

for your continued generosity.

Cut out this list

and bring it with you

when you go shopping!

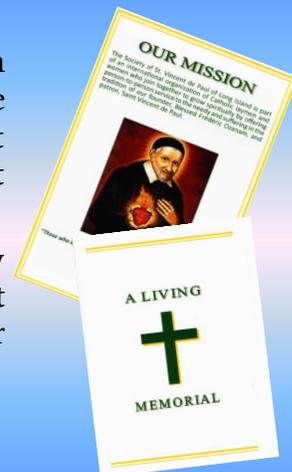
THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has expanded 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, what ever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25

**All
Gifts are
due today!**

The Final Judgment in the Gospel of Matthew should serve as a call to action for each and every one of us. Our parish Advent Giving Tree is one way to respond! Our parish social ministries are working together to support life at all stages. There are tags on our Giving Tree to help the hungry, the unborn, the sick, the immigrant and those in prison. You need to empty the tree of the tags and return them no later than **Sunday, December 11**. 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

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.



The Giving Tree



SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Jill Marie Delano, Business Manager	204	jdelano@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, Associate Pastor	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
Christopher Reilly, Director of Music	210	creilly@oloph.org
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
 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
 Gerry Chille

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
 Bill Bendernagel
 Gerry Chille (Chair)
 Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Jill Marie Delano
 Marie Gagneron
 Kenneth Hale
 Bob Meade
 Bob Mehm
 John Reynolds
 Kevin Sabella, Sr.

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Second Announcement:

Anthony Pizza & Dorothy McManus

PERPETUAL HELP MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022

5:00 P.M. MASS

<i>For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family</i>	<i>Requested by the Estate of Rev. Thomas J. McCarthy</i>
<i>Phyllis Morano</i>	<i>Requested by Joanne Morano</i>
<i>Daniel J. Murphy</i>	<i>Requested by The Victoria Family</i>
<i>Joan & William McCowan</i>	<i>Requested by June McCowan</i>
<i>Benedict Barbera</i>	<i>Requested by Stella Barbera</i>

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

Jerome Joseph Cunningham Jr.

Robert D. Schleicher

Joseph J. Ingino Sr.

Catherine Butler

“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.”

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Knights of Columbus Council #794 will have "Consecration to the Holy Family" prayer cards available on the pew ledges the weekend of December 17/18.

You are invited to stay after Mass to recite the prayer as a group, or take cards to recite at home.



WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

John Caliendo

Judith Coffin

Anthony Pastore

Andres Flores

Mary Gallagher

Patricia McQueen

Cecelia Pastore

Lois Rydzewski

Sylvana Picinich

Rachel Lohr

Baby George Elefterion

Ann-Marie Giarratano

Mary Ann Trigg

John Jordan

Linda Arpino

Bob Mehm

Jack Mazalatis

Catherine Fucci

Gail Tonnessen

Diane Wilmarth

Pat Bendernagel

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 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.

RESPECT LIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



**LIFE CENTER
OF LONG ISLAND**

A Voice for the Unborn on Long Island

The *Life Center* has put out an urgent call for winter clothing for boys and girls - infant to 4 yr. They can be dropped at the Life Center (35 E Willow, Massapequa).

Call Louise Perrotta at 631-412-3831 for more information.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, December 12—
Our Lady of Guadalupe**

6:30 Sean Williams

12:15 Steven McGrath

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

6:30 Al Pirrera

12:15 Clare Ann Menehan

**WEDNESDAY, December 14—
Saint John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor of the Church**

6:30 Hubertus Weiser

12:15 Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

**THURSDAY, December 15—
Advent Weekday**

6:30 Vincenta Sancho

12:15 Mark D. Santoli

**FRIDAY, December 16—
Advent Weekday**

6:30 Maureen A. Heuer

12:15 John J. Casey

**SATURDAY, December 17—
Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Donna Marie Anceravage

**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**5:00 Perpetual Help Mass (*Listing on p. 20*)**Sunday, December 18—
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**8:00 Living & Deceased Members of the
Christian Mothers and Guild

10:00 Michele Quevedo

12:00 For the People of the Parish

PARISH CALENDAR**Monday, December 12, 2022**

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Adult Confirmation Class	St. Mark's Room

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

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.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus
5:30 p.m.	Levels 5 and 6: Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Level 8 Student Meeting	Auditorium

Thursday, December 15, 2022

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class for Parents	Room 18
7:45 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, December 16, 2022

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12

Saturday, December 17, 2022

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Level 2: Parent Meeting	Auditorium
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5: Classes	School
12:00 Noon	Altar Server Midnight Mass Rehearsal	Church
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
1:30 p.m.	Wedding	Church
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
3:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, December 18, 2022

11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation: Psalms	North Sacristy
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:15 p.m.	Music Ministry Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

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

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

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

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

Lecturas del Domingo 24º del Tiempo Ordinario - Ciclo C Domingo 11 de septiembre del 2022

Demos gracias al Padre

por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, porque nos ha dado fortaleza

y porque vino a perdonar nuestros pecados. Que su misericordia y amor estén siempre con ustedes.

Primera Lectura (Éxodos 32,7-11.13-14): El Amor de Dios Es más Grande que Su Justicia

Dios había salvado a su pueblo; sin embargo, el mismo pueblo abandonó a Dios para adorar al becerro de oro. Moisés suplicó a Dios que perdonara a su pueblo.

Segunda Lectura (1 Timoteo 1,12-17): Cristo Me Ha Perdonado

Pablo es consciente de que es pecador. Pero encontró al Cristo que perdona. Lleno de gratitud alaba la grandeza y el amor de Dios.

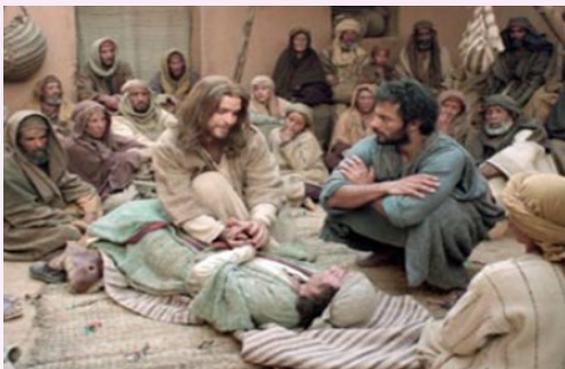
Evangelio (Lucas 15,1-32): Dios Se Alegra al Perdonar

Las bellas parábolas de este largo capítulo de Lucas tienen un punto central: Dios no se rinde en la búsqueda de los pecadores ni los abandona; sigue buscándolos y los acoge de nuevo con alegría.

9. Jesucristo te recibirá si vienes a Él Jesús dijo: "Al que a mí viene, no lo rechazo" (Juan 6:37). Por esta razón Él vino a la tierra: "a buscar y a salvar lo que se había perdido" (Lucas 19:10). No importa lo que hayas hecho, Jesús todavía quiere que vengas a Él. Dijo más: "No he venido a llamar a justos sino a pecadores para que se arrepientan" (Lucas 5:32).

Jesús cambia las vidas La gente que seguía a Jesús abandonaba sus pecados. Él echó fuera siete demonios de la vida de María Magdalena (Lucas 8:2) y ella se convirtió en una seguidora devota que luego les dijo a los demás que Jesús había resucitado (Juan 20:16). Zaqueo, un recaudador de impuestos, le devolvió a la gente lo que les había robado cuando les cobraba los impuestos y dio la mitad de todo lo que tenía a los pobres (Lucas 19:1-10). Cuando estos seguidores eran llenos del poder del Espíritu Santo, eran capaces de declarar el mensaje de Jesús, hacer milagros y vivir libres del pecado (Lucas 10:1-20).

Por casi dos mil años Jesús ha estado cambiando las vidas de la gente en todo el mundo. "Por lo tanto, si alguno está en Cristo, es una nueva creación. ¡Lo viejo ha pasado, ha llegado ya lo nuevo!" (2 Corintios 5:17). Él puede cambiar tu vida también. Jesús te liberará de tu adicción al pecado (Romanos 6:22), renovará tu mente (Romanos 12:2) y sanará tus heridas (2 Tesalonicenses 2:16-17).



Las clases para educación religiosa están abiertas, para el año 2022-2023 para niños de primera comunión, y jóvenes para la confirmación y adultos si por alguna razón no ha recibido los sacramentos, nunca es tarde para comenzar, interesados llamar al 631-226-7725 o a nuestro teléfono arriba en español.

**OFFERING UPDATE
December 3/4**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	180	60	\$1,492.00
8:00 a.m.	203	94	3,087.00
10:00 a.m.	300	76	2,993.00
12:00 a.m.	290	81	2,652.00
Total coin:			11.24
Faith Direct			3,453.50
Children's Env.		14	82.00
Mail-ins:			1,640.00
Special Needs	47	16	303.00
TOTAL	1,020	341	\$15,713.74
2021	723	222	\$14,837.60
Candles			\$630.55
Poor Box			\$201.48
1st Saturday			\$103.00

Important Diocese of Rockville Centre Information

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were over 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>

**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 18— deadline passed
December 25— deadline passed
January 1— December 16 deadline

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT
COLLECTION
THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 10/11**

A donor to the *Retirement Fund for Religious* writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to this week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be as generous as your means will allow. Thank you.



Hope. Love. Joy. Peace.

These are the gifts of the Advent season. The gifts you help share here in our community, throughout the year, with your thoughtful stewardship.

Advent is a meaningful time to reflect on your generosity. One special way to give is eGiving. It can simplify your stewardship and provide steady, consistent support to the parish – so we can be ready with programs, services, and ministries for church families and those in our community. Your recurring gifts will sustain our parish, even if you need to miss a Sunday service.

It's easy to get started.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY286, or text 'Enroll' to (631) 201-5664.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."*

Matthew 1:23

Isaiah 7:10-14

There is more than meets the eye going on in today's first reading. King Ahaz is invited by the prophet Isaiah to ask God for a sign that he will take care of Israel. Since Israel is constantly besieged by hostile neighbors, this would be an admission by Ahaz that only God can save and protect his people. Yet Ahaz has already allied himself with the powerful nation of Assyria for protection, so he refuses. Rather than being humble, Ahaz has rejected God. Nevertheless, God is faithful even when we are faithless. He offers the sign of the virgin conceiving and bearing a son named Emmanuel who will save his people. We will hear Matthew refer to this prophecy in the Gospel reading today.

Romans 1:1-7

In the opening of his letter to the church in Rome, Paul makes the point that the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus fulfills what was foretold in Israel's holy Scriptures. This view, from Christianity's earliest and most prolific writer, is that as time passes new events will reveal ever-deepening meanings in God's Word, meanings not understood when the passages were first written and proclaimed. Jesus is revealed as the long-awaited "Son of David," the ideal ruler who starts God's final reign over all things, who was foretold by the prophet Nathan centuries earlier. God further reveals, as Paul explains, that Christ is the "Son of God" who not only is an earthly king but also shares the divine "Spirit of holiness." Through him, we are all called to be holy.

Matthew 1:18-24

Here is a familiar and beloved account of the birth of Jesus. This telling by Matthew emphasizes not the details of his birth, as Luke does in his account, but how Jesus' birth fulfills what was written in the Old Testament Scriptures about the coming Messiah. Matthew carefully notes that the righteous man Joseph who was chosen to parent Jesus descended from King David, a fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy. Matthew also refers to the passage from Isaiah we heard in the first reading about the virgin conceiving and bearing a son which was fulfilled when Mary bore Jesus. Matthew is at pains to point out to his mostly Jewish Christian audience of the first century, and to us, that the good news he is telling is not only new and wonderful but also the next chapter in the story that was begun many years before. God always had a plan to save his people and he never forgets us.

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 12, 2022:

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

*or any reading from the Common of the Blessed
Virgin Mary (707-712)*

Tuesday, December 13, 2022:

Zephaniah 3:1-9 + Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 14, 2022:

Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
+ Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 15, 2022:

Isaiah 54:1-10 + Luke 7:24-30

Friday, December 16, 2022:

Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8 + John 5:33-36

Saturday, December 17, 2022:

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 + Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday, December 18, 2022:

Isaiah 7:10-14 + Romans 1:1-7
+ Matthew 1:18-24

Gospel Reflection

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

1. List the obstacles God encountered in bringing Jesus into the world. Is anything in this world obstacle-free? How can good come out of obstructions? John Shea made a statement about Joseph's hesitancy to take Mary into his home. Discuss that statement: "This foreshadows the tension of all who will be drawn to Jesus. Is he a scandal to be rejected, or a manifestation of the Spirit to be welcomed?" (Shea, 45) "When Joseph awoke ... " Did Joseph wake up in more than one way?

2. Explain "Find God in all things" as it relates to Pope Francis' General Audience Advent talk below.

"And the reason for our hope is this: God is with us and God still trusts us! Think well on this: God is with us and God still trusts us. God the Father is generous. He comes to abide with humankind, he chooses earth as his dwelling place to remain with people and to be found where humans pass their days in joy or in sorrow. Therefore, earth is no longer only "a valley of tears"; rather, it is the place where God himself has pitched his tent, it is the meeting place of God with man, of God's solidarity with men.

... He is God-with-us. Jesus is God-with-us. ... Jesus is God with us always and forever with us in history's suffering and sorrow."

*General Audience with Pope Francis,
December 18, 2013*

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***VERY IMPORTANT!!* Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Charity. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.**

*Bill has a \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 to his parish. Upon hearing of the **Charitable IRA Rollover** opportunity, he directs the custodian of his IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2022 directly to the Parish as the family's 2022 gift. He gets to exclude the IRA distribution given to charity from income.*

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice.

For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

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“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL ALSO BE”



Wills and Bequests



IRA's and Retirement Plans

AN OPPORTUNITY OF WHAT A LEGACY MEANS TO YOUR CHURCH!

We want to bring to your attention different ways that parishioners can financially support OLPH. The parish can be named as a beneficiary to different types of financial products such as life Insurance policies, IRAs, and gift annuities, to name a few. There are also ways to give to the parish in the form of appreciated stock, where you can avoid or reduce your own Income tax bill while also providing for the parish. These types of approaches are generally referred to as “Planned Giving” or “Legacy Giving.” You have worked hard during your working years, and you saved and invested wisely so that your loved ones can have a secure financial future via your will and estate planning. We'd like to ask you to consider having your estate planning include OLPH, so that all of the great work that has been ongoing here for over 150 years can continue long into the future. Planned Giving can make that happen. You can assist the parish in a significant way by including OLPH as a beneficiary in your planning. If you are interested in learning more about Planned Giving, your tax accountant, your lawyer, or your financial advisor will be familiar with this topic. You may also call the rectory and ask to speak to the Parish Business Manager, Jill Delano. Thank you for supporting OLPH in this way!

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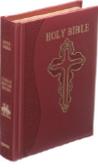


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