

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



Download the myParish app today!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2

Support
Our Lady of Perpetual
Help Church.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com),
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!*

Philippians 4:4

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

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

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

Business Manager: Mr. William D'Alessio

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

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 each Saturday at 4:00 p.m.,
each Sunday at 7:00 p.m., and

Morning Prayer each Sunday at 9:15 a.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, 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

Step 1: Open App Store or Google Play



Step 2: Search "myParish app" & press download 



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

Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

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



FORMED[®]

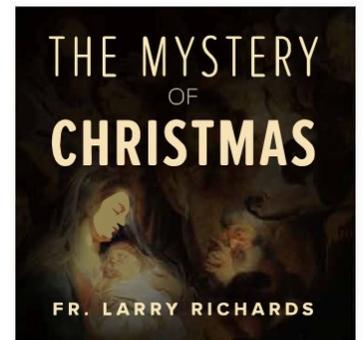
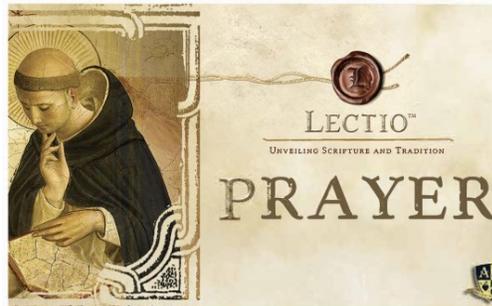
PICK OF THE WEEK

December 12, 2021

WATCH

LEARN

LISTEN



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

SUPPORT OLPH THROUGH AMAZON.COM



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support OLPH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OLPH.

Use our custom link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-1797184>.

Support Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



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, which we sing during the Entrance Procession: *"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 second reading, as St. Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, bids us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." It might be a good spiritual exercise in the week ahead to reflect on the presence of joy in your life, especially since over the past two years it seems as though there has not been much to be joyful about: What is it that has made you joyful, even in the midst of everything we have been through? What should you be joyful about and thankful for in your life, because of the gifts God has given you? St. Paul goes on in that reading to exhort us to *"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God"* How frequently do we pray as an expression of joy, and how frequently is 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 Friday 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!*

Mr. Christopher Reilly, new Director of Music

As many of you know, our current Director of Music, Chris Ferraro, has accepted a position in another parish, and will be leaving OLPH in early January. We will miss Chris and we are very, very grateful for the amazing and wonderful gifts he has brought not only to the music ministry, but to parish life as a whole, here at OLPH. We'll have the opportunity to say farewell to Chris at the 12:00 Noon Mass on Sunday, January 9, and this will be advertised in upcoming bulletins.

At this time, I am very pleased to announce that Mr. Christopher Reilly has accepted the offer to become the new Director of Music at OLPH. Both Chris Ferraro and I know Chris Reilly (*hmmm...this "Chris" situation could be confusing for a few weeks!*) for many years through the "world of liturgy" in different professional organizations and ministerial experiences. Chris Reilly comes to us with a wealth of experience and great competency not only in liturgical music, but also in liturgical theology in general. We look forward to

welcoming Chris Reilly when he officially takes over as of January 10, although he will be around the parish and present at certain events before then during this period of transition. I know we will all give the new Chris a big, warm OLPH welcome.

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 the 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 18, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.**, and then again **the following Monday, December 20, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** (or even later as long as there are people still on line waiting to go to Confession). Please remember that a mask is required for anyone entering the confession room.

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!

Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant returns LIVE and IN-PERSON this year! After having to do it virtually last year, I'm thrilled that we are once again able to have this as normal. The Christmas Pageant will be held this coming Saturday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. This is always such a wonderful occasion of joy as the children of the parish share with us their faith in performing the Christmas story, and as together we sing hymns and other songs of the season. It always warms my heart to participate in this, and I know the same will be true for you. Come to the Pageant for a beautiful experience of faith, and to support our young people!

Allow me to take this opportunity to offer special words of thanks to Bridget Jordan from the

Religious Education Office who leads this Pageant each year, and who works very hard on it, and to Mrs. April Kleinlaut, our Director of Faith Formation, for her support and work on it. Both of you do an amazing job with this and we are very grateful!

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!

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.

OLPH Christmas cards for sale

By popular demand, OLPH Christmas cards are once again available! They are available at the bargain price of 25 cards and envelopes for \$20; the card features a gorgeous picture of our church sanctuary, fully decorated for Christmas. They are available at the rectory office, so be sure to stop by and buy a box or three while they last.

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 WEEK 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 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.**

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."

On December 18 pray: "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent...

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

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.



Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Wednesdays
12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
in the church
after the 12:15 p.m. Mass



GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS

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

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH

We will again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18-19**. 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 18-19!



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.



CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLPH

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Saturday, 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 of Obligation

Mass Schedule:

Eve of the Solemnity,
Friday, December 31, 2021:
5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 1, 2022:
10:00 a.m. and
12:00 p.m. (live-streamed)

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

Saturday, December 18:
3:00—4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 20:
7:00—8:30 p.m.

*It is required that a mask must be worn
inside the Confessional Room,
regardless of vaccination status.*



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?



Come join our Religious Education Director, April Kleinlaut, as we discuss the Responsorial Psalms used in the Masses during Advent.

Next Sunday, December 19 at 11:15 a.m., in the North Sacristy, will be your last opportunity to join the discussion. Come examine and discuss the joyful message of Christ's coming. Handouts will be provided.

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?



Every year on Pentecost, a group of adults completes their initiation into the Church by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. By Confirmation, the baptized are joined more perfectly to the Church and strengthened in their faith. Catholics who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation should receive it before being married.

Preparation for receiving Confirmation as an adult includes ten hours of classroom meeting, weekly attendance at Mass and additional study through Catholic instructional material such as the *Formed* multimedia platform. Classes meet in the evenings, usually twice a month, with some outside reading and preparation required. A fee of \$20 covers the cost of books and materials.

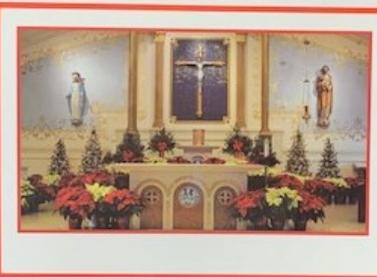
Classes begin on **Tuesday, December 14**. For more information contact Deacon Robert Becker at DeaconRobert@oloph.org or by leaving your contact information at the rectory.

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 are available for sale from the receptionist's desk in the rectory during regular business hours. A box of 25 cards featuring the image of our altar decorated for Christmas can be yours for the price of \$20.00. Purchases can be made by cash or check made out to **OLPH**. Sorry, no credit or debit cards. Cards are in limited supply, so be sure to make your purchases early. Buy enough cards to send to those you love!



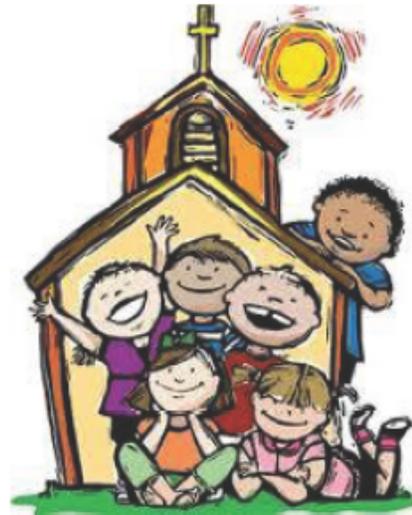
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

THIS SUNDAY A CHILDREN'S HOMILY IS POSTED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL - OLPH CHURCH LINDENHURST. LISTEN TO THE READINGS AND A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL!



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



FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

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



FR. FIDELIS HAS A YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Hear Fr. Fidelis give weekly reflections and more on his YouTube channel!

You can go to YouTube and search for FADA PRINCE (with the logo at left) and click on the **SUBSCRIBE** button.



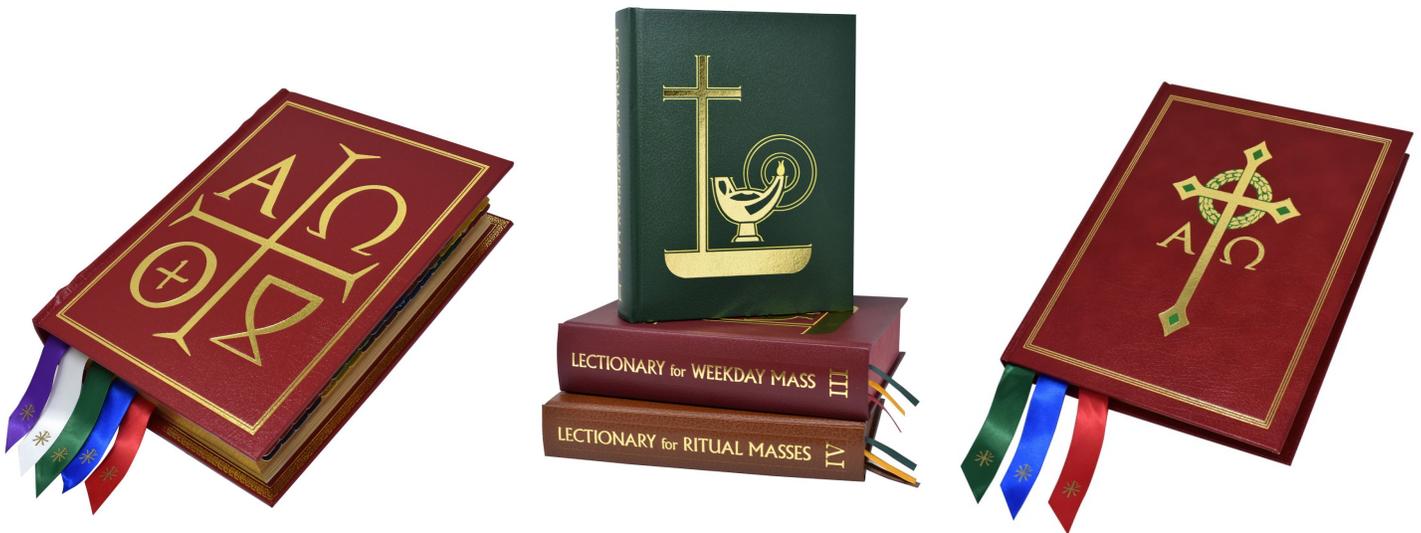
MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES—NEW RITUAL BOOKS

“Churches, therefore, must be places “suited to sacred celebrations,” “dignified,” and beautiful. Their suitability for worship is determined by their ability through the architectural design of space and the application of artistic gifts to embody God’s initiative and the community’s faithful response.”

- #18, *Built of Living Stones: Art Architecture and Worship*, a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.

For more than a thousand years, the Church has used ritual books in the celebration of the sacred Liturgy. These books contain the rubrics or instructions about the particular ritual(s) contained inside and also the actual texts of the prayers and Scriptures that we hear proclaimed. Often the ritual books are beautifully adorned with sacred art to remind us of God’s majesty and glory.

Here at OLPH, a very busy parish, our books are used many times over the course of a week. Over time, they do get worn and every so often, they need to be replaced. The sanitizing and cleaning that was done in the early part of the COVID-19 Pandemic also wreaked havoc on our books. The time has now come to replace many of our ritual books and we invite you to consider memorializing them in memory of a loved one who has died or by marking a special occasion such as milestone wedding anniversary or the birth of a child or grandchild. The memorials will be acknowledged in the bulletin and also with a special label that will be placed inside the front cover of the book. **Contact or stop by the rectory in order to memorialize a ritual book.**



- ◆ 3 large and 3 small editions of *The Roman Missal* which contain the prayers and instructions of the Mass - \$250 for each large edition, \$175 for each small edition
- ◆ 2 *Excerpts from the Roman Missal* which is held by the altar server during the Collect and Prayer after Communion - \$125
- ◆ 2 three-volume sets of the *Lectionary for Weekday Mass* which contain the readings for Daily Mass - \$500 for the complete three-volume set or \$175 for each book
- ◆ 2 *Lectionary for Sunday Mass* which contain the readings for Sunday Mass - \$200 for each book

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 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 15, there will be a student meeting on the topic of Chastity. This meeting will take place in the church during your normal class time. When you arrive, find your teacher and check in for attendance.

LEVEL 2

On Saturday, December 18, there will be a Parent Meeting regarding First Penance, in the auditorium during your child's regular class time. A mask is required to enter the building.

HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of classroom helpers for Levels 1-5 on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and/or 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Do you have the time to give one hour and share your God-given gifts with the youth of OLPH? This is a great way for high school and middle school students to get hours required for school or other extracurricular activities!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Join us for the Christmas Pageant on Saturday, December 18th. Come support the youth of the parish as they tell us about the joy of Jesus' birth. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

**Happy Saint of the Day!**

St. Augustine is the son of St. Monica and was born in Africa in the year 354. After he spent most of his early life away from God, he converted to the faith and became a bishop. He is known as a great Catholic writer and has written over 200 books and other writings. He is known as a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is August 28th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, MUSIC MINISTRY & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 18, 2021

7:30 p.m. in the church



Pageant Practice

Dress Rehearsal: Friday, December 17th

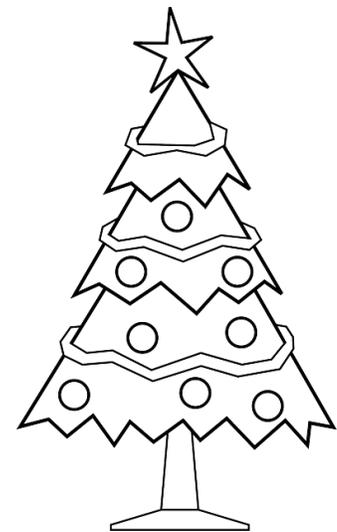
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the church

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IS NOW OPEN!!

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



- Artificial Trees * Ornaments * Dishes *
- Tree Skirts * Stockings * Light sets *
- Christmas village houses * Angels *

BAG SALE!!!

Quarterly bag sale also taking place from now until January 7th. Fill a bag for just \$5.00. Most everything in the Blue Door Boutique is included. Some items excluded: specifically new items with tags and some dressy dresses.

HOURS OF OPERATION
M, W, F
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

THE
bluedoor
BOUTIQUE

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— cdefeldman@optonline.net
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631. 921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optimum.net
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Virginia Beyrer—631-226-6635
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

Food Pantry List

ITEMS MOST NEEDED:

CANNED PORK & BEANS
SMALL PKGS. RICE
HOT CEREALS
PASTA SAUCE
INSTANT POTATOES
TEA/ HOT CHOCOLATE
SHELF STABLE MILK
FRUIT JUICE
JELLY OR JAM
COOKIES/DESSERTS

Please bring items to the SVdP office:

Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

and on 1st and 3rd Saturdays

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Thank you

for your continued generosity.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of

Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

Our regular office hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and

1st and 3rd Saturdays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

**RETURN
GIFTS
TODAY!**

Please return all gifts *with tags* no later than **Sunday, December 12.** *If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Ryan at jennx@optonline.net. Gifts for St. Vincent de Paul (green tags) should be wrapped. All other gifts should not be wrapped.*



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
William D'Alessio, Business Manager	204	bdalessio@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
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 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at jsg375@gmail.com to begin the process.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

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

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste
Deacon Robert Becker
Mark Costantino
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Chris Ferraro
MaryAnn Haas
Jenine Jimenez-Spina
Denise Martinez
Barbara McPhail
Deacon Doug Smith
Mike Williams
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

WE CELEBRATE

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



-Rite of Baptism

Etta Mae McArdle

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

PERPETUAL HELP MASS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 10:00 A.M.

<i>Francis Farrugia</i>	<i>Requested by Lena Farrugia</i>
<i>Laura Fosco</i>	<i>Requested by Lena Farrugia</i>
<i>The Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family</i>	<i>Requested by the Estate of Rev. Thomas McCarthy</i>
<i>Steven McGrath</i>	<i>Requested by Pat Bell & Joan Heinsohn</i>
<i>Benedict Barbera</i>	<i>Requested by Stella Barbera</i>
<i>Lyn Quinn</i>	<i>Requested by Dunstan Bradley</i>
<i>Joan & William McCowan</i>	<i>Requested by June McCowan</i>

WE REMEMBER

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

***Anne D. Procino
Pietro Curto
Joseph Pehowich
Thomas Kelly
Marilyn Walsh***

“O God, who through the ending of present things open up the beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption.”

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Karin Kienle</i>	<i>Janet Novotny</i>
<i>Janet Leyden</i>	<i>Angela Pagnotta</i>
<i>Tommy Fanning, Jr.</i>	<i>Baby Cameron Bensen</i>
<i>Ethan Insigne</i>	<i>Peter Novak</i>
<i>Rose Pentaleri</i>	<i>Victoria Hurst</i>
<i>Dina Zulueta</i>	<i>John Bryzgornia</i>
<i>Roberto Mato</i>	<i>Jeff Zero</i>
<i>Carol Bafundo</i>	<i>Marguerette Hoffman</i>
<i>Mildred Caliendo</i>	<i>Joan Giarratano</i>
<i>Rose Pezzanite</i>	<i>Lisa O'Reilly</i>
<i>Grace Grasso</i>	<i>Lisa Marie Hulsen</i>
<i>Louise Sturgeon</i>	<i>Lynn Simonetti</i>
<i>Lindsay P. Henry</i>	<i>Richard Geed</i>
<i>Elizabeth Astacio</i>	

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.

The Bereavement Ministry assists anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one and help the person grow through their grief.

Joining a Support Group, with the help of trained facilitators, will help the person strengthening their faith in themselves and God.

Please contact Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or Forubabe77@aol.com for information on our Spring program.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 13—
Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

6:30 Cristobal Diaz

12:15 Ronald Watro

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

6:30 Edward Kienle

12:15 Artie Eriksen

WEDNESDAY, December 15—
Advent Weekday

6:30 Sean Gordon & Family

12:15 Linda Rathjen

THURSDAY, December 16—
Advent Weekday

6:30 Ryan Gordon & Family

12:15 Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

FRIDAY, December 17—
Late Advent Weekday

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

12:15 John J. Casey

SATURDAY, December 18—
Late Advent Weekday

8:00 Carmela Brancato

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 Dominick & Ann DeGirolamo

Sunday, December 19—
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 For the People of the Parish

10:00 Perpetual Help Mass (*List on p. 17*)

12:00 Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 13, 2021

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

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

4:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Church

6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Board Meeting Room 16

7:00 p.m. Holy Name Membership Meeting Room 24

7:15 p.m. Adult Faith Formation—Confirmation St. Mark's Room

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

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. Level 6 Classes School

7:00 p.m. Level 7 and 8 Classes School

Thursday, December 16, 2021

1:00 p.m.-on Church closed for cleaning Church

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Poster Contest Judging Auditorium

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

7:30 p.m. Baptismal Prep Class for Parents Room 16

Friday, December 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Room 23

10:00 a.m. Blue Door Boutique Room 12

5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Church

Saturday, December 18, 2021

8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Levels 1-5 and Special Ed. School

12:30 p.m. Virtus Training Room 3

12:30 p.m. CYO Basketball Grades 1 and 2 Auditorium

1:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Room 23

3:00 p.m. Confessions Church

6:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Church

Sunday, December 19, 2021

11:00 a.m. RCIA Room 16

11:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation—Psalms North Sacristy

12:30 p.m. CYO Auditorium

7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

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.

Reflexiones para el 3rd domingo de adviento 12/12/21.

Regocijense en el señor. En el siempre

Primer Lectura (Sofonías 3,14-18a): *El Señor vendrá en Medio de Ustedes*

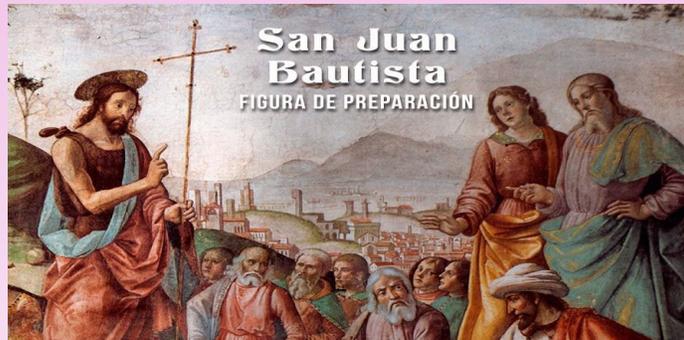
A un pueblo rodeado de enemigos, el profeta anuncia: “El Señor les va a perdonar y les traerá alegría. Vivirá en medio de ustedes y les renovará con su amor”.

Segunda Lectura (Filipenses 4,4-7): *Alégrense, el Señor Está Cerca.*

Los cristianos deberían estar siempre alegres, dice San Pablo. Su alegría debe ser contagiosa, porque el Señor está siempre cerca de ellos.

El Espíritu de Dios está sobre mí me a ungido para dar la buena nueva a los pobres.

Evangelio (Lucas 3,10-18):



El Evangelio (Lc 3:10-18) narra que, ante el llamado a la conversión, la gente pregunta a Juan, el Bautista: ¿Qué deben hacer? Él les responde: “El que tenga dos túnicas, que las reparta con el que no tiene; el que tenga para comer, que haga lo mismo.”

Luego, van los publicanos a bautizarse y también le preguntan: ¿qué debían hacer? Él les réplica: “No exijáis más de lo que os está fijado.” También le preguntan los soldados: ¿qué debían hacer? Les dice: “No hagáis extorsión a nadie, no hagáis denuncias falsas, y contentaos con vuestro saldo.” Ante ello, como el pueblo esperaba al Cristo, pensaba en su interior que era Juan, el Bautista, pero Él respondió: “Yo os bautizo con agua; pero viene el que es más fuerte que yo, y no soy digno de desatarle la correa de sus sandalias. Él os bautizará en Espíritu Santo y fuego. En su mano tiene el bieldo para limpiar su era y recoger el trigo en su granero; pero la paja la quemará con fuego que no se apaga.” Y con muchas otras exhortaciones anunciaba la Buena Nueva. Nótese que, en este contexto del Año de la Misericordia, el llamado evangélico de hoy es a la necesidad de una verdadera conversión, en griego metanoia; esto es, cambiar la propia mentalidad por el modo de pensar y de obrar de Dios; no se trata de cambios extraordinarios y sobrenaturales sino simplemente hacer lo que a uno le corresponde, según la condición o en lo que uno se desempeña. Sin embargo, vale recordar que Juan el Bautista preparaba el camino para que la Buena Nueva que traía Jesús pudiera actuar en cada ser humano de su tiempo; entonces, de forma residual, es claro que todo ser humano debe escuchar al Señor para hacer lo que Él le diga a uno, pues es guardando u obedeciendo su Palabra por amor, la única forma para que Dios habite en uno. Y es que tener entrañas de Misericordia no se queda así solo en compadecerse del otro, sino que conlleva hacer lo que corresponde hacer, pero a la manera de actuar y de pensar del Señor:

Oración para encender la 3ra vela de Adviento *En las tinieblas se encendió una luz, en el desierto clamó una voz. Se anuncia la buena noticia: ¡El Señor va a llegar!, preparen sus caminos, porque ya se acerca. Adornen el alma como una novia se engalana el día de su boda. Ya llega el mensajero. Juan Bautista no es la luz, sino el que nos anuncia la luz. Cuando encendemos la tercera vela, cada uno de nosotros quiere ser antorcha que brille y caliente.*

OFFERING UPDATE DECEMBER 4/5

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	225	90	\$2,469.00
8:00 a.m.	220	125	4,543.00
10:00 a.m.	339	73	3,229.00
12:00 p.m.	280	74	1,749.00
Coin			7.39
Faith Direct:			2,714.75
Children's Env.		10	59.50
Mail-ins:			91.00
Special Needs	35	12	450.00
TOTAL	1,099	384	\$15,312.64
2020 total	723	222	\$14,837.60
Candles			\$734.35
Poor Box			403.68
1st Saturday			\$82.00



Please remember that all **CMA** pledges must be made by December 31, and all pledges must be paid by January 31, 2022.

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* by the dates listed and *as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at atbecker@oloph.org.
Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.

December 19 & 26—passed
January 2—December 17
January 9—December 31

Early printer deadlines due to Christmas & New Year holidays

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 11/12

GIVE IN GRATITUDE

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 next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 23 at 12:45 p.m. (i.e., immediately following the 12:15 p.m. Mass). We would love to have lots of folks come on down to pitch in. Why not join the fun and come down to help if you're available? It should not take much longer than an hour or so if we have enough hands pitching in. We appreciate whatever help you can give us.

COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE

The 150th Anniversary Year is over, but we still have some souvenirs and commemorative items available, as long as supplies last. Great T-shirts, warm sweat shirts, sturdy tote bags, tumblers to keep your coffee or hot chocolate nice and hot, beautiful key chains, versatile playing cards and elegant stylus pens can still be purchased! Contact Helene at hcalab2@optonline.net for more information on how to purchase an item.

PREPARING FOR
Sunday, December 19, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

Luke 1:42

Micah 5:1-4a

Salvation will come through a “messiah,” an anointed ruler. The Book of Micah shares with Isaiah the expectation that God will deliver Israel through a king in the line of David. Bethlehem-Ephrathah is the home of the Davidic line. The Messiah will bring about peace and reconciliation between God and humankind through his very person.

Hebrews 10:5-10

The Christian faith professes that the sacrifice of Christ is the only true atoning act for sin. The Old Testament sacrifices could not bring about true spiritual benefits but only prefigured this work of Christ. Jesus knew that accomplishing the will of the Father—reconciling God with his people—meant the complete sacrificial offering of his humanity back to God.

Luke 1:39-45

Luke’s “infancy narrative” presents parallel scenes of angelic announcements of the birth of John the Baptist and of Jesus, and of the birth, circumcision, and presentation of John and Jesus. In this parallelism, the supremacy of Jesus over John is stressed: John is prophet of the Most High while Jesus is Son of the Most High; John is great in the sight of the Lord while Jesus will be great, which is an attribute of God alone; John will go before the Lord while Jesus will be Lord. This contrast is captured in the visitation scene and the dialogue between the mothers of John and Jesus that we hear today.

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. The infant “leaped for joy” in Elizabeth’s womb at the recognition of the soon-to-be-born savior. Discuss this moment as humankind’s welcome to the savior. How close do you come to “leaping for joy” when you recognize God’s presence in your life?

2. Why would Mary travel to the hill country “in haste”? Pope Francis says Mary experienced the gift she received as a mission. Do we have the same mission: to reach all people with God’s love?

Mary’s is a faith that sets her on a journey. The young woman of Nazareth, after hearing the message of the angel, “went with haste into the hill country” (Luke 1:39) to visit and assist Elizabeth, her cousin. She did not consider it a privilege to be chosen as the Mother of the Savior; she did not lose the simple joy of her humility after the visit of the angel. She did not keep thinking about herself within the four walls of her house.

Rather, she experienced the gift she had received as a mission to be carried out; she felt urged to open the door and go out; she became completely caught up in God’s own “haste” to reach all people with his saving love. That is why Mary set out on her journey. She chose the unknowns of the journey over the comfort of her daily routines, the weariness of travel over the peace and quiet of home; the risk of a faith that makes our lives a loving gift to others over a placid piety.

*[Pope Francis Apostolic Journey to Budapest](#)
Sept 15, 2021*

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 13, 2021:

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
+ Matthew 21:23-27

Friday, December 17, 2021:

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

Tuesday, December 14, , 2021:

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
+ Matthew 21:28-32

Saturday, December 18, 2021:

Jeremiah 23:5-8
+ Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 15, 2021:

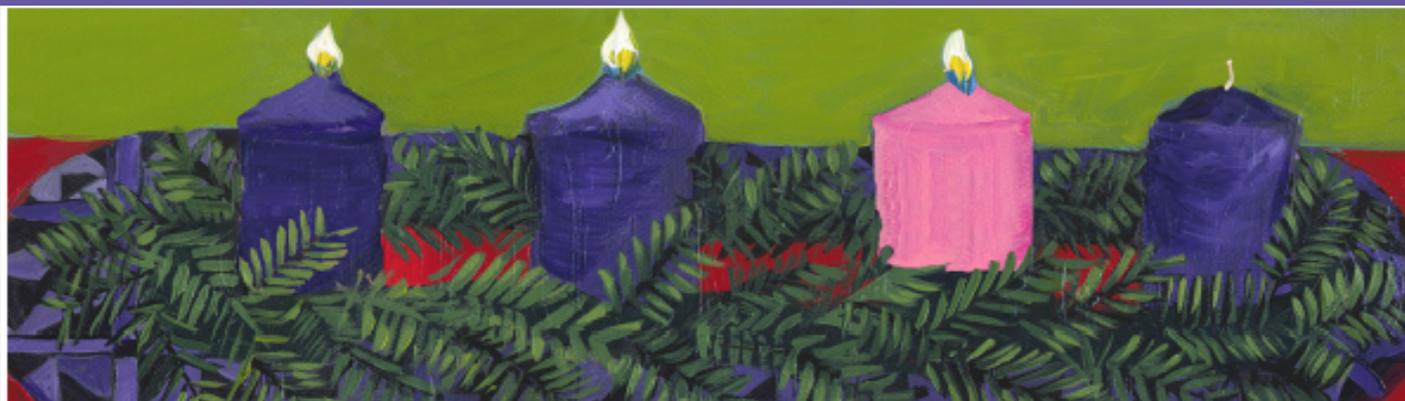
Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25
+ Luke 7:18b-23

Sunday, December 19, 2021:

Micah 5:1-4a
+ Hebrews 10:5-10
+ Luke 1:39-45

Thursday, December 16, 2021:

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



On the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, Catholics celebrate the joy that is rooted in a lasting hope.

Joy in Advent

On the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, Catholics are encouraged to reflect on joy as Christmas approaches. The Latin word *gaudete* means “rejoice,” and the name Gaudete Sunday comes from the first word of the day’s Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4–5).

Joy is sometimes considered to be synonymous with happiness, but joy is deeper than good feelings. St. Paul notes joy among the fruits of the Holy Spirit: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23).

In the first paragraph of *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis states that joy is found through encountering Christ. “With Christ joy is constantly born anew,” the Holy Father states.

Joy is recognized by the peace that accompanies it. This fruit of the Spirit can be seen in people who have endured hardship and pain but keep their focus set on God. They may be poor in material goods but generous in spirit. They understand that no earthly thing can tamper with their relationship with God. For them, joy is rooted in a hope that lasts, as Pope Francis notes in *The Joy of the Gospel*:

Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet

slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress. (6)

The joy-filled know that they are dependent upon God. Among them are the poor who will take part in the Kingdom of God, the hungry who will be satisfied, the mourners who will be comforted, and the peacemakers who will be called children of God. They know that with God all is well, and all shall be well. The prayers in Advent assure us that Emmanuel, God is with us, provides the strength to wait in hope. Advent invites the faithful to cultivate joy while awaiting the coming of Christ again. Here are a few ways to do that:

- Pray. Praying in hope opens hearts to experience joy.
- Keep an Advent journal. Keeping tabs on the moments that bring joy throughout the day, no matter how insignificant, helps people to be aware of the joy that exists in their lives.
- Help those in need. As Pope Francis says, “Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the seashore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others.”

Joy is the magnet that attracts believers, and as such it is the best form of evangelization. As Mother Teresa said, “Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”



 LINDENCREST DINER Steaks • Chops • Seafood Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner Late Night Snacks 226-1010 330 W. Montauk Hwy., Lindenhurst Serving our community with pride since 1985!	GOT PRO-LIFE INFO? CHECK OUT ProlifeED.org	Donald H. Zuber Painting Inside and Out Paper Hanging (631) 225-9452
---	---	--

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible (NEXT Edition)
New American Bible Revised Edition
 The Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT Edition was written to enable Catholic youth to grow emotionally and spiritually in their Catholic faith. There are 21 topics addressed through five comprehensive sections. Your Decision/Your Reward, What Does the Bible say About, Roots of Our Faith, Saints Relate, and 1 on 1 with Christ.



Features:
 • Page-edge indexing • Origin, Inspiration and History of the Bible
 • Presentation page • Three-year Cycle of Readings
 • Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation
 • Celebration of the Eucharist

D'Andrea Bros. Funeral Home
 99 Oak Street, Copiague
 Just East of Bayview Avenue
631-691-5700
Serving our friends in our communities with personalized funeral services since 1959.
 Our Directors are
 Beatrice E. Lewanduski
 David D'Andrea and George Wischerth

LONG LIVE LONG ISLAND



Catholic Health
 LongLiveLongIsland.org
 855-247-4500

We provide the highest quality, most innovative care because we see every unique one of you.

C/O The Church Bulletin, Inc. • 200 Dale Street • W. Babylon, NY 11704
 Enclosed please find check/money order for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ (quantity) copies of the Fireside Family Bible, to be shipped post paid to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

IF YOU LIVE ALONE YOU NEED A MEDICAL ALERT AT HOME or AWAY

• GPS • Fall Alert • 24/7-365 Monitoring
 Ambulance • Police • Fire • Family Friends



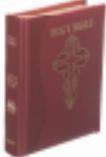
MDMedAlert™
 AS LOW AS **\$19⁹⁵** /month
 No Contract • No Fees • 1-2 Setup • md-medalert.com **CALL 800 867-7250**

Fireside Catholic Heritage Edition Bible

The Catholic Heritage Edition in the New American Bible Revised Edition translation is the ideal Catholic Family Bible.

Features: Our Catholic Family, Family Record section and Burgundy padded cover with gold-gilded page edges.

Only \$69.99 post paid



George Holub, Computer Surgeon
 Cellphone: (631) 236-3119

The Computer Surgeons
 "We Make Your Computer Healthy Again"
 PO Box 13141, Hauppauge, NY 11788
 (631) 240-4600 Fax (631) 242-8084
 www.thecomputersurgeons.com

C/O The Church Bulletin, Inc. 200 Dale Street • W. Babylon, NY 11704
 Enclosed please find check/money order for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ (quantity) copies of the Fireside Family Bible, to be shipped post paid to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please Patronize Our Advertisers

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL
 41 Union Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701
631-264-7166
 www.smtschool.org
Call for a Tour Today!
 2 year old program, Nursery.

Pre-K (5 full day, Extended Day or 1/2 day)
 Kindergarten-Eighth Grade
 Before and After Care
 Sports (CMSAA), Clubs,
 Student Government, State of the Art Technology,
 Math Olympiads, SMART Technology,
 National Jr Honor Society,
 Performing & Fine Art Programs, K Builders

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
 Providing over 90 years of Catholic Education and Academic Excellence

Spanish Bible Latinoamericana Translation
Nuestra Biblia Católica Familiar

This deluxe padded cover Bible is a classic Spanish Edition featuring the popular Catholic Latinoamericana translation.

Features: Gold-gilded pages, Scripture Readings for Our Wedding Day, Padded covers and gold embossing, Stories of Christmas and Easter and Presentation page

Burgundy padded cover..... \$56.99 post paid

C/O The Church Bulletin, Inc. • 200 Dale Street • W. Babylon, NY 11704
 Enclosed please find check/money order for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ (quantity) copies of the Fireside Family Bible, to be shipped post paid to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

FOR INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN THIS PUBLICATION PLEASE CONTACT:

THE CHURCH BULLETIN INC.
(631) 249-4994 or Email- Geosk@aol.com

