

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



*John the Baptist said,
"I am the voice of
one crying out in the desert,
'Make straight the way of the
Lord.' "*

John 1:23

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **December 17, 2017**

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero

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

Business Manager: Mr. Frank Pokorney

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Monsignor Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME IN AND PRAY...

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday and Sunday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

We pray Daytime Prayer each Wednesday at 1:50 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday – Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass (except on Holy Days of Obligation)

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available by making an appointment with one of our priests.

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Church (unless otherwise announced)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday Evening: after OLPH Novena Devotions

Wednesday: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

First Saturday: 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT OLPH MASSES

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent
December 24**

5:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 23;

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

**Christmas Eve
Sunday,
December 24**

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

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

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

**Christmas Day
Monday,
December 25**

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

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

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

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT



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

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

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

No Confessions on Sunday, December 24
(Christmas Eve)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



**Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God**

Monday, January 1, 2018

10:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

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

PASTOR'S PAGE

Third Sunday of Advent

Here we are at the Third Sunday of Advent already, and this Sunday marks an important point in our liturgical season.

It is Advent joy that is the overwhelming and prominent characteristic of the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*. Some expressions of that joy can 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. 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 always" and "in all circumstances give thanks." It might be a good spiritual exercise in the week ahead to reflect on the presence of joy in your life: what makes you joyful, and what should you be joyful and thankful about in your life, because of the gifts God has given you?

The theme of rejoicing is echoed in the Collect (opening prayer) of the Mass, 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"

Also, since this Sunday is 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 reference to the feast of the Lord's Nativity in the Collect of the Mass gives evidence of this. Another way the Church marks these days of late Advent time is 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; be sure to use these antiphons in your prayer this week. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

Allow me to remind you of the interesting and unique situation we have next weekend: we all have to attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, to fulfill the Sunday obligation, and then we must all return to attend Mass for Christmas and fulfill that obligation. So:

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

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

The most important thing to remember is that **there is no "two-for-one" that applies here; you cannot have one Mass fulfill a "double duty"!** For example, coming to Mass on Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. does NOT satisfy both the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation at the same time. You have to come twice, once for each celebration. Think through your Mass attendance now so you are sure to fulfill both obligations.

What about the weekend after that, and January 1?

Sunday, December 31 is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, so we fulfill the Sunday obligation for that day by attending either the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 30 or any one of the Sunday Masses on the 31st, namely, 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon or 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31. (Here, unlike the weekend before, the Sunday Mass counts for Sunday, not for Monday.)

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

It's stuff like this that makes being Catholic fun, isn't it?!?

PASTOR'S PAGE

Brick Memorialization, Phase Three

As you can see from the flyer we are running in the bulletin, it's here — the much-asked-for and highly-anticipated Phase Three of our Brick Memorialization! We're happy to continue this endeavor which was so successful in the past, and we hope many, many people will support it. It's an important fund raiser for our parish, in addition to being a very beautiful spiritual exercise.

Notice that you have your choice this time around: you can take a brick along our Walkway to the Blessed Mother (we'll pick up where we left off in Phase Two), or you can take a brick in the little prayer garden at our new "Let the Children Come to Me" statue — or you can do both! If you already have a brick along the Walkway to the Blessed Mother, why not take one now at the "Let the Children Come to Me" statue? You'll be helping us out by doing so. Thanks to all who have supported and will support this program.

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 the Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent — the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 23, and the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses on Sunday, December 24 (but this year not the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday—see above). Bring your figure of the Christ Child from your crèche (Nativity scene) at home and bring it forward when requested during Mass to be blessed.

Extra times for Confessions

Notice elsewhere in the bulletin that we are making available extra times for Confessions: 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday night, December 19, and an extended period on Saturday, December 23, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., when all three of us priests will be available (note the special time, which is different from a usual Saturday).

I do hope that you will take advantage of one of these times, or one of our usual times, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially if you have been away for a long time. What a wonderful way to "prepare the way of the Lord" and to get ready to celebrate Christmas! Nothing will feel 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

This Friday night, December 22, is our annual Christmas Pageant, run under the auspices of our Family Life Ministry, and involving mainly (though not exclusively!) children of the parish. This is always such a fun-filled and heart-warming presentation, and I thoroughly enjoy being a part of it each year. It starts at 7:00 in the church, so be sure to set the night aside to join us.

Ministry Directory

I'm proud to announce that we have a new tool in our ongoing efforts to increase involvement and engagement in the life of the parish. We have compiled a Ministry Directory. This Directory lists all the different ministries, societies and organizations in the parish, giving a brief description of each one and also giving the information as to how anyone can become involved. I'm grateful to Chris Ferraro who spearheaded this project, did the hands-on work to make it happen, and who brought it to successful conclusion.

In order to give it the widest possible circulation, we will be handing it out to everyone as they leave our Christmas Masses. We will have a special Christmas bulletin which the ushers will be handing out, and we'll have extra offerers to hand out the Ministry Directory at the same time. Then, on into the future, we'll also hand out the Ministry Directory to new parishioners when they register and join the parish, so they can see all the great things going on here that make OLPH "the place to be," and also to encourage them to become active and involved.

Look for this Ministry Directory at Christmas Mass and be sure to take one home.

Prepare now to be kind to the crowds!

It's time for my annual reminder: let's be kind to all the extra folks who will be coming to Christmas Masses. Yes, the crowds can be a little inconvenient, but we have to be glad that the people are coming, and we "regulars" must do all we can to create a climate of hospitality and welcome. We

hope and pray that all the folks will come to Mass more regularly, and we can say for sure that if they receive a rude comment or look from us, chances are they will definitely not be back. So, let's do all we can to come to our Christmas Masses with good cheer, smiles on our faces, and an attitude of welcome and greeting — even if someone comes in and sits in “your” seat!

Let's all continue to pray for the day when we have to deal with the “problem” of such high attendance numbers on a weekly basis, instead of just a few times each year!

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,



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH



We'll again be celebrating our own “Bambinelli Sunday” here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23-24**. You are invited to bring to Mass that weekend your figure of the Christ Child from your home crèche (Nativity scene). We'll offer a blessing of these figurines at all the Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent that weekend. Don't forget to bring your Christ Child figure to Sunday Mass December 23-24! (Note that this does not apply to the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 24...that Mass is the Vigil of Christmas!)

THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIALS



*“Special thanks
to Susan Matejov*

*who memorialized the new thurible and boat
in Loving Memory of Joan and Bob Taylor*

and the new thurible stand

in Loving Memory of Richard J. Matejov.”

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

SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 14, 2018

All parish leaders and heads of all ministries, societies and organizations, and anyone in the parish who has taken the Strengths Finder Survey to learn about your Top Five Strengths, should save the date of **the afternoon of Saturday, April 14, 2018**. That's when we will hold our next Parish Leadership Meeting and include all parishioners who have taken the Strengths Finder survey. We'll discuss the process we are using to build engagement in the life of the parish and do important planning for the future direction of the parish. Don't miss it, and mark your calendar now! Invitation letters and more details will follow in the coming months.

—Msgr. Joe

Context, Intellection, Input, Learner, Harmony

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Prayer for Peace

Please join us for a special Holy Hour devoted to praying for world peace within our own country and throughout the world. **This Holy Hour for Peace, with prayers focusing on the intention of peace, will be held on the second, third and fourth Sunday evenings of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The Holy Hour of Reparation which has been held on the first Sunday of the month will continue every first Sunday evening as usual, with the prayers that are usually said for that first Sunday Holy Hour.



Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Following the Novena prayers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place. The evening concludes with veneration of a relic of St. Catherine Laboure. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Monday, December 18—7:00 p.m.

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

Monday, January 1—No Devotions

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards



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

Evening Prayer



All are invited to pray Evening Prayer on Saturdays and Sundays after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Here we pray the psalms, listen to the Word of God and give thanks to God for the blessings of the day. Evening Prayer is usually about ten to fifteen minutes in length.

So come and pray...

**Saturdays
and Sundays
After the 5:00 p.m. Mass**

"The Liturgy of the Hours is intended to become the prayer of the whole People of God. In it Christ himself 'continues his priestly work through his Church....Pastors of souls should see to it that the principal hours, especially Vespers (Evening Prayer) are celebrated in common in church on Sundays and on the more solemn feasts.'"

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1175

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."

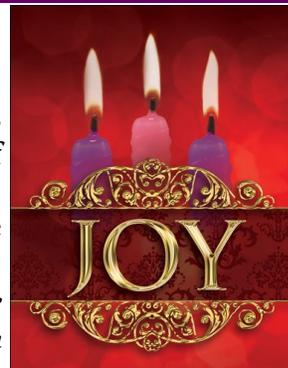
On December 19 pray: "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid."

On December 20 pray: "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom."

On December 21 pray: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death."

On December 22 pray: "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust."

On December 23 pray: "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God."



THIRD WEEK OF 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



FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant Friday, December 22, 2017 7:00 p.m. Church



We would like to involve as many members of our parish community, especially all parish children! We have many speaking parts for children who can memorize a few lines and speak loudly and clearly. There are roles for: Mary, Joseph, Herod, Three Kings, Innkeeper, Angels and of course the shepherds.

Please indicate if your child is interested in having a speaking role. Parts will be given out at the first rehearsal, so anyone wishing to have a speaking part must be able to attend all rehearsals. There is something for children of every age!

College Students (especially those coming home for Christmas) and Adults: We need help with supervision of angels and shepherds, assistance with hospitality and more! If you can help, please contact Trish Buckley at 631-561-5790 or e-mail buckleyt@optonline.net.



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

Pageant Practices:

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

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Grade _____

_____ My child is interested in having a speaking role!

FRIENDS OF MUSIC



“The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.”

- *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #112*

The *Friends of Music* is an annual initiative to support the music ministry here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. With the generosity of our *Friends*, we are able to continue to offer beautiful music for our liturgies and concerts and special programs throughout the year. As we approach the end of the year, we especially thank all of our 2017 *Friends of Music* at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for their generosity.

St. Cecilia (\$350 and above)

- ◆ Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, *In memory of Marsille and William S. DeGrocco*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Ferraro
- ◆ Mr. Anthony J. Pellarin, *In memory of Frances M. Pellarin*
- ◆ Mrs. Annette Walsh, *In memory of Mary Beth Walsh and in honor of Kevin Walsh*
- ◆ Mrs. Annette Walsh, *In honor of Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco*

St. Gregory the Great (\$200 to \$349)

- ◆ Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton, *In memory of Richard and Catherine Liston Hamilton*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jacobs, *In memory of Grace Jimenez*
- ◆ Mrs. Sheila Lanza
- ◆ Ms. Daphney J. Olivier
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Powers
- ◆ Mrs. Mary V. Savino, *In memory of Michael P. Savino*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tapinis, *In memory of Sylvia Tapinis*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. James Totino, *In honor of Mom and Dad*

St. Augustine (\$100 to \$199)

- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. David Barrett, *In memory of Ryan Barrett*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Corticchia
- ◆ Mrs. Joan Hosey, *In memory of Philip Hosey*
- ◆ Mr. James Kendall
- ◆ Mrs. Janina Soroka, *In memory of John Soroka and Maria and Anthony Jankowsky*
- ◆ Mr. Stephen Strigaro, *In memory of Deceased Members of the K of C and Holy Name Society*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. Vilardi

St. Ambrose (\$50 to \$99)

- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beyrer
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cheddie, *In honor of Valerie Singh*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ferraro, *In honor of The Ferraro Family*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Flesher, *In memory of Aniello Bolestow Zdynczyk*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Ottmar Keller, *In memory of Frank Keller Levesque*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Richard Haas, *In memory of Samuel Yannone and Bernadette Sinnott*
- ◆ Mrs. Patricia Little, *In memory of Jane Doyle Gustafson*
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Dick Singh
- ◆ Mrs. Elzbieta Zdunczyk, *In memory of Evelina, Jozefa and Stanislaw Kuligowski*

St. Hildegard of Bingen (\$25 to \$49)

- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Corazon F. Andres, *In memory of Carolina P. Bareng*
- ◆ Mrs. Patricia Dow, *In memory of William Dow*
- ◆ Knights of Columbus Council 794 Ladies Auxiliary, *In memory of Deceased Members of the Ladies Auxiliary*
- ◆ The Sajkowski Family, *In memory of Linda Marentes-Sajkoski*

Cherubim (up to \$24)

- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. William Kienle, *In memory of Phyllis G. Coppola*
- ◆ Miss Angela Zoccali, *In memory of Angela Del Bianco and Nancy Zoccali*

**Join the 2018 *Friends of Music* at OLPH and be a part of our music history!
Contact Chris Ferraro - cferraro@oloph.org for more information.**

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Monday: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Friday: CLOSED
 Saturday: By Appointment

Level 8:

There WILL BE CLASS
Monday December 18!
Make sure to bring in your
Workbook to be checked
before the break!

Levels 6-7:

There will be
NO CLASSES
Wednesday,
December 20,
due to the
Christmas Break

Levels 1-5:

There will be
NO CLASSES
Saturday,
December 23,
due to the
Christmas Break

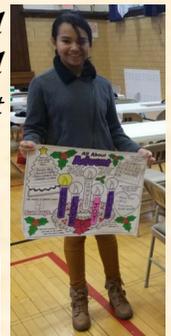


Saint of the Day

St. Begga (Feast Day: December 17)

Begga was the daughter of Pepin of Landen, mayor of the palace, and St. Itta. She married Ansegilius, son of St. Arnulf of Metz. Their son was Pepin of Herstal, founder of the Carolingian dynasty of rulers in France. On the death of her husband in the year 691, she built a church and convent at Andenne on the Meuse River, and this wound up being the place of her death.

On December 9, a snowy Saturday morning, Level 4 students and their parents gathered for an Advent Workshop. They learned about the Jesse Tree and Advent Wreath and enjoyed reflective prayer. They created a Jesse Tree ornament and did an Advent Wreath coloring activity.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631 225-9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Community Meal: Gigi Gracey—631.943.0095—gigigracey1962@gmail.com—Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Golden Age Society: Dolores Barone—631.957.3432
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631. 921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O’Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Bernard League: Deacon Doug Smith—631-226-7725—dsmith4475@aol.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Deborah Deasy—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Fran Grasso—631.956.3003—sixfingers13@gmail.com
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org—Caroline Grogan—631.225.7688—straightclaw@optonline.net

NEW Food Pantry List!

- CANNED MEATS**
- PASTA SAUCE**
- BAKED BEANS**
- CANNED FRUIT**
- JELLY OR JAM**
- SMALL JUICES**
- HOT CEREAL**
- COFFEE**
- SHELF STABLE MILK**
- WATER**

NO PASTA AT THIS TIME, PLEASE.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Cut out this list and bring it with you when you go shopping!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in Room 24 of the School

Use Parking Lot located

on corner of Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon

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

In today’s Gospel John the Baptist says, “I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord.” Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give 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.

† A LIVING MEMORIAL

THANK YOU!!! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul OLPH Conference wishes to thank those who have supported our Living Memorial Card program. Your donations are used to offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering within our parish.

Memorial donation envelopes are available on the pew ledges, in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. A beautiful memorial card acknowledging your donation is sent to the bereaved.

Please contact Janet Hume at the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for further information.

OUR MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Long Island is part of an international organization of Catholic laymen and women who join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, Saint Vincent de Paul.



"Those who love the poor in life will have nothing to fear in death..."
- Saint Vincent de Paul

As a Living Memorial to the life of

A donation has been made by

To the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Long Island

Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY DONATIONS

We are in need of the following items:

Men's pants (jeans & sweat pants) - larger sizes
 Women's new underwear (sizes 5,6,7)
 Heavy hoodies - L to 3 XL
 Winter hats (skull type)/gloves - men & women
 Sneakers - 10, 11, 11.5, 12, 13, 15
 Shampoo - 1.5 oz
 Lotion - 1.5 oz
 Deodorant
 Lip balm
 Back packs
 Gently used tents
 Waterproof blankets

If it is easier, we can always use Kmart gift cards (and the like) or financial donations, and we'll do the shopping.

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office from 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. daily and 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. on the weekends.

MIDDLE AGES

**Are you a woman
in your late 40s, 50s, or early 60s?**

**Tuesday, January 2 –
in Room 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

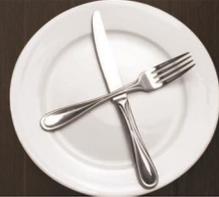
Meetings are usually held on the first and third weeks of the month in Room 24 of the “new” school. For more information, call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or e-mail at gtonness@optonline.net.

SENIOR MOMENTS

*Give yourself a Challenge
The Senior Moments Ministry is a committed
spiritual family who meet once a month
on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.*

Tuesday, January 9
 Fran Grasso—631-956-3003
sixfingers13@gmail.com

There is a
place for
you at
our table...



COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

OLPH's **Community Meal Ministry** has served hundreds of meals to members of our parish community. Generally held each month, the Community Meal seeks to provide a place of good food, good fellowship and good times for all who come!

*Our next Community Meal is
Sunday, December 17
Come and pray with us at the
12:00 p.m. Mass then join us
for “Sunday Dinner” at 1:00 p.m.*

THE BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE

**Ugly Sweater Contest?
We've got the WINNER!!**



Stop by for great Christmas decorations, ornaments, gifts, and CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST WINNERS! Our prices are the lowest around. New merchandise every week.

**THE
bluedoor
BOUTIQUE**

HOURS OF OPERATION
 M, W, F 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 SAT. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Donations gratefully accepted whenever the shop is open. Please no toys, stuffed animals, books or electric items.

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.

Third Announcement:

*Justin Guzman & Jennifer Dean
Jacob Boyke & Bridget Wednelken*

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

Kayla Elizabeth Keller

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

WE REMEMBER

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

*Eduardo Berrios
Robert C. Long
Nunzio Conti
Kathleen Mandel
Joan Loretta Serra
Vittorio Insigne
James Schiavone*

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

BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE

If the announced intention at Mass is for your intention, or if you have memorialized the bread and wine, and you would like to carry those offerings forward at the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, please be sure to let the ushers know this before the Mass begins. They will be happy to have you do this. If no one steps forward to specifically request this, then they will select people from the assembly.



WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Helga Popko</i>	<i>Herb Otten</i>
<i>Joseph Chiusa Jr.</i>	<i>Christine Donovan</i>
<i>Kathleen Stanton</i>	<i>Marguerite Danaher</i>
<i>Jerry Caporaso</i>	<i>Mario A. Lotito</i>
<i>Joan Caporaso</i>	<i>Josephine Palazzolo</i>
<i>Catherine Lang</i>	<i>Fr Andrew Apostoli CFR</i>
<i>Peter Masak</i>	<i>Agostino Pecoraro</i>
<i>Dolores Rossetti</i>	<i>Constance Mango</i>
<i>Robert Stoss</i>	<i>Ronald Higgins</i>
<i>Ted Zimms</i>	<i>Beta Konopka</i>
<i>Connie Bulzomi</i>	<i>Shawn Matthews</i>
<i>Douglas Ferraro</i>	<i>Jennifer Kienle</i>
<i>Ronnie Buonpastore</i>	<i>Linda Barresi</i>
<i>Reynold Ruiz</i>	

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

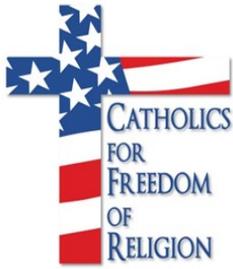
Those who are seriously ill or facing surgery, as well as those in danger of death, should receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Parish Office and ask for one of our priests.

If you or a family member are ill and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. One of our parish priests will come visit you and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Community will then visit each week.

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



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Pro-Life Free Speech Case:

The Supreme Court agreed to hear a critical First Amendment challenge to a California law that forces life-affirming pregnancy centers to advertise/promote abortions. Under threat of ruinous fines, the CA law requires pro-life pregnancy resource centers to post signs notifying patients where and how they can receive state taxpayer-funded abortions. The law applies to hundreds of privately funded pregnancy centers and medical clinics.

"California's threat ... counts among the most flagrant violations of constitutional religious and free speech rights in the nation," said pro-life NIFLA founder.

"Forcing anyone to provide free advertising for the abortion industry is unthinkable—especially when the government is doing the forcing," said Alliance Defending Freedom. "The state should protect freedom of speech and freedom from coerced speech. Information about abortion is just about everywhere, so the government doesn't need to punish pro-life centers for declining to advertise for the very act they can't promote."

"If you can't force the American Lung Associate to promote cigarettes and tell people to buy them, you certainly can't force pro-life organizations to direct people to taxpayer-subsidized abortions," wrote Melanie Israel in the Daily Signal. (dailysignal.com, 11/13/17; lifesitenews.com, 11/13/17; usatoday.com, 11/14/17)

"If the freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." George Washington

DAILY VIDEO ADVENT REFLECTIONS



ADVENT:
Christ in The Crowd

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

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

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

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

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

The 2018 Longest Married Couple in the U.S. Do you think you know who they are? Maybe it's your parents... grandparents... That nice couple who live down the street... Nominating a couple is easy! Just send their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact information to: Email: bkberland@gmail.com Regular mail: Bryan & Karen Berland, 530 S. Academy Guthrie, OK 73044 Or by special phone 405-850-4274. Nominations accepted until January 10, 2018. Winners will be announced February 2018 to celebrate World Marriage Day.

Become A Big Brother or Sister! In just a few hours a month, you can impact a child's future. By simply grabbing a slice of pizza, taking a trip to the library or to the park you can make a difference in the life of a child. What is a "Big?" A "Big" is a volunteer mentor who is matched in a one-to-one relationship with a child ("Little") in our program. A mentor is a friend, a supporter, a positive and consistent addition to the life of a "Little." A Big Brother or Big Sister is not a replacement parent, a babysitter or a therapist. Children need someone to help share a different perspective on life and help them realize their endless potential. Take the first step! Visit: www.bbbsli.org/become-a-big/ or call 516-731-7880 x212.

"Moving On" Group, an after bereavement group for Widows and Widowers will conduct a **'Do It Yourself' Workshop**, presented by Home Depot, Friday, January 12th @ 7:30 p.m. Church of St. Joseph Parish Center, 39 North Carll Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702. For further information please call Geri Olson at 631-661-8994.

Holy Trinity Diocesan High School Spring Driver Education begins on February 1st. There are still openings available in classes before and after school and on Saturdays. The application and schedule are available at holyltrinityhs.org (click on *STUDENT LIFE*). If you have any questions please call (516) 433 – 2900 or email us at drived@holyltrinityhs.org. We'll be happy to help you work out a schedule that is best for you.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD." Let us learn to serve our spouses by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are **February 9-11, 2018** in Huntington, NY and **April 27-29, 2018** in Huntington, NY. For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit them at <http://www.wwmeli.org>.

Retreat in Assisi and visit to Rome — June 15-25, 2018, Led by Msgr. James McNamara: Do a special retreat in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi June 15-25, 2018. Msgr. McNamara will give two conferences a day for six days in Assisi, with Mass each day in the various churches. There will be ample time for prayer and visiting the holy places. The entire city of Assisi will become the retreat house! Group will be staying at the Hotel Posta in Assisi and then spend three days in Rome at Domus Carmelitana, not far from St. Peter's. For further information you can access the brochure at www.pilgrimimages.com/frmcnamara All arrangements are being made by 206 Tours and you register through them. You can call Chris at 206 Tours, (800) 206-8687 or email him at Chris@206tours.com.

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The WALK Results are in!

We are so proud to announce the **9th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk**, held on September 30th at Bethpage Community Park, was our most successful one to date! With **831** walkers and over **\$173,000** in monies raised, our goals of increasing awareness and the ability to assist more individuals and families were realized. OLPH SVDP Conference received **\$2,436** from funds collected from our **21** walkers and the weekend collection after Masses. **THANK YOU!**

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 18— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Margaret Brogan

12:15 Maureen Heuer

TUESDAY, December 19— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Paul Santoro

12:15 Eugenio Prisco

WEDNESDAY, December 20— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Nicholas Rocco Perretta

12:15 Harold Hejna

THURSDAY, December 21— Late Advent Weekday (Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church)

6:30 Nicholas Rocco Perretta

12:15 John W. Stoker

FRIDAY, December 22— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Nicholas Rocco Perretta

12:15 Marilyn Donangelo

SATURDAY, December 23— Late Advent Weekday

8:00 Vito Lanza

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 Michelle Quevedo

Sunday, December 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 The Pecere/Taliercio Family

10:00 For the People of the Parish

12:00 Maureen Heuer

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS VIGIL

5:00 Dominick De Girolamo

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS

12:00 For the People of the Parish
Midnight

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 18, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
7:00 p.m.	Devotions	Church
7:15 p.m.	Level 8 Classes	School

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

5:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Church
6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:45 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Room 18
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
1:45 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 10

Thursday, December 21, 2017

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
5:30 p.m.	Pageant Rehearsal	Church
6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball Practice	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class for Parents	Room 16
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24
8:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball Coordinators	Room 22

Friday, December 22, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
9:00 a.m.	Outdoor Christmas Decorating	Outside
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant	Church

Saturday, December 23, 2017

11:15 a.m.	Altar Server Rehearsal	Church
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	Decorate for Christmas	Church
1:30 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, December 24, 2017

**ALL OFFICES ARE CLOSED AND ACTIVITIES
CANCELLED FOR CHRISTMAS. THE RECTORY
RECEPTION DESK WILL CLOSE AT 12:00 NOON AND
WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY DECEMBER 26TH AT 9:00**

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO ISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

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

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

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

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

Liturgia Viva del Solemnidad de la Natividad del Señor

En nuestro tiempo Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su propio Hijo-luz radiante de la gloria de Dios-, por medio del cual hizo todas las cosas. Que este Hijo, Jesucristo el Señor, esté siempre con ustedes.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 52,7-10): **La Buena Noticia de Liberación.** Dios anuncia la liberación a su pueblo cautivo. Esta liberación nos alcanza a nosotros hoy por medio de Jesús.

Segunda Lectura (Hebreos 1,1-6): **Ahora Dios nos Habla por medio de su Hijo**

Dios ha hablado con frecuencia al pueblo, desde la venida de su Hijo a la tierra, él nos habla a traves de su palabra definitiva, en Jesús apreciamos lo que significa Dios y quién es Dios.

Evangelio (Juan 1,1-18): **Y el Verbo se Hizo Hombre**

El evangelista Juan nos habla del misterio de Jesús: Él es la imagen del Padre, su Palabra se hizo hombre, su luz disipa nuestra oscuridad, Dios vive entre nosotros. ¿Le aceptamos nosotros el amor de Dios tan grande manifestado en Cristo Jesús

¡Feliz Navidad! La Navidad es el desconcierto de Dios, que se hace presente en un niño necesitado de cariño, de una madre, de calor. Dios necesita de los hombres y nosotros necesitamos de Él, es Dios quien hoy, se hace pequeño para engrandecer al hombre. En ese niño se encuentran lo divino y lo humano, se encarna para que a partir de ahora, sepamos que estamos llamados a ser divinos, a aspirar a los bienes de allá arriba. Este niño no es, un mito o una leyenda urbana, es un eterno presente. Juan parece que quiere hacernos ver, que se inicia algo totalmente nuevo, una nueva creación. En el principio se creó todo por la palabra: “Por medio de la palabra se hizo todo”, Dios en el Génesis, crea todo con su palabra, da nombre a las cosas, su palabra se cumple. Pero ahora esa palabra se encarna, entra en la historia, se hace carne, se hace hombre. Juan insiste en la carne, quizás para no quedarse en algo tan espiritual, que este al margen de la historia. Es verdad, que la encarnación de Dios tiene algo de misterio, que se contempla y adora, pero Él, se ha tomado tan en serio al hombre, que se ha hecho uno de nosotros

“En la Palabra había vida, y la vida era la luz de los hombres. La luz brilla en las tiniebla. La Palabra era la luz verdadera, que alumbra a todo hombre”. Él viene como luz para todos nosotros, que en demasiadas ocasiones, nos sentimos abrumados por la oscuridad. En medio de esa noche, de la intemperie que padecemos en nuestro mundo, en un ambiente poco propicio, una cultura o sociedad que sólo ve las luces de colores, se nos presenta como a los pastores, de forma provocadora y distinta, que se muestra en lo sencillo, en la alegría de Belén, donde los ángeles cantan ante un niño débil.



SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Patti Chavis, Parish Secretary	212	pchavis@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Frank Pokorney, Business Manager	204	fpokorney@oloph.org
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jean Bjork
Tricia Buckley (Chair)
Eileen Corticchia
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Greg Guido
Sonia Hansen
Joselyn Kalt
Melissa McLaughlin
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
James Totino
Peter Triolo
Adele Venezia

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
Bill Bendernagel
Gerry Chille (Chair)
Ed Cirella
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Bob Meade
Frank Pokorney
John Reynolds
Sandra Tandoi

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

**OFFERING UPDATE
Dec. 9/10, 2017**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	271	130	\$3,181.00
8:00 a.m.	243	101	2,805.00
10:00 a.m.	453		3,010.00
12:00 p.m.	442	127	3,080.00
5:00 p.m.	400	50	1,976.00
Coin			21.25
Mail-ins:			1,149.00
Children's Env.		15	31.47
Faith Direct			2,380.00
TOTAL	1,809	423	\$17,633.72
2016 total	1,773	624	\$18,369.50
Candles			\$1,132.62
Poor Box			\$460.45
Immaculate Conception			\$5,088.36
Religious Retirement			\$1,921.00

**HELP DECORATE
THE CHURCH
FOR CHRISTMAS**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 23 at 1:00 p.m. We would love to have lots of folks come on down to pitch in. Why not join the fun and come down to help? It's a great thing to do together as a family! It should not take much longer than an hour or so. We appreciate whatever help you can give us.

HELP WANTED!

**HELP TAKE DOWN THE
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!**

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on **Monday, January 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the church.** We could use as many helpers as possible to make the job go quickly and easily. Just come on down and lend a hand!

**DEADLINES FOR
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**December 24— passed
December 31— December 22
January 7—December 29**



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

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

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

God Bless You,

PREPARING FOR Sunday, December 24, 2017—**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” Luke 1:30-31

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

At this point in his career, David has defeated his enemies, reunited the twelve tribes of Israel into one nation and established Jerusalem as his capital. He wants to do something really big for God in building him a huge Temple in Jerusalem. Through the prophet Nathan, God says, “Thank you, but no thanks.” God reminds David in no uncertain terms who is running the show. Nathan speaks to King David a very important message from God: he will give David an everlasting line of descendants. “I will build you a house (a dynasty) from which a line shall endure forever.” This passage marks the beginning of Israel’s messianic hope which eventually centers on one individual descendant of David, namely, Jesus.

Romans 16:25-27

We hear in this short reading the concluding verses to a long doctrinal epistle. They appear to have been selected for their reference to the “mystery” which was hidden for all ages but which is now made manifest. The “mystery” is God’s plan for the salvation of all people without distinction. Jesus is at the center of this plan.

Luke 1:26-38

What God promised to David in the first reading concerning his everlasting dynasty is to come to full flower in Jesus’ person and mission. The Gospel is a “greeting card” of sorts, a birth announcement addressed to a waiting world. The child’s name is Jesus. But unlike modern day birth announcements which usually feature the child’s date of birth, weight, length, etc., Jesus’ birth announcement makes known his purpose and mission, namely, salvation for his people. Unlike any other child before or after him, this child will be both human (born of Mary) and divine (born of the Spirit). Mary wonders how all this can happen to her, a virgin. She is told not to worry, for “nothing is impossible with God.”

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 18, 2017:

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

Tuesday, December 19, 2017:

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
+ Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20, 2017:

Isaiah 7:10-14 + Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21, 2017:

Song of Songs 2:8-14 + Luke 1:39-45

Friday, December 22, 2017:

1 Samuel 1:24-28 + Luke 46-56

Saturday, December 23, 2017:

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
+ Luke 1:57-66

Sunday, December 24, 2017:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
+ Romans 16:25-27
+ Luke 1:26-38

Gospel Reflection Questions....

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

1. Why would an infinite God wait for a human “yes” to enter the human race? Why didn’t he just come to us on his own? Can you relate to Mary’s unconditional “yes” to God, or is your yes conditional? If you do say yes, will God come take up residence in your life?

2. In a General Audience on Oct. 23, 2013, Pope Francis spoke of Mary as a model of faith, after giving her “yes” to the announcement from the angel Gabriel.

“Our Lady also wants to bring the great gift of Jesus to us, to us all; and with him she brings us his love, his peace, and his joy. In this, the Church is like Mary: the Church is not a shop, she is not a humanitarian agency, the Church is not an NGO. The Church is sent to bring Christ and his Gospel to all. She does not bring herself —whether small or great, strong or weak, the Church carries Jesus and should be like Mary when she went to visit Elizabeth. What did Mary take to her? Jesus. The Church brings Jesus: this is the center of the Church, to carry Jesus! ... The Church must bring Jesus, the love of Jesus, the charity of Jesus. ... Is it the love of Jesus that shares, that forgives, that accompanies, or is it a watered-down love, like wine so diluted that it seems like water?”

*Pope Francis General Audience,
2b, St Peter’s Square, October 23, 2013*

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