

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



myParish app!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 4.



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

Luke 1:42

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018

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

Mondays 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

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

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

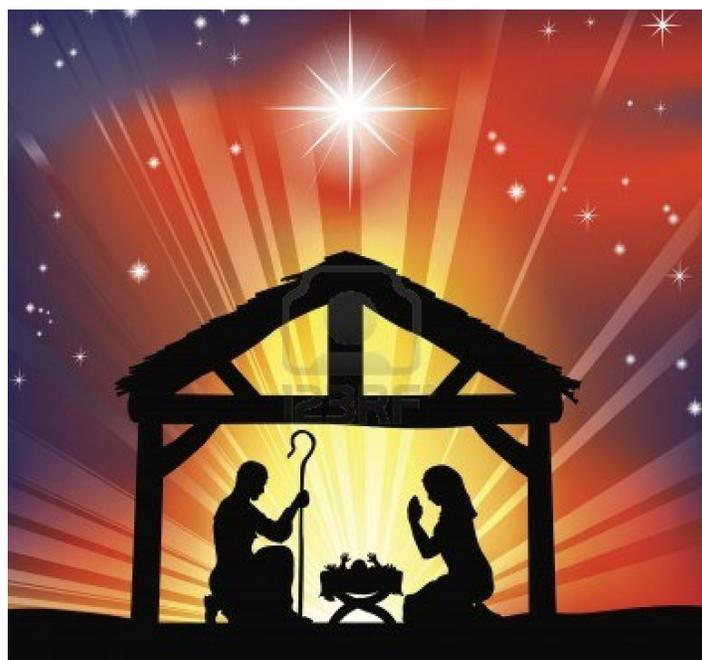
*Christmas Carols begin
at 4:30 & 11:15 p.m.*

Christmas Day

Tuesday, 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.*



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mass Schedule:

Eve of the Solemnity,

Monday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019:
10:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.**

PASTOR'S PAGE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

So, we have arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and this year it brings with it a very, very (very!) short Fourth Week of Advent, what with Christmas Time starting Monday evening (only in years such as last year, when December 24 is a Sunday, can there be a shorter Fourth Week of Advent!).

Even though it is brief, there is much spiritual wealth to be found in the last hours of Advent. The Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, from St. Luke, gives us for the second time in Advent the story of Elizabeth and Mary encountering each other. We refer to the mother of Jesus as the "Blessed Mother." Here, Elizabeth notes Mary's blessedness when she cries out, in the Spirit, that her cousin is "blessed." Mary is blessed in two ways: first, because she has demonstrated an exquisite faith in God; second, because she is the chosen one who will bring the Son of God into the world.

Take note, too, of what the second reading at Mass is telling us. In this selection from the letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded that Jesus, the ultimate Sacrifice, has offered His body as the once and final sacrifice to redeem all. So, this passage reminds us that the Incarnation is directly tied to the redemption.

The nearness of the celebration of the feast of the Incarnation (the Word becoming flesh) — Christmas — is acknowledged in the Prayer after Communion in the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, as we pray to the Father that "*we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.*"

See you back very soon!

So, we'll see you back soon, for your participation in one of our Christmas Masses — 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24, or at Midnight Mass, or at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 Noon on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25. Yes, indeed, it's lots of time in church in a short period of time! But, hey... when you get right down to it, is there really any better place for us to spend our time?

Don't forget about January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Remember, too, that Tuesday of next week, January 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation — the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. So, next weekend you'll again be at Mass twice in a short amount of time! See the schedule of Masses for the Holy Day elsewhere in the bulletin. What a great way to begin the new calendar year — with a Solemnity dedicated to Our Blessed Mother...so that we might entrust the upcoming year to her maternal intercession. How appropriate especially for us, under the patronage of Mary as Our Lady of Perpetual Help!

Brick Memorialization

I again remind you that our brick memorialization program is ongoing. You can memorialize a brick in our "Let the Children Come to Me Prayer Garden." We are continuing to run the flyer and the form in our bulletin, so take advantage of the opportunity as soon as you can. It could make a great last-minute Christmas gift, right? It's a great way to memorialize a prayer intention, or to honor a deceased loved one. The profits from the bricks continue to be an important help in easing our ongoing financial struggles.

We get free shipping when we order bricks in batches of 100, so we will wait until we have 100 orders, and then we will send them out for engraving and, upon their return, have them installed. Tell family and friends about this; remember, you don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH, or even Catholic, to memorialize a brick!

Ministry Directory

Keep in mind that an update of the Ministry Directory is being prepared in time for Christmas this year (it may already be available; it wasn't finished at the time of the writing of this column, due to an early deadline for submitting this column, but it will definitely be ready by the time of our Christmas Masses). With this updated version, in an effort to use resources in the most judicious way possible, we are printing only a small number of hard copies,

to keep on hand in the rectory; the new version will be available on line at our website (as the current one is), and everyone is invited to refer to it there or download it and print it out from there. It will also be available on our Parish App. Make sure you check out the updated Ministry Directory, which lists and describes all the ministries, organizations and societies at OLPH, and which tells how to get involved; you will see why OLPH is "the place to be!"

Christmas Bulletin

We will have a special Christmas Bulletin available as you leave all the Christmas Masses. Be sure to take one home as they are handed out by the Ushers. I hope this Christmas Bulletin serves as a source of welcome to everyone, and winds up being a great tool to deepen people's connection to the life of the parish, especially people who do not come to Mass on a regular basis.

Prepare now to be kind to the crowds!

Speaking of which, let's all remember to be patient with all the people who will be

coming to our Christmas Masses. Yes, it will be more crowded; yes, parking will be more difficult than usual; yes, there will be people coming who do not come to Mass very often; yes, someone may come and sit it "your" seat. It is our responsibility and our Christian duty to welcome everyone who comes, and to treat them with kindness and charity. Think of it this way: your kind greeting may be the exact thing that convinces someone to come back to Mass more often! At all the Christmas Masses, show everyone why OLPH is "the place to be!"

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,



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"

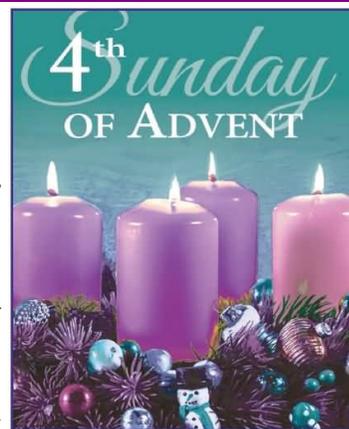
Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week



Each day during the fourth week of Advent, at the evening meal, all four candles are lighted. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candles.

All make the sign of the cross: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Someone at table reads the Scripture assigned to the liturgy of the day (one or both of the readings may be used). See the list of daily readings printed elsewhere in this bulletin. Then the Leader continues:

Leader: **Lift up your hearts.**

All respond: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The Leader prays: **God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these your gifts with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

After the meal, the Leader says: **Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

All respond: **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

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

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Antiphons...

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

***On December 24 pray:* "Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory."**

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

All make the sign of the cross to begin, and then the Leader continues with this greeting:

Leader: Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

All respond: Amen.

Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Then someone proclaims the reading:

Reader: Listen to the words of the letter of St. Paul to Titus: But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord. Our response will be: Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our home, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/

Then the Leader continues: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The lights of the tree are now illuminated. Then the Leader concludes:

Leader: May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

All respond: Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.



BLESSING OF A MANGER/NATIVITY SCENE

*The manger scene is blessed each year on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. All make the sign of the cross and the Leader begins: **Our help is in the name of the Lord.***

*All respond: **Who made heaven and earth.***

Then someone proclaims the reading:

Reader: Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Christmas songs and carols may be sung, for example, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.



A LETTER FROM BISHOP BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2018



To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families! Christmas is a powerful time of unity and communion for our families, and every Christmas is a time for our families to open even more deeply to the healing and transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Holy Family.

The Holy Family not only transformed but revolutionized the world and history through humility, poverty, adoration, and trust in the plan of God, and a complete dedication to the Glory of God.

Mary's silent adoration and awe teaches us to see through everyday human events and appearances to the presence of Christ in every situation. Joseph teaches us rock solid trust and bold docility in the shifting terrain and unexpected events of daily life. The shepherds teach us simplicity, humility and reverent adoration. The Infant Prince of Peace teaches us that God's Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel and the beating heart of the Crèche scene. Mercy is the Foundation of the Church's mission to the world.

We approach the Prince of Peace this Christmas for special gifts of peace in our families, special gifts of peace for our Church and special gifts of peace for the World.

In the Mystery of the Nativity, we marvel and give Glory to God with the Shepherds and the Wise Men. We realize in the image of a poor, homeless family and the image of a poor, vulnerable baby that God's logic in the Incarnation overturns and confounds the narrow logic of human power and calculation. "Families transform the world and history."

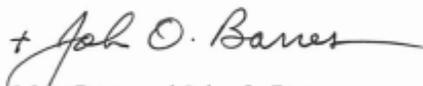
The Holy Family continues to transform our marriages and our families – right in our daily experiences of the joys, crosses, crises and the unresolved issues of every marriage and every family in a fallen world. In the midst of the weaknesses and failures of daily family life, we remember the Glory of God that radiates from the manger lifting our families, despite their daily imperfections, to transform the world and history through faith, holiness and a missionary spirit.

When we pray and meditate on the Crèche at Christmas, we experience a spiritual rebirth and fresh insights into our daily family routine and our daily family spiritual, emotional and relational patterns. We allow the ruts of sin and selfishness in our families to be purified with daily patterns of prayer, grace and conversion. We remember that personal conversion sends ripple effects throughout a family.

The Crèche leads us to a deep experience of Mercy and Forgiveness in our families. And we remember that the confessionals in our churches are "Doors of Mercy" and forgiveness for our families. I invite you to take advantage of the gift of reconciliation by participating in the confessions offered at your parish during this holy season.

During this Christmas season, I want to thank you and your families for transforming the world and history with Christ's love.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

FORMED PICK

The Story of the Nativity

Explore the Birth of Christ

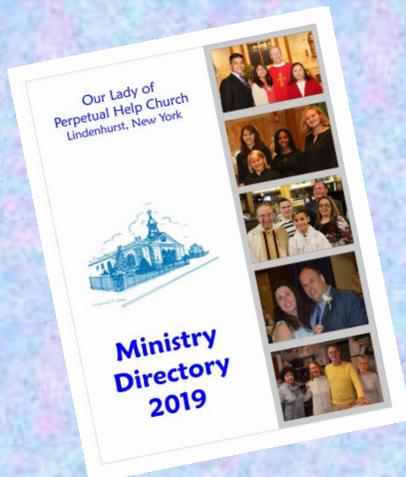
This fast-paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus's origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas.

Watch on formed.org



As a parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, you have complimentary access to FORMED, an incredible gateway to Catholic content, all in one place. Visit our FORMED community website at <https://olphlindenhurst.formed.org>. Click on the "Register Now" icon and create an account. Once registered, you will have free access to the website and also their smart phone app.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIRECTORY!



*Our updated
2019 Ministry Directory
is now available on
our OLPH website
www.olphlindenhurst.com
& on our OLPH App!*

PRAYER & 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. 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 24—

No Devotions due to Christmas

Monday, December 31—

No Devotions due to

the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 7—7:00 p.m.

Lord, Have Mercy: Prayer Intentions for Your Faith Community

You may notice the book *Lord, Have Mercy: Prayer Intentions for Your Faith Community* displayed in the Divine Mercy Chapel.

This book is used to record the intercessions and prayer requests for the sick, the homebound, the suffering, the local and universal Church, the needs of the world, and anyone else in need of prayer. The prayers contained in this book are referenced during the Universal Prayer at Sunday Mass.

This new book replaces the marble notebooks that were used in the past, giving more dignity to the prayers that are written. Quotations from the Bible are beautifully inscribed in English and Spanish and are meant to be a source of prayer and inspiration. Take the opportunity to record your intercessions. Remember in your own prayer the needs expressed on the pages of this book. Pray for them individually or when you gather with others for prayer.

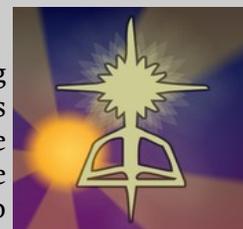
If you would like to memorialize this book in memory of a loved one who has died or to mark a special occasion, please contact Chris Ferraro at the rectory - cferraro@oloph.org or (631) 226-7725 ext. 210. The cost is \$75. We envision using several books throughout the course of the year.



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

You may have noticed that we now have a music supplement in the back of our *Gather* hymnals. These supplements, which will change periodically according to the seasons of the liturgical year, allow us to use additional seasonal music that is not contained in the hymnal. These supplements are placed inside the back cover and held in place by a plastic sleeve. On the hymn boards, whenever you see the letter S, followed by a dash (-) and a number, that refers to the supplement. For example, the Entrance Hymn for this Sunday is listed as “S-1” which means that the hymn is the first hymn in the supplement.

Throughout Advent, in place of a hymn, we will be using the proper text for the Entrance Antiphon from the *Roman Missal*. These antiphons set the tone for the liturgy and express that theology of the particular Sunday being celebrated. The text of each antiphon have been adapted to fit an ancient and well known Advent tune, Creator of the Stars of Night (CREATOR ALME SIDERUM). The assembly sings the antiphon while the choir or cantor sings verses of a particular Advent psalm. The antiphons can be found in the Advent/Christmas Music Supplement in the back of the *Gather* hymnal.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Larchmont, New York

**Advent/
Christmas
Music
Supplement**





*Sunday,
December 30th,
Feast of
The Holy Family*

Our Knights of Columbus Council will be sponsoring a devotional prayer following the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 Noon Masses on December 30. The theme will be *"Consecration to the Holy Family."* We will pray for the intercession of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to help our families become more perfect and to be a "Domestic Church."

Prayer cards will be available the weekend of December 22/23 for those who want to fast and pray before the Consecration.




*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.

**REMINDER REGARDING
THE COMMUNION FAST**

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

**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.



**SUNDAY'S WORD
BOOKS AVAILABLE**

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the new liturgical year (Cycle C) which started with the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, are available at the rectory for the purchase price of \$3.00.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASS

CHRISTOLOGY

Instructors: **Mrs. April Kleinlaut, Fr. Fidelis Ezeani and Deacon Robert Becker**

5 nights, Thursdays and Tuesdays –
January 17, 24, 31 and February 5 & 12

Time: **7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Place: **Room 3 in OLPH School**



This course provides a basic understanding of the person of Jesus Christ revealed through Scripture and doctrine. Foundations such as Jesus’s teaching ministry, the Resurrection stories, and the full humanity of Jesus will be presented. The course will also develop an understanding of the image of Christ presented by St. Paul in his epistles as well as other historical representations.

Credit may be obtained as a Basic Course toward completion of a diocesan Basic Religious Studies Certificate.

A \$20 donation is requested to cover the cost of materials will be collected during the class. To register, please contact the Rectory at 631.226.7725 x 200 or return the coupon below no later than January 12, 2019.

YES, PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR **CHRISTOLOGY!**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return no later than January 12, 2019.



WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

DO YOU LOVE YOUR JOB?

ARE YOU FULFILLING YOUR CAREER DREAMS?

Would you like to help others go after their hopes and dreams?

If you enjoy helping people and mentoring others, it will be rewarding to share your professional knowledge and success. Come and join our Professional Mentorship Ministry and together let’s help others find their purpose in life.



LET’S HELP EACH OTHER FIND OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE

If you are interested in sharing your knowledge call OLPH Church at (631) 226-7725 or email PMM@oloph.org



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

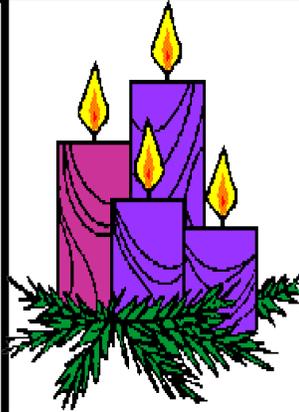
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**OFFICE HOURS:**

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

Levels 6-8 & TEEN Program:**On Wednesday, December 26,**

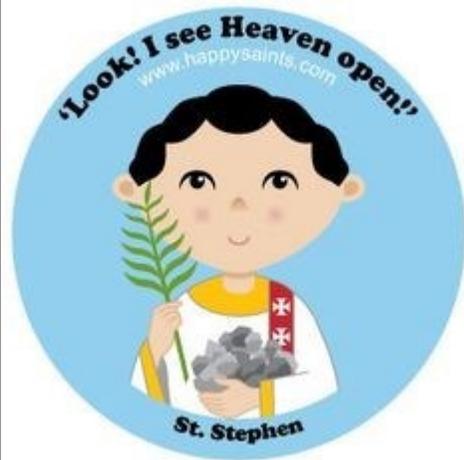
there is NO CLASS
due to Christmas Break!

We will see you in
the New Year!

**Levels 1-5 & Special Ed:****On Saturday, December 29,**

there is NO CLASS
due to Christmas Break!

We will see you in
the New Year!

**Happy Saint of the Day!****St. Stephen**

St. Stephen was the first deacon and the first martyr of the Catholic faith. Due to his position of deacon he went around and spread the Word of God and Jesus' teachings everywhere he could. This, unfortunately, made him many

enemies among the Jewish people, and their response was to put him on trial for blasphemy. Stephen was able to defend himself and never once faltered in his beliefs. However, when he stated, "Look, I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God," that was enough for the people to stone him to death. With his dying breath he emulated Jesus in asking God to forgive them for their sins.



INTERESTED IN
OFFERING YOUR TIME
AS AN ASSISTANT
CATECHIST?
WE NEED YOU!!!

Our program relies on the generous time and talent offered by our dedicated teachers. At this time, we are in need of assistant catechists to help students with special needs in the classroom. Training is provided! Please call us for any questions or stop by our office!

"Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope."

—Pope Benedict XVI

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
- † 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!

- PASTA SAUCE**
- CANNED FRUIT**
- HOT CHOCOLATE**
- COFFEE**
- TOOTHPASTE**
- TOILETRIES**

PLEASE NO PASTA AT THIS TIME.

Because of your generosity our pantry is BULGING and only the listed items are needed at this time.

**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 the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of
Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

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

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, “Light” has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU



Thank you for your continued generosity and making our Giving Tree so successful for so many ministries. You have shown the true meaning of giving selflessly to so many who would otherwise be without this Christmas.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY

DONATIONS:

We can use gift cards (Visa, Amazon, etc.) or financial donations, and we'll do the shopping for items most often needed.

We are in need of the following:

- Sweat shirts
- Sweat pants
- Jeans (30-42)
- New women's underwear (5,6,7)
- New men's underwear (L, XL, 2x, 3x)
- Hoodies
- Thermal underwear
- Blankets
- Clean, gently used sneakers
- Gloves
- Winter berets/skull caps

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 lady in your 40s, 50s, or 60s?
Are you looking to meet other women who share your interest in spirituality, socializing and social action?*

Please be patient.

We are taking a little break from our gatherings.

Call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or email her 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.

Our next meeting:

**Tuesday, January 8
9:00 a.m. in Room 24**

JOIN THE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES!



HELP THE COMMUNITY!
PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TO HELP BETTER OUR COMMUNITY AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS!



FUNDRAISERS!

HELP OUT IN SQUIRE SPONSORED EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS IN NEED! THESE EVENTS ARE ALWAYS FUN AND ENJOYABLE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

 @olphsquires

Meetings at Panera Bread the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month (may also be at OLPH School - RM 19)

1025 W Montauk Hwy.
West Babylon, NY 11704

Contact Chief Counselor
Tom Romano PGK
E-mail: tomonli@aol.com
Phone: 631-561-7052

Contact Chief Squire Nick Artusa
E-mail: Nartusa10@gmail.com
Phone: 631-225-0410

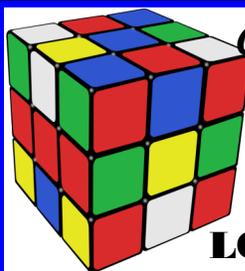
MUST be a practicing catholic boy between the ages of 10 to 17.

WORK AS A TEAM!
OUR VOLUNTEERING COUNSELORS ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING SQUIRES LEARN TO MEET THEIR GOALS OF SERVICE AND FUNDRAISING BY WORKING AS A TEAM! TEAMWORK CAN CREATE FRIENDSHIPS AND GIVE EXPERIENCE AS A SQUIRE AND BEYOND!



Knights of Columbus
SQUIRES
Youth Organization.

CYO EVENT



Organized by OLPH CYO
**CAN YOU SOLVE
A RUBIK'S CUBE?**

**LONG ISLAND
WINTER 2019
SPEED SOLVE COMPETITION**

Saturday, February 23, 2019
in the OLPH Auditorium

Registration to compete costs \$25, and must be completed through the WORLD CUBE ASSOCIATION

<https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/LongIslandWinter2019>

There is a limit of 80 competitors.
OR JUST STOP BY AND WATCH!

Contact Luke Farrell for information or questions olphcyo11757@gmail.com
516-343-5434

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
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Jacqueline Dwyer, Parish Secretary	212	jdwyer@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.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Eileen Corticchia (Chair)
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Jeffrey Gaab
Gregory Guido
Sonia Hansen
Joselyn Kalt
Mary Leon
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
James Totino
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)
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Christine Donovan
Marie Gagneron
Kenneth Hale
Bob Meade
Bob Mehm
Frank Pokorney
John Reynolds

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.

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

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 Communion will then visit each week.

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



WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Laurel Norstedt</i> | <i>Peter Masak</i> |
| <i>Marie Molina</i> | <i>Natalie & Lew Yugel</i> |
| <i>David Dentici</i> | <i>Gail Tonnessen</i> |
| <i>Betty Cunningham</i> | <i>Roberta Fifield</i> |
| <i>Frank Rocco</i> | <i>Jeanne Calise</i> |
| <i>Lucille Sullivan</i> | <i>Loretto Dinardo</i> |
| <i>Marie D'Angelo</i> | <i>Teresa Pirola</i> |
| <i>Carl D'Angelo</i> | <i>Patricia Goertz</i> |
| <i>Tom Willumson</i> | <i>Debbi Triola-Curiale</i> |
| <i>Marge Heldeman</i> | <i>Louise Perrotta</i> |
| <i>Joanne Hernandez</i> | <i>Dr. Alan Lloyd Steinberg</i> |
| <i>Ginny Gala</i> | <i>Kimberly Wilson</i> |
| <i>Joseph Pugh</i> | |

WE REMEMBER

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

- Jane Favara*
Thomas M. Curtin Sr.
Michael L. Scala

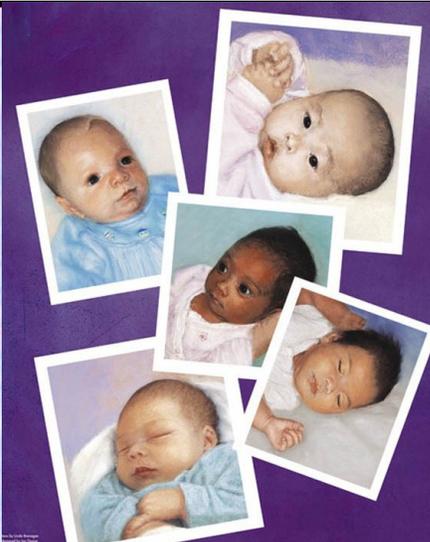
"O God, who through the ending of present things open up the beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption."

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 their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

"Here I am!"
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED BABY!

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - - nine months after her mother conceived her. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. She is no different now than before birth except that she breathes and eats differently. She is truly a miracle. She began as a 46-chromosome cell and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies and their mothers for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth "so that they might have life and have it to the full!"



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 24— LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY	
6:30	Henry & Eleanor Zuber
12:15	Benedict Barbera
EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
5:00	Michael Babish
12:00	For the People of the Parish
TUESDAY, December 25— THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD <i>(Christmas)</i>	
8:00	For the Intentions of the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet
10:00	For the Intentions of the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet
12:00	For the Intentions of the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet
WEDNESDAY, December 26— SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR	
6:30	Dominick Barone
12:15	Maria C., Antonio Molina & Harold L. Archila
THURSDAY, December 27— SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	
6:30	Joan Lico
12:15	Joseph Pezzano
FRIDAY, December 28— THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS	
6:30	Joan Lico
12:15	Albert & Ann Fry
SATURDAY, December 29 FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
8:00	Nicholas Pennetti
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	
5:00	Dominick DeGirolamo
Sunday, December 30 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	
8:00	For the Living & Deceased Members of K of C of OLPH
10:00	Frances Stancati
12:00	Philip Hosey
5:00	For the People of the Parish

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 24, 2018		
ALL OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT 12:00 NOON. NO EVENING RECEPTION DESK HOURS		
7:00 p.m.	No Devotions	
Tuesday, December 25, 2018		
ALL OFFICES REMAIN CLOSED AND ACTIVITIES CANCELLED FOR CHRISTMAS. THE RECTORY RECEPTION DESK WILL RE-OPEN WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26 AT 9:00 A.M.		
Wednesday, December 26, 2018		
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 12
Thursday, December 27, 2018		
1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24
Friday, December 28, 2018		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24
Saturday, December 29, 2018		
	No Religious Ed. Classes	
1:00 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
3:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
Sunday, December 30, 2018		
9:15 a.m.	RCIC Meeting	Room 18
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour for Peace	Church
7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria



EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

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

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

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

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

Lecturas y reflexiones del domingo 12/30/18 cuarta semana de adviento.

Adviento. Que en este adviento nuestro niño Jesús haya nacido en lo más profundo del corazón de cada uno de usted y que la gracia del Espíritu Santo lo haga crecer cada día Para que como San pablo podamos decir ya no soy yo quien vive, es Cristo que vive en me. Que la paz de nuestro señor este con ustedes

Primera Lectura (Sirasides 3,2-6.12-14): Honra a tu Padre y a tu Madre

La palabra griega para honor, significa venerar, apreciar, y valorar. Honor es darles respeto, no solo por mérito sino por lo que son, tus Padres. Por ejemplo, algunos pueden no estar de acuerdo con las decisiones del Presidente, pero aun así ellos deben respetar su posición como líder de su país. Similarmente, los hijos de todas las edades deben honrar a sus padres, sin importar si sus padres "merecen" o no el honor. Los dos fundamentos de la vida familiar son amor y respeto, de los hijos hacia el padre. En el salmo 127 vemos las bendiciones que recibirán los hijos obedientes.

Segunda Lectura (Colosenses 3,12-21): Vida en el Señor

Digan y hagan todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús, y tendrán la correcta relación con Dios y con los hermanos, sobre todo en el círculo íntimo de la familia.

Evangelio (Lucas 2,41-52): Tengo que estar en la Casa de mi Padre

Cuando Jesús se queda perdido en el tiempo, sus padres María y José experimentan de nuevo el malestar de formar parte de la misión de Jesús. El servicio a Dios y a la gente tiene lugar primero y preferente.

En la Casa del Padre

Nos puede sorprender oír a Jesús cómo les pregunta a sus propios padres angustiados, María y José: "¿Por qué me estaban buscando? ¿No sabían ustedes que debo estar donde está mi Padre?". Incluso María y José, santos de Dios, tenían que aprender todavía y crecer en su fe. – Como la Sagrada Familia, nuestras familias, y cada uno de nosotros, tenemos también que crecer en la fe. Quizás será a través de dolorosas pruebas y sufrimientos, como el de María y José, como nuestra fe llegará a madurarse. También se nos formula a nosotros la misma pregunta: ¿No sabían ustedes...? Los magos confiesan y testimonian con sus regalos. Nosotros deberíamos tratar de regalar al mundo el testimonio de nuestra fe, sin miedo y sin vergüenza, dando razón de nuestra esperanza (cf. 1 P 3, 15). Es el mejor regalo que le podemos hacer, pues el mundo necesita a este niño que ha nacido en Belén. Regalar la luz que hemos visto en medio de la noche y que hemos recibido con nuestra fe. Sí, ese es el mejor regalo que podemos y debemos hacer en este mundo no ideal en el que Jesús ha nacido para todos: ser nosotros mismos estrellas que indican el camino que lleva a Belén a todos aquellos que buscan a Dios, y que, incluso sin saberlo, necesitan a Cristo.

CONOZCAMOS NUESTRA FE CATÓLICA

La Fiesta de la Epifanía

El 24 de Diciembre celebramos LA NAVIDAD, es decir, el nacimiento de Jesús.

- Después de la Navidad, la Iglesia Católica celebra, el 6 de Enero, la FIESTA DE LA EPIFANÍA que nos recuerda la visita de los Reyes Magos al Niño Jesús para adorarlo.

LA ADORACIÓN

DE LOS REYES MAGOS Después de haber nacido Jesús en Belén de Judea, en el tiempo del Rey Herodes, unos Magos de Oriente se presentaron en Jerusalén diciendo: "¿Dónde está el que ha nacido, el Rey de los Judíos? Porque hemos visto su estrella en el oriente y venimos a adorarlo".

Este día 6 de Enero piensa: ¿Qué regalo le puedo hacer yo a Jesús este año que empieza ¿Qué puedo cambiar para ser mejor? Un solo regalo, un solo propósito para todo el año.

¡Escógelos con mucho cariño y amor!

- Este día 6 de Enero piensa: ¿Qué regalo le puedo hacer yo a Jesús este año que empieza?

¿Qué puedo cambiar para ser mejor?. Un solo regalo, un solo propósito para todo el año.

¡ Escógelos con mucho cariño y amor !





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Navidad 2018



Al Pueblo de Dios de la Diócesis de Rockville Centre:

¡Feliz Navidad para ustedes y sus familias! La Navidad es un momento poderoso de unidad y comunión para nuestras familias, y cada Navidad es un momento para que nuestras familias se abran aún más profundamente al poder sanador y transformador del Espíritu Santo y la intercesión de la Sagrada Familia.

La Sagrada Familia no solo transformó sino que revolucionó el mundo y la historia a través de la humildad, la pobreza, la adoración y la confianza en el plan de Dios, y una completa dedicación a la Gloria de Dios.

La silenciosa adoración y admiración de María nos enseña a ver a través de los acontecimientos cotidianos la presencia de Cristo en cada situación. José nos enseña la confianza sólida y la docilidad audaz en el terreno cambiante y los eventos inesperados de la vida cotidiana. Los pastores nos enseñan sencillez, humildad y adoración reverente. El Infante Príncipe de la Paz nos enseña que la Misericordia de Dios es el corazón palpitante del Evangelio y el corazón palpitante de la escena de la Natividad. La misericordia es el fundamento de la misión de la Iglesia en el mundo.

Nos acercamos al Príncipe de la paz esta Navidad para obtener regalos especiales de paz en nuestras familias, regalos especiales de paz para nuestra Iglesia y regalos especiales de paz para el mundo.

En el Misterio de la Natividad, nos maravillamos y le damos Gloria a Dios con los Pastores y los Sabios de Oriente. Vemos en la imagen de una familia pobre y sin hogar, y en la imagen de un bebé pobre y vulnerable, que la lógica de Dios en la Encarnación derriba y confunde la lógica estrecha del poder y del cálculo humano. "Las familias transforman el mundo y la historia".

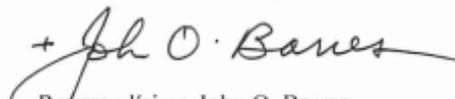
La Sagrada Familia continúa transformando nuestros matrimonios y nuestras familias – bien en nuestras experiencias diarias de alegrías, cruces, crisis y los problemas no resueltos de cada matrimonio y cada familia en un mundo caído. En medio de las debilidades y fracasos de la vida familiar diaria, recordamos la Gloria de Dios que irradia el pesebre y que levanta a nuestras familias, a pesar de sus imperfecciones diarias, para transformar el mundo y la historia a través de la fe, la santidad y el espíritu misionero.

Cuando oramos y meditamos al contemplar la escena del Nacimiento en Navidad, experimentamos un renacimiento espiritual y una nueva percepción de nuestra rutina familiar diaria y nuestros patrones familiares espirituales, emocionales y relacionales diarios. Accedemos a que las rutinas del pecado y el egoísmo en nuestras familias sean purificadas con patrones diarios de oración, de gracia y de conversión. Recordamos que la conversión personal crea efectos de onda en toda la familia.

La escena del Nacimiento nos lleva a una profunda experiencia de Misericordia y Perdón en nuestras familias. Y recordamos que los confesionarios en nuestras Iglesias son "Puertas de la Misericordia" y perdón para nuestras familias. Los invito a aprovechar el don de la reconciliación participando en las confesiones ofrecidas en sus parroquias durante esta temporada santa.

Durante esta temporada Navideña, quiero agradecerles a ustedes y a sus familias por transformar el mundo y la historia con el amor de Cristo.

Sinceramente en Cristo,


Reverendísimo John O. Barres
Obispo de Rockville Centre

**OFFERING UPDATE
December 15/16**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	315	126	\$3,265.00
8:00 a.m.	250	103	2,772.00
10:00 a.m.	474	129	3,345.00
12:00 p.m.	431	130	3,746.00
5:00 p.m.	199	39	1,194.00
Total coin:			17.10
Faith Direct			2,247.75
Children's Envelopes		15	28.92
Mail-ins:			826.00
TOTAL	1,669	542	\$17,441.77
2017	1,731	630	\$17,523.83
Candles			\$1,049.78
Poor Box			\$381.99

**SUPER 72 RAFFLE
CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR DECEMBER WINNERS**

- \$1000** - Rich & Jo-Ann Domanico
- \$250** - Michael Cronin
- \$100** - Nicholas Vezzi, Jr.
- \$100** - Ed Zajac
- \$100** - Joe & Angie Mirabile
- \$100** - M. Powers

Special \$250 Christmas Drawing:
Patricia & Joseph Cancellieri

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN

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

December 30—passed
January 6—December 28
January 13—January 4

**IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER = GREAT OPPORTUNITY
UNDER NEW TAX LAWS**



Whether you itemize or not in 2018, this unique opportunity allows you to make a charitable contribution through a direct IRA transfer while reducing your adjusted gross income.

If you would like to make a gift to our Parish using your IRA and if:

1. You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
2. Your IRA is a traditional (some Roth IRA's may qualify)
3. You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions

You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution". In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

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

Bill has a \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 as his yearly gift to his Parish. Upon hearing of the **Charitable IRA Rollover** opportunity, he directs the custodian of his IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2018 directly to the Parish as the family's 2018 gift. He will not be subject to income tax on the \$5,000 donation.

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

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PREPARING FOR

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*Jesus went down with Mary and Joseph
and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them.*

Luke 2:51a

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Even in ancient societies, the elderly who became ill in body or mind were no longer treated with respect but were seen by younger family members as economically and socially burdensome. But as the author continually reminds God's people, they are to practice the ways of the Lord and not the cultural norms of the world. The Lord in turn promises the greatest possible blessing and grace for our faithfulness under all circumstances: the forgiveness of our sins. An elderly childless woman was considered cursed by God and useless even in Hebrew society. Such was the plight of Hannah. But the Lord's true regard for this faithful woman is shown in the abundance of his blessing. He heard her prayer and granted her Samuel, who was the last of the Hebrew Judges and the first of the major prophets.

Colossians 3:12-21

The Christian life is one that is lived in response to the Gospel—the Good News of God's great love for us embodied in the gift of his Son. Christians are to "put on" certain characteristics so that they live these qualities, not merely "have" them. Among these qualities are heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. These are not merely traits but actions define Christian living. As Christ lived, so we are to live.

Luke 2:41-52

This story's concern with an incident from Jesus' youth is unique in the canonical gospel tradition. With this episode, the infancy narrative ends just as it began, in the setting of the Jerusalem temple. In Jesus' speaking of God as his Father, he defines his life and its purpose in terms which no one who knew him could possibly understand—not even Mary and Joseph.

Gospel Reflection Questions....

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

1. Either of the options for the first reading speak about the powerful relationship between parents and children. This devotion and commitment images the Father's love not only for the Son but for each one of us. Can you think of a recent time you encountered the love and devotion of God in your own life?

2. Love is a theme that shows itself in all three of the options for today's second reading. The reading from Colossians, one of the three options for this reading, describes numerous characteristics that we are to "put on." As we prepare for a new year, which of these characteristics can you "put on" a little more in the year ahead?

3. Imagine Mary and Joseph as you pray with the Gospel. The anxiety and fear associated with losing someone we love can be overwhelming. Yet they do what needs to be done to bring their son home. Think of someone in your own family who may be lost. Are you doing all you can to bring them home?

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 24, 2018:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
+ Luke 1:67-79

Tuesday, December 25, 2018:

Isaiah 52:7-10 + Hebrews 1:1-6
+ John 1:1-18

Wednesday, December 26, 2018:

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59
+ Matthew 10:17-22

Thursday, December 27, 2018:

1 John 1:1-4 + John 20:1a, 2-8

Friday, December 28, 2018:

1 John 1:5—2:2
+ Matthew 2:13-18

Saturday, December 29, 2018:

1 John 2:3-11
+ Luke 2:22-35

Sunday, December 30, 2018:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
+ Colossians 3:12-21
+ Luke 2:41-52





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“DRAWING FROM December 2018 THROUGH May 2019”

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TO MASS ON SUNDAY

The primary way in which we celebrate the Lord's Day is with our participation in the Sunday Eucharist. What better way to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord than by celebrating the memorial of his Passion, Death, and Resurrection? This celebration is not a solitary, private event. Instead, we come to gather as the People of God, to worship with one heart and one voice. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that participation in Mass is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church (CCC, 2182).

When members of our Church community are absent from this gathering, they are missed. No member of the faithful should be absent from the Sunday Eucharist without a serious reason. The Liturgy should be the first thing on Sunday's schedule, not the last. We should arrive on time, prepared in heart and mind to fully participate in the Mass. Those who cannot attend because of illness or to care for infants or the sick deserve our special attention.

Often, people will suggest that going to Sunday Mass is not necessary. After all, they rationalize "pray at home just as well." Even in the fourth century, St. John Chrysostom preached about this: "You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where acclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests (CCC 2179, quoting St. John Chrysostom, *De incomprehensibili* 3, 6: PG 48, 725).

Private prayers, though essential to the spiritual life, can never replace the celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy and the reception of Holy Communion.

In some communities, the lack of priests makes it impossible to celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday. In such cases, a bishop may make provisions for these parish communities to gather and celebrate a Liturgy of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. These "Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest" may or may not include the reception of Holy Communion. Still, these celebrations allow the people of God to gather on the Lord's Day.

KEEPING SUNDAY — ALL DAY

Celebrating the Sunday Eucharist does not complete our observance of Sunday. In addition to attending Sunday Mass each Sunday, we should "refrain from those activities which impede the worship of God and disturb the joy proper to the day of the Lord or the necessary relaxation of mind and body" (*Compendium of the CCC* 453).

Sunday has traditionally been a day of rest. This may seem odd in a world goes non — stop, where we are tethered to our jobs by a variety of gadgets, where businesses run seven days a week, and where silence is rare. By taking a day each week to rest in the Lord, we provide a living example to the culture that all time belongs to God and that people are more important than things.

Not everyone has the freedom to take Sunday away from work, some people, such as medical professionals or public safety workers, must work on Sundays to keep the rest of us safe and healthy. Others may have to work for economic reasons.

To celebrate the Lord's Day more fully, consider trying the following:

- Don't use Sunday as your catch-all day for errands and household chores.
- Share a family dinner after Mass. Have the whole family involved in the preparation and clean up.
- Go for a walk or a bike ride and give thanks to God for the beauty of nature.
- Spend time reading the Bible or a spiritual book
- Pray the Rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours, alone or with others.
- Visit parishioners or others who are homebound.
- Read Bible stories to your children.
- Volunteer at a local food pantry.
- Turn off electronic devices and enjoy the silence.

As we take time to rest each week to celebrate the Paschal Mystery in the Eucharist and to rest from our daily burdens we remind ourselves that we are made in the image and likeness of God "who rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

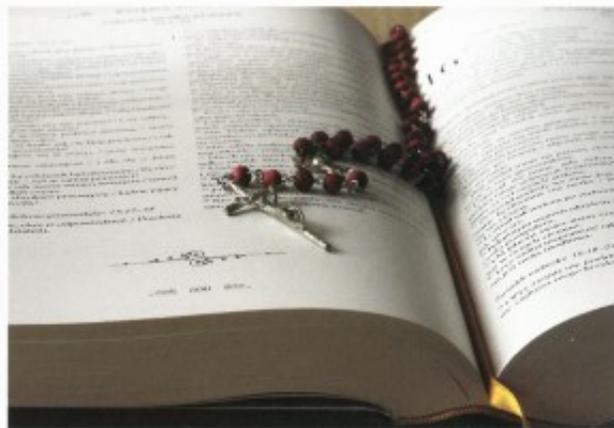
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Ps 118:24). The words of the psalmist especially ring true on Sunday! ■

Catechism of the Catholic Church (second edition). Washington, D.C. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Washington, D.C. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006.

Pope John Paul II, On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy (Dies Domini) 1998.

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