

# 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



*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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 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



### Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24

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

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

### 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.*

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

*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!*



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

Sunday, 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

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

We have arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we begin the Fourth Week of Advent — such as it is! This year is the shortest possible length of time Advent can be, what with Christmas arriving on the afternoon of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Don't blink or you'll miss the Fourth Sunday of Advent!

Even though it is brief, there is much spiritual wealth to be found in these last hours of Advent. The Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, from St. Luke, is the account of the Annunciation, and it brings us to the threshold of the celebration of the Nativity of the Word made flesh. Luke is careful to note that the event is part of the great plan of God; the house of David is represented by Joseph. The promise made to David is to be realized in a simple setting in Galilee, but its import will be to bring forth a Kingdom that will have no end. We see in Mary a model of what a servant of the Lord should be; notice her response which, although at first one of fear, winds up in complete acceptance of God's will for her. We should identify with Mary's openness and willingness to cooperate with God's plan.

Take note, too, of what the second reading at Mass is telling us. In this selection from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, there is a statement of praise for God's revelation through the ages. However, the reading describes how, since it was not known in all ages, this revelation was "kept secret" from some, but has now been fully revealed through Jesus Christ. That's what we celebrate at Christmas — the revelation and appearance of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Word made flesh. We acknowledge the nearness of Christmas in the Prayer after Communion 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 attendance at one of our Christmas Masses — 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, or at Midnight Mass, or at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. or

12:00 Noon on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25. Yes indeed, it's lots of time in church in a short period of time this year!

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

When you come to Mass next weekend, you come for Sunday Mass either on Saturday, December 30 at 5:00 p.m., or on Sunday, December 31 at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon or 5:00 p.m. (The Sunday evening Mass next week counts for Sunday.) Then, for Monday, January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Masses are at 10:00 a.m. and 12:15.

### *Brick Memorialization, Phase Three*

Phase Three of our Brick Memorialization Program is underway! It's an important fund raiser for our parish, in addition to being a very beautiful spiritual exercise.

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. Further details, and the order form, can be found elsewhere in this bulletin.

### *Ministry Directory*

Just a reminder: when you come back for Christmas Mass, be sure to take the new Ministry Directory book which will be handed out as you leave Mass. This Directory, which lists all the different ministries, societies and organizations in the parish, plus a brief description of each one and the information as to how anyone can become involved, is our latest effort to encourage and increase involvement and engagement in the life of the parish. Look for this Ministry Directory at

## PASTOR'S PAGE

Christmas Mass and be sure to take one home as they are handed out by your fellow parishioners.

### *Christmas Bulletin*

Also, 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.

### *Prepare now to be kind to the crowds!*

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,



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION



### CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION

*Soon we will be beginning classes  
in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

If you are an adult who is baptized and has received first Holy Communion but has not been confirmed, please let us know.

***Classes will begin in the next few weeks!***

***For adults who desire more information***, contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to [rabecker@optimum.net](mailto:rabecker@optimum.net).

***For teenagers and their families who desire more information***, contact the Faith Formation Office at 631.226.7725, x 251 or e-mail to [religioused@oloph.org](mailto:religioused@oloph.org).

## 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*

# CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2017

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

Merry Christmas to you and your families! As we celebrate the Prince of Peace's entrance into world history, we give thanks to Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the Mission of Mercy of our Holy Catholic Church.

We give thanks for our families, our domestic churches, which transform the world and history with Christ's Love and the Church's missionary spirit

This past month we dedicated the Gianna Center of Long Island for Women's Health and Fertility, which in its mission unites the Splendor of Truth of Catholic Moral Teaching on Marriage and the Family with ethical reproductive science through the use of *NaPro Technology* and the *Creighton Model Fertility Care System*.

This was an important moment for the Catholic Church and Catholic Health Services in its service to the common good of Long Island.

The dedication of the Gianna Center gives a living expression of celebration to some important 2018 Church anniversaries.

On July 28, 2018, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Blessed Paul VI was prophetic as he courageously taught that all marital intimacy celebrates both the love-giving and life-giving dimensions of married love that cannot be separated.

The Holy Father predicted accurately the dire consequences for society of separating the love-giving and life-giving dimensions of married love. He was widely criticized, even ridiculed at the time, but as we know from the Old Testament that is exactly what happens to prophets who stand up for liberating truths.

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman once said: "The Catholic Church is not behind the times. It is beyond the times." And as the renowned particle physicist Professor Stephen Barr emphasizes, in the history of the world, the Catholic Church is the greatest friend and supporter of *ethical* scientific development. The Gianna Center is an expression of this friendship, support and partnership in history.

## CHRISTMAS LETTER CONTINUED

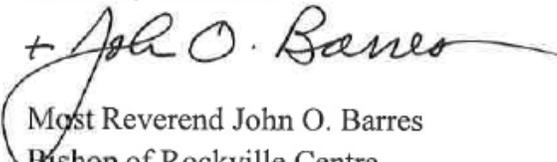
On August 4, 2018, we will also celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John Paul II's great encyclical *The Splendor of Truth*, which shows that moral choices and decisions that are grounded in objective truth transform and illumine the lives of individuals and society.

The Gianna Center is a powerful part of that dedication to truth, charity and mercy and during this Christmas 2017, we ask the Christ Child to lead all those involved in the mission of the Gianna Center and all who are served by that mission.

The Center's patroness, St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) was a wife, a mother and a physician dedicated to the progress of medical science. Her image is prominent at the main altar of St. Agnes Cathedral where I will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass.

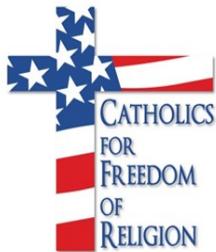
I will pray that her intercession and her courageous and holy example may inspire each one of us and our family members this Christmas season and be yet another catalyst of *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

## CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



### Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

#### *The 12 Myths of Christmas (Part 1)*

**Myth:** Public school students aren't allowed to sing or play Christmas carols.

**Fact:** Students can sing and perform religious carols along with secular ones. The purpose is to teach about our society's cultural and religious heritage and allow students to perform a full range of music, poetry and drama.

**Myth:** Teachers and students are banned from saying "Merry Christmas."

**Fact:** The Supreme Court stated that teachers and students do not shed their right of free speech at the schoolhouse gate. Saying a simple greeting does not violate the First Amendment Establishment Clause.

**Myth:** Public schools cannot display religious Christmas symbols.

**Fact:** A public school is free to display a Nativity scene among other forms of religious and secular seasonal expression with the purpose of depicting the origins of the holiday.

**Myth:** Students cannot hand out invitations to a Christmas party held at their church.

**Fact:** When students are allowed to pass out invitations to birthday parties and other events, the courts have ruled that First Amendment free speech rights are guaranteed to even young students. (adfflegal.org, 12/11/15; rutherfordinstitute.org)

#### **News Alert:**

The Little Sisters of the Poor are returning to court to defend themselves against lawsuits from Pennsylvania and California that seek to take away the nuns' recently received conscience exemption from the Health and Human Services (HHS) rule. In October, HHS had rolled back the Affordable Care Act's federal mandate that employers must provide abortion-inducing drugs and contraception in their health insurance plans.



## 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.



### 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.

### 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 25—No Devotions  
due to Christmas**

**Monday, January 1—No Devotions**

**Monday, January 8—7:00 p.m.**

### 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**

### NEW SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the new liturgical year (Cycle B) which started the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, are available at the rectory for purchase, for \$3.00.



# 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 lit. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candles.

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

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

*Leader:* **Lift up your hearts.**

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

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

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*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

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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *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.*



# OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

# OFFICE HOURS:

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

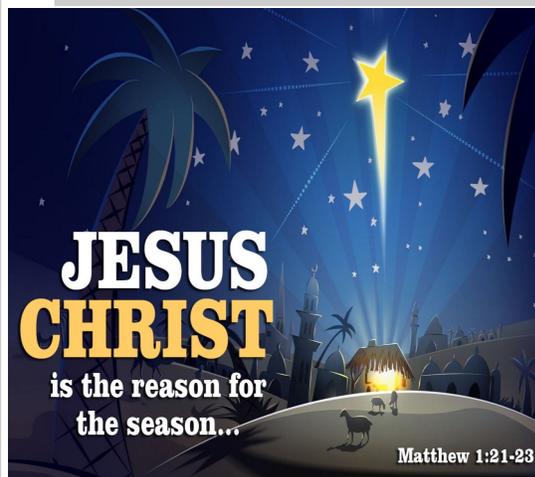
## MERRY CHRISTMAS

to everyone from the  
Religious Education  
Staff: April, Bridget,  
Christine and Jessica

Levels 6-7:  
There will be  
NO CLASSES  
Wednesday,  
December 27,  
due to the  
Christmas Break



Levels 1-5:  
There will be  
NO CLASSES  
Saturday,  
December 30,  
due to the  
Christmas Break



YOUR WEALTH OR  
STATUS DOESN'T  
MAKE YOU.  
YOUR KINDNESS  
AND CHARACTER  
DOES.  
- VENKAT DESREDDY -  
WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

## Saint of the Day

### St. Adela



St Adela was an abbess and foundress, and also a disciple of St. Boniface. She was a Frankish princess, daughter of King Dagobert II and sister of St. Irmina. Married to a nobleman named Alberie, she became the foundress of a monastery at Pfazel, near Treves, France, when her husband died.

# 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!

- PASTA SAUCE**
- CANNED MEAT**
- PORK & BEANS**
- CANNED FRUIT**
- JELLY OR JAM**
- HOT CEREAL**
- SHELF STABLE MILK CARTONS**  
*(Please not evaporated milk)*
- TOILET PAPER**
- SHAMPOO**
- TOOTHPASTE**

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.**

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened.

Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, February 6  
 Van lunches and Valentine project  
 in Room 24 at 7:00 p.m.

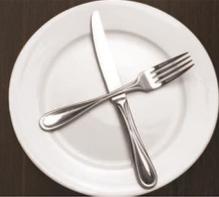
Meetings are usually held on the first and third weeks of the month in Room 24 of the "new" school. For more information, call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or e-mail at [gtonness@optonline.net](mailto:gtonness@optonline.net).

### 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](mailto: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, January 7  
 Come and pray with us at the  
 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us  
 for "Sunday Dinner" at 1:00 p.m.*

## BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE

What are you going to put  
in the box?



Crystal, candles, photo frames, figurines, dishes, dolls, necklaces, napkins, salad bowls, scarves, gifts galore—available today for **CRAZY** low prices at The Blue Door Boutique.

Also, stop by for incredibly low priced clothing for men, women and children. Brand names you love, prices you won't see any places else, 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

## **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.

## **GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS**

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



## **WE REMEMBER**

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

*Virginia M. Caulfield*

*Rev. Daniel Coyle*

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

## **WE BELIEVE**

We pray for the sick of our parish...

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Catherine Lang</i>     | <i>Josephine Palazzolo</i>    |
| <i>Peter Masak</i>        | <i>Fr Andrew Apostoli CFR</i> |
| <i>Dolores Rossetti</i>   | <i>Agostino Pecoraro</i>      |
| <i>Robert Stoss</i>       | <i>Constance Mango</i>        |
| <i>Ted Zimms</i>          | <i>Ronald Higgins</i>         |
| <i>Connie Bulzomi</i>     | <i>Beta Konopka</i>           |
| <i>Douglas Ferraro</i>    | <i>Shawn Matthews</i>         |
| <i>Ronnie Buonpastore</i> | <i>Jennifer Kienle</i>        |
| <i>Reynold Ruiz</i>       | <i>Linda Barresi</i>          |
| <i>Herb Otten</i>         | <i>Laura Flynn</i>            |
| <i>Christine Donovan</i>  | <i>Denise Parker</i>          |
| <i>Marguerite Danaher</i> | <i>Louis Vita</i>             |
| <i>Mario A. Lotito</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.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, December 25— THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

### TUESDAY, December 26— Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

6:30	Patrick & Cecilia Flynn
12:15	William "Bud" Sullivan

### WEDNESDAY, December 27— Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:30	William Sullivan
12:15	Sean Keicher

### THURSDAY, December 28— The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

6:30	Margaret Brogan
12:15	Rev. Msgr. James McDonald (Living)

### FRIDAY, December 29— Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:30	Margaret Brogan
12:15	Alina & Bohdan Zalewska

### SATURDAY, December 30— Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00	Helen Ekizian
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### Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):

#### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

5:00	Francesco Stancati
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#### Sunday, December 31 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8:00	Eugene Gardell
10:00	For the Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 794
12:00	For the People of the Parish
5:00	Fran Constantino

## PARISH CALENDAR

### Monday, December 25, 2017

**ALL OFFICES REMAIN CLOSED AND ACTIVITIES CANCELLED FOR CHRISTMAS. THE RECTORY RECEPTION DESK WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY DECEMBER 26TH AT 9:00 A.M.**

### Tuesday, December 26, 2017

6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
8:00 p.m.	Squires	Room 19
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16

### Wednesday, December 27, 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 28, 2017

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 29, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent

### Saturday, December 30, 2017

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 31, 2017

**ALL OFFICES ARE CLOSED AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED. THE RECTORY RECEPTION DESK WILL CLOSE AT 3:00 P.M. TODAY AND WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY JANUARY 2ND AT 9:00 A.M.**



# 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](mailto:saitjoseph98@gmail.com).

### **Lecturas del La Sagrada Familia: Jesús, María y José - Ciclo B 12/31/17**

Nuestros ojos están viendo el amor salvador que el Señor ha preparado para todos, una luz para alumbrar a las naciones y gloria de su pueblo.

Esta luz es Jesús nuestro Señor. Que él esté siempre con ustedes

#### **Primera Lectura (Génesis 15,1-6; 21,1-3): Un Hijo, como Signo de la Alianza**

Dios promete a Abrahán un hijo, en su edad avanzada, como signo de que guardaría fielmente su alianza con él. Abrahán creyó y recibió un hijo.

#### **Segunda Lectura (Hebreos 11,8.11-12.17-19): La Fe de Abrahán, Sara e Isaac.**

Abrahán, con toda su familia, es para todos nosotros un modelo de fe en Dios y en sus promesas.

#### **Evangelio (Lucas 2,22-40): Una Luz que Ilumina a las Naciones**

Se les dice a María y a José que su hijo Jesús no es suyo para guardarlo exclusivamente para sí mismos. Deben ofrecerlo a todos, como Salvador de todos y de cada uno, y aceptar las dificultades de esta misión.

#### **Lectura del libro del Eclesiástico (3,2-6.12-14):**

Dios hace al padre más respetable que a los hijos y afirma la autoridad de la madre sobre su prole. El que honra a su padre expía sus pecados, el que respeta a su madre acumula tesoros; el que honra a su padre se alegrará de sus hijos y, cuando rece, será escuchado; el que respeta a su padre tendrá larga vida, al que honra a su madre el Señor lo escucha. Hijo mío, sé constante en honrar a tu padre, no lo abandones mientras vivas; aunque choquee, ten indulgencia, no lo abochornes mientras vivas. La limosna del padre no se olvidará, será tenida en cuenta para pagar tus pecados.

#### **¿Hay Familias Santas Hoy?**

En esta fiesta de la Sagrada Familia pensamos en todas las familias cristianas. ¿Hay familias santas, además de la de Nazaret? Sí, las hay, cada una en su estilo único, si los miembros, padres e hijos, se aman y respetan mutuamente y dejan que Dios alimente y profundice su afecto; sí, si el alimento, la alegría y el cuidado se comparten; sí, si los roces o choques se resuelven de una manera que permita a los miembros crecer juntos en el perdón y en la comprensión mutua; sí, hay familias santas donde la puerta se abre con hospitalidad, y donde el Señor mismo es acogido en hermanos pobres y sufrientes. Es el Señor mismo quien nos da la bienvenida aquí y ahora en esta celebración.

## **2. Familia en la Que los Hijos Puedan Crecer**

En la celebración de hoy de la Sagrada Familia se ofrece a nuestras familias cristianas un auténtico modelo. De muchas maneras la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret fue única, e imposible de imitar. La Palabra de Dios que vamos a escuchar hoy acentúa una forma en la que todas nuestras familias pueden seguir el modelo de Nazaret: buscando la voluntad de Dios, obediéndola y sintiendo alegría y felicidad en ella, aun cuando esa voluntad exija sacrificios. Se nos muestra a Jesús como alguien que, desde el niño que era en Navidad, creció a una madurez plena y que cumpliría la voluntad de Dios hasta el final. Que, como él, nosotros también crezcamos y alcancemos madurez en nuestra fe y en nuestro amor.

Gracias a Dios por este año que aún nos queda por disfrutar y agradecer... Hemos vivido momentos inolvidables, hemos encontrado o estamos en la búsqueda de consolidar nuestros anhelos en lo Espiritual, sentimental, laboral y social, pero siempre hay algo que todos buscamos: Dicha y Paz Verdaderas.

Esta frase nos lo recuerda y por eso si quieres hacer sonreír y estimular gratamente los buenos propósitos y sentimientos del nuevo año que empezará en breve, bien vale la pena compartirla entre nuestros seres queridos



# CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Navidad 2017

Al Pueblo de Dios de la Diócesis de Rockville Center:

¡Feliz Navidad para ustedes y sus familias! Al celebrar la entrada del Príncipe de la Paz en la historia mundial, damos gracias al Padre, al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo por la Misión de Misericordia de nuestra Santa Iglesia Católica.

Damos gracias por nuestras familias, nuestras iglesias domésticas, que transforman el mundo y la historia con el amor de Cristo y el espíritu misionero de la Iglesia.

Este mes pasado dedicamos el Centro Gianna de Long Island para la Salud y Fertilidad de la Mujer, que en su misión une el Esplendor de la Verdad de la Enseñanza Moral Católica sobre el Matrimonio y la Familia con la ciencia ética reproductiva a través del uso de la *Tecnología NaPro* y el *Creighton Model Care Fertility System*.

Este fue un momento importante para la Iglesia Católica y los Servicios Católicos de Salud en su servicio al bien común de Long Island.

La dedicación del Centro Gianna da una expresión viva de la celebración de algunos importantes aniversarios de la Iglesia en el 2018.

El 28 de julio de 2018, celebraremos el 50° aniversario de la encíclica de 1968 del Beato Papa Pablo VI, *Humanae Vitae*. El Beato Pablo VI fue profético cuando enseñó valientemente que toda la intimidad conyugal celebra las dimensiones amorosas y dadoras de vida del amor matrimonial que no se puede separar.

El Santo Padre predijo con precisión las nefastas consecuencias para la sociedad de separar las dimensiones amorosas y dadoras de vida del amor conyugal. Fue ampliamente criticado, incluso ridiculizado en su momento, pero como sabemos por el Antiguo Testamento, eso es exactamente lo que sucede con los profetas que defienden las verdades liberadoras.

El Beato John Henry Cardenal Newman dijo una vez: "La Iglesia Católica no está detrás de los tiempos. Está más allá de los tiempos". Y como destaca el renombrado físico de partículas Profesor Stephen Barr, en la historia del mundo, la Iglesia Católica es el mejor amigo y defensor del desarrollo científico *ético*. El Centro Gianna es una expresión de esta amistad, apoyo y solidaridad en la historia.

DIocese of Rockville Centre  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

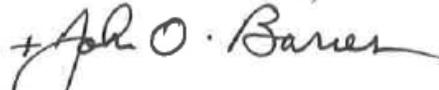
El 4 de agosto de 2018, también celebraremos el 25° aniversario de la gran encíclica de San Juan Pablo II, *El Esplendor de la Verdad*, que muestra que las elecciones y decisiones morales basadas en la verdad objetiva transforman e iluminan las vidas de los individuos y la sociedad.

El Centro Gianna es una parte poderosa de esa dedicación a la verdad, la caridad y la misericordia, y durante esta Navidad 2017, le pedimos al Niño Jesús que dirija a todos los que participan en la misión del Centro Gianna y a todos los que se sirven de esa misión.

La patrona del Centro, Santa Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) era esposa, madre y doctora dedicada al progreso de la ciencia médica. Su imagen es prominente en el altar principal de la Catedral de Santa Inés, donde celebraré la Misa de Navidad de Medianoche.

Rezaré para que su intercesión y su valiente y santo ejemplo puedan inspirarnos a cada uno de nosotros y a los miembros de nuestra familia en esta temporada navideña a ser catalizadores del *dramático crecimiento misionero* en Long Island.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

  
Reverendísimo John O. Barres  
Obispo de Rockville Centre

## OLPH MIDDLE AGES THANKS YOU

Due to the generosity of our fabulous parishioners, OLPH Middle Ages is “buried under” and hard at work sorting through everything donated to Veterans!



*Pictured here are Jane, Ann Marie & Linda.*



*Jane, Linda, Ann Marie & Gail take a break.*

# 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  
December 16/17, 2017**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	338	137	\$3,344.00
8:00 a.m.	285	119	3,192.00
10:00 a.m.	443	132	3,312.00
12:00 p.m.	432	148	3,029.00
5:00 p.m.	233	76	1,833.00
Coin			23.52
Mail-ins:			368.00
Children's Env.		18	42.31
Faith Direct			2,380.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>\$17,523.83</b>
<b>2016 total</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>\$18,560.36</b>
Candles			\$901.10
Poor Box			\$575.54

**SUPER 72 RAFFLE**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
DECEMBER WINNERS**

- \$1000 - Catherine Lang
- \$250 - Nick Cianciotta
- \$100 - Maris Piazza
- \$100 - Maryann Aidone
- \$100 - Herbert Otten
- \$100 - Angela Garofalo

**Extra \$250 Christmas Drawing:**  
*Joann Zerbo*

**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](mailto:cbecker@oloph.org).  
*Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

- December 31— passed
- January 7—December 29
- January 14—January 5



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](http://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 31, 2017—  
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel.”*

Luke 2:34

**Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3**

Today’s first reading is very comforting for those of us who sometimes wonder if God keeps his promises, especially when they seem long delayed. When God called Abraham, he promised that he would be the father of a great nation. We hear today Abraham wondering when God is going to fulfill that promise. But in the midst of his doubt, God comes to reassure him that he will be faithful to his promise and we hear how, through Sarah, God made Abraham the father of many nations. God always comes through at just the right time. How comforting it is to know that!

**Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

In the second reading we hear more about Abraham and how he was a man of outstanding faith. God’s call to Abraham meant he had to leave family, home and business—and he did. It meant he had to let go of the known and face the unknown—and he did. But we also hear about the faith of his wife Sarah. Both she and her husband believe in what is humanly impossible: that they will conceive a child in their old age. We also hear of Abraham’s biggest test—when God called him to sacrifice his son. Are we ready to sacrifice what is dearest to us out of loyalty to God?

**Luke 2:22-40**

In this story, Luke seeks to portray Jesus and his family as very faithful Jews, fulfilling two requirements of the law: purification of the mother after childbirth and dedication of the first son to God. Within the presentation story, we encounter two older and very faithful Jews, Simeon and Anna, who testify to the true nature of the child. The aged saints represent the faithful remnant of Israel at her best: devout, obedient, constant in prayer and led by the Spirit at home and in the Temple, longing and hoping for the fulfillment of God’s promises. They are the portrait of the Israel who accepted Jesus, in contrast to the Pharisees and Scribes who symbolize the Israel who rejected Jesus. While Simeon and Anna recognize the good news of Jesus’ arrival, they also make us aware of the cost of accepting the Messiah.

## Readings for the Week

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

**Monday, December 25, 2017:**

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

**Tuesday, December 26, 2017:**

Acts 6:8-10 + Matthew 10:17-22

**Wednesday, December 27, 2017:**

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

**Thursday, December 28, 2017:**

1 John 1:5—2:2 + Matthew 2:13-18

**Friday, December 29, 2017:**

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

**Saturday, December 30, 2017:**

1 John 2:12-17 + Luke 2:36-40

**Sunday, December 31, 2017:**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
+ Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
+ Luke 2:22-40

**Gospel Reflection Questions....**

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

1. Discuss Pope Francis’ “God with Us” remarks below. If you want to find God in the world today where might you start looking? What enables you to see the divine in the ordinary?

*“God has willed to share our human condition to the point of making himself one of us in the Person of Jesus, who is true man and true God. But even more surprising is that Jesus becomes man not in an ideal world, an idyllic [world], but in this real world, marked by so many things, good and bad, marked by divisions, wickedness, poverty, arrogance and wars. In this way God shows that He is merciful towards humanity, and filled with love for us. He is God-with-us: do you believe this?”*

*The birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely and individually by God—and God not only helps us to know this love for each of us, but also gives and communicates this love to us.”*

*Pope Francis: Jesus is God-with-us  
December 18, 2013 Vatican Radio*

2. “In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... He was in the world.” What is John saying about the Christ, creation, and the book of Genesis? Was Christ’s salvific mission universal for all people and all creation?

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