

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



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

Luke 2:51a

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH December 26, 2021

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

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

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

Business Manager: Mr. William D'Alessio

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

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

Come in and spend some time in prayer!

MASS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

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

Sunday Masses:

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

Special Needs Mass:

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

Holy Days of Obligation: Consult the bulletin

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday at 4:00 p.m.,

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

Morning Prayer each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

on the Zoom video platform.

Click on the Zoom link
on the home page of our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

*Also available by individual appointment
with one of the priests.*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

First Saturdays: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

DEVOTIONS

OLPH Novena: Mondays following 12:15 p.m. Mass

Rosary: Weekdays following 6:30 a.m. Mass
Saturdays and Sundays following 8:00 a.m. Mass

The Holy Face of Jesus: Tuesdays following
12:15 p.m. Mass

First Fridays and First Saturdays:

As announced in bulletin

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday, Saturday and Sunday:
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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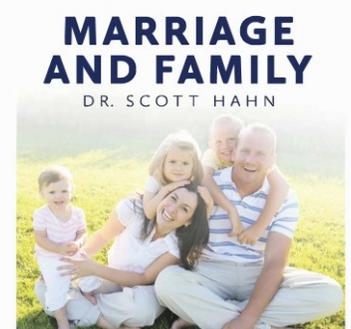
PICK OF THE WEEK

December 26, 2021

WATCH

LEARN

LISTEN



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PASTOR'S PAGE

Merry Christmas!

Allow me to offer my wishes for abundant Christmas Time blessings to come upon you and your family! The Church continues to celebrate the shining days of Christmas, as we celebrate that the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us — God became man and lived a human life. Jesus of Nazareth is Emmanuel, God-with-us, revealing to us the fullness of the invisible God. As one of the Mass prayers for Christmas Time in the Roman Missal reminds us, *“On the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.”* Those are beautiful words for us to pray about over and over again, in order to explore the richness and depth of the meaning of Christmas. How much we need to celebrate the days of Christmas Time during these days when we continue to experience so much anxiety and apprehension about so many things!

Don't let all the “after-Christmas” stuff you're hearing fool you — it's still Christmas, and will be for Catholics until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year is on Sunday, January 9. Keep the joy and meaning of Christmas Time alive and well through all these days up until January 9. Keep your house lit and your decorations up until then! Let's celebrate the fullness of Christmas Time!

Merry Christmas!

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

This Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This liturgical feast has been on the Church calendar for about one hundred years,

although it has been celebrated on different dates throughout its history. The feast celebrates the unity and love so evident in the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and one of the main things the Church prays for on this feast is that our families might imitate the virtues of the Holy Family.

For example, the Collect (opening prayer) for Mass praises the Holy Family as a shining example, and it asks that *“we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity.”* The Prayer over the Offerings makes another petition for our families when it asks that *“through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you [God] may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.”* Imitation of the Holy Family is invoked a third time, in the Prayer after Communion, as that prayer asks that we might *“imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,”* adding the petition that *“after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever.”*

It is so, so important to enjoy the grace and love of spending time together as a family. Discover the inherent beauty and goodness of being a family and see God's grace at work in the midst of your family... even the cranky family members who at times might be hard to get along with!

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God—a Holy Day

This Saturday, January 1, aside from being New Year's Day, is the Octave (Eighth Day) of the Nativity of the Lord, and it is also the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day. Masses for the Holy Day will be celebrated on Friday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m., and at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon on Saturday, January 1.

How beautiful it is to have a feast of the Blessed Mother so prominent during Christmas Time! One of the most

outstanding characteristics of Mary is her willingness to know and do God's will. While we would like to follow her example, we often find it difficult to do so, don't we? Do we have a clue that could help us imitate Mary more perfectly? I think the Gospel for the Mass of this Solemnity gives us that clue, words that I am always struck by: "*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*" She reflected on events that had happened and that were unfolding before her eyes. In other words, she meditated! Don't we need to do that more — to stop, reflect, meditate, ponder, and even, at times, just wonder (with a sense of awe!) at what God has done and is doing? God is always manifesting Himself, but we often miss it. Often we simply just don't spend as much time in prayer as we should. It can be a wonderful source of spiritual nourishment for us to quiet down, to pray and to meditate a little more, and so to rediscover a sense of wonder and awe about being in a never-ending love relationship with God. Talk about a great New Year's resolution! Would you be willing to make that yours?

Don't forget your Sunday obligation for Sunday, January 2!

After attending Mass for the Solemnity of Mary on either Friday night or Saturday during the day, we'll see you back again later on Saturday or on Sunday, to fulfill your Sunday obligation for Sunday, January 2, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Notice that there are afternoon Masses on Saturday, January 1, New Year's Day (4:00 p.m. Special Needs Mass in the auditorium and 5:00 p.m. in the church), and then again on Sunday, January 2, following the normal Sunday Mass schedule.

Sure, it's a lot of time in church in a short period of time, but it will be a blessing!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I take this opportunity to offer a tremendous THANK YOU to EVERYONE

who gave so much of themselves in helping us to celebrate such reverent and prayerful Christmas Masses. To all of you who offered your time and your service in tasks such as serving in a liturgical ministry, cleaning, decorating, arranging, and any of the other behind-the-scenes or in-front-of-the-scenes tasks: you are to be commended for your devotion to OLPH and for your good work during those days! Our liturgical life together is one of the main things that makes OLPH "the place to be," and everyone who offers their time and talent in service to our worship is an important part of that. THANK YOU to all!

Thank you for all the Christmas gifts and goodies!

Fr. Fidelis, Fr. Frank, Fr. Emmanuel and I take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent goodies and other Christmas gifts and greetings to the rectory. We are very grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thanks to everyone for taking such good care of your priests!

Ministry Directory

Each year around Christmas we release an updated edition of our parish Ministry Directory, a booklet listing all the different ministries, societies and organizations in the parish, giving a brief description of each one and also giving the information as to how anyone can become involved. Its purpose is to be a tool to increase involvement and engagement in the life of the parish. In an effort to use resources in the most cost-effective way possible, we will be printing only a small number of hard copies, to keep on hand in the rectory; the Ministry Directory is always available online at our website, and everyone is invited to refer to it there or download it and print it out from there. It is also available on our Parish App. So, look for the 2022 Ministry Directory coming soon!

Memorializing liturgical ritual books

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that we have a few memorializations still available for the new ritual books we purchased, which we use at liturgy. Full details are in the advertisement elsewhere in the bulletin. This is a beautiful way to memorialize your loved ones or your prayer request, and it is of tremendous help to the parish. These books will definitely be used frequently! Please call the rectory and ask about memorializing one of the ritual books that remain. Thank you for your consideration.

Brick Memorialization

Also, I'll take this opportunity to remind you that our brick memorialization program is ongoing. You can memorialize a brick in our "Let the Children Come to Me Prayer Garden" as a great way to start the new year! The flyer and the form are in this bulletin, so take advantage of the opportunity as soon as you can. It's a great way to memorialize a prayer intention, or to honor a deceased loved one. The profits from the bricks are an important component in working toward a healthy financial picture for the parish. Tell family and friends about this; remember, you don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH, or even be Catholic, to memorialize a brick!

Happy New Year!

Finally, I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and holy New Year. May the upcoming year of 2022 be filled with an abundance of blessings and good health for all of us!

I know that OLPH will continue to be "the place to be" in 2022 because TOGETHER we will continue to be open to the Lord's will for us, and we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek to do our part in building up the Kingdom of God here in Lindenhurst. Remember in the year ahead to always be grateful for the many blessings God constantly showers upon us; to my mind, gratitude is the primary and indispensable Christian spiritual attitude from which all else flows.

To all who will be celebrating New Year's Eve in any way: Be safe!

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,


NEW YORK STATE MASK MANDATE

The Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives. Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship God, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirement to wear masks when participating in any activities on parish grounds. This State requirement is currently in effect through January 15, 2022. We will continue to adapt accordingly as new information becomes available. Your patience and Christian charity towards one another during this difficult time is appreciated.

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



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Holy Day

Mass Schedule:

**Eve of the Solemnity,
Friday, December 31, 2021:**

5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 1, 2022:

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

PRAYER AND WORSHIP



Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take

some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Mondays at 12:45 p.m.



Special Needs Mass

for those who have
Special Needs and
for those who care for them.

Saturday, January 1

4:00 p.m. in the School Auditorium

Please join us at our Special Needs Mass, a Mass for those who have Special Needs and for those who care for them. We meet the **first Saturday of each month**. After Mass we have hospitality to introduce the ministry members to the people who attend the Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

All are invited to come and pray with our parish community.

First Saturday Devotions—in honor of Our Lady of Fatima—will be conducted Saturday, **January 1** beginning with the Rosary at 7:40 a.m., Mass at 8:00 a.m. and continued devotion following Mass.

First Friday Devotions will take place **January 7** after the 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses.

Each month, all are invited to join the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society for Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 6:30 p.m. Reflecting the diverse community present at OLPH, each hour of the evening is celebrated in different languages (English, Spanish, Polish). The evening concludes with Benediction at 9:30 p.m.

*Please note: There is no First Saturday Exposition on Saturday, January 1.
First Saturday Exposition will resume on February 6.*

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION NEXT WEEK

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is a traditional time to announce the major feasts and celebrations of the Church for the upcoming year. Before the advent of online calendars, iPhones, perpetual calendars, and handheld organizers, the formal announcement at Epiphany was the usual way the Church made known the date of Easter and all the celebrations that are dependent upon its date. Next weekend, after the Gospel at Mass, our cantors will chant this ancient announcement.



SPECIAL CARDS FOR THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF YOUR HOME

It is traditional for families to bless their home on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, which takes place next Sunday, January 2, 2022. In next week's bulletin we will have special information about blessing your home on Epiphany. We will also have available special cards which may be used in the blessing and placed above your doorway, to remain there for the entire upcoming year. Please look for these special cards available throughout the church next weekend.



CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY



This Sunday, **December 26th**, the **Knights of Columbus** will have available prayer cards for the **Consecration to the Holy Family**. Your family is encouraged to emulate the Holy Family. You are asked to stay after Mass and recite the prayer as a group, or take the card home to be read with your family.

FAREWELL TO CHRIS FERRARO



As you are aware, our Director of Music, Chris Ferraro, will be leaving OLPH, with January 9, 2022 as his last day with us. Join us at the **12:00 Noon Mass on Sunday, January 9** as we say farewell to Chris and thank him for his many years of dedicated service and ministry to OLPH. We'll have hospitality in the auditorium immediately following the Mass.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Join us Next Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass



Children 1st Grade and older can join in the Children's Liturgy of the Word every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to teach children how to participate in Mass, since they do the same things that are being done in the main body of the church.



FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

LIVE-STREAM MASS

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

You can join us virtually using one of the following:

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



FR. FIDELIS HAS A YOUTUBE CHANNEL



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

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

A LETTER FROM BISHOP BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2021

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

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter *On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.¹

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: "Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts."

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God's love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: "I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the

¹ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home.

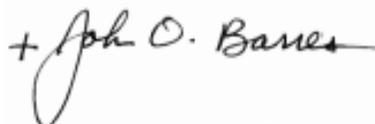
The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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.



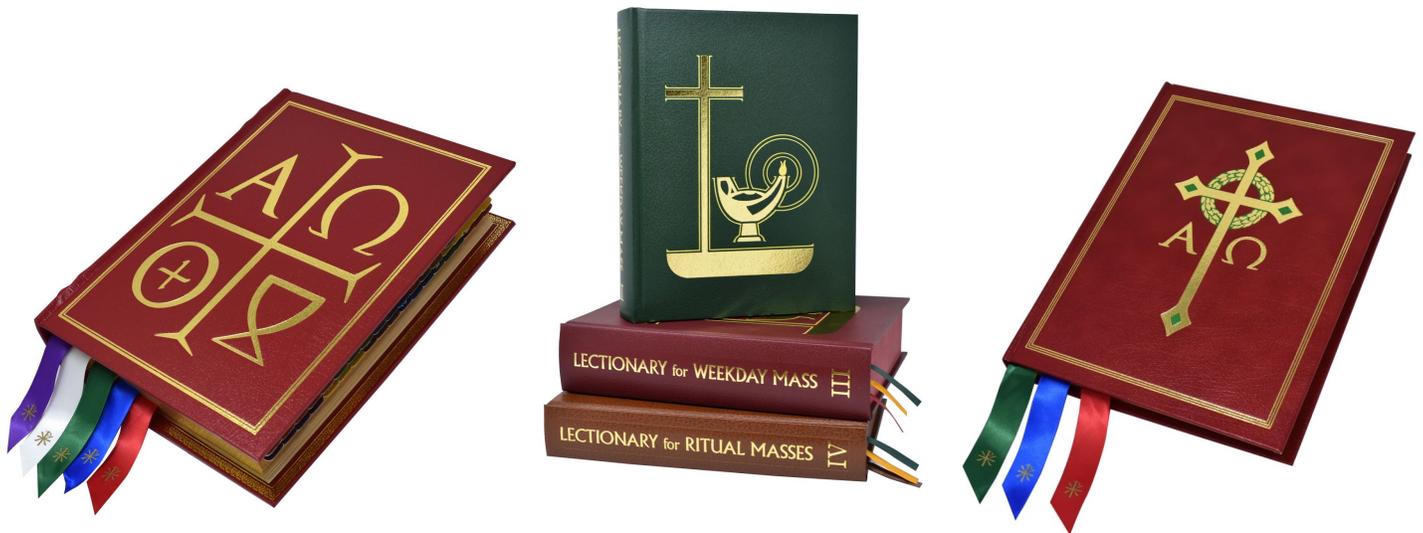
MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES—NEW RITUAL BOOKS

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

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

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

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



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

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION HOURS:

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

ALL LEVELS

On Wednesday, December 29 and Saturday, January 1 there will be NO CLASS due to the Christmas and New Year's break. Have blessed days with your family, and we will see you in the New Year!

**THANK YOU!**

The Christmas Pageant was a big success this year and we could not have done it without everyone that was involved. I am excited to have the Christmas Pageant again next year!

HELP NEEDED!

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

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. Magdalen of Canossa was born in Verona, Italy on March 1, 1774 to a very wealthy noble family. They were so rich that she grew up in a palace! She wanted to serve God at a young age and joined a convent when she was 15, but her mother left the family when she was 17, so Magdalen had to take care of the family estate and return home, since her father died when she was three. She wanted to help the poor, so she started a school for young girls to be taught basic education as well as religion. Many other women started to help her and she founded the Daughters of Charity, and opened other houses all over Italy.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631 225-9864— cdefeldman@optonline.net
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631. 921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O’Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optimum.net
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Virginia Beyrer—631-226-6635
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

Food Pantry List

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

*Please bring items to the SVdP office:
 Wednesday and Friday
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 and on 1st and 3rd Saturdays
 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
 Thank you*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the School Building
 Use Parking Lot located on corner of
 Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

Our regular office hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and

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

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” of 182 adults, 142 children, and 32 Seniors, for a total of 111 families. Thank you!

RESPECT LIFE THANKS YOU!

YOU are so special and so amazingly generous. We laugh from joy and happiness. The number and range of gifts from the Giving Tree to support the Respect of Life was breath-taking. Thank you. We and our parents are so grateful.



SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
William D'Alessio, Business Manager	204	bdalessio@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

First Announcement:
Brian Walsh & Laura Bastin

PERPETUAL HELP MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 8:00 A.M.

<i>For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family</i>	<i>Requested by the Estate of Rev. Thomas J. McCarthy</i>
<i>Michael Rossi</i>	<i>Requested by Shirleyann Watson</i>

WE REMEMBER

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

Janet L. Novotny
Rosario Bono

“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.”



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY **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 she was 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!”

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Roberto Mato</i> | <i>John Bryzgornia</i> |
| <i>Carol Bafundo</i> | <i>Jeff Zero</i> |
| <i>Mildred Caliendo</i> | <i>Marguerette Hoffman</i> |
| <i>Rose Pezzanite</i> | <i>Joan Giarratano</i> |
| <i>Grace Grasso</i> | <i>Lisa O’Reilly</i> |
| <i>Louise Sturgeon</i> | <i>Lisa Marie Hulsen</i> |
| <i>Lindsay P. Henry</i> | <i>Lynn Simonetti</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth Astacio</i> | <i>Richard Geed</i> |
| <i>Angela Pagnotta</i> | <i>Grace Grasso</i> |
| <i>Baby Cameron Bensen</i> | <i>Eileen Quinn</i> |
| <i>Peter Novak</i> | <i>Camile Shea</i> |
| <i>Victoria Hurst</i> | |

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. Please call the Parish Office to have the name of the person added to the list. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for at least four weeks **and will be announced at Mass the first week only.** You don’t need to make the request again until after the name is removed from the list.

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

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

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



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 27— Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	
6:30	Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
12:15	Agnes Pettinato
TUESDAY, December 28— The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	
6:30	Michael Adam Knipper
12:15	Patricia O'Donnell
WEDNESDAY, December 29— Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord <i>(Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr)</i>	
6:30	Michael Knipper
12:15	Mildred Matera
THURSDAY, December 30— Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	
6:30	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton
12:15	Mildred Matera
FRIDAY, December 31— Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	
6:30	Patricia Guardino
12:15	Gerry Costa
The Octave Day of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God <i>(Anticipated Mass)</i>	
5:00	Lenore Roach
SATURDAY, January 1, 2022— The Octave Day of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	
10:00	Patrick & Cathleen O'Brien
12:00	Anthony Gerrato
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
4:00	Frederick Johnson <i>Special Needs Mass—Auditorium</i>
5:00	Marjorie A. Santoli
Sunday, January 2— THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
8:00	Perpetual Help Mass (List on p.18)
10:00	Patricia Kenney
12:00	For the People of the Parish

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 27, 2021		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 23
Tuesday, December 28, 2021		
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:15 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation	St. Mark's Room
Wednesday, December 29, 2021		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus
Thursday, December 30, 2021		
1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
Friday, December 31, 2021		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
Saturday, January 1, 2022		
All Rectory and Religious Education Offices are closed and all activities cancelled for New Year's Day.		
Sunday, January 2, 2022		
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	K of C Poster Contest	Church
7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE

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



EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

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

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

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

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

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

Liturgia Viva del Domingo de la Sagrada Familia: Jesús, María y José - Ciclo C

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

Los dos fundamentos de la vida familiar son amor y respeto, dice la Biblia. ¿No habrían de permanecer estas dos virtudes como la piedra angular de nuestras familias, hoy en día?

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 templo, 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 Honra a tu Padre y a tu Madre

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Vida en el Señor

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- Tengo que estar en la Casa de mi Padre

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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...?

2. Ocupado en los Asuntos del Padre

Quizás sea difícil para nosotros imaginar que Jesús, Hijo mismo de Dios, fuera realmente humano, que crecía no sólo físicamente, sino que también iba madurando como persona, y descubría poco a poco la conciencia de sí mismo, quién era él mismo. Desde luego, la Sagrada Familia entera buscó siempre hacer la voluntad de Dios, pero hoy vemos a Jesús afirmar que ha tomado conciencia de que tiene una relación especialmente íntima con el Padre y que lo que realmente importa para él es la voluntad amorosa de Dios. --- ¿Es eso también para nosotros realmente lo más importante, y no habríamos de crecer en nuestra intimidad con Dios? Que Jesús en esta eucaristía nos ayude a madurar totalmente en el amor a Dios.

**OFFERING UPDATE
DECEMBER 18/19**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	216	84	\$1,880.00
8:00 a.m.	220	128	3,755.00
10:00 a.m.	282	74	3,089.00
12:00 p.m.	310	82	2,150.00
Coin			9.59
Faith Direct:			2,714.75
Children's Env.		6	14.00
Mail-ins:			1,340.00
TOTAL	1,028	374	\$14,952.34
2020 total	719	274	\$14,911.05
Candles			\$713.88
Poor Box			\$782.93

**2022 OLPH CONTRIBUTION
TAX LETTERS**

Tax letters for the 2021 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address & envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DEADLINES FOR
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All requests for items printed in the bulletin must first have approval from Msgr. DeGrocco or the ministry moderator. *All material must be submitted* by the dates listed and *as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at atbecker@oloph.org.
Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.

January 2—passed
January 9—December 31
January 16—January 7
Early printer deadlines due to Christmas & New Year holidays

**UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS
AND EARLY CLOSING:**

- Please note our upcoming special office hours:
- All parish offices will close at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 31.
 - All parish offices will remain closed and all activities are cancelled on Saturday, January 1, 2022 for New Year's Day.
 - Offices will re-open Sunday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m. for normal Sunday hours.



**2021
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**
DIOCESE OF
ROCKVILLE CENTRE



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



**TO OUR NEW OLPH PARISHIONERS
December 2021**

*Margaret Curley & Charles
Dominick Cash, Skiela Pearson, Aubrey & Deliah
Roseann Sullivan
Debra Meder
Sandra Rago
Claire Papa
Robert & Darlene Fantel
Roberto, Maria, Enrique, Daniel & Samantha Rodriguez*

PREPARING FOR
Sunday, January 2, 2022
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*And behold,
the star that the magi had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.* Matthew 2:9b

Isaiah 60:1-6

Biblical writers often use "Jerusalem" and "Zion" as poetic symbols for the entire people of God. The light the prophet proclaims to Zion symbolizes the active presence of God in the world which brings deliverance and blessing: a new future for his people, with the return of her children to the Lord, as well as the gathering in of the Gentile nations who themselves will walk by Israel's light.

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul is the special herald of a new promise to the Gentiles: that the divine plan includes them in the same spiritual benefits promised to Israel. But this is not his only unique mission. Paul also has been given the task of explaining to all, Jew and Gentile alike, the once-hidden divine plan of salvation that is now made visible and knowable in the person and work of Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

The star, symbolic of the light of truth provided by God, and which calls out to all peoples through his creation, guided the magi at all times. Their knowledge of the star's significance brought them from the east as far as Jerusalem, yet they were still unable to locate the Child Jesus. But once they learned what God himself had revealed about his Messiah and once they were fully enlightened by Scripture, they set out towards Bethlehem with a guiding light that shone even more brightly for them. They then become "overjoyed at seeing the star" and their search became easy and swift with the star preceding them and coming to rest over the place where the Child Jesus dwelt.

Gospel Reflection

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

1. Though darkness covered the earth, light and glory came to Jerusalem, says the First Reading. Are you aware of God's light and glory in your life?

2. Just what was this mystery that Paul said "was made known to me by revelation"? How does God's grace enter in? How does mystery brighten the world? Is every person ever born a "coheir"?

3. As the star led the Magi to Christ, what does Pope Francis say God gives us to guide our pilgrimage? What does he suggest we learn from the Magi about being "cunning"?

"The star appearing in the sky kindled in their minds and in their hearts a light that moved them to seek the great Light of Christ. Every person has two great 'books' which provide the signs to guide this pilgrimage. These 'books,' are 'the book of creation and the book of sacred Scripture.' What is most important, is that we be attentive, alert, and listen to God who speaks to us, ... listening to the Gospel, reading it, meditating on it and making it our spiritual nourishment especially enables us to encounter the living Jesus, to experience him and his love. The Magi used this light of 'cunning' when, on the way back, they decided not to pass by the gloomy palace of Herod, but to take another route. The wise men teach us how not to fall into the snares of darkness and how to defend ourselves from the shadows which seek to envelop our life."

*From Pope Francis Homily on
the Feast of the Epiphany,
January 6, 2014*

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 27, 2021:

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

Tuesday, December 28, , 2021:

1 John 1:5—2:2
+ Matthew 2:13-18

Wednesday, December 29, 2021:

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

Thursday, December 30, 2021:

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

Friday, December 31, 2021:

1 John 2:18-21
+ John 1:1-18

Saturday, January 1, 2022:

Numbers 6:22-27
+ Galatians 4:22-27
+ Luke 2:16-21

Sunday, January 2, 2022:

Isaiah 60:1-6
+ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
+ Matthew 2:1-12

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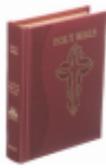
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