

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



myParish app!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2.



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

Luke 2:51a

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 30, 2018

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero

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

Business Manager: Mr. Frank Pokorney

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Monsignor Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME IN AND PRAY...

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

Come in and spend some time in prayer.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

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

Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,

12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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

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

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday Evening: after OLPH Novena Devotions

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

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

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



**Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

**Mass Schedule:
Eve of the Solemnity,
Monday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1, 2019:
10:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.**

DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

Catholic Life Every Day
with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

Step 1: Open App Store or Google Play

Step 2: Search "myParish app" & press download 

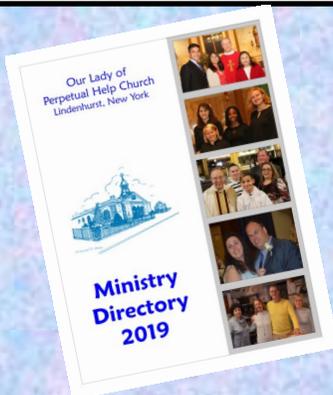
Step 3: Open up the myParish app and type in "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church"

Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

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



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIRECTORY!



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

PASTOR'S PAGE

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Time blessings to 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 over in order to explore the richness and depth of the meaning of Christmas!

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 13 (a nice, long season of Christmas Time!). These are the days that are appropriate for Christmas parties, Christmas visiting and Christmas cheer; our own OLPH Pastoral Staff and Support Staff Christmas Party will be on Thursday evening of this week, January 3. Keep the joy and meaning of Christmas Time alive and well through all these days up until January 13. 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 weekend 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.”*

No family is perfect; all families have conflict and all families deal with less-than-ideal situations. Don't get caught up in the idea that your family cannot live up to the ideal of the Holy Family; just put into practice as best you can the Christian virtues of love, compassion, forgiveness and sacrifice. Pray for your family, using the thoughts and words of those prayers of the Mass for the Holy Family; ask for the grace for you and all the members of your family to imitate the virtues lived by Jesus, Mary and Joseph as the Holy Family. Perhaps a great gift we could all give to our families would be to do the hard work of soul-searching and examining our conscience, to try to discern what we could change about ourselves in order to better imitate the love and self-giving of the Holy Family.

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

This Tuesday, 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 of Obligation. So, once again we'll be back at Mass within the space of a few days, since we are required to attend Mass for the Solemnity. Masses for the Holy Day will be celebrated on Monday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. and at 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 1; be sure to attend one of them.

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? The Gospel for the Mass of this Solemnity gives us a 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 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 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?

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I take this opportunity to offer a tremendous THANK YOU to EVERYONE who gave so much of themselves to make our Christmas Masses so beautiful. To all the liturgical ministers, to all who in any way give their time to assist in and around the church, by cleaning, decorating, arranging, and many other behind-the-scenes and in-front-of-the-scenes tasks, and to all who work here, you are to be commended for your devotion and 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!

Brick Memorialization

Allow me to again remind you that our brick memorialization program is ongoing. You can memorialize a brick in our "Let the Children Come to Me Prayer Garden" 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.

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

Pastoral Staff and Support Staff Christmas Party

This Thursday night, January 3, we'll be having our annual Pastoral Staff and Support Staff Christmas Party — in other words, it's for the full-time pastoral ministers and everyone who is employed at OLPH. It's still Christmas Time, and we've found this to a great time to have our Christmas party each year. Please note that the rectory will be closed that night; there will be no evening hours for the reception desk.

Let me take this opportunity to say that I continue to be extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication shown by everyone on the Pastoral

Staff and Support Staff. They all keep OLPH running smoothly, some of them working directly with parishioners and some of them working more behind-the-scenes, but all working very hard and all with great devotion and dedication.

No matter what job one has here, as Pastor I deeply value each employee's presence and work, and I am pleased and proud to be working with them to carry out the mission of the parish. They work here out of their love for the Church and for the Lord, and they are to be commended for it. Thanks to all!

Can you help take down the Christmas decorations?

No, no, no, I am not rushing Christmas Time — this is just a kind of "mark your calendar" reminder so that you can plan ahead. We'll be taking down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 13, immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass (that is, after the last Mass of Christmas Time), so, if you're free, you're invited to come on down and help out. In addition to doing some good work for the parish, you'll have the chance to share some fun with your fellow parishioners.

Happy New Year!

Finally, I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and holy New Year. May the upcoming year of 2019 be filled with an abundance of blessings for you and your family! I know that OLPH will continue to be "the place to be" in 2019 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 on; to my mind, gratitude is the primary 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.

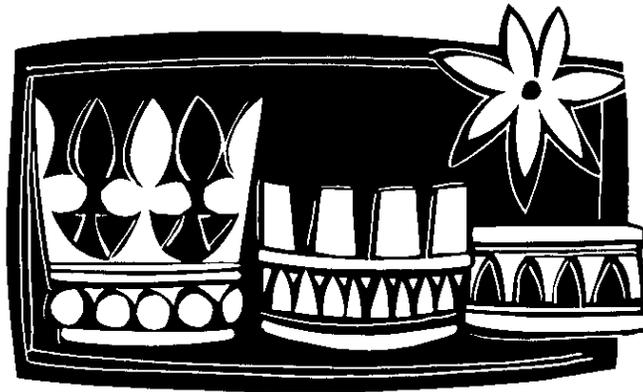
And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,



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 6, 2019**. 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.

Peace be with this house and all who live here

20 +  +  +  + 19

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Lindenhurst, New York

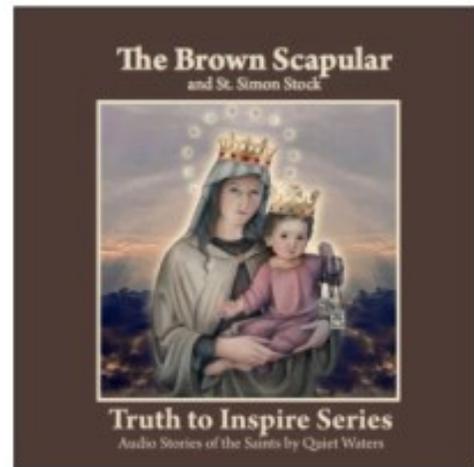
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

The Brown Scapular and St. Simon Stock

Where Does the Brown Scapular Come From?

In this exciting audio drama for youth, follow the miraculous story of Saint Simon Stock who abandoned worldly comforts when Our Blessed Mother asked him to spread devotion to her Brown Scapular. Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with your kids, and remind them that following God's will is always an adventure!

Listen on formed.org



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



FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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

Monday, December 31—

**No Devotions due to the Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

Monday, January 7—7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 14—7:00 p.m.

REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

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

SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

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



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

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.



*Lord Jesus Christ,
who are called the Prince of Peace,
Who are yourself our peace
and our reconciliation,
Who so often said 'Peace to you',
Grant us peace!
Make all men and women witnesses
of truth, justice and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts
whatever might endanger peace.
Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee
and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples of the earth
become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth
and reign always over us all.
AMEN
Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!
(Pope Saint John XXIII)*

PRAYER & WORSHIP

FIRST FRIDAY, FIRST SATURDAY & SUNDAY DEVOTIONS



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

First Friday Devotions will take place **January 4** after the 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses.

First Saturday Devotions—in honor of Our Lady of Fatima—will be conducted Saturday, **January 5** beginning with the Rosary at 7:40 a.m., Mass at 8:00 a.m. and continued devotion following Mass.

Each month, all are invited to join the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society for Eucharistic Adoration. **Adoration will be held on Saturday, January 5 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 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 11:00 p.m.

First Sunday Devotions —Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place Sunday, **January 6** at 7:00 p.m.



Mass for All People with Special Needs

The *Special Needs Ministry* hosts a monthly celebration of the Eucharist in a smaller setting designed to provide a fulfilling worship experience for all adults and children who may be uncomfortable in a larger setting.

Please join us on **Saturday, January 5** at **4:00 p.m. in the auditorium**. Let's all come together and worship together! After Mass we have Hospitality!

Levels 6—8 and Teens may join us early to help the ministry with set up and to gain Confirmation Service hours. Call Jessica at the Religious Education office (number below) to let her know you are coming.

We can always use some help in preparing for our monthly Mass and other special needs events. How about you? Contact Jessica Becker at 631.226-7725 X 252 or email to jbecker@oloph.org

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASS

CHRISTOLOGY

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

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

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Place: Room 3 in OLPH School



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

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

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

YES, PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR CHRISTOLOGY!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return no later than January 12, 2019.



WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

DO YOU LOVE YOUR JOB?

ARE YOU FULFILLING
YOUR CAREER DREAMS?

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

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



**LET’S HELP EACH OTHER
FIND OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE**

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



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**OFFICE HOURS:**

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

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless

- Mother Teresa

Levels 6-8 & TEEN:

On Wednesday, January 2,
there is NO CLASS due to Christmas Break!
We will see you next week; make sure to keep up
with your Workbooks and Mass Journals!

Levels 1-5 & Sp. Ed.:
On Saturday, January 5,
we will be back to the
normal class schedule!
Happy New Year!



WE WANT YOU!

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

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

Happy Saint of the Day!**Mary, Mother of God**
January 1

Mary is the greatest of all the saints because of one very important thing she agreed to when she was just twelve years old: she said "Yes" to God! Mary didn't have to say yes to God's

plan for her, but she knew in her heart that it was something she wanted to do. She made the decision that would change not only her life forever, but the entire world! Not only did she say yes to giving birth to Jesus, but because Jesus is God she is the Mother of God. Mary was there for Jesus during His whole life on this earth. She watched Him grow from a small baby to a wonderful, intelligent, and caring man. Mary then had to suffer through the loss of her child when watching Him being crucified, something no parent should have to go through. Not once did she falter in her faith or love for her son and God. "Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee!"

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

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

NEW Food Pantry List!

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

PLEASE NO PASTA AT THIS TIME.

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

**Thank you
for your continued generosity.**

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of
Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

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

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.

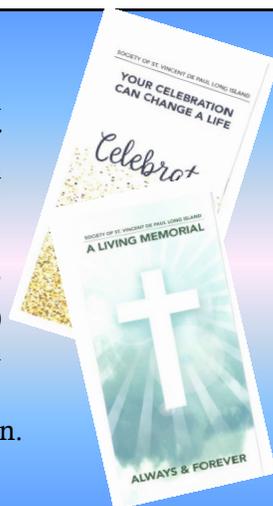
At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” who are poor and in need of some basic necessities. Thank you!

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is happy to announce an expansion of our Memorial Card program. In addition to updated *Living Memorial* cards, we are now able to offer *Special Occasion* cards. These are a great way to commemorate a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, get well, thank you, holiday, etc.) while supporting SVDP's efforts to provide not just food, but also financial, material and spiritual aid to our neighbors.

Memorial/Special Occasion card envelopes are available on the pew ledges or in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. The Memorial or Special Occasion Card acknowledging your donation will be sent to the person/family indicated on the form.

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



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY

DONATIONS:

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

We are in need of the following:

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

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



SENIOR MOMENTS

GIVE YOURSELF A CHALLENGE

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

Our next meeting:

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

MIDDLE AGES

Our Middle Ages Group thanks everyone for their generosity from the Advent Giving Tree for our Veterans.



K OF C BLOOD DRIVE

**Help
save
lives**



EMERGENCY Blood Drive

Sunday,
January 13, 2019
9:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Room 16 & 18 OLPH New School
Each donation helps to save up to 3 lives
Contact: Regina Muir at
631-223-5327

Ages 16 -75 are eligible
16 and 17 year olds must have
parental permission

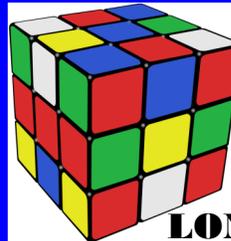


♥ Eligibility Criteria ♥

Please Bring **Donor Card** or ID.
Minimum Weight: 110lbs.
No New Tattoos for past 12 months.
Ages 16 - 74 (75+ with doctor permission).

For questions concerning medical eligibility:
www.nybc.org | 1-800-688-0900

CYO EVENT



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

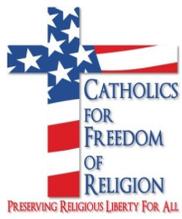
LONG ISLAND WINTER 2019 SPEED SOLVE COMPETITION

Saturday, February 23, 2019
in the OLPH Auditorium

Registration to compete costs \$25,
and must be completed through
the WORLD CUBE ASSOCIATION
<https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/LongIslandWinter2019>

There is a limit of 80 competitors.
OR JUST STOP BY AND WATCH !
Contact Luke Farrell for information
or questions olphcyo11757@gmail.com
516-343-5434

CATHOLICS FOR THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION



FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

www.cffor.org

“O Come let us adore Him”
in a manger, come to save us
Christ the King



Merry Christmas from
Catholics for Freedom of Religion

- ❖ God’s gifts to each man...life, liberty and the freedom to choose to follow Him
- ❖ America’s promise to each citizen...the freedom to follow one’s conscience and practice one’s faith in service to God



The Office of
FAITH FORMATION
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

STAY CONNECTED
drvc-faith.org

Upcoming Workshops

Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training Level II
Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Manorville

Starting January 5, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Serie de Enriquecimiento para Catequistas

Basílica de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María,
Southampton

A partir del 17 de enero de 2019
6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m.

RCIA Nivel I

Basílica de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María,
Southampton

Starting January 13, 2019
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Catechist Enrichment Series
Sacred Hearts of

Jesus and Mary, Southampton

Starting January 17, 2019
6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras

Prayer Service & Brunch

St. Frances de Chantal Parish, Wantagh

February 2, 2019
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ministry Of Consolation: Part 1

Maria Regina, Seaford

Starting March 5, 2019
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

RCIA

Enrichment Day

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington

March 19, 2019
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

FOCCUS Facilitator Training

Two Day Session

Saint Kilian, Farmingdale

Starting January 7, 2019
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

One Day Session

Saint Kilian, Farmingdale

January 12, 2019
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Bible How To

St. Patrick, Huntington

January 10, 2019
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

OR

St. Francis Cabrini, Coram

February 2, 2019
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

OR

Our Lady of Grace, Babylon

March 28, 2019
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Divorce & Beyond

Support Group

St. Patrick Parish, Smithtown

Starting January 23, 2019
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Preparación para el Bautismo Entrenamiento para Facilitadores Nivel I

Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Deer Park

A partir del 5 de marzo de 2019.
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Baptism Preparation

Facilitator Training Level I

Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Deer Park

Starting March 5, 2019
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Un Día de Retiro

para los Electos

Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción, Huntington

31 de marzo, 2019
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register online, please visit
www.drvc-faith.org

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Eileen Corticchia (Chair)
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Jeffrey Gaab
 Gregory Guido
 Sonia Hansen
 Joselyn Kalt
 Mary Leon
 Kevin Sabella, Jr.
 Kevin Sabella, Sr.
 James Totino
 Adele Venezia

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
 John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
 Bill Bendernagel
 Gerry Chille (Chair)
 Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Christine Donovan
 Marie Gagneron
 Kenneth Hale
 Bob Meade
 Bob Mehm
 Frank Pokorney
 John Reynolds

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER



TO OUR NEW
OLPH
PARISHIONERS

December 2018

*Henry, Caitlin and Emma Hahn
Eric and Uriah Miller*

Mary Brush-Griffin and Jeremiah Griffin

BEREAVEMENT GROUPS NEAR OLPH

For many of us, the loss of a loved one can be a devastating experience. Grief can cause us to become depressed, disoriented or angry. Ordinary aspects of our life can overwhelm us. Our experiences of grief affect us even more deeply when we do not have the support of family or friends. Sharing our pain with others in a bereavement group eases the anguish brought on by the death of a loved one. Many bereavement groups exist within driving distance of Lindenhurst. A complete listing of bereavement groups in the area can be found at the Diocese of Rockville Centre website.

To access a complete listing of bereavement groups near OLPH, follow these steps:

Open your web browser (Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Yahoo, etc.) Enter www.drvc.org in the address bar. You should be looking at the DRVC website. Move your cursor (pointer) across the top of the website to the box labelled "Faith Formation". This will launch a pull-down menu starting with Marriage. The last item on the list is "Bereavement". Click on "Bereavement".

There are many features to explore on this page. If you move your cursor to "Support Groups", you'll be taken to a page that permits you to go to articles about the nature of grief for individuals who are beginning the process of mourning. ("Find out more here.") Move your cursor over the list from each of the counties to view the bereavement programs in various parishes. These lists are maintained and updated by the Office of Faith Formation at the Diocese.

*Blessed are they who mourn
for they will be comforted.
(Matthew 5:4)*



WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Marie D'Angelo</i>	<i>Roberta Fifield</i>
<i>Carl D'Angelo</i>	<i>Jeanne Calise</i>
<i>Tom Willumson</i>	<i>Loretto Dinardo</i>
<i>Marge Heldeman</i>	<i>Teresa Pirolo</i>
<i>Joanne Hernandez</i>	<i>Patricia Goertz</i>
<i>Ginny Gala</i>	<i>Debbi Triola-Curiale</i>
<i>Joseph Pugh</i>	<i>Louise Perrotta</i>
<i>Peter Masak</i>	<i>Dr. Alan Lloyd Steinberg</i>
<i>Natalie & Lew Yugel</i>	<i>Kimberly Wilson</i>
<i>Gail Tonnessen</i>	<i>John Manning</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 their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks.

MARCH FOR LIFE



MARCH FOR LIFE

Friday, January 18, 2019

A peaceful march showing opposition to the murder of babies, the physical and psychological damage to the mothers, and destruction of families. Once again, we are blessed that Msgr. Joe has allowed us to hire a bus to take us to the march. Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 5:00 a.m. and the bus will leave Lindenhurst around 5:30 a.m. and will leave Washington, D.C. about 5:00 p.m.

A \$20 donation is requested to offset the cost of the bus.

If interested, please call Kathy Feldman of the Respect Life Committee at 631-225-9864.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, December 31—****SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

6:30 Marie Sica

12:15 Babette Smith

**EVE OF THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD;
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

5:00 For the People of the Parish

TUESDAY, January 1—**THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD;
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

10:00 Dave Roben

12:15 Anthony Gerrato

WEDNESDAY, January 2—**SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT
& GREGORY NAZIANZEN,
BISHOPS & DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH**

6:30 Peter Woodburn

12:15 Joan Nucci

THURSDAY, January 3—**CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
(The Most Holy Name of Jesus)**

6:30 Carol Noto

12:15 Bernard Lawrence Tucci

FRIDAY, January 4—**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS**

6:30 Patti King

12:15 Carol Helen Dodge

SATURDAY, January 5**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP**

8:00 Angelo DiGuglielmo

**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

4:00 Anthony Mainini

5:00 For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, January 6
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

8:00 Maureen Neilan

10:00 Lillian Scalone

12:00 Truskowski Family

5:00 David Roben

PARISH CALENDAR**Monday, December 31, 2018**

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Room 24

**ALL RECTORY AND RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICES WILL
CLOSE AT 3:00 P.M. AND REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M.**

7:00 p.m. No Devotions

Tuesday, January 1, 2019**HAPPY NEW YEAR!****Wednesday, January 2, 2019**

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Room 24

10:00 Blue Door Boutique Convent

12:45 Exposition Church

2:00 p.m. Legion of Mary Room 24

6:00 p.m. Van Run Room 12

Thursday, January 3, 2019

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

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal Church

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group Cafeteria

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

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous Room 24

**No RECTORY OFFICE HOURS AFTER 5:00 P.M.
DUE TO THE STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY****Friday, January 4, 2019**

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Room 24

10:00 Blue Door Boutique Convent

Saturday, January 5, 2019

8:30, 10:00 Levels 1-5 & Sp. Ed. Classes School

1:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Room 24

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

8:00 p.m. Nocturnal Adoration Church

Sunday, January 6, 2019

8:00 a.m. RCIA Church

9:15 a.m. RCIC Meeting Room 18

11:00 RCIA Faith Formation Room 16

1:00 p.m. Community Meal Cafeteria

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Church

7:00 p.m. Holy Hour for Peace Church

7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

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

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

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

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

Reflexiones de las lecturas del domingo 6 de Enero del 2019

La epifanía del señor.

Primera Lectura del libro de Isaías (60,1-6):

El mundo que estaba en tinieblas ha recibido una gran luz

Segunda Lectura de la carta del apóstol san Pablo a los Efesios (3,2-3a.5-6)

La misericordia de Dios fue revelada como nunca antes atreves del Espíritu santo a los Santos Apóstoles para que los gentiles fuéramos coherederos y parte de la promesa.

Lectura del santo evangelio según san Mateo (2,1-12)

Jesús nació El dios que salva ya está entre nosotros.

La fiesta del 6 de Enero, al menos en nuestros ambientes, está en peligro. Su contenido original ha ido sufriendo un progresivo desplazamiento hacia zonas cada vez más alejadas de su auténtico sentido, absolutizando lo anecdótico e irrelevante.

Para comprenderla hay que volver a la palabra de Dios. La Epifanía es una fiesta de Luz y de Alegría; así la presenta el texto de Isaías. Una llamada a divisar horizontes más allá de la propia casa; a convertirnos en buscadores y caminantes de esa nueva ruta que diseña el Señor.

La fiesta de la Epifanía celebra el derrumbamiento del muro que separaba a los hombres, haciendo de todos un solo pueblo (Ef 2,14; 3,6). Es la fiesta del ecumenismo de la salvación realizada en Jesucristo, en quien “no hay judío ni griego... , porque todos son uno en Cristo”

(Col 3,11). El Dios que nace en Belén no es el Dios de un pueblo o de una raza, sino el Dios de todo hombre. La luz que nace en Belén no puede quedar aprisionada bajo los estrechos marcos de una religión nacional, por eso sube, en forma de estrella, al firmamento, para encender la esperanza de todas las naciones y alumbrar sus pasos en la búsqueda de la Verdad.

El relato evangélico aporta, por su parte, lecciones de gran calado. La presentación que hace de los Magos rebasa el interés de lo anecdótico, para presentarlos como figuras significativas para la vida cristiana.

Desde una situación de búsqueda, abiertos a la Verdad, aún no conocida pero presentida y deseada, al menor indicio abandonan sus seguridades y se ponen en camino. Y, peregrinos de la verdad y de la fe, preguntan, investigan y, por fin, se postran ante la Verdad, a la que ofrecen sus presentes. Buscadores de la Verdad, que no se sienten defraudados al encontrarla en la pobreza.

Actitudes ejemplares y poco comunes. Porque existe el peligro, y el mismo relato evangélico lo subraya, de adoptar ante la Verdad una actitud hostil (la de Herodes) o indolente (la de los Sumos sacerdotes y letrados de Jerusalén).

Desde esta celebración podríamos someter nuestra vida a preguntas como éstas: ¿Hemos visto nosotros su estrella? ¿Nos ponemos en camino o permanecemos indolentes, descansando en nuestras seguridades? ¿Sentimos pasión por alumbrar la ruta de los hombres con la luz del Evangelio? ¿Somos estrellas para el mundo?

Reflexión personal

¿Ha brillado en mi vida la “estrella” del Señor?

.- ¿Qué ilusión alimento en la Epifanía de Jesús?

.- ¿Es mi espiritualidad la del “buscador” de la Luz?

PREPARING FOR
Sunday, January 6, 2019
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 Questions....

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

1. 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 31, 2018:

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

Tuesday, January 1, 2019:

Numbers 6:22-27

+ Galatians 4:4-7

+ Luke 2:16-21

Wednesday, January 2, 2019:

1 John 2:22-28

+ John 1:19-28

Thursday, January 3, 2019:

1 John 2:29-3:6 + John 1:29-34

Friday, January 4, 2019:

1 John 3:7-10

+ John 1:35-42

Saturday, January 5, 2019:

1 John 3:11-21

+ John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 6, 2019:

Isaiah 60:1-6

+ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

+ Matthew 2:1-12

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

In every family, it helps to have a calendar. We keep track of our appointments and activities; we mark birthdays and special events; and we set deadlines and goals. A calendar also helps us look back — to commemorate anniversaries, to be mindful of someone’s passing, to remember the days we spent on vacation, or to recall the weeks we were ill.

Nature has a calendar, too. We can recognize the changing of the seasons, the cycles of the moon, the length of the days, and the proper times for planting and harvesting.

The Church also has a calendar. It recounts the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ — recalling his Passion Death, and Resurrection and that “dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life” (SC 5). This Paschal Mystery is so central to our faith that we need an entire liturgical year to break open all the facets of this mystery. This gift of God is so awesome that we need seasons, weeks, days, and even hours to even begin to explore this mystery and to fully participate in it.

But we do not just remember historic events. We do recollect the day that Jesus was born or the day that he died on Calvary. But we recall in a way that makes his salvific acts present again (anamnesis). In this time and this place, on our parish altar and around our family table, we rejoice that God continues to save his people.

Within the cycle of a year... [the Church] unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from the incarnation and birth until the ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of the coming of the Lord. Recalling thus the mysteries of redemption, the Church opens to the faithful the riches of her Lord’s powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present for all time, and the faithful are enabled to lay hold upon them and become filled with saving grace (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 102).

SUNDAY

A formal liturgical calendar took centuries to develop. In the early Church, Christians gathered each Sunday, on the Lord’s Day. It was a tradition handed down from the Apostles and commemorated the day of Christ’s Resurrection. “This Sunday must be ranked as the first holy day of all” (SC 108).

EASTER TRIDUUM

The Sacred Paschal Triduum [“three days”] of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the whole liturgical year. It begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with evening Prayer on Easter Sunday night. “Keeping watch “ during the holy night of the Easter Vigil, the Church awaits Christ’s resurrection and celebrates it in the sacraments (cf. GNLYC, 18-21).

EASTER SEASON

The fifty days of this season, “from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated with joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday” (GNLYC 22). It includes the Octave of Easter (the first eight days) and the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord. It culminates in the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (pente = fifty).

LENT

Lent is a period of preparation for Easter. It runs from Ash Wednesday to the afternoon of Holy Thursday, though the first four days have traditionally been called “the Porch of Lent” when on Ash Wednesday and the days that follow it, the readings instruct us on how to enter into the season. It is a time of intense spiritual preparation for the catechumens as they near the Easter Sacraments and a time for those already baptized to focus on their own baptism. It is a time of penitence, especially around the traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Second only to the Paschal Triduum, “the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ’s birth and the early manifestations” of his earthly ministry (GNLYC 32). There are four distinct sets of readings and prayers for the Masses of Christmas and its Vigil — each focusing on a part of the Nativity story. Christmas, too, has an octave, which includes special days and concludes with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Epiphany follows soon after and the holy season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord.

ADVENT

Advent has a two-fold character — a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ first came to us and “as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time” (GNLYC 39). The First Sunday of advent marks the beginning of each new Liturgical Year! The readings and prayers from December 17 to 24 prepare us most directly for the Savior’s birth.

ORDINARY TIME

This season begins after the Baptism of the Lord, is “interrupted” by Lent, the Triduum, and the Easter Season, and continues until Advent begins. This period is anything but “ordinary” — indeed, it recalls Jesus’ most important messages and miracles in his public life. The name comes for the same word “ordinal” — the days are “counted.”

MARY AND THE SAINTS

Within the yearly cycle, the Church ’also venerates with a particular love Mary, the Mother of God. Special days are set aside in her honor, including some that are ranked as solemnities because of her special role in the life of Christ.

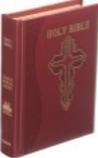
While what has been described above can be called the ’temporal cycle” of the Church year, we also have a concurrent “sanctoral cycle” in which we memorialize the martyrs and saints for their special contributions to the life of the Church and their great witness to the Gospel of Christ. ”By celebrating the passage of these saints from earth to heaven the Church proclaims the paschal mystery achieved in the saints who have suffered and been glorified with Christ; she proposes them to the faithful as examples drawing all to the Father through Christ, and through their merits she pleads for God’s favors” (SC 104).

MISAL ROMANO, tercera edicion

The new USA edition of the *Misal Romano* will include the saints who were recently named by Saint John Paul II and Pope Francis. It will also recognize patronal feasts of various countries of origins for Spanish-speaking Catholics. ■

All time belongs to God. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Adapted from an original series of articles written by Father Thomas Dente © FDLC 2007.

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