

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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Prepare the way of the Lord!

Luke 3:4b

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 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.

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!



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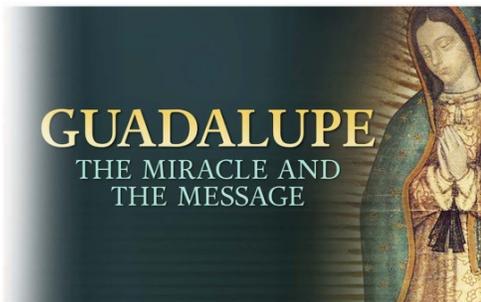
PICK OF THE WEEK

December 5, 2021

WATCH

LEARN

LISTEN



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SUPPORT OLPH THROUGH AMAZON.COM



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support OLPH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OLPH.

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Second Sunday of Advent

As we continue our celebration of this beautiful Advent season of hope-filled longing, expectation and preparation, the Mass prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent give voice to our desire that we may be able to live in a whole new, transformed way in order to see the salvation that is coming.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass speaks both of the urgency of our Advent journey and of the need to think in new ways: *“Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.”* What is it that we are busy about and in haste about during these days: is it really over spiritual things that prepare our hearts and our homes for Christ, or is it over things less important? Are the things that are tiring us out really worth the time and energy, or could our time and energy be better spent on deeper, more meaningful pursuits?

Also, as we “set out in haste” to meet Christ this season, we can encounter Christ only through hearts and minds that are attuned to Him, and so we need the gift and grace of “heavenly wisdom.” Advent, as a time of wonder and longing, is a time for us to change our thinking so that God’s ways become our ways. Our minds and thoughts should be expanded to trust more in the wonders that God can and will do for us.

I think a large component of “heavenly wisdom” involves the ability to be silent and to focus on spiritual realities. Are we taking the time to be silent — to listen for God, and to be more alert and watchful to the many ways He is present? Can we unplug from all our devices long enough to rediscover the joy of simply being a human being, a person created for the purpose of having God speak to us in the depths of our heart? There are all sorts of new things we will discover about God’s grace and the presence of Christ in our life if we take the time to stop and be silent. Have we made the most of those times when we have had the opportunity to slow down and be silent, and, as those opportunities present themselves, can we make them into opportunities for spiritual growth?

Admittedly, being silent can be very difficult. In addition to that, if you look around, it seems as though the world is proclaiming to us that Christmas is here already! Now, of course there are preparations that we rightly have to undertake

now, preparations that are in no way bad or wrong in and of themselves — things like shopping, baking, and preparing in other ways for loving and wholesome family time.

However, in the midst of it all, making it a priority to find time to be silent and to unplug from things will really help to accomplish what we pray for in the Prayer after Communion in the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent, when we ask that God *“...may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.”* What a great perspective on life that is — to know the difference between what is passing and what is eternal, and to live accordingly. Has going through the pandemic over the past two years taught us anything about the difference between what is passing and what is eternal?

Consider making the above-quoted prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent a part of your prayer time every day during the upcoming week — maybe you can make that the reason to stop and take a little time out!

Remember, no matter what our consumer-driven society tells us, it’s not Christmas yet! We have once again included some special pages in this bulletin to help you and your family keep an Advent spirituality and to pray Advent at home; I hope you make use of this material. We are urged to “Keep Christ in Christmas,” but in order to do that well, we must first **“Keep Advent in Advent.”**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—A Holy Day of Obligation

This Wednesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It’s a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, so we’ll see you back at Mass either Tuesday night or sometime on Wednesday! We have printed the schedule of Masses elsewhere in this bulletin.

What a wonderful Solemnity this is, especially since it occurs during Advent and fits so beautifully into our Advent spirituality! What we celebrate is Mary’s total freedom from original sin from the moment of her conception. This freedom from the sin of Adam and Eve is shown in the Gospel for the Mass of the day, as Mary proclaims to the angel Gabriel, *“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”* Mary shows her willingness to place herself fully in God’s hands, even when it promises to be difficult

and requires great faith and trust.

However, Mary is always seen as the model disciple, the model of our faith, and so this day should be a day when we pray that our faith and trust may be the same as Mary's. This is expressed in the prayers of the Mass of the day, as in the Collect (Opening Prayer) we will pray that "... *through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your [God's] presence*" and in the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer we will refer to Mary as "*a model of holiness.*"

Allow this Solemnity to be for you a day to reflect on the place of Mary in your prayer life and as a model of faith for you.

Get to Confession during Advent!

Here's your weekly reminder: make concrete and specific plans to go to Confession during Advent, and then follow through on those plans! Take note of the times we are offering the sacrament, as listed in this bulletin and in the special mailing that was sent out. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the perfect way to "prepare the way of the Lord" during Advent so that we are spiritually ready for the great feast of Christmas. We priests want nothing more than to celebrate with you the great gift of God's forgiveness. *See you at Confession!*

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards

You can join in the Mass intentions for the

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

OLPH Christmas cards for sale

By popular demand, OLPH Christmas cards are once again available! They are available at the bargain price of 25 cards and envelopes for \$20; the card features a gorgeous picture of our church sanctuary, fully decorated for Christmas. They are available at the rectory office, so be sure to stop by and buy a box or three while they last.

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,



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, MUSIC MINISTRY & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 18, 2021

7:30 p.m. in the church

Pageant Practices

Tuesday, December 7th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium

Tuesday, December 14th 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church

Dress Rehearsal: Friday, December 17th

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the church



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week

Each day during the second week of Advent, at the evening meal, two purple candles are lighted. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candles.

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

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

Then the Leader continues: Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All respond: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



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

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

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

— Collect of the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

— Another prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

What keeps you from giving now? Isn't the poor person there? Aren't your own warehouses full? Isn't the reward promised? The command is clear: the hungry person is dying now, the naked person is freezing now, the person in debt is beaten now—and you want to wait until tomorrow? "I'm not doing any harm," you say. "I just want to keep what I own, that's all." You own! You are like someone who sits down in a theater and keeps everyone else away, saying that what is there for everyone's use is your own....If everyone took only what they needed and gave the rest to those in need, there would be no such thing as rich and poor. After all, didn't you come into life naked, and won't your return naked to the earth?

St. Basil, Fourth century

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent...

On December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we honor holy Mary, and celebrate her conception in the womb of St. Anne. As we praise God, who kept her sinless from the first moment of her life, we remember God's mercy, which has freed us from sin in baptism.

O God, who by the Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

— Collect of the Mass for the Immaculate Conception

Father, the image of the Virgin is found in the Church. Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin, for you kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith. Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

—Another Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

Hail Mary, the most beautiful dove, which carried the word of God for us; we greet you with the Archangel Gabriel saying: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O Virgin, the glory of our race; you have borne Emmanuel for us. We pray that you will remember us before the Lord Jesus Christ, that he will forgive us our sins.

—Coptic liturgy

John the Baptist's first major theme is: Reflect, repent, convert! In every age people fall prey to the temptation to overturn the proper order of values. What is important is degraded to a minor matter, what is minor or even wrong is raised to a principal theme, the central issue of one's life. It can be greed. It can be ambition with its exhibitionistic and ruthless careerism. It can be quarrelsomeness and the insistence on always being right, or envy and a desire to dominate, or the unmastered desire for pleasure that Paul at one point so powerfully describes: "their god is their belly" (Phil 3:19). These are all products of egoism, which places one's own self in the center and degenerates into idolatry. John sees this clearly and therefore calls for reflection: Admit your offense, confess your sin and let yourself be cleansed. As a symbol of such purification he offers a baptism of repentance in the Jordan.

—from *The Key to Faith: Meditations on the Liturgical Year*
by Adolf Adam

Listen, a clear voice is calling. / It pierces the night and the darkness: / Awake and leave behind sleep and dreams — / Christ is shining in the heavens. / This is the bright time of hope. / The dawn approaches; the day begins: / A new star begins to beam, / Before whose glow the darkness flees. / From heaven is sent one as a lamb / Who will take all our sins upon himself. / In faith we turn our faces to him / And ask his forgiveness. / So that, when again he comes in light, / And his brilliance strikes the world with terror, / He may not avenge sin with punishment, / But gently gather us to himself.

— A hymn for Advent, Author unknown

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**On Wednesday, December 8,
Exposition will be held
at 8:30 p.m., not at 12:45 p.m.,
for this week only.**

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards Now Available

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



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary **Holy Day of Obligation**

Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 a.m.,
12:15 p.m. (Live-streamed) and 7:30 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLPH

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

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

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)

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

Saturdays:

December 11: 4:00—4:45 p.m.

Saturday, December 18: 3:00—4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 20: 7:00—8:30 p.m.

*It is required that a mask must be worn
inside the Confessional Room,
regardless of vaccination status.*



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH



We will again be celebrating our own “Bambinelli Sunday” here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18-19**. You are invited to bring to Mass that weekend your figure of the Christ Child from your home crèche (Nativity scene). We’ll offer a blessing of these figurines at all the Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent that weekend. Don’t forget to bring your Christ Child figure to Sunday Mass December 19-20!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of the Lord

How well do you know Jesus?

Do you know how and what he prayed?

One certainty is that Jesus studied and prayed the Book of Psalms from his youth until his death. This Advent season, as we prepare for the coming of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering a new and uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of Christmas. Beginning **Sunday, November 28** and continuing every Sunday **through December 19**, we will offer parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist. We meet from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each Sunday to examine and discuss the joyful message of Christ's coming. Each session features a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by the members of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Bring your Bible and join us to break open the Word of the Lord.

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?



Every year on Pentecost, a group of adults completes their initiation into the Church by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. By Confirmation, the baptized are joined more perfectly to the Church and strengthened in their faith. Catholics who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation should receive it before being married.

Preparation for receiving Confirmation as an adult includes ten hours of classroom meeting, weekly attendance at Mass and additional study through Catholic instructional material such as the *Formed* multimedia platform. Classes meet in the evenings, usually twice a month, with some outside reading and preparation required. A fee of \$20 covers the cost of books and materials.

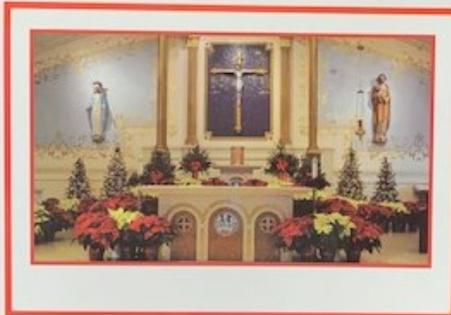
Classes begin on **Tuesday, December 14**. For more information contact Deacon Robert Becker at DeaconRobert@oloph.org or by leaving your contact information at the rectory.

OLPH CHRISTMAS CARDS

“OLPH is the Place to Be!”

AND ...The place to buy your Christmas cards!

Once again, parishioners will have the opportunity to buy their Christmas cards at OLPH. Cards are available for sale from the receptionist's desk in the rectory during regular business hours. A box of 25 cards featuring the image of our altar decorated for Christmas can be yours for the price of \$20.00. Purchases can be made by cash or check made out to **OLPH**. Sorry, no credit or debit cards. Cards are in limited supply, so be sure to make your purchases early. Buy enough cards to send to those you love!



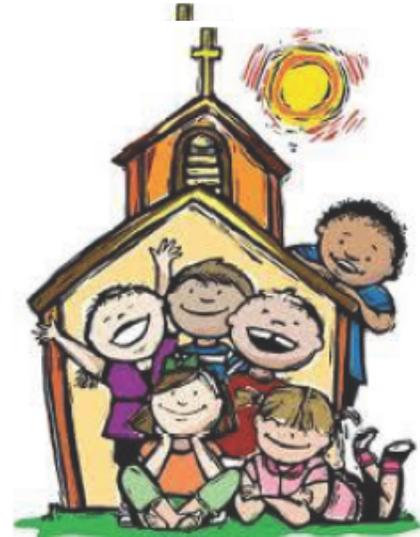
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEXT SUNDAY A CHILDREN'S HOMILY WILL BE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL - OLPH CHURCH LINDENHURST. LISTEN TO THE READINGS AND A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL!



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.



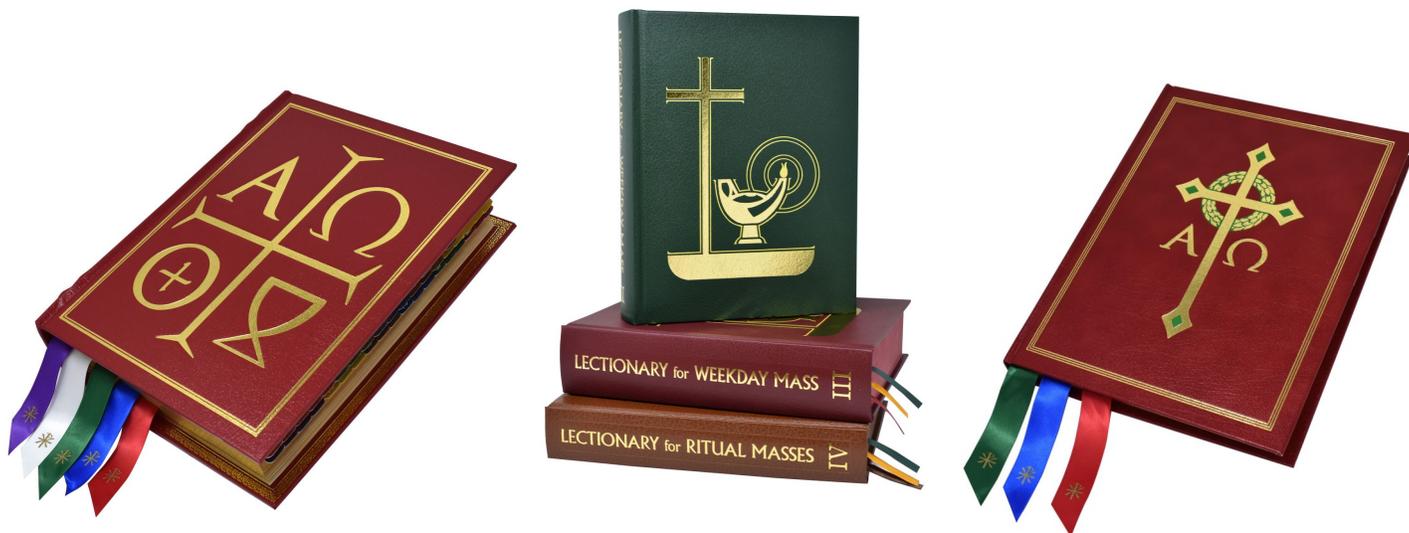
MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES—NEW RITUAL BOOKS

“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.”

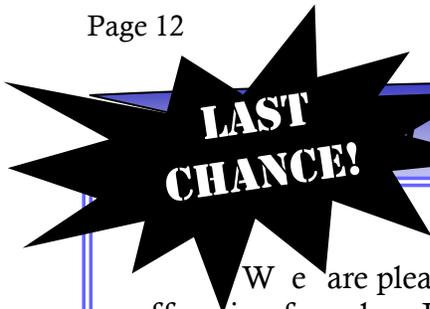
- #18, *Built of Living Stones: Art Architecture and Worship*, a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.

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



Celebrating 150 Years 2021

OLPH Family Photo Album

We are pleased to announce that as part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we will be offering for sale a Family Photo Album. The Album will include pictures of Parishioners and their families, our Priests and OLPH Staff. There will also be a history page about our Parish, a collage of different OLPH events that took place during our Anniversary celebration year and a message from our Pastor, Msgr. Joe. Won't you please take part by submitting a beautiful family photo? (Details below). Go ahead, "dress to impress".

Types of Photos

Pictures may include a special family photo celebrating a Sacrament (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, a Wedding, etc...), a birthday or other special family celebration, a professional family photo.

Size of Photo

Please submit a 3X5 or 4X6 photo by December 6, 2021.

Where

- Pictures may be sent to: socialmedia@oloph.org (this is a private OLPH email address).
- Subject line should include: OLPH Family Photo Album – [family name]
- In your email, please simply include the names of the persons in the photo, Family last name and number of Albums you wish to purchase.
- **As an alternative to emailing**, the below form may be completed and dropped off at the Rectory with your family photo in an envelope marked to the attention of "OLPH Family Photo Album".

If you have any questions, please call Helene at 917-679-0376 or send your question to the above email address, attention: OLPH Family Photo Album.



**OLPH Family Photo Album
Order Form**



Date: _____ Name: _____

Tel/Cell: _____

Email: _____

Names of persons in the photo and family last name:

Number of Albums: _____ (Each Album: \$35)

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

LEVELS 6, 7 and 8

On Wednesday, December 8, there will be no class due to the Holy Day of Obligation. Be sure you attend Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and get your Mass Reflection done!

LEVELS 2 and 3 SAFETY MEETING

On Saturday, December 11, there will be a Student-Only Meeting in the auditorium on the topic of "Safety." Students will meet for attendance in the classroom during their regular class time.

Congratulations on Your Baptism, Gabriel!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

On Tuesday, December 7, there will be rehearsal in the auditorium from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Be sure to wear a mask!

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. Juan Diego was born in Mexico. He was on his way to Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception when he came across a hill, and on it was the Virgin Mary. She told him that she was Mary, Mother of the true God. She asked him to have a chapel built in her name on that hill. He went to his bishop to tell him what happened, and the bishop said he would think about it. Mary stopped him again on his way home, upset that he did not do what she asked of him. He said he needed a sign; she gave him roses that bloomed in the cold of December, and he brought them to the bishop, who then believed.



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

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.

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

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

for your continued generosity.

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY FOOD PANTRY



Thanks again to Ryan Sullivan and team SUF for the tremendous food donation to OLPH.

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

**DEADLINE
NEXT
SUNDAY!**

The Final Judgment in the Gospel of Matthew should serve as a call to action for each and every one of us. Our parish Advent Giving Tree is one way to respond! Our parish social ministries are working together to support life at all stages. There are

tags on our Giving Tree to help the hungry, the unborn, the sick, the immigrant and return migrant and those in prison. You need to empty the tree of the tags some of the agencies we will be supporting this year. *If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Ryan at jennx@optonline.net. Gifts for St. Vincent de Paul (green tags) should be wrapped. All other gifts should not be wrapped.*

St. Vincent de Paul

Each year, our parish supports many families at Christmas with food, toys and clothing. Read more in our bulletin about our parish's outreach efforts.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Support the work of our Middle Ages group in providing Christmas gifts and necessities for our local veterans.

LIFE CENTER

The Life Center assists pregnant women as they prepare to give birth to the gift of life in their own lives. Learn more about the life center at www.lifecenterli.org



HOPE HOUSE MINISTRIES

Hope House Ministries supports young men struggling with addiction and brokenness in their own lives. Learn more about Hope House at www.hhm.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Immigration Services

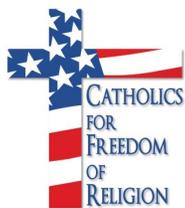
Support our brothers and sisters and their families who are just coming to our country. Read more at www.catholiccharities.cc

The Giving Tree

Prison Families

Support our Diocesan Prison Ministry as they provide gifts for the children of men and women in prison.

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Focus on Religious Freedom www.cffor.org

“Religious freedom is not only that of private thought and worship...It is the liberty to live, both publicly and privately, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth.”

—Pope Francis, June 20, 2014

Pilgrims, Thanksgiving, and a Failed Socialist Experiment (continued)

Few Americans realize that New England's first form of government was collectivism (socialism), and they practiced what Karl Marx would promote two centuries later as, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need."(1) The Pilgrims, a pious and decent people, discovered that even the best men cannot thrive under an incentive-crushing system. Within two years of the first Thanksgiving, the colonists had reaped shortages and starvation.

Writing in the History of Plymouth Plantation, Governor William Bradford said that with the survival of the colony at stake, they contemplated upon "how they might raise as much corn as they could, and obtain a better crop than they had done, that they might not still languish in misery."(2) They decided to abandon the collectivist model of government in favor of a freer model. So, they "assigned to each family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end..."(3)

The following year, a happy Governor Bradford wrote, "This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been...The women now went willingly into the field and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression."(4)

The Pilgrims now wished to work because they got to keep, and then trade, the benefits of their labor. They discovered that freedom is a much greater stimulus than force. "Instead of famine, now God gave them plenty," wrote Governor Bradford. "And the face of things was changed, to the rejoicing of the hearts of many, for which they blessed God...Any general want or famine hath not been amongst them since to this day."(5)

Thus, the Pilgrims rejected the economic principle and form of government, socialism, that would have led to the end of freedom and especially the end of religious persecution they had traveled so far to achieve. More than two centuries later, Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) would validate their decision when he wrote, "It is clear that the main tenet of socialism, community of goods, must be utterly rejected since [it is] directly contrary to the natural rights of mankind, and would introduce confusion and disorder into the commonweal." (6)

Critique of the Gotha Programme, 1875- Karl Marx (1); libertyunderfire.org; townhall.com; historyofmassachusetts.org; History of Plymouth Plantation(2-5); fatima.org, 5/19/20(6)

"Socialism takes no account of any objective other than that of material well-being [and] places too severe a restraint on human liberty."

—Pope John XXIII (1958-1963)

OUTSIDE ALL MASSES THIS WEEK



OLPH Christian Mothers

will be selling

Keep Christ in Christmas magnets

after all Masses

this weekend **December 4 and 5.**

Please support our parish and purchase one.

Thank you.

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.

Third Announcement:

Edward Hennessy & Theresa O'Neill

WE CELEBRATE

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people.

-Rite of Baptism



*Elizabeth Rose Lattari
Natalie Catalina Usma*

**We welcome the newest members
of the Catholic community here at OLPH!**

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.

WE REMEMBER

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

*Eileen Weingaertner
Joseph Bianco
Anthony Carrano
Peter Ferello*

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

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Karin Kienle</i>	<i>Elizabeth Astacio</i>
<i>John Bryzgornia</i>	<i>Janet Novotny</i>
<i>Janet Leyden</i>	<i>Angela Pagnotta</i>
<i>Tommy Fanning, Jr.</i>	<i>Baby Cameron Bensen</i>
<i>Ethan Insigne</i>	<i>Pietro Curto</i>
<i>Rose Pentaleri</i>	<i>Peter Novak</i>
<i>Dina Zulueta</i>	<i>Victoria Hurst</i>
<i>Roberto Mato</i>	<i>John Bryzgornia</i>
<i>Carol Bafundo</i>	<i>Jeff Zero</i>
<i>Andrew Donovan</i>	<i>Andrew Donovan</i>
<i>Mildred Caliendo</i>	<i>Marquerette Hoffman</i>
<i>Rose Pezzanite</i>	<i>Joan Giarratano</i>
<i>Grace Grasso</i>	<i>Lisa O'Reilly</i>
<i>Louise Sturgeon</i>	
<i>Lindsay P. Henry</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 6—****Advent Weekday**
(Saint Nicholas, Bishop)

6:30 Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

12:15 Lisa Cantelmo

TUESDAY, December 7—**Saint Ambrose, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church**

6:30 Erika Walaszek

12:15 Maria Eugenia Carazo

**Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
(Anticipated Mass)

5:00 Charles & Mary Cunneen

WEDNESDAY, December 8—**Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:30 Anne A. Palmeri

12:15 John Sureau Sr.

7:30 For the People of the Parish

THURSDAY, December 9—**Advent Weekday**
(Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin)

6:30 Edward Kienle

12:15 Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy
Family**FRIDAY, December 10****Advent Weekday**

6:30 Perpetual Help Mass (Listing at right)

12:15 Living & Deceased Members of the
Breitfeller Family**SATURDAY, December 11—****Advent Weekday**
(Saint Damasus I, Pope)

8:00 Bonnie Balantzian

**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

5:00 For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 12—
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 James White

10:00 Living & Deceased Members of the
Holy Name Society12:00 Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy
Family**PARISH CALENDAR****Monday, December 6, 2021**

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

4:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Auditorium
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Middle Ages	Room 24

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	<i>No Exposition</i>	
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Level 8 Classes	School
8:30 p.m.	Exposition	Church

Thursday, December 9, 2021

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	CYO Meeting	Auditorium
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, December 10, 2021

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
11:00 a.m.	Wedding	Church

Saturday, December 11, 2021

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Level 1-5 and Special Ed.	School
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
3:00 p.m.	Wedding	Church
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, December 12, 2021

11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation: Psalms	North Sacristy
12:30 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

PERPETUAL HELP MASS**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 6:30 A.M.***Repose of the Souls of
the McCarthy Family**Requested by the estate of
Rev. Thomas McCarthy**The Eternal Rest of the Soul
of Elsa Ramirez and the
Holy Souls in Purgatory**Requested by
Armando Estinoza*

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.

Lecturas del domingo 5 de diciembre del 21

2da domingo de Adviento Que nuestro amor mutuo, de los unos a los otros, nos prepare para el Día del Señor, cuando Jesucristo vuelva.

Primera Lectura (Baruc 5,1-9): Dios Salvará a su Pueblo Disperso.

El profeta Baruc proclama un mensaje de esperanza: Dios guiará a su pueblo disperso, de vuelta ya a su país y a sí mismo. Ellos se convertirán en signos radiantes de la salvación de Dios.

Segunda Lectura (Filipenses 1,4-6.8-11): Prepárense para el Día de Cristo

En la carta afectuosa, Pablo agradece a los cristianos de Filopos por su hospitalidad a sí mismo y al evangelio. Les pide a ellos --y a nosotros--, prepararse para la venida de Cristo por medio de un amor atento y siempre creciente.

Evangelio (Lucas 3,1-6): Preparen el Camino del Señor

Meditación del Papa

El padre de Juan, Zacarías -marido de Isabel, pariente de María- era sacerdote del culto judío. Él no creyó de inmediato en el anuncio de una paternidad así inesperada, y por esto se mantuvo mudo hasta el día de la circuncisión del niño, al que él y su esposa dieron el nombre dado por Dios, es decir, Juan, que significa "el Señor da la gracia". Animado por el Espíritu Santo, Zacarías habló así de la misión de su hijo: "Y tú, niño, serás llamado profeta del Altísimo / pues irás delante del Señor para preparar sus caminos, / y dar a su pueblo el conocimiento de la salvación / mediante el perdón de sus pecados". Todo esto se hizo evidente treinta años más tarde, cuando Juan comenzó a bautizar en el río Jordán, llamando al pueblo a prepararse, con aquel gesto de penitencia, a la inminente venida del Mesías, que Dios le había revelado durante su permanencia en el desierto de la Judea. Por esto fue llamado "Bautista", es decir, "Bautizador". *Benedicto XVI, 24 de junio de 2012.*

Se nos recuerda una y otra vez que Dios escoge a gente improbable. Alguien ha dicho, “¡Qué extraño que Dios escoja a los judíos!” Fue extraño que Dios escogiera a David, ¡un joven cuyo padre ni lo incluyó entre los hijos que presentó a Samuel para su consideración! ¡Qué extraño que Dios escogiera a María, una joven sin casar! ¡Qué extraño que Dios escogiera a Juan! Nosotros en el ministerio nos preguntamos acerca de nuestra vocación. También nos maravilla lo ordinario de la gente laica que cumple la mayor parte del trabajo en nuestras iglesias. Ciertamente, Dios ha “exaltado a los humildes.”

El desierto también parece un lugar improbable para la palabra de Dios. ¿Por qué no Jerusalén? No solo es Jerusalén donde se encuentra el Templo, pero su gente también necesita alguien que les lleve hacia el arrepentimiento. El desierto está, en mayor parte, despoblado – la proclamación de Juan quedará sin oír a menos que gente vaya allí para oírle. Sin embargo, a través de la historia de Israel, el desierto ha sido un lugar donde Dios ha formado a su gente. Es el lugar donde se forjó la nación de Israel. Profetas cumplieron mucha de su obra en el desierto. Pronto, Jesús será probado en el desierto.

Dios sigue obrando hoy en el desierto de nuestras vidas. Nos encontramos más dispuestos a oír la palabra de Dios cuando la vida parece más árida.

OFFERING UPDATE NOVEMBER 27/28

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	210	83	\$2,214.00
8:00 a.m.	192	87	2,823.00
10:00 a.m.	320	121	4,401.00
12:00 p.m.	317	66	2,114.00
Coin			6.71
Faith Direct:			2,714.75
Children's Env.		10	87.00
Mail-ins:			216.00
TOTAL	1,039	367	\$14,576.46
2020 total	809	230	\$14,270.50
Candles			\$755.50
Poor Box			\$1,276.56

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.

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 atbecker@oloph.org. *Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

December 12—passed

December 19—December 10

December 26—December 10

January 2—December 17

Early printer deadlines due to Christmas & New Year holidays

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND DECEMBER 11/12

GIVE IN GRATITUDE

A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS

All parish activities except for Masses are cancelled on Wednesday, December 8, for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rectory Reception Desk will be open only until 2:00 p.m.; no other afternoon or evening rectory office hours that day.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN BANK PARKING FOR 12:15 p.m. MASS ON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY

We ask that if you come to the 12:15 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 8, the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception, please do not park in the bank parking lot on the north side of the church. Remember that Wednesday is a normal business day for the bank, and the bank lot is not our property. Let's be a good neighbor! Please do not park in their lot during business hours. Thank you.



PREPARING FOR
Sunday, December 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah was a fourth-generation descendant of King Hezekiah and evidently a person of considerable social standing in Judah. His utterances show a great familiarity with court circles and current political issues, and his pronounced judgments spoken on behalf of the Lord are directed particularly against the complacent and proud “officials and the king’s sons” and all who have followed them in their worship of the false foreign gods. But after this great judgment shall come a time of rejoicing unlike any other for the people of God, for their king shall be the Lord himself, fully and intimately present among them.

Philippians 4:4-7

Written while he was in prison and in danger of death, Paul’s message to the Philippian community to “rejoice in the Lord always” reveals the heart of the Christian message of salvation. It is only we ourselves who can separate us from the union of love with God that Christ Jesus offers. But if we remain in prayer and fix our gaze ever inward where he dwells, no adverse person or circumstance can rob us of our joy. Instead, it will be our joy which overflows from our hearts and into our troubled world.

Luke 3:10-18

Like Zephaniah and all the prophets before him, John the Baptist warns the people of God’s inevitable judgment upon those who persist in their sins rather than turning to his mercy in repentance. Our truly turning back to God will show itself in a change of our behavior towards others. The gift of God’s mercy should in turn cause us not only to protect the lawful rights of others but also to give freely to those who are helpless and to those who have no legal right to what they need.

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. What kind of people went to hear John the Baptist and then repented? Would you show up to hear someone like John today? What would you want to see and hear? What are today’s prophets talking about? Anti-racial problems? Starving immigrants? Climate crisis? Discuss.

2. “The crowds asked John the Baptist, ‘what should we do?’” What should I do today? What is my “minimal step forward”? Will the Lord do the remainder?

“To those who asked: “What must we do to convert”? he simply replied: “he who has food, share it with the one who has none. Whoever has two cloaks should share with the one who has none.” In other words he began with the least, he behaved like a true shepherd, a great pastor and prophet.

... To baptize all these sinners, in return, he only asked for a minimal step forward, because he knew that with this step, the Lord would do the rest. And they would convert. This great prophet was a shepherd who understood the situation of the people and helped them to move forward with the Lord.”

[Pope Francis, The Great and the Least](#)

Dec. 15, 2016

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 6, , 2021:

Isaiah 35:1-10 + Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 7, , 2021:

Isaiah 40:1-11 + Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 8, 2021:

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

+ Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

+ Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, December 9, 2021:

Isaiah 41:13-20

+ Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 10, 2021:

Isaiah 48:17-19

+ Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 11, 2021:

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

+ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 12, 2021:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

+ Philippians 4:4-7

+ Luke 3:10-18

1871 Celebrating 150 Years 2021

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LESSONS AND CAROLS NOVEMBER 28, 2021

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Advent Longing

I have no sense of direction, so whenever I travel to a new place, I rely heavily on navigational systems. No matter which system is used, each makes the same announcement when the destination is reached: "Arrived." That affirmation is welcome, since it says, "I made it."

If only there were a similar application for navigating my spiritual life! How affirming it would be to hear "Arrived!" How encouraging it would be to know that I have made it and that I have reached my destination. But alas, along the way, people often experience wrong turns and plenty of detours. Spirits can feel lost and hearts restless—ever seeking, always searching.

The season of Advent is a reminder that we have not arrived. Rather, Christians remain pilgrims on a journey, ever seeking, always searching, and living in anticipation. In Advent, we await the feast of the Incarnation, the celebration of the coming of the Lord. Also awaited is the Lord's return, as one of the Collects for the first week of Advent states:

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of Christ your Son,
so that, when he comes and knocks,
he may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in his praise.

Waiting is hard, and it is hard to be good at it since it is natural to desire the fastest routes, the shortest lines, and the closest parking spots. The Scriptures proclaimed during Advent provide direction for the journey. They are filled with images of what happens when we wait in hope: a desert blooms, a wolf befriends a lamb, and the poor finally have their day. Good news abounds as the angel Gabriel tells Mary: "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month for her she who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:36–37).



Advent serves as a reminder of the pilgrim nature of the Christian faith.

The waiting throughout Advent creates space for God and thus nurtures relationship with God. Waiting fulfills something inside humankind that instant gratification never could. God waits for us patiently, longingly, lovingly. So too, the faithful are called to await God's presence and favor.



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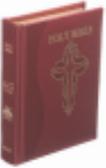
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