

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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Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2

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*John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*
Matthew 3:1

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2019

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. Thomas Crennan

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME 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 afternoons at 12:45 p.m.
in the church

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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.

DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

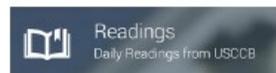
Step 1: Open App Store or Google Play

Step 2: Search "myParish app" & press download 

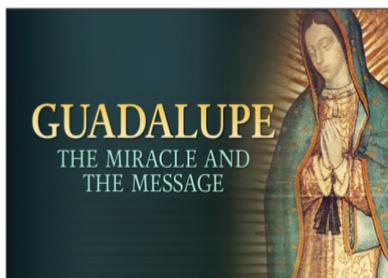
Step 3: Open up the myParish app and type in "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church"

Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

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



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Guadalupe

The Miracle and the Message

The Heart of the Evangelization of the Americas

The most important event in the evangelization of the New World occurred in December of 1531. Over the course of four days, the Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego. As a result of this encounter, the image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak). This gripping film explores both the inexplicable mysteries behind the image and the continued relevance of this Marian apparition to the modern world.

WATCH ON
FORMED.ORG

POWERED BY THE  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Q: How do new parishioners register for an account?

A: Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

Go to formed.org/signup

Select your parish

Register with your name and email address

Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

Q: Do parishioners still need to use our parish code or custom registration URL?

A: Registering has become a lot easier and parish codes and custom registration urls are no longer needed for your parishioners to register for FORMED through your parish! Now, parishioners simply need to go to formed.org/signup and find your parish to register.

Q: Will parishioners user emails and passwords still work?

A: Passwords are being phased out. Parishioner emails will still work. Parishioners do not need to re-register to sign in.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Limping along...

I wish to once again thank everyone for your prayers and good wishes as I continue to make progress in healing from my pinched nerve, sciatica and muscle spasms problem. So many people suffer from these types of things, and if you are one of them, you know how long it takes. (I've never before in my life had an affliction from which it took me this long to recover.) I find that the pain is diminishing, although it is still there, and that I am able to slowly do more and more. It will continue to be a work in progress, and I thank you for being patient with me and for your understanding.

Please know, too, that I continue to bring to my prayer all of you who are suffering with much, much worse in your life, be it physical, emotional or spiritual. What I have will eventually pass, but I am very mindful that many of you are dealing with deep wounds and grieving of all sorts that are much worse than what I am dealing with now. God bless you!

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. We have been making a concerted effort as a parish to create a time of silence in the five minutes before Mass begins; are we doing that?

Admittedly, being silent can be very difficult; the secular world bombards us with sights and sounds. Added to that year-round cacophony is the noise at this particular time of year that wrongly proclaims 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 gatherings.

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!

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."**

Thank you to our Advent decorators!

Doesn't our church environment, both inside and out, have a wonderful Advent look and feel to it? Those sights are an important part of our Advent spirituality and our worship, and I am extremely grateful to all our offerers who took the time to work so hard to change both the inside of the church and the outside to our Advent environment. Thanks go to our hearty and always-cheerful parish maintenance crew; to Denise Martinez, who now chairs our Environment Committee, and her crew of wonderful ladies; to Dominick Scuro, who now heads our outdoor decorating team; to Keith Ladolcetta and his family, who are responsible for our great outdoor Advent wreath; and to Louise Perrotta and the ladies from the Legion of Mary who take care of our Marian shrine on

the rectory front lawn. Just take a look at OLPH and you'll see why we are "the place to be!" My deepest gratitude is offered to everyone who has done such great work with our Advent décor!

By the way, take note of the announcement elsewhere in the bulletin heralding the time and date when we will be decorating the church, and the grounds, for Christmas: Monday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. Why not come on down to help us? It won't take long, especially with a large number of offerers (this can be great Confirmation service time, teens!), and it can be a great thing to do together as a family! More fun to be had at "the place to be!"

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on **Monday, December 9**. Yes, December 8 is the actual day for this Solemnity, but since December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence and the Solemnity is transferred to December 9. The Immaculate Conception continues to be an important day in our liturgical year and in our Catholic spirituality. 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 Holy 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.

OLPH Christmas cards for sale

OLPH Christmas cards are still 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. We're doing this as a fund raiser for the parish, so your support is not only greatly appreciated, but also greatly needed. Please be sure to buy a box or three, at the Wellwood Avenue entrance of the church after Sunday Masses, or at the rectory anytime.

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,



SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SILENCE BEFORE MASS

POPE FRANCIS SAYS THAT THE TIME BEFORE MASS IS MEANT FOR SILENT PRAYER, NOT CHITCHAT

In a talk he gave this past November, Pope Francis stressed that the time before Mass is a time for silent prayer, when we prepare our hearts for an encounter with the Lord. "When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us," the Pope said. However, "it is not meant for chitchat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus," he said, adding that "silence is so important." The Pope also spoke about how the Mass is not a show, but a place where we encounter the Lord. In this encounter, he said, silence is what "prepares us and accompanies us."

That's something for all of us to think about! How well are we doing in following the practice that when the bells ring five minutes before Mass begins, we all give each other the gift of silence, being quiet together to prepare ourselves for Mass? Let's give each other that special gift.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 9

Mass Schedule:

**6:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.,
and 7:30 p.m.**

JOIN THE YOUTH CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We are looking for singers from the 3rd through 12th grades to sing on Christmas Eve. There are two mandatory rehearsals:

- Thursday, December 19: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 23: 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The choir will sing at the 4:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols and 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, December 24.



Anyone interested in singing should contact Amy Keller,
mrs.amykeller@yahoo.com or (631) 226-0438.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Evening Prayer

All are invited to pray Evening Prayer on Saturdays and Sundays after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Here we pray the psalms, listen to the Word of God and give thanks to God for the blessings of the day. Evening Prayer is usually about ten to fifteen minutes in length. So come and pray...



**Saturdays
and Sundays
after the 5:00 p.m. Mass**

“The Liturgy of the Hours is intended to become the prayer of the whole People of God. In it Christ himself ‘continues his priestly work through his Church....Pastors of souls should see to it that the principal hours, especially Vespers (Evening Prayer) are celebrated in common in church on Sundays and on the more solemn feasts.’”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1175

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

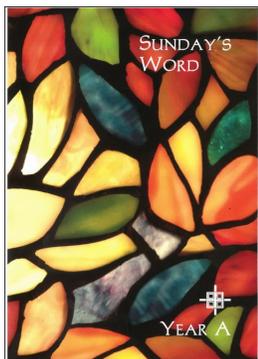


Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother, concluding with veneration of a relic of St. Catherine Laboure. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Monday, December 9—12:45 p.m.
Monday, December 16—12:45 p.m.
Monday, December 23—12:45 p.m.

SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the upcoming new liturgical year (Cycle A) starting with the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, are available at the rectory for the purchase price of \$3.00.



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH



We'll again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21-22. 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 21-22!



Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards

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

SECOND SUNDAY 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.

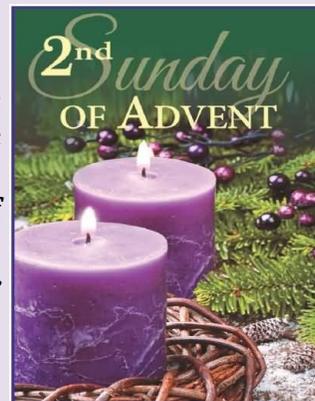
All make the sign of the cross: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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 SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

On December 9, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (moved from December 8 this year), 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.

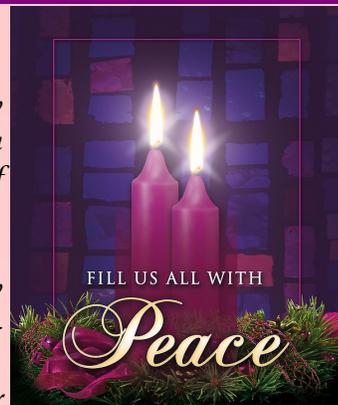
—Coptic liturgy

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



CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLPH

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

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

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

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
and 12:00 Noon

*The 5:00 p.m. Mass will not be
celebrated on Christmas Day.*

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

Saturdays:

December 14: 4:00—4:45 p.m.

December 21: 3:00—4:30 p.m.

Mondays:

following the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 17:

7:00—8:00 p.m.



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



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Mass Schedule:

Eve of the Solemnity,

Tuesday, December 31, 2019:

5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020:

10:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

NEW BOXES OF CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE



The new boxes of **Children's Envelopes** for the upcoming liturgical year are now available! Children should use these envelopes to make their offering in the weekly collection basket at Mass, in addition to their family's offering.

The purpose of the envelopes is not a money-raising one, but rather to provide parents a tool to reinforce in their children the idea of stewardship for their Church and responsible giving toward others. It's a great way to teach children the value of being thankful for the gifts God gives us and the importance of sharing the abundance of those gifts with others. Ideally, the money — whatever amount is placed in the envelope (there is no minimum or maximum!) — comes from the children themselves, *e.g.*, out of their allowance, rather than being just handed to them from the parents. In this way, Christian attitudes are nourished in the children, and this can be yet another avenue for parents and children to discuss responsible Christian living.

New boxed sets of Children's Envelopes for the entire new liturgical year (starting with Advent 2019) are available in baskets throughout the church. Families who wish to use them should simply take a box which contains envelopes for the entire year, with the children then returning one envelope each week, dropping it in the collection basket at Mass. The envelope should have the child's name and amount of the offering written on it. The design on the envelope may be colored in and decorated in other ways if desired. The amount collected in the children's envelopes is published in the bulletin each week. As with the usual collection offerings, the money will go toward supporting the mission of and programs at OLPH.

Encourage your children to use these envelopes as a way of growing in Christian stewardship and responsibility!

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS BEING FORMED



Are you missing something?

Every year on Pentecost, a group of adults complete their initiation into the Church by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Through 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. Prospective godparents and sponsors for youth Confirmation must also have received this sacrament.

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 Monday January 13, 2020. For more information contact Deacon Robert Becker at rabecker9550@gmail.com or by leaving your contact information at the rectory.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALMS OF ADVENT

During Advent, the OLPH Adult Faith Formation Ministry offers a program of study focused on the Responsorial Psalms used in the Mass during the season of Advent. There is no registration or fee for the program; we will simply meet in the **Saint Lucy Room** in the basement of the rectory from **11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** on the dates listed below for a consideration and discussion of the Responsorial Psalm offered in the Sunday Mass. Bring your Bible and join us for a celebration of the coming of the Lord. For more information, contact Deacon Robert at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to rabecker9550@gmail.com.

Date	Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalms of Solemnity of Christmas</i>	Presenter
December 8	Psalm 72	<i>Psalm 96</i>	April Kleinlaut
December 15	Psalm 146	<i>Psalm 97</i>	Deacon Bill
December 22	Psalm 24	<i>Psalm 98a</i>	Father Frank

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, MUSIC MINISTRY & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 20, 2019

7:00 p.m. in the church



College Students (especially those coming home for Christmas) and Adults: We need help with supervision of angels and shepherds, assistance with hospitality and more! If you can help, please contact Bridget Jordan at (631) 226-7725 X 253 or e-mail bjordan@oloph.org.

Pageant Practices

Monday, December 9th: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 16th: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 19th: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS AT OLPH 2019



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 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

On Monday, December 9 we are having our first Christmas Pageant rehearsal, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the church!



On Saturday, December 14 Level 2 parents have a Penance Meeting in the auditorium during their child's class time. Attendance will be taken at this mandatory meeting!

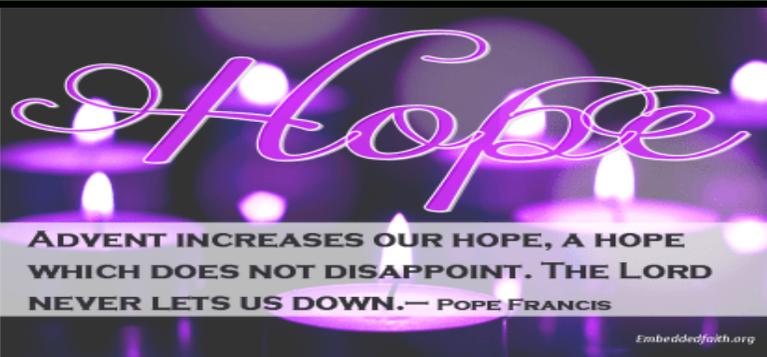


Happy Saint of the Day! St. John Vianney!

St. John Vianney was a French priest who grew up during the French Revolution. He considered priests to be heroes and wanted to be one. He studied hard and taught the poor what he learned. When he first became a priest he had to deal with the after-effects of the French Revolution. He did not think the people were educated enough in their religion, so he set out to make sure they kept the Lord's Day holy... and they did!



Second Sunday of Advent



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—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Community Meal: 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. 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 Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

Food Pantry List!

**CANNED MEATS
PORK & BEANS
INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
PEANUT BUTTER
JELLY/JAM
CANNED FRUIT
SHELF STABLE MILK
DESSERTS/COOKIES/SNACKS
TOILETRIES
TOILET TISSUE
PAPER GOODS**

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 the parking lot located on the 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.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” This is what Advent is all about, for 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.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

*Thank you Ryan Sullivan and team
SUF (Science in Unity with Fitness)
for the huge donation of food to our
St. Vincent de Paul pantry.
(Deacon Doug's daughter Colleen is a
member of team SUF.)*



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY

DONATIONS:

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

We have a DESPERATE need for:

New packages of men's underwear S-3XL

New packages of men's socks

Hats and gloves

Clean, gently used men's jeans,

hoodies, waterproof coats and sneakers

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.

**There is a
place for
you at
our table...**



Our next **COMMUNITY MEAL** is

Next Sunday, December 15

Come pray at the 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us in the school cafeteria for "an Italian Christmas menu" at 1:00 p.m.

Special Musical performance by the OLPH Youth Choir

Offerers are needed to help with this special meal – cooking, serving, setting up.

Please contact Gail Tonnessen: 631-957-1449; gtonness@optonline.net for more information

MIDDLE AGES

Are you a lady in your 40s, 50s, or 60s?

Are you looking to meet other women who share your interest in spirituality, socializing and social action?

Our next meeting:

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. in Room 24

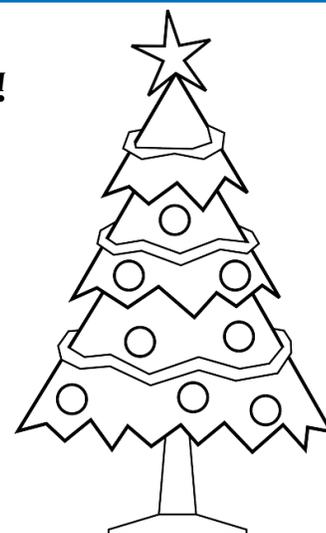
Call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449

or email her at gtonness@optonline.net

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE SALE

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IS NOW OPEN!!

Need a Christmas tree, ornaments or other holiday decorations? Shop at the Blue Door Boutique Christmas Shoppe **first** for the lowest prices on very thing you need to make your home perfect for Christmas.



Artificial Trees * Ornaments * Dishes * Tree Skirts
* Stockings * Ugly Sweaters *
Christmas village houses * Angels *

BAG SALE!!!

Quarterly bag sale also taking place from now until January 6th. Fill a bag for just \$5.00. Most everything in the Blue Door Boutique is included.

Some items excluded: specifically new items with tags and some dressy dresses.

THE
*blue*door
BOUTIQUE

HOURS OF OPERATION

M, W, F

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

1st & 3rd SATURDAY

1:30-3:00 p.m.

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25

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 those in prison. You need to empty the tree of the tags and return them no later than **Sunday, December 15**. Below are descriptions of some of the agencies we will be supporting this year. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ronessi at dronessi@verizon.net or 631.225.4115. 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.

Community Meal Ministry

Our Community Meal Ministry needs your help to provide a “little bit of Christmas” for our guests.

OLPH HOMELESS VAN MINISTRY

Help our parish provide basic necessities for the local homeless during this season.

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



The Giving Tree

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

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

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

Prison Families

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

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.

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
Thomas Crennan, Business Manager	204	tcrennan@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrojoe@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
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 rabecker9550@gmail.com

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)
Thomas Crennan
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Christine Donovan
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.

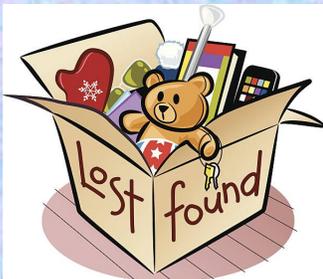
YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

Are you missing something? Keys, wallet, glasses... Check the sacristy "Lost & Found" All items found after Masses and events in the church must be picked up in the sacristy no later than December 31. All remaining items will be donated.



PASTORAL CARE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

If you or a family member are ill and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. One of our parish priests will come visit you and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will then visit each week.

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



GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS

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



WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Edward Skewes</i> | <i>Loretto Dinardo</i> |
| <i>Rosemary Miles</i> | <i>Toby Leger</i> |
| <i>Dolores Otten</i> | <i>Gordon G. Hinds</i> |
| <i>James Gallagher</i> | <i>Nora R. Mc Mahon</i> |
| <i>Bunny Rieger</i> | <i>Patricia &</i> |
| <i>Marion Klein</i> | <i>Richard Kleczkowski</i> |
| <i>Rose Ricca</i> | <i>Marjorie Santoli</i> |
| <i>Bill Doran</i> | <i>Joe Juliano</i> |
| <i>Joseph Chiusa</i> | <i>Robert Scott</i> |
| <i>Louise Durko</i> | <i>Linda Baffa</i> |
| <i>Lawrence Falco</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.

WE REMEMBER

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

- Joseph Cusumano*
Stephen W. Moriarty
Marion Hoelzer
Robert Anthony Pruna
Teresita Arellano
Frank DeFilippo
Helen Minella

"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."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, the support of your Catholic faith community should be a source of comfort and strength. A bereavement group run by trained facilitators helps grieving people learn skills for navigating their loss and opportunities to share their stories of loss. The ***Bereavement Support Group*** is a parish-based ministry responding to the needs of the recently bereaved by offering emotional, and sometimes practical, support as they learn to cope with their loss.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to know more about the ***OLPH Support Group Program***, please contact Linda Arpino at 631-592-1062 or Marige Reyes at 631-608-3658. You may also leave your name and contact information with the receptionist in the rectory.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 9—
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6:30	Jeanne Rocco
12:15	John Sureau, Sr.
7:30	In Thanksgiving of the Pasquin Family

TUESDAY, December 10—
ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:30	For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
12:15	Gaspare & Maria Piazza

WEDNESDAY, December 11—
ADVENT WEEKDAY
(Saint Damasus I, Pope)

6:30	Celeste Biggs & Joseph Savino
12:15	Marilyn Storz

THURSDAY, December 12—
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

6:30	Debra Ann Stein
12:15	John “Ed” Edward Picard

FRIDAY, December 13—
ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

6:30	James Cermak <i>(Living)</i>
12:15	Maria Sabella

SATURDAY, December 14—
SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST
AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

8:00	Artie Eriksen
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Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00	Joann Vitti
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Sunday, December 15
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00	Artie Eriksen
10:00	Ronald A. Higgins
12:00	For the Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
5:00	For the People of the Parish

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 9, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Room 24
5:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Church

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Room 18
7:30 p.m.	Steering Committee Meeting	Room 16

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Religious Ed. Classes	School
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 12
7:00 p.m.	Level 8 Classes	School

Thursday, December 12, 2019

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Bereavement Ministry	Room 20/22
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

Friday, December 13, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
7:00 p.m.	Holy Name Society	Room 24

Saturday, December 14, 2019

8:30, 10:00	Religious Ed. Classes	School
8:30, 10:00	Level 2 Parent Meeting: Penance	Auditorium
11:30 a.m.	K of C Men's Retreat	Auditorium
12:00 p.m.	Bereavement Ministry	Room 22/24
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, December 15, 2019

9:15 a.m.	RCIC	Room 18
11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	St. Lucy Room
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	Community Meal	Cafeteria
1:30 p.m.	Young Men's Spirituality	St. Mark's Room
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 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 15 de Diciembre del 2019

La tierra, Señor, se alegra en estos días,
y tu Iglesia desborda de gozo
ante tu Hijo, el Señor Jesús,
que se avecina como luz esplendorosa,
para iluminar a los que yacemos en las tinieblas,
de la ignorancia, del dolor y del pecado.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 35,1.6, 10): Alegría para los Que Sufren

Por medio del profeta Isaías, Dios promete que él mismo vendrá a liberar a su pueblo. – Jesús traerá esta esperanza y alegría a los pobres y a los que sufren.

Segunda Lectura (Santiago 5,7-10): Tengan Paciencia: El Señor Está de Camino hacia Nosotros

Evangelio (Mateo 11,2-11): El más pequeño en el Reino de los cielos, es todavía más grande que Juan el Bautista». Cuando el Hijo se hizo carne, sucedió un cambio radical en nuestra relación con Dios. En el Antiguo Testamento, el Señor estaba presente en su pueblo elegido, y se manifestaba a través de los patriarcas y profetas. Pero siempre permanecía como alguien fuera de su alcance, totalmente por encima de sus límites. Sin embargo, cuando María engendra a Cristo, podemos ver realmente a Dios entre nosotros: ¡tiene un rostro, manos, pies, una voz concreta! Ha venido a sanar a los enfermos, a dar la vida a los muertos, a salvarnos de nuestros pecados. Pero también ha venido para que tratemos con Él, incluso a nuestro nivel humano: podemos llamarlo amigo. El Reino de los cielos que Cristo vino a traer consiste en una amistad real y personal con Él, nuestro Dios y Señor. ¡He aquí el maravilloso regalo que Jesús nos trae en la Navidad! Agradecemosle en esta oración el regalo de su amistad y cercanía...

Pero la amistad es una relación en dos direcciones. Es un don que se recibe y luego se corresponde. Por eso, un amigo auténtico no es el que sólo te busca cuando todo va bien. Llegan los problemas en la vida, y en esos momentos se prueba quiénes son los amigos de verdad. A Juan el Bautista le costó la cárcel y el martirio, pero permaneció fiel, y no se sintió defraudado por Cristo.

Dios permite ocasiones de dificultad y de oscuridad para purificar nuestra amistad con Él. Nació en este mundo para buscar amigos, amigos de verdad, de esos que le siguen en las buenas y en las malas. Hoy nos invita a renovar y fortalecer nuestra amistad con Él. Ofrezcámosle nuestro corazón en esta oración; ese corazón que tal vez le ha abandonado más de una vez, pero que esta Navidad quiere amarle un poco más, ser más fiel, un mejor amigo.

«Es el momento de redescubrir la presencia de Dios y su ternura de padre. Dios no ama la rigidez. Él es Padre, es tierno. Todo lo hace con ternura de Padre. Seamos también nosotros como la multitud que interrogaba a Juan: “¿Qué tenemos que hacer?”. La respuesta del Bautista no se hace esperar. Él invita a actuar con justicia y a estar atentos a las necesidades de quienes se encuentran en estado precario. Lo que Juan exige de sus interlocutores, es cuanto se puede reflejar en la ley. A nosotros, en cambio, se nos pide un compromiso más radical. Se nos pide ser instrumentos de misericordia, conscientes de que seremos juzgados sobre esto. Quién ha sido bautizado sabe que tiene un mayor compromiso. La fe en Cristo nos lleva a un camino que dura toda la vida: el de ser misericordiosos como el Padre.»

SEMANA 3:

TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Han llegado los tiempos mesiánicos

« Estad siempre alegres en el Señor; os lo repito: estad alegres.
El Señor está cerca. » (Antífona de Entrada, Flp 4, 4.5)

« Estás viendo, Señor, cómo tu pueblo espera con fe la fiesta del nacimiento de tu Hijo; concédenos llegar a la Navidad - fiesta de gozo y salvación - y poder celebrarla con alegría desbordante. Por nuestro Señor. » (Oración Colecta)



OFFERING UPDATE November 30/December 1, 2019

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	321	138	\$3,565.00
8:00 a.m.	262	122	3,310.00
10:00 a.m.	423	133	4,045.00
12:00 p.m.	340	90	2,126.00
5:00 p.m.	165	31	930.00
Coin			13.82
Mail-ins:			428.00
Children's Env.		11	36.50
Faith Direct			2,351.50
TOTAL	1,511	525	\$16,805.82
2018 total	1,669	571	\$17,527.16
Candles			\$1,009.13
Poor Box			\$414.90

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 7/8

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN

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

December 15—passed

December 22—passed*

December 29—December 13*

**Note early printer deadlines due to Christmas.*

We will be decorating the church
for Christmas on
Monday, December 23
at 7:00 p.m.

We would love to have lots of
folks come on down to pitch in.
Why not join the fun and come
down to help? It's a great thing to
do together as a family! It should
not take much longer than an
hour or so.

We appreciate whatever help
you can give us.

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.

Use our custom link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-1797184>.

**Support
Our Lady of Perpetual
Help Church.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



PREPARING FOR Sunday, December 15, 2019 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God,
he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Isaiah 35:4*

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The first section of the Book of Isaiah collects numerous oracles the prophet proclaimed over a span of nearly forty years. Included in the collection are calls to repentance, warnings of impending destruction, and visions of God's ultimate deliverance. Today's reading is one of the last type, a hopeful vision that at some time in the future God will bring unimaginably great new life to his people. So great will be this new life that even the land itself will be renewed with lavish growth. Not only will God's people be free, but they will be whole, which is the way they were created to be. There will be no more sickness, infirmity, lameness, or blindness. God will come to set all things back into right and proper order. That truly is a time to look forward to!

James 5:7-10

This letter, attributed to James, the leader of the Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem after Jesus' resurrection, focuses primarily on how people should act, that is, on right and ethical conduct. The reading today explains the reason for acting properly: the return of Christ is not far away. When Christ returns, he will bring final judgment with him – "Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates." James tells Christians, then and today, to be patient and not to complain about one another, lest we will be judged and found unworthy. He drives home this point by telling us four times to be patient. Although it may be really hard to be patient sometimes, it seems that it's pretty important.

Matthew 11:2-11

Last week, we heard how John the Baptist called for repentance in order to prepare for the arrival of God's final rule which he described as "the coming wrath." This week he questions if Jesus is the Messiah, maybe because Jesus' ministry emphasized healing and mercy rather than wrath. But Jesus refers John back to the reading from Isaiah we just heard, where the blind will regain their sight and all manner of sick people will be cured, as a way of indicating that he is indeed "the one who is to come." Jesus then goes on to clarify John's role in all of this. Was he a "reed swayed by the wind" who followed every false Messiah? No. Did he come from a royal family wearing fine clothing? No. Jesus tells the crowds and us that John is the new and final prophet, the return of Elijah, announcing the arrival of the Messiah, just as it was written about by the Old Testament prophet Malachi. Jesus makes clear that his kingdom, the one John is prophesying about, will be one of mercy, justice and healing for all.

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 9, 2019:

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

+ Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

+ Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10, 2019:

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

Wednesday, December 11, 2019:

Isaiah 40:25-31 + Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 12, 2019:

Zechariah 2:14-17 + Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 13, 2019:

Isaiah 48:17-19 + Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 14, 2019:

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

+ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 15, 2019:

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 + Joshua 5:7-10

+ Matthew 11:2-11

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. Explain in both the literal and metaphorical senses "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised." John asked Jesus if he was "the one who is to come." Jesus answered with the above statement. The people who came to John were seeking the deepest desires of their hearts. How was Jesus' response an answer to those desires?

2. John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused at the gentle, healing Jesus. Pope Francis invites us into the cell of John the Baptist to look into his soul, which was weighed down not only by chains, but by "the shackles of doubt." Does God always come into your life the way you expect?

[John the Baptist] suffered in prison—let us say the word—the interior torture of doubt, saying: "But maybe I made a mistake? This Messiah is not how I imagined the Messiah would be." And he invited his disciples to ask Jesus: "But tell us, tell us the truth: are you he who is to come?" because that doubt made him suffer. "Was I mistaken in proclaiming someone who isn't who I thought?" The suffering, the interior solitude of this man. "I, on the other hand, must diminish, but diminish thus: in my soul, in my body, in everything."

... Let us ask the Lord for the grace of humility that John had, ... the grace that there [be] always space in our lives for Jesus to grow and that we abase ourselves, to the very end.

Pope Francis: God Triumphs through Humility; Mass at the Casa Santa Marta.

May 2, 2016

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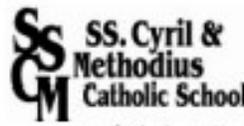


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