

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



myParish app!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 5.



“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

Luke 3:4b

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2018

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero

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

Business Manager: Mr. Frank Pokorney

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Monsignor Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME IN AND PRAY...

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

Come in and spend some time in prayer.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

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

Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

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

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

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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

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

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday Evening: after OLPH Novena Devotions

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

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

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS—December 2, 2018



Photos courtesy of Michael Ryan



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.

Admittedly, doing so can be very difficult: the secular world bombards us with the sights and sounds that wrongly proclaim that Christmas is here already, and, at the same time,

there are preparations that we rightly have to undertake now, preparations that are in no way bad or wrong — things like shopping, baking, and preparing in other ways for loving and wholesome family gatherings, all good things in and of themselves.

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!

You can really tell it’s Advent by looking at our church décor, both inside and out, right? 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 Lynn Begin, who chairs our Environment Committee and her crew of wonderful ladies; to Deborah Duffy, who now heads our outdoor decorating team, and all who came to assist her, including a great group of Girl Scouts; and Keith Ladolcetta and his family, who are responsible for our great outdoor Advent wreath. 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: Saturday, December 22 at 1:30 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!"

Thank you to all who participated in Lessons and Carols!

What an extraordinary celebration of Lessons and Carols, last Sunday night, December 2 — as always! (I'm afraid that we're beginning to expect the extraordinary from our Music Ministry, since they always deliver!) Our hearts and souls have been filled with the spirit of Advent, and for all who attended it was an experience which will spiritually carry us through the season until Christmas.

I cannot express deeply enough my enormous gratitude to all who participated and offered their time and talent, especially to everyone in our music ministry, and with special thanks, as always, going to Christopher Ferraro, our Director of Music, who puts together the entire service. You should know how much Chris contributes to the life of the parish as a pastoral minister in general, beyond his work in the music ministry.

I want all who ministered to us that night to know that you have given a most beautiful gift to your fellow parishioners! Thank you for enriching our experience of Advent!

Energy efficiency

As you may know, PSEG offers programs to businesses and other entities whereby rebate monies are offered when that customer upgrades their lighting to more energy-efficient lights. I wanted you to know that, in our never-ending battle to be as cost-effective and responsible as possible in our use of your collection dollars, we have signed on for a conversion program, for

both interior and exterior lighting, in order to save money. So, over the coming weeks and months, you may see work being done, and lights being changed. This is all for the purpose of becoming more energy-efficient, and to realize savings in the long run.

Bambinelli Sunday—Bring your figure of the Christ Child to be blessed at all Masses December 22-23

Even though we are advertising it elsewhere in the bulletin, I'll mention it here, too, as an extra reminder, because every year people tell me they meant to do it but forgot! So, make a note of it now and remember it for this year! Bring the figure of the Christ Child from your home Nativity scene with you to Mass on the weekend of December 22-23, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will bless the figures at the Mass. It will be OLPH's celebration of "Bambinelli Sunday!"

This will be our way of marking Late Advent Time, and of connecting your home celebration of Advent and Christmas with our celebration at Mass. Don't forget this year!

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,



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.

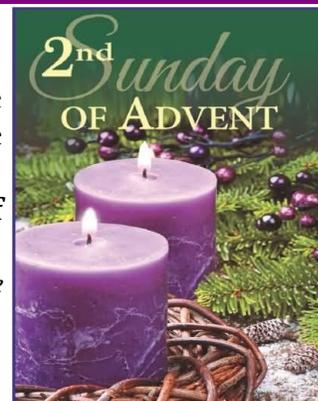
— *Collect of the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent*

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

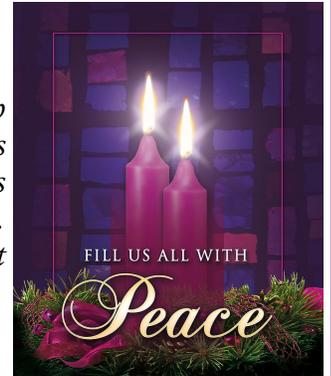


SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent...

Advent is the time for rousing. We are shaken to the very depths, so that we may wake up to the truth of ourselves. The primary condition for a fruitful and rewarding Advent is renunciation, surrender. We must let go of all our mistaken dreams, our conceited poses and arrogant gestures, all the pretenses with which we hope to deceive ourselves and others. If we fail to do this, stark reality may take hold of us and rouse us forcibly in a way that will entail both anxiety and suffering.

—Alfred Delp



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.

—A Prayer Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary

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



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT OLPH

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

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

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

Christmas Day

Tuesday, 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

Saturdays:

December 15: 4:00—4:45 p.m.

December 22: 3:00—4:30 p.m.

Mondays:

following the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 18:

7:00—8:00 p.m.



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mass Schedule:

Eve of the Solemnity,

Monday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019:

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

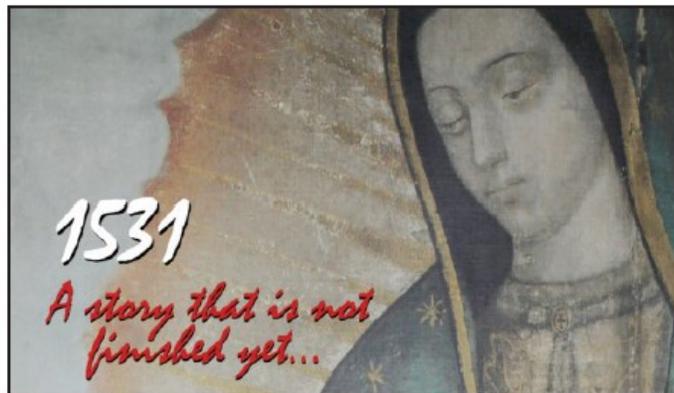
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

1531: A Story That Is Not Finished Yet

Our Lady of Guadalupe Came to Change the World

1531 shares the history of why millions of Aztecs converted to the Catholic Faith and the little known truth that this incredible story is not finished yet.

Watch on formed.org



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

THE OLPH APP

Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

Step 1: Open App Store or Google Play

Step 2: Search "myParish app" & press download

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

Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

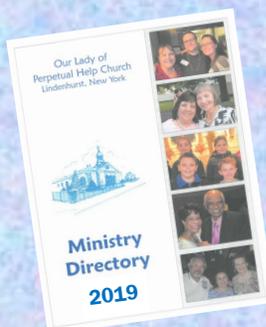
Step 5: Explore the great features in our parish app!



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIRECTORY!

Watch for
the updated
2019 Ministry Directory

available soon on
our OLPH website
www.olphlindenhurst.com
& on the
OLPH App!



PRAYER & WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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

Monday, December 10—7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 17—7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24—

No Devotions due to Christmas Eve



Lord, Have Mercy: Prayer Intentions for Your Faith Community

You may notice the book *Lord, Have Mercy: Prayer Intentions for Your Faith Community* displayed in the Divine Mercy Chapel. This book is used to record the intercessions and prayer requests for the sick, the homebound, the suffering, the local and universal Church, the needs of the world, and anyone else in need of prayer. The prayers contained in this book are referenced during the Universal Prayer at Sunday Mass.



This new book replaces the marble notebooks that were used in the past, giving more dignity to the prayers that are written. Quotations from the Bible are beautifully inscribed in English and Spanish and are meant to be a source of prayer and inspiration. Take the opportunity to record your intercessions. Remember in your own prayer the needs expressed on the pages of this book. Pray for them individually or when you gather with others for prayer.

If you would like to memorialize this book in memory of a loved one who has died or to mark a special occasion, please contact Chris Ferraro at the rectory - cferraro@oloph.org or (631) 226-7725 ext. 210. The cost is \$75. We envision using several books throughout the course of the year.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, **December 22 at 1:30 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.

You may have noticed that we now have a music supplement in the back of our *Gather* hymnals. These supplements, which will change periodically according to the seasons of the liturgical year, allow us to use additional seasonal music that is not contained in the hymnal. These supplements are placed inside the back cover and held in place by a plastic sleeve. On the hymn boards, whenever you see the letter S, followed by a dash (-) and a number, that refers to the supplement. For example, the Entrance Hymn for this Sunday is listed as "S-1" which means that the hymn is the first hymn in the supplement.

Throughout Advent, in place of a hymn, we will be using the proper text for the Entrance Antiphon from the *Roman Missal*. These antiphons set the tone for the liturgy and express that theology of the particular Sunday being celebrated. The text of each antiphon have been adapted to fit an ancient and well known Advent tune, Creator of the Stars of Night (CREATOR ALME SIDERUM). The assembly sings the antiphon while the choir or cantor sings verses of a particular Advent psalm. The antiphons can be found in the Advent/Christmas Music Supplement in the back of the *Gather* hymnal.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH
ENDERBURY, NEW YORK

**Advent/
Christmas
Music
Supplement**



RECOMMITMENT OF ALL PARISH SOCIAL MINISTERS

Attention all Parish Social Ministers — that is, all parish offerers involved in any way with any of the ministries listed in the black box at the top of our Parish Social Ministries section in the bulletin each week! Remember to attend the Recommitment of Parish Social Ministers which will take place on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. We will pray Evening Prayer together, which will include a blessing and recommissioning of all parish social ministers in their ministry. Hospitality will follow the liturgy. It will be a great way to come together to be renewed and energized and to share experiences with others involved in Parish Social Ministry at OLPH. Please be sure to be there!



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.



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH

We'll again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22-23**. 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 22-23!

SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

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



BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE



If the announced intention at Mass is for your intention, or if you have memorialized the bread and wine, and you would like to carry those offerings forward at the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, please be sure to let the ushers know this before the Mass begins. They will be happy to have you do this. If no one steps forward to specifically request this, then they will select people from the assembly.

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Level 8:

On Wednesday, December 12,
meet in the auditorium
from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
for a presentation
on the topic of Chastity!

Level 2:

On Saturday, December 15,
there is a Parent Meeting
for First Penance!
Parents: meet in the auditorium during
your child's class time!



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

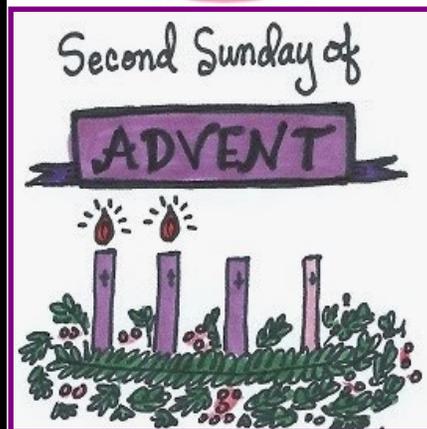
Our program relies on the generous time and talent offered by our dedicated teachers. At this time, we are in need of assistant catechists to help students with special needs in the classroom. Training is provided! Please call us for any questions or stop by our office!

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. Lucy

Saint Lucy is a martyr from the early fourth century. Much of what we know about her is based on legend. She had wanted to dedicate her life to Christ; however, her mother had arranged a marriage for her. St. Lucy prayed to St. Agatha that she would not have to get married. St. Agatha told Lucy in a dream that her mother's illness would be cured and that would serve as her sign. When her mother was no longer sick, they decided to donate her money to charity.

Unfortunately, Lucy's fiancé was not pleased and handed her over to the authorities. They tried to drag her away with oxen but she would not move. So, they tried burning her, but to no avail. Finally, she fell to their swords. Before her death, Lucy cried out that they would be punished, so they gauged out her eyes. When they went to bury her, her eyes were found healed.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, MUSIC MINISTRY, & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 21, 2018
7:00 p.m. Church



We would like to involve as many members of our parish community, especially all parish children! We have many speaking parts for children who can memorize a few lines and speak loudly and clearly. There are roles for: Mary, Joseph, Herod, Three Kings, Innkeeper, Angels and of course the shepherds.

Please indicate if your child is interested in having a speaking role. Parts will be given out at the first rehearsal, so anyone wishing to have a speaking part must be able to attend all rehearsals. There is something for children preschool and up!

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 10th 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 17th 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 20th 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Grade _____

_____ My child is interested in having a speaking role!

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

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

NEW Food Pantry List!

PORK & BEANS
PASTA SAUCE
INSTANT POTATOES
PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP
SMALL PKGS RICE
JELLY/JAM
CANNED FRUIT
DESSERTS/SNACKS
HOT CHOCOLATE
SHAMPOO/TOOTHPASTE

Thank you
 for your continued generosity.

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

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

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.

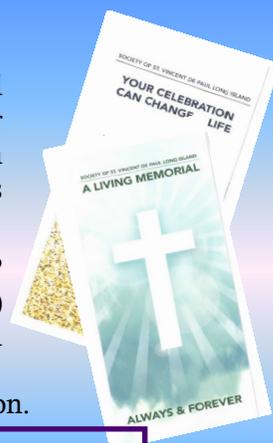
Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

† AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

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

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

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



*Please remember: your Advent Giving Tree gifts for SVdP are due today.
 All others are due by next Sunday, December 16!*

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 **next Sunday December 16**. 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



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

The Giving Tree

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.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY

DONATIONS:

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

We are in need of the following:

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

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

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?*

Please be patient.

We are taking a little break from our gatherings.

Call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or email her at gtonness@optonline.net

SENIOR MOMENTS GIVE YOURSELF A CHALLENGE

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

Our next meeting:
Tuesday, January 8

JOIN THE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES!



HELP THE COMMUNITY!
PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TO HELP BETTER OUR COMMUNITY AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS!



FUNDRAISERS!

HELP OUT IN SQUIRE SPONSORED EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS IN NEED! THESE EVENTS ARE ALWAYS FUN AND ENJOYABLE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

@olphsquires

Meetings at Panera Bread the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month (may also be at OLPH School - RM 19)

1025 W Montauk Hwy.
West Babylon, NY 11704

Contact Chief Counselor
Tom Romano PGK
E-mail: tomonli@aol.com
Phone: 631-561-7052

Contact Chief Squire Nick Artusa
E-mail: Nartusa10@gmail.com
Phone: 631-225-0410

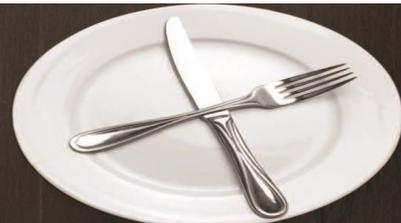
MUST be a practicing catholic boy between the ages of 10 to 17.

WORK AS A TEAM!
OUR VOLUNTEERING COUNSELORS ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING SQUIRES LEARN TO MEET THEIR GOALS OF SERVICE AND FUNDRAISING BY WORKING AS A TEAM! TEAMWORK CAN CREATE FRIENDSHIPS AND GIVE EXPERIENCE AS A SQUIRE AND BEYOND!



Knights of Columbus
SQUIRES
Youth Organization.

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



COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

OLPH's Community Meal Ministry has served hundreds of meals to members of our parish community. Generally held on one Sunday each month, the Community Meal seeks to provide a place of good food, good fellowship and good times for all who come!

Our next Community Meal is next Sunday, December 16
Come pray at the 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us for "Sunday Dinner" at 1:00 p.m.

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
 John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Third Announcement:

Daniel Cook & Catherine Heaphy



PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

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

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

WE REMEMBER

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

Joseph E. Keeler

“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>Stephanie Scarpa</i>	<i>Tom Willumson</i>
<i>John Jordan</i>	<i>Marge Heldeman</i>
<i>John Pius</i>	<i>Joanne Hernandez</i>
<i>Anne Wildner</i>	<i>Ginny Gala</i>
<i>Kelly Cahill</i>	<i>Joseph Pugh</i>
<i>John Manning</i>	<i>Peter Masak</i>
<i>Marilyn Abbott</i>	<i>Natalie & Lew Yugel</i>
<i>Laurel Norstedt</i>	<i>Gail Tonnessen</i>
<i>Marie Molina</i>	<i>Roberta Fifield</i>
<i>David Dentici</i>	<i>Jeanne Calise</i>
<i>Betty Cunningham</i>	<i>Loretto Dinardo</i>
<i>Lucille Sullivan</i>	<i>Teresa Piolo</i>
<i>Marie D'Angelo</i>	<i>Patricia Goertz</i>
<i>Carl D'Angelo</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.

PERPETUAL HELP MASS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 5:00 P.M. MASS

Jeanette & Edwin Monge (Living)	Requested by Jeanette Monge
John Stoker	Requested by Stoker Family
Michael Pentaleri	Requested by Josephine Lopresti
Joseph Juliano	Requested by Debra Seeley
Eileen M. Fister	Requested by Barbara Aiolo
Barbara Pfluegner	Requested by Shirleyann Watson

PERPETUAL HELP MASS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018 12:15 P.M. MASS

John Skopek	Requested by Steve & Janet Quinn
George McWeeney	Requested by Sister Lora, Sister Jean & Sister Frances
Jorgos (George) Pinos	Requested by Robin Anna Pernice-Tilocca
Theresa Puleo Lewandowski (Living)	Requested by Caren Puleo

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 10— ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:30	Bernardo Benebe
12:15	Marilyn Storz

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

6:30	Brancato Family
12:15	Maria & Gaspare Piazza

WEDNESDAY, December 12— OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

6:30	James (Jimmy) Schiavone
12:15	Victor Insigne

THURSDAY, December 13— SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

6:30	Dominick Barone
12:15	Teresa Carucci & Family (Living)

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

6:30	Artie Eriksen
12:15	Perpetual Help Mass Intentions (on p.18)

SATURDAY, December 15 ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00	Robert Koudelka
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Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00	Soccorsa & Gaetano D'Angelo
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Sunday, December 16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00	Jeanette Cotter
10:00	For the People of the Parish
12:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
5:00	Perpetual Help Mass Intentions (on p.18)

Monday, December 10, 2018

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24
5:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Devotions	Church

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Board Meeting	Room 18
7:00 p.m.	Recommissioning of PSM	Church
7:30 p.m.	Squires	Room 19
7:30 p.m.	Adult Confirmation	St. Mark's Room
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

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 Meeting	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes Level 7 Mass	School Church
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 12
7:00 p.m.	Level 8 Student Only Meeting	Auditorium

Thursday, December 13, 2018

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	CYO Coaches Meeting	Room 3
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

Friday, December 14, 2018

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 Meeting	Room 10

Saturday, December 15, 2018

8:30, 10:00	Level 2 Parent Meeting Levels 1- 5 & Sp. Ed Classes	Auditorium School
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
1:30 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
3:00 p.m.	Wedding	Church
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, December 16, 2018

9:15 a.m.	RCIC Meeting	Room 18
11:00 a.m.	RCIA	Room 16
1:00 p.m.	Community Meal	Cafeteria
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour for Peace	Church
7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

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

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

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

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

Reflexiones para el 3rd domingo de adviento 12/16/18.

Regocijense en el señor. En el siempre

Primer Lectura (Sofonías 3,14-18a): El Señor vendrá en Medio de Ustedes

A un pueblo rodeado de enemigos, el profeta anuncia: "El Señor les va a perdonar y les traerá alegría. Vivirá en medio de ustedes y les renovará con su amor".

Segunda Lectura (Filipenses 4,4-7): Alégrese, el Señor Está Cerca.

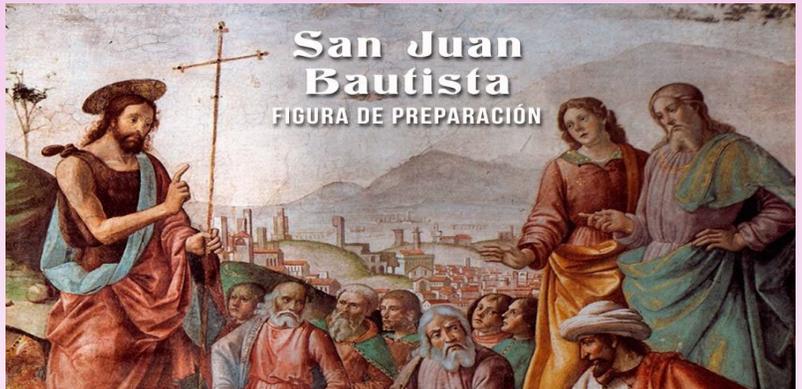
Los cristianos deberían estar siempre alegres, dice San Pablo. Su alegría debe ser contagiosa, porque el Señor está siempre cerca de ellos.

El Espíritu de Dios está sobre mí me a ungido para dar la buena nueva a los pobres.

Evangelio (Lucas 3,10-18):

Reflexión del Evangelio según san Lucas 3:10-18

El Evangelio (Lc 3:10-18) narra que ante el llamado a la conversión, la gente pregunta a Juan, el Bautista: ¿Qué deben hacer? Él les responde: "El que tenga dos túnicas, que las reparta con el que no tiene; el que tenga para comer, que haga lo mismo." Luego, van los publicanos a bautizarse y también le preguntan: ¿qué debían hacer? Él les réplica: "No exijáis más de lo que os está fijado." También le preguntan los soldados: ¿qué debían hacer? Les dice: "No hagáis extorsión a nadie, no hagáis denuncias falsas, y contentaos con vuestra saldo." Ante ello, como el pueblo esperaba al Cristo, pensaba en su interior que era Juan, el Bautista pero Él respondió: "Yo os bautizo con agua; pero viene el que es más fuerte que yo, y no soy digno de desatarle la correa de sus sandalias. Él os bautizará en Espíritu Santo y fuego. En su mano tiene el bieldo para limpiar su era y recoger el trigo en su granero; pero la paja la quemará con fuego que no se apaga." Y con muchas otras exhortaciones anunciaba la Buena Nueva.



Nótese que en este contexto del Año de la Misericordia, el llamado evangélico de hoy es a la necesidad de una verdadera conversión, en griego metanoia; esto es, cambiar la propia mentalidad por el modo de pensar y de obrar de Dios; no se trata de cambios extraordinarios y sobrenaturales sino simplemente hacer lo que a uno le corresponde, según la condición o en lo que uno se desempeñe. Sin embargo, vale recordar que Juan el Bautista preparaba el camino para que la Buena Nueva que traía Jesús pudiera actuar en cada ser humano de su tiempo; entonces, de forma residual, es claro que todo ser humano debe escuchar al Señor para hacer lo que Él le diga a uno, pues es guardando u obedeciendo su Palabra por amor, la única forma para que Dios habite en uno. Y es que tener entrañas de Misericordia no se queda así solo en compadecerse del otro sino que conlleva hacer lo que corresponde hacer pero a la manera de actuar y de pensar del Señor: ¡Jesús, en Ti confío.

Oración para encender la 3ra vela de Adviento *En las tinieblas se encendió una luz, en el desierto clamó una voz. Se anuncia la buena noticia: ¡El Señor va a llegar!, preparen sus caminos, porque ya se acerca. Adornen el alma como una novia se engalana el día de su boda. Ya llega el mensajero. Juan Bautista no es la luz, sino el que nos anuncia la luz. Cuando encendemos la tercera vela, cada uno de nosotros quiere ser antorcha que brille y caliente. ¡Marana tha, ven, Señor, Jesús!*

**OFFERING UPDATE
December 1/2**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	332	140	\$3,584.00
8:00 a.m.	225	107	2,928.00
10:00 a.m.	477	136	3,593.00
12:00 p.m.	420	123	3,249.00
5:00 p.m.	161	34	1,108.00
Total coin:			11.41
Faith Direct			2,247.75
Children's Envelopes		17	34.00
Special Needs	54	14	454.00
Mail-ins:			318.00
TOTAL	1,669	571	\$17,527.16
2017	1,789	635	\$18,761.66
Candles			\$929.45
Poor Box			\$831.17
1st Saturday			\$82.00

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
THIS WEEK DECEMBER 8/9**

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 the 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 16—passed
December 23—December 14
December 30—December 21



In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season.

Signing up is easy! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: NY286, or text the word ENROLL to (Text-to-Give Phone Number).

Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account, or text a dollar amount to (Text-to-Give Phone Number) to make a one-time gift today!

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

I BANK CATHOLIC

Ocean Financial - the Catholic credit union -

is a financial institution owned by its members with a common bond that is our Catholic faith. Become a member today and see the difference our values can make to your banking, your parish... and your life.

Help support Our Lady of Perpetual Help – open your account online* at OceanFinancial.org or in a branch today.

Once you are a member, enjoy the convenience of shared branching by conducting your transactions at any other credit union near you.

Call (516) 469-3455 or visit OceanFinancial.org to find a branch near you.

*Member conditions may apply.



OceanFinancial.org
516.469.3455

*Membership conditions apply.



PREPARING FOR

Sunday, December 16, 2018

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 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. What kind of people went to hear John and then repented? Would you show up to hear someone like John today? What do you want to see and hear? Can people be prophets even though their actions or looks are a departure from the norm? Do you know any prophets? Discuss.

2. Sunday’s Gospel says the following:

The crowds asked him “What then should we do?” And he said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to him to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

Rita Ferrone notes that Pope Francis echoed this passage in his address to the 2014 Collegeville Conference on Liturgy, Music, and the Arts:

The crowds asked Pope Francis, “What then should we do?” To the pastors he said “Get out of the sacristy! Go and be with your people; smell like your sheep!” To the wealthy nations he said, “Give up your trickle down economic theories! Address the injustices that hold the poor in bondage.” To the religious he said “Answer the questions of the CDF, but don’t let their investigations dismay you. Continue in your ministry!”

*July 7, 2014, Rita Ferrone,
Church Reform, Pope Francis*

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 10, 2018:

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

Tuesday, December 11, 2018:

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

Wednesday, December 12, 2018:

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

Thursday, December 13, 2018:

Isaiah 41:13-20
+ Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 14, 2018:

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

Saturday, December 15, 2018:

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
+ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 16, 2018:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
+ Philippians 4:4-7
+ Luke 3:10-18



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THE FULL, CONSCIOUS, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

On December 4, 1963, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Bishops of the world passed the first of sixteen documents that would be promulgated by the Second Vatican Council. *Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, was one of the four “constitutions” which defined vital issues of Church teachings and practice. This Constitution called for a reform of the liturgy. It did not mandate innovations, but restored ancient practices. It urged that “the rites be revised carefully in light of sound tradition and that they be given new vigor to meet the circumstances and needs of modern times” (SC 4).

The Constitution began with a theological review of the nature of liturgy and its role in the life of the Church (1-13). It called for the improved liturgical formation of the clergy and the faithful (14-19) and carefully detailed the principles which would guide the reform (21-46). The chapters that followed gave specific norms for the reform of the Mass, the sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, the liturgical year, and more.

And in all these important efforts, what was given highest priority? What was the goal to be considered before all else? It was the full, conscious and active participation of the people in the pews!

“The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations, called for by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people ... is their right and duty by reason of their baptism. In the reform and promotion of the liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else. For it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit ... (SC 14).

Indeed, that phrase, “full, conscious and active participation,” appeared no less than thirty-one times in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*. What does this phrase imply? The council envisioned that we would be participating in the liturgy with our whole mind, heart and bodies! “... Pastors must therefore realize that when the liturgy is celebrated something more is required than the mere observance of the laws governing valid and lawful celebration; it is also their duty to ensure that the faithful take part fully aware of what they are doing, actively engaged in the rite, and enriched by its effects” (SC 11).

For centuries, the faithful “attended” or “heard” Mass in Latin. They devoutly listened as the priest recited prayers in a language that few could understand. Only in the early twentieth century were personal missals published to provide translations. And language was not the only barrier to participation. Frequently, the architecture itself separated us from the altar by great distances or communion rails. Often, the faithful simultaneously prayed the Rosary or other devotions while Mass was being celebrated, so they hungered for familiar clues like the ringing of bells.

How did the Second Vatican Council bring about our greater participation? First, it encouraged “liturgical formation with zeal and patience” (SC 19). The bishops knew that we would better participate if we were taught! We would then better understand the depth of the mystery being celebrated, the structure of the Mass, and the richness of the traditions behind our current practices.

Second, they reminded us that liturgies are never private functions — they involve the whole body of the Church, near and far, visible and invisible (26). The liturgy is public and communal by its very nature, but it also concerns individual members in different orders and offices who exercise a variety of liturgical roles — bishops, priests, deacons, lectors, cantors and more.

Third, the liturgical books themselves were reformed to promote active participation. The people were given more “speaking parts” and encouraged to take part in acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs (30-31). Music, especially, allowed us to give fuller expression to our prayer. And the texts of these books were to be marked by “noble simplicity.” They were to be “short, clear, and unencumbered by useless repetitions; they [were to be] written within the people’s power of comprehension and, as a rule, not require much explanation” (34). Most importantly, the liturgical books were to be translated into the vernacular so that the people could pray in their own language, just as they had for centuries before Trent. These translations were to be approved by each country’s conference of bishops and the Holy See.

Fourth, since we pray with our whole bodies, we participate fully, consciously and actively with postures and gestures. We kneel, we sit, we stand, we process, we bow our head, we make the Sign of the Cross. These common postures and gestures are a sign of our unity when we are gathered for the Sacred Liturgy — they both express and foster our intention and spiritual attitude (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 42).

Silence, too, is a means of participation. In silence, we recollect our sins and gather our prayers in the Introductory Rites. In silence, we reflect on the readings. In silence (or in song), we reflect on the great gift of Holy Communion (GIRM 45). We participate, too, simply by listening attentively to the readings and the prayers and then responding to them with “Thanks be to God” or “Amen” or other acclamations.

Too often, some will complain that they “don’t get much out of Mass.” The obvious response is “What did you put into it?” We never come to liturgy to be entertained, or worse yet, to judge the music or the homily. We are not there as strangers or silent spectators. We come together as a Christian community to encounter the living God.

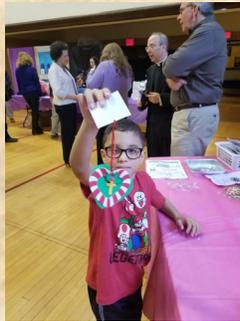
The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* best describes our role at Mass and it is anything but passive! We are “instructed by God’s word and nourished at the table of the Lord’s body, we give thanks to God by offering the immaculate Victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him. We offer ourselves as well, through Christ the Mediator, so that we may be formed day by day into an ever more perfect unity with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all” (48). ■

Written by Rita A. Thiron. This article first appeared in the July/August 2010 edition of Faith Magazine.

The English translation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy from Documents on the Liturgy, 1963-1979: Conciliar, Papal, and Curial Texts © 1982, International Commission on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

GETTING READY FOR ADVENT

A special thank you to all who helped and to those who participated in the annual Family Life "Getting Ready for Advent" activity held last Sunday, December 2 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Looks like everyone had lots of fun!



BINGO!

Congratulations to Level 2 student Riley Figueiredo for being the first student to collect all the saint tokens needed to win the Religious Education Saints Bingo! Good job, Riley!



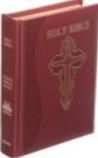
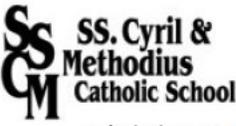
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