

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



myParish app!

Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2

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*Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.*

Luke 6:20b

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 17, 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. 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.

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)



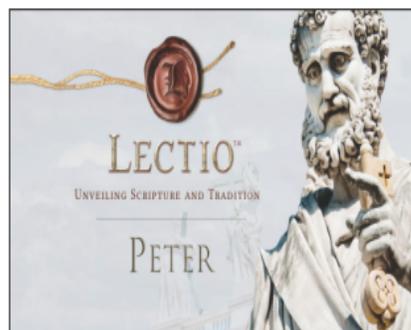
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Lectio: Peter

Episode 5: Peter and the Keys

Did Jesus Establish the Papacy?

What are the “keys of the kingdom” and why are they so important to understanding Peter and his successors’ role in the Church? Discover the Old Testament parallels and how Jesus restored and perfected both the kingdom and its offices in his Church.



[Watch on formed.org](http://formed.org)

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

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 

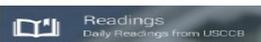
Step 3: Open up the myParish app and type in "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church"

Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

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



Calendar
Events, Locations, RSVP



Readings
Daily Readings from USCCB



Messages
Easily connect all week



Bulletin
Convenient mobile access



PASTOR'S PAGE

FORMED

As you know, OLPH has been making available to you FORMED, which is a wonderful on-line resource for ongoing formation in the Catholic life. Jim Totino, a member of our Pastoral Council, is the Coordinator for FORMED at OLPH, and we thought it would be a good idea for him to give you an update of FORMED and its use at OLPH. So, Jim has prepared the following for your reading pleasure...*take it away, Jim!*

Learning is a constant in life. When you think about the amount of time you spend educating yourself, whether at school, work or home, by listening to the news, reading books and newspapers, or scanning websites, you realize you can gain a vast amount of knowledge. But how much time do you spend studying about your faith? How much of that time is spent learning from your best teacher and Lord, Jesus Christ? Fulton Sheen once said, "Can we say that a man is truly educated who is ignorant of the first principle of life and truth and love — which is God?"

Time is an asset for all of you. Each week, God has given you 168 hours to allocate as you choose. How you allocate it can be a major factor on where life takes you. Outside of the 1 hour you spend at Mass each week, allocating time toward learning about your faith can help you in every part of your life. But time is limited and life is challenging; fortunately, there is a resource to help you!

Some of you by now may have heard of the digital platform called **Formed.org**, which is a resource for Catholic faith on demand. FORMED utilizes today's technology, whether through their website, smartphone app, or live streaming through your TV, to bring you world-class Catholic content. There is so much amazing content on the FORMED platform, such as e-books, movies and videos, sacramental catechesis, adult faith formation programs, audio dramas, audio talks hosted by some of the best Catholic speakers, and more. But the best part about FORMED is you already have access to it — for FREE!

Yes, our parish has purchased a group

membership, so all of you can register and access the FORMED platform. We officially rolled out FORMED to the parish back in September of last year. Since then, we started highlighting a FORMED "Pick of the Week" in the parish bulletin. As of today, over 85 OLPH parishioners have become registered users. Globally, thousands of parishes and nearly a million parishioners have become part of the FORMED community. Are you part of the OLPH FORMED community? If not, then here are some examples of the content you can experience.

Each week on our parish FORMED website **olphlindenhurst.formed.org** we highlight a program called "Opening the Word," where the actual title is based on the liturgical calendar date. For example, for the week of February 17, the title would be "6th Sunday in Ordinary Time — February 17, 2019". "Opening the Word" consists of a video that normally averages between 4-7 minutes, along with materials that provide you with background on the readings proclaimed during Mass and questions to reflect on during the week. If you ever attended Mass and walked away saying you didn't get much out of it, then this resource will dramatically change that experience. By the way, the theme for this week is "The Search for True Happiness." Watch the video, open both the participant and leader materials which are great resources, and then see how much more enriching Mass can be! We always highlight the program covering the readings of the current weekend and the upcoming weekend so you can better prepare for Mass. The more you give to Mass, the more you can receive.

Another example of the type of content that can found on FORMED is in the study program titled "Who Am I to Judge," which touches on relativism and what is "right" and "wrong." This interactive program, which includes study guides, is filmed in front of a group of young adults. The host is a dynamic speaker who explores the classical view of morality and finds that it's not merely a set of guiding principles for theoretical situations — it is an entire way of life. To view the series which consists of eight videos averaging between 20-30

minutes each, just type “Who Am I To Judge” into the search bar, then click the “study” label, and then “Who Am I To Judge.” It’s excellent for teenagers approaching college years, or any adult living in this modern age.

In addition to audio talks and study programs, there are also movies. One that is quite entertaining and educational for the entire family is the one titled *John XXIII*. This is an inspiring film starring Edward Asner as Saint Pope John XXIII, and it tells his whole life story from his youth through his young priesthood, episcopacy, life as cardinal, and eventually his life as Pope who surprised the Church and world by calling for the Second Vatican Council. Filmed on location in Italy with excellent cinematography, this is a must-see film.

Finding faith-based content for young children can be challenging for parents. FORMED is here to help! There is an abundance of videos and stories for young children, to teach them about our Lord in a captivating way. Just check out the FORMED homepage and look for the children’s section and you will be pleasantly surprised with the content that can help nurture our future generation.

Yes, FORMED has content for all ages, some deep, some light. Gaining wisdom and knowledge takes effort. But in a world where we are sometimes tempted to domesticate our one Lord and Savior, it’s important for us to enrich the knowledge of our faith to deepen our roots so we are rooted in Christ. One analogy we can all relate to is food; well, if Mass is the main course, then FORMED is like the appetizer. FORMED is not here to fulfill our hunger — only Jesus can do that. But FORMED is here to give us a taste, just like that sampling platter...so *Bon Appetit!*

Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) 2019

Thanks, Jim, for that great report! (We’re back to me, Msgr. Joe!)

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have already donated to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal; I am very, very grateful for your generosity. If you have not yet done so, please do so soon. We are counting on raising at least the same amount of rebate money for OLPH as we did last year — approximately

\$60,000 — and, I hope, even more, but it all depends on your generosity in pushing us over goal and in doing at least as well as we did last year. We count on this money to keep us afloat. I give to the Appeal each year, and I ask you to, also, especially if you have never given before; this year is the perfect time to begin! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Supporting OLPH through Amazon purchases

Take note that you can support OLPH through your purchases at Amazon.com. It costs you nothing to sign up, and once you are signed up with OLPH as your designated charity, Amazon makes a donation every time you make a purchase. That’s all there is to it! I’ve already signed up, and I ask you to also. Full details are elsewhere in this bulletin, so look there for all the details; you can sign up using the direct link for our parish. Be careful, though; if you don’t use the link and you search us out, please be sure you sign up for OLPH **Lindenhurst** — the correct OLPH! There are many other OLPH churches on there, and you want to be sure your donation comes here.

Presidents’ Day holiday weekend

Finally, allow me to wish everyone a very happy and relaxing Presidents’ Day holiday; it’s nice to have a “three-day weekend” again, especially in the midst of winter. If I’m not mistaken, for schools this is also the week of Winter Recess. So, may we use this day and/or this week for wholesome relaxation and renewal. Maybe we could even take a little extra time for prayer, or Scripture reading...or, checking out FORMED on line, as Jim Totino described. Now, that would be a great way to use the internet in our extra free time!

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,



PRAYER & WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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

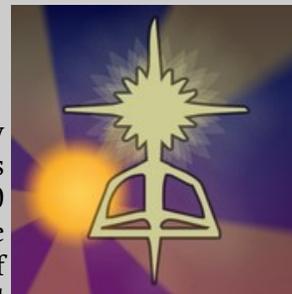
Monday, February 18—No devotions due to President's Day.

Monday, February 25—7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 4—7:00 p.m.

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

A WORD ABOUT LITURGICAL PRACTICES AND GOOD HEALTH

As we come to celebrate Mass together each week during these winter days, it's a good time to review some common-sense liturgical practices and issues, to help everyone stay healthy and to care for one another.

- **Holy Communion:** Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are especially encouraged to wash and sanitize their hands before Mass begins. If Communion ministers need to clean their hands during Mass, it must be done discreetly. The best way for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to clean their hands during Mass is to use a sanitizing liquid in the pew before coming into the sanctuary (sanitizing liquids have no place on the altar or among the Communion vessels and other sacred items on the credence table).
- **Communion from the Chalice:** The faithful should refrain from drinking from the chalice when one has a cold or is fearful of being infected.
- **Receiving on the Tongue:** Faithful who normally receive Holy Communion on the tongue should refrain from receiving on the tongue and instead receive in the hand when one has a cold or is otherwise contagious. Do not spread your saliva to the hand of the Communion minister if you are sick; receive Communion in the hand instead.
- **Greeting of Peace:** Use your own discretion and best judgment when invited to exchange the greeting of peace during the liturgy; limit physical contact with others if necessary. If a handshake is not advisable, a simple bow of the head is acceptable. Do not be insulted if someone prefers to avoid shaking your hand.

Mass Attendance: MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO MASS! There is no obligation to attend Mass if you are sick; it is not a sin to miss Mass for this reason. (Also, there is no need to go to Confession if you miss Mass because you are sick.) Personal prayer and reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings is encouraged; many people also enjoy viewing the Mass on television.

Prayer for Peace

Please join us for a special Holy Hour devoted to praying for world peace within our own country and throughout the world. **This Holy Hour for Peace, with prayers focusing on the intention of peace, will be held on the second, third and fourth Sunday evenings of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The Holy Hour of Reparation which has been held on the first Sunday of the month will continue every first Sunday evening as usual, with the prayers that are usually said for that first Sunday Holy Hour.



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

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.



BRING PALMS TO BE BURNED FOR USE AS ASHES



We are all familiar with the practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, which this year is March 6. The ashes are a sign of the public penance to which we are all called during the Lenten season. As we promise to repent and believe in the Gospel, the ashes brand us with the sign of the cross — a sign of our commitment to the journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, a journey which ends with the new life of baptism and baptismal renewal during Easter Time. Penitential acts are undertaken as a community, as together we journey to the cross and resurrection.

What you may not know is where the ashes come from. Very simply, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are the ashes from palms saved from Palm Sunday the previous year, which have been burned.

This year we once again invite you to share in our communal celebration of Ash Wednesday in a special way. **We ask you to bring old palms from your home and deposit them in the baskets which will be available. These palms will then be burned at our Mardi Gras celebration on March 5 and used as ashes on Ash Wednesday.**

Please join in this meaningful gesture of community and solidarity as together we embark on our Lenten disciplines.

REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

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

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

All Levels:

There is no class
on Wednesday, February 20
and Saturday, February 23
due to Winter Break!

Levels 6, 7 & Service Corps:
Looking for service hours?

Join us for our

Lenten Mission Service Series!

Serve your community through
the Corporal Works of Mercy!

On Saturday, February 23
give alms to the poor by
helping us label the Lenten rice
bowls in room 16 of the school
from 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, February 27,
feed the hungry with us by
making sandwiches for our
Van Ministry
in room 16 of the school
from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Vacation Bible Camp Needs You!**

Planning Meeting **Thursday, March 21 at 7:30**
p.m. in room 10 of the school. Please consider
 being a part of our Safari Leaders!
 Contact April for more information!

**Save the Date**

Vacation Bible Camp
July 15th - July 19th

Happy Saint of the Day!**St. Alphonsus Liguori**

St. Alphonse is a Doctor of the Church, which is a special title given to people who play a major role in the teachings of the Church. He originally went to school for law and became a lawyer at the age of nineteen. He decided that he didn't agree with the morals that were being practiced in that life, and left. When he was in the hospital, he had a vision telling him to go into the priesthood. His family didn't approve of this path for him, so when he finally became a priest he joined a special mission that allowed him to live at home. He wrote much on morality, and his teachings are still relevant today to the Church; this is why he is considered to be a Doctor of the Church.



IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

As required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Sacraments of Initiation are to be celebrated in the home parish of the child. Therefore, all families of OLPH with children celebrating First Communion and Confirmation are to have their children **celebrate those sacraments at OLPH**. As Catholics, our faith identity is centered in our Eucharistic identity, namely, the Sunday worshipping community we belong to (where we celebrate Mass Sunday after Sunday). This community is our primary community and the community in which our faith is lived, day in and day out.

Because of this, and because each year of religious formation builds on the prior one, **all school-aged children who are parishioners of OLPH, regardless of where they attend school, must be registered with our Religious Education Office for all years of religious formation (not only for sacrament-preparation years).**

• Children **in all grades** who attend **public school** attend religion classes in our Religious Education Program, and they and their parents also participate in various non-classroom religious formation experiences.

• Children **in all grades** who attend a **Catholic elementary school** need not attend the Religious Education classes, but they must be registered with us, and they and their parents participate in all the non-classroom religious formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH, not at the parish of their elementary school.

• Children **in all grades** who are **homeschooled** must also be registered with the Religious Education Office; they may or may not be required to attend the Religious Education classes, depending on their homeschool curriculum, but regardless, the homeschooled children and their parents are to attend the various non-classroom formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH.

If you are a parishioner with children in a Catholic elementary school or who are homeschooled and you are not yet on record with our Religious Education Office, please contact the office immediately. If you know of anyone who should be registered, please let them know of this policy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ OLPH

Do you want to help others in need in our local community?
Would you be up for helping with projects right here in our own parish?

YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

Here's how it works....

When a need for help comes in, we'll contact everyone who has signed up for the Service Corps. If you can help with a particular project, great! If not, no problem. We'll contact you next time.

If you'd like to join, fill out the form below or contact April Kleinlaut by e-mail at: akleinlaut@oloph.org

In the past over 100 young people have stepped up for the Service Corps...**what about you?**

Name _____	
Home Phone # _____	Presently I am in (check one)
Cell Phone # _____	___ Middle School
E-mail _____@_____	___ High School
	___ College

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



MARDI GRAS ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Come join us for a family evening of prayer and fun including the burning of palms as we begin our Lenten journey by strengthening our relationship with God!



Tuesday, March 5



Starting with
Evening Prayer
at 7:00 p.m.
in the Church



Please bring non-perishable food item for the St. Vincent de Paul pantry!



Games, music and toppings galore!

Any questions contact:

Eileen Corticchia 631.682-4853 or kencort36@gmail.com

MARDI GRAS REPLY FORM

First & Last Name: _____

_____ #of adults _____ # of children & ages _____

Telephone number: _____ Email Address: _____ @

Please return to OLPH Rectory or in the collection basket

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, March 3, 2019



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!

**CANNED MEATS
PORK & BEANS
PANCAKE SYRUP
OATMEAL
PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED JUICE
WATER**

**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 the Gospel today, Jesus gives us the blessings of serving the poor, hungry and weeping people, for you will then rejoice and leap for joy. But Jesus also teaches us the decisiveness of choice: blessing or woe.

Choosing to help those who are suffering will fill your heart with the blessing of Jesus and indeed your reward will be great in heaven.

RIGHT TO LIFE



On Saturday, February 23rd from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. there will be a peaceful protest of the recent extreme legislation allowing abortion through the 9th month, by non-doctors, no protection for children born alive and no murder charge for abusers of pregnant woman who lose their baby.

This will be held in front of the Dennison Building in Hauppauge (100 Veterans Hwy).

It is our local "Day of Mourning" in conjunction with the Albany Day of Mourning.

Join us to make it clear that we do NOT support such an abuse of life of the child and mother.

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.

We thank everyone for the many donations. PLEASE NOTE: all items should be clean & in good condition. ALL underwear should be NEW.

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, March 12

9:00 a.m. in Room 24

COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

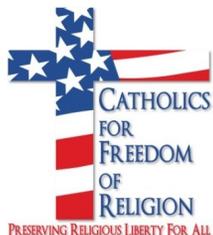
OLPH's Community Meal Ministry has served hundreds of meals to members of our parish community. Generally held on one Sunday each month, the Community Meal seeks to provide a place of good food, good fellowship and good times for all who come!

Our next Community Meal is

Sunday, February 17

Come pray at the 12:00 p.m. Mass then join us for "Sunday Dinner" at 1:00 p.m.

CATHOLICS FOR THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION



FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

www.cffor.org

"Conscience is the most sacred of all property." —James Madison, 1792

Alert!!

Conscience Protections for Health Care Workers at Risk

New York: Calling New York State's newly-expanded abortion law "ghoulish," N.Y. Cardinal Timothy Dolan said, "Those who once told us that abortion had to remain safe, legal and rare now have made it dangerous, imposed and frequent." The new law "allows for an abortion right up to the moment of birth; drops all charges against an abortionist who allows an aborted baby, who somehow survives...to die before his eyes; mandates that, to make an abortion more convenient and easy, a physician need not perform it; and might even be used to suppress the conscience rights of health care professionals not to assist in the grisly procedures."

The law proclaims "Every individual has the fundamental right:

- * ...to choose contraception or sterilization
- * ...to have an abortion"

The term "fundamental right" is extremely significant since it incorporates the constitutional law principle that these "rights" cannot be regulated except in the most narrow way possible.

Therefore, the language of the law poses a direct threat to religious freedom and conscience rights. It gives the state the authority to deny licenses to individuals and institutions that do not provide or cooperate with abortion.

The United States remains one of only 7 of the 198 nations in the world to allow abortion on demand past 20 weeks. These are North Korea, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Canada and Netherlands. Research shows that unborn babies feel pain at 20 weeks and most even earlier. (*archly.org, 1/30/19; ncregister.com, 1/30/19; frc.org, 2/1/19; dailycaller.com, 1/29/18; washingtontimes.com, 1/10/19; americamagazine.org, 1/30/19*)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you ..."

Jeremiah 1:5

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



District 11 Knights of Columbus
Day Retreat for Men presented by Msgr. Tom Costa
St. Martin of Tours Church, 37 Union Ave., Amityville, NY
Sunday, March 10

Check-in at 9:00 a.m. concludes with 5:00 p.m. Mass
\$25 p.p. includes breakfast, lunch & presentation handouts

To register contact: **Stephen Strigaro—631-225-0928 or Bernardo Batista—516-810-5717**

OLPH CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Guild

Do you want to meet new friends of all ages, grow spiritually, and have some fun? Check us out. If you've been away, come on back! We miss you!

Our Ministry was established over 110 years ago at OLPH! We are timeless and we are relevant in today's society. Some of our activities include: Fundraising for the Parish with our Palm Sunday Cake and Candy Sale, and selling Keep Christ in Christmas Car Magnets. We promote spiritual growth through prayer, guest Speakers, and an annual Retreat for a day. Come see what we're all about.

We meet on the third Wednesday of every month in the school cafeteria at 8:00 p.m. At our March 20th meeting, guest speaker Charlie Feldman of OLPH will show us a short video on "*Freedom of Religion in Schools*". Find out how our children's religious rights are being threatened. *Open to women 18 years and older, married or single.* Please contact Carol Stysjack, President: carolstys@verizon.net, if you have any questions.

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Bereavement Support Group for Widows and Widowers. Free 8 week program for Age 50 and Over. Starting Friday, **March 1**, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 39 N. Carll Ave., Babylon, for losses that have occurred before December 1, 2018. For more information and registration call Terry Hoffmann 631-669-0198 or Geri Olson 631-661-8994.

Bereavement Support Group: St. Mary's Parish in East Islip is offering a free 8 Week support group for adults who are coping with the death of a loved one. Registration is required for this group which begins on Tuesday, **March 12**, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.. Refreshments will be served. In order to participate in this group the death must have occurred prior to December 12, 2018. For information and or registration please contact the rectory at 631-581-4266 ext. 100.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents: **Celebrate Marriage**, A full day enrichment for married couples. All **married couples** are welcome to join us on Saturday **March 16**, 2019 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish, 155 Garfield Ave, Mineola, NY 11501. 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall; continental breakfast and lunch provided, \$40 per couple. RSVP by March 8th to Diane & Jim Popp 516-794-0069 dmuckster@aol.com.

Retrouvaille Weekend Can Help Heal Your Marriage. For confidential information about the **Retrouvaille** program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, **March 29-31**, call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help. Immaculate Conception Seminary, 440 W Neck Road, Huntington, NY, 11743

Tune into "**Religion and Rock**" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sundays from 7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m. on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m. on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11:00 p.m. on XM Satellite, Channel 117. For info ReligionandRock.com or *ITunes*. Next Sunday's theme is *Renewal*.

Pilgrimage to Poland, country of birth of St. Pope John Paul II & St. Faustyna Kowalska **August 11-22, 2019** with Fr. Stan Wadowski of St. Anne's, Brentwood. \$3,299 (dbl. occupancy) For information call Marge Baum 631-273-8113 or Miranda Zimnoch of Empres' Travel 631-789-1227.

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

First Announcement:
Ryan Resky & Heidi Segelke

WE CELEBRATE

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

-Rite of Baptism



Hayley Ann Pullan

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

WE REMEMBER

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

Nancy Ann Kaden

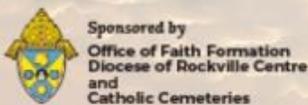
“O God, who through the ending of present things open up the beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption.”

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Margaret Koza</i>	<i>Msgr. Daniel Hamilton</i>
<i>Lora Flynn</i>	<i>Carmela Sammartiano</i>
<i>Colette Nasser</i>	<i>Millie Abrusci</i>
<i>Haley Kerwin</i>	<i>Dean Latkowski</i>
<i>Mary Doran</i>	<i>Sophia Marzullo</i>
<i>Dorothy Schatzger</i>	<i>Ray Churik</i>
<i>Linda Menna</i>	<i>Natalie Nizza</i>
<i>Maureen Molinari</i>	<i>Ann Kuller</i>
<i>Natalie & Lew Yugel</i>	<i>Mark Kuller</i>
<i>Nancy Kaden</i>	<i>Renato Leon</i>
<i>Frances Scarfo</i>	<i>Dominick Santonastaso</i>
<i>Loretto Dinardo</i>	<i>Randall I. Press</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.



Sponsored by
Office of Faith Formation
Diocese of Rockville Centre
and
Catholic Cemeteries

Bereavement Conference

For the Bereaved and those Ministering to them

theme

GRIEF IS... A JOURNEY

Saturday, March 30, 2019
ST. PATRICK PARISH, HUNTINGTON
9:00am to 3:00pm

Are you grieving the loss of someone you loved?

The DRVC Office of Faith Formation and Catholic Cemeteries are sponsoring a Bereavement Conference aimed at providing valuable information about the grieving process both to the bereaved and those who are ministering to them. The conference will be held on **Saturday, March 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at St. Patrick Parish in Huntington. A \$40 registration fee provides access to the conference and to a continental breakfast and lunch. Workshop topics include:

- Healing in the Time of Grief and Loss
- Finding Your Own Path to Healing
- A Child's Journey with Grief
- Grief Recovery after a Substance Passing
- Shattered Dreams – The Death of an Adult Child
- The Orphaned Adult

And many other topics

For more information or to register for the conference, call 516-678-5800 extension 236.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, February 18— WEEKDAY

6:30	Maureen McCleary
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12:15	James Lynn
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TUESDAY, February 19— WEEKDAY

6:30	Living & Deceased Members of the Califano Family
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12:15	Bernadette Kelly
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WEDNESDAY, February 20— WEEKDAY

6:30	Michael T. Mann
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12:15	Arthur Lemoine
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THURSDAY, February 21— WEEKDAY

(Saints Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

6:30	Patricia Ann Higney
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12:15	Richard Olsen
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FRIDAY, February 22— THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

6:30	Jillian Capodiferro (Living)
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12:15	George Wagner
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SATURDAY, February 23— WEEKDAY

(St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr)

8:00	Susan Murphy
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Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00	Dominick DeGirolamo
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Sunday, February 24 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00	For the Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus
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10:00	For the People of the Parish
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12:00	Maria Perry
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5:00	John Irving & Hermogene Gallardo
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PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, February 18, 2019

**ALL RECTORY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES
ARE CLOSED AND ALL ACTIVITIES CANCELLED
FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY.**

7:00 p.m.	No Devotions	
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Tuesday, February 19, 2019

6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
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6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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7:00 p.m.	Middle Ages	Room 24
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8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16
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Wednesday, February 20, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
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12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
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2:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
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6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 12
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7:00 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Room 3
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8:00 p.m.	Christian Mothers	Cafeteria
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Thursday, February 21, 2019

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
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7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
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7:30 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class for Parents	Room 16
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7:30 p.m.	RCIA	Room 1
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8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24
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Friday, February 22, 2019

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
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Saturday, February 23, 2019

9:00 a.m.	CYO Speed Cube Competition	Auditorium
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12:00 p.m.	Rel. Ed. Service Corp Event	Room 16
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1:30 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
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1:30 p.m.	Welcome Ambassadors Meeting	St. Mark Room
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4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
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6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
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7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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Sunday, February 24, 2019

9:15 a.m.	RCIC Meeting	Room 18
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1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
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1:30 p.m.	Young Men's Group	St. Mark Room
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2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
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5:00 p.m.	RCIA	Church
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6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
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7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour for Peace	Church
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7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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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.

Liturgia Viva del Domingo 7º del Tiempo Ordinario - Ciclo C

Domingo, 24 de febrero de 2019

Señor, tú que te has dignado redimirnos y has querido hacernos hijos tuyos, míranos siempre con amor de padre y haz que cuantos creemos en Cristo, tu Hijo, alcancemos la libertad verdadera y la herencia eterna. Por nuestro Señor

Primera Lectura (1 Samuel 26,2.7-9.12-13.22-23): Un Hombre de Corazón Grande

David va huyendo de la venganza de Saúl. Cuando tiene a Saúl en su poder, le perdona la vida, porque la vida del rey es sagrada. La misericordia de Dios se hace visible en David **Tenemos que**

Segunda lectura (1 Corintios 15,45-49)

Lectura de la primera carta del apóstol san Pablo a los Corintios (15,45-49):

El primer hombre, Adán, fue un ser animado. El último Adán, un espíritu que da vida. No es primero lo espiritual, sino lo animal. Lo espiritual viene después. El primer hombre, hecho de tierra, era terreno; el segundo hombre es del cielo. Pues igual que el terreno son los hombres terrenos; iguales que el celestial son los hombres celestiales. Nosotros, que somos imagen del hombre terreno, seremos también imagen del hombre celestial.

Tenemos que Volvemos Semejantes a Cristo

Nosotros tendemos a seguir meramente nuestras inclinaciones humanas. Cristo es nuestro modelo; él nos muestra en sí mismo el tipo de persona espiritual a la que estamos llamados y él nos da la fuerza para llevarlo a cabo

Palabra de Dios

Evangelio (Lucas 6,27-38): Sean Compasivos Como su Padre es Compasivo

Jesús y el evangelio son un reto constante para ir más allá de un mero código humano en nuestras relaciones con los otros.

Nos llama a seguirle a él en su modo radical, teniendo siempre como nuestro modelo el amor misericordioso de Dios.

Si somos capaces de hacerlo con la gracia de Dios, quizás no hay nada que nos lleve más cerca de Dios y nos haga tan semejantes a él como la buena disposición para perdonar y la actitud de amar incluso a los enemigos. Estas actitudes son muy contrarias a nuestros sentimientos humanos de no querer ser el hazmerreír de nadie o de ser tratado como un trapo. Y sin embargo el evangelio insiste: Ustedes, que eran enemigos de Dios, ustedes que han recibido el perdón, perdonen también, reconcíliense, sean misericordiosos como su Padre del cielo es misericordias

Sigue el ejemplo de Jesús en todo momento. Cumple el mandamiento más grande de Jesús (el Hijo de Dios): amar a Dios por completo y a todos, aunque te traten mal, lo sepas o no. Jesús dice “ama a tus enemigos y ora por aquellos que te persiguen”. Jesús dijo en Juan 13:15: “Les he puesto el ejemplo, para que hagan lo mismo que yo he hecho con ustedes”. En 1 Corintios 11:1, Pablo dice: “Imítenme a mí, como yo imito a Cristo”. En Efesios 5:1 dice: “Por tanto, imiten a Dios, como hijos muy amados”. Además, muchos creyentes están “desocupados, barridos y arreglados” (Mateo 12:44) por las doctrinas cristianas tibias. Si solo vas a la iglesia, serás un cristiano débil y las pruebas harán estragos en tu vida. Pero si vas a la iglesia y además lees la Palabra todas las noches, serás un cristiano fuerte. La mayoría de los cristianos no lee la Biblia todos los días, así que si solo vas a la iglesia, no tendrás mucha fuerza espiritual. Te recomendamos los siguientes pasajes edificantes: Proverbios 8:17-21; Salmos 1:1-3; Juan 14:21-27; Santiago 1:2-8; 1 Tesalonicenses 5:16-18; 2 Timoteo 1:6-7; Hebreos 8:6,10; Efesios 6:10-18; Proverbios 4:20-23.

Reconoce que tienes faltas (pecados) y arrepíentete, es decir, cambia de actitud y ora. Ten presente que la conversión no solo es una acción, sino el comienzo de un compromiso que durará toda la vida. La perseverancia es una actitud continua para aprovechar las oportunidades. No seas duro contigo mismo si fallas, mejor admítelo, levántate y confía en Dios. Confía en Dios

OFFERING UPDATE February 9/10, 2019

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	298	128	\$2,647.00
8:00 a.m.	225	97	2,860.00
10:00 a.m.	442	105	3,216.00
12:00 p.m.	480	149	4,116.00
5:00 p.m.	172	32	1,229.00
Coin			11.89
Mail-ins:			543.00
Children's Env.		18	63.05
Faith Direct			2,236.25
TOTAL	1,617	529	\$16,922.19
2018 total	1,556	507	\$16,258.43
Candles			\$953.50
Poor Box			\$361.41

2018 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS

Tax letters for the 2018 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address & envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN

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.

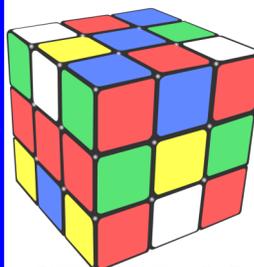
February 24—passed
March 3—February 22
March 10—March 1



**MONDAY,
February 18th**

All parish offices will be closed
and all activities cancelled.
Weekday 6:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Masses will be celebrated as usual.
However, the Monday night
Devotions *will not be held*.

CYO EVENT



*Organized by
OLPH CYO*

**LONG ISLAND
WINTER 2019**

SPEED SOLVE COMPETITION

Saturday, February 23

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

in the OLPH Auditorium

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.



Ocean Financial
Federal Credit Union
Catholic Values You Can Bank On®

OceanFinancial.org
516.469.3455

*Membership conditions apply.



PREPARING FOR

Sunday, February 24, 2019

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:36

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." We hear an example of being merciful in this first reading. King Saul, consumed by jealousy of David's rising popularity, has driven the youth from court and pursues him in the Judean desert to kill him. As Saul and his army are sleeping one night, David enters his camp secretly and has the opportunity to kill Saul with one thrust of a spear. Yet he doesn't. Out of respect for the fact that God has anointed Saul as king, David refuses to kill him and shows him mercy, putting the whole matter in God's hands to deal with. What a wonderful example for us to follow when we find it hard to be merciful to someone.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Paul writes that just as we resemble Adam, made from the earth, we also resemble Christ, as we are formed in his likeness. Like Adam, we are formed in the image of God, but we also have inherited Adam's weakness. But through baptism, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ and we receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit. Though we are human, we have the imprint of the divine in us, the image and likeness of God who is forever merciful and gracious.

Luke 6:27-38

The reign of God, Jesus tells us, is not what we expect. We expect that God will reward the good and punish the bad. It is not remarkable that God will be good to those who are faithful and deserving. We are not surprised that Jesus would be willing to die for the just. But we don't expect God to give mercy to the rude, the mean, the swindler, the untrustworthy, and the wicked. It truly is remarkable that Jesus would die for those same people who despised him and had him put to death. According to secular criteria of equity, equality, and democracy, God is not just. But Jesus tells us to be merciful in just the same way that God is merciful. He tells us not to judge others unless we want to be judged ourselves. He tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us. This is not what we expect but that's a good thing because it means that God will be merciful with us when we are the ones who are rude and mean and unjust. That means that Jesus died for us. Good news indeed!

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. Jesus goes a step farther than David's "don't kill" your enemies. He says, "love" them. Don't expect anything back when you lend, and if someone takes something of yours, give that person more. Who practices absolute generosity like this? Who do you know besides God who comes close?

2. According to Pope Francis, what happens to our hearts when we forgive? And if we don't?

"The Christian must forgive! Why? Because he has been forgiven. All of us who are here today, in the Square, we have been forgiven. There is not one of us who, in our own life, has had no need of God's forgiveness. And because we have been forgiven, we must forgive. ... We do not have the power to condemn our erring brother, we are not above him: rather, we have a duty to recover the dignity of a child of the Father and to accompany him on his journey of conversion.

Jesus also indicates a second pillar to us who are his Church: "to give." Forgiveness is the first pillar; giving is the second pillar. "Give, and it will be given to you. ... For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (v. 38). God gives far beyond our merits, but he will be even more generous with those who have been generous on earth.

... Do not forget this: mercy is a gift; forgiveness and giving. In this way, the heart expands, it grows with love. While selfishness and anger make the heart small, they make it harden like a stone. Which do you prefer? A heart of stone or a heart full of love? If you prefer a heart full of love, be merciful! "

Pope Francis, General Audience

Sept. 21, 2016

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, February 18, 2019:

Genesis 4:1-15, 25
+ Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 19, 2019:

Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10
+ Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 20, 2019:

Genesis 8:6-13 + Mark 8:22-26

Thursday, February 21, 2019:

Genesis 9:1-13 + Mark 8:27-33

Friday, February 22, 2019:

1 Peter 5:1-4 + Mark 16:13-19

Saturday, February 23, 2019:

Hebrews 11:1-7
+ Mark 9:2-13

Sunday, February 24, 2019:

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
+ 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
+ Luke 6:27-38

2019 OLPH GOAL: \$109,400

**20
19** CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
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"My faith is so important to me – without it I would be lost. I wouldn't know what I would be doing right or wrong. I wouldn't have God's voice with me at all times."

-Youth Ministry Participant

"It's important to place young people in front of the Living God and to create encounters with the Sacraments and with God for the possibility of that conversion moment of instilling in them the Faith – to come face to face with God. It can change their lives."

- Nolan Reynolds, Director, Youth Ministry



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THANK YOU!

LETTER FROM BISHOP BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 11, 2019
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...” (Jeremiah 1:5)

At the very heart of our beliefs about who we are and why we exist, is a message of love. God creates us out of love. Out of love, He redeems us by the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. He calls us to an eternal destiny with Him because He loves each sacred human life, created in His image.

That we are created in God’s image is reaffirmed in our nation’s Declaration of Independence, reminding us that we “are endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The **right to life** is the foundation and starting point for every other God-given human right. When that right is attacked or denied, all other rights and liberties begin to crumble.

You are probably aware that on January 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (the Supreme Court decision that declared an absolute constitutional right to abortion), Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York signed into law the “Reproductive Health Act”, which he himself called “the most aggressive” abortion law in the country. It was then “celebrated” by his lighting up One World Trade Center and the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany.

It is our obligation as citizens and as Catholics, to be well informed and to make our voices heard in the public square when evil and injustice threaten the sacred gift of life at any stage.

On a human level, this gruesome law should be appalling to people of every faith, or no faith. The Reproductive Health Act allows for abortion on demand with no restrictions throughout all of pregnancy. *This means that as a choice, an abortion could be performed on a full-term infant as the mother is going into labor.*

This law might also open the door to taking away conscience protections from medical personnel, and could be used to force doctors, nurses and other medical staff to perform or to assist in abortions. Governor Cuomo claims that he is protecting women’s rights, when in fact, this law endangers the lives of women by allowing non-physicians to perform abortions, and it removes any objective standard of care due to the patient.

The Act has also removed criminal penalties when an unborn child is deliberately targeted for death in a crime. Two and a half weeks after the bill became law, the Queens District Attorney said he could not prosecute a man for the stabbing death of his unborn child in the womb of his girlfriend, because of the passage of the Reproductive Health Act.

Unimaginably, the law also repeals protections for infants who are accidentally born alive during the course of a failed abortion. This amounts to infanticide, the killing either by direct

means or by neglect of an infant who is alive outside the womb. The law is silent on reducing the pain and suffering of infants, especially those being aborted late term.

Brothers and sisters, this law is an abomination that cries out to Heaven for justice. We cannot be silent in the face of such a blatant attack on the most vulnerable among us. I invite you to do several things:

1. **Stay informed and educated** regarding these issues and the battles ahead of us, such as assisted suicide and legalized surrogacy. Two outstanding resources available to you are:
 - The New York State Catholic Conference on the web at <https://www.nyscatholic.org>.
 - The Diocese of Rockville Centre Respect Life Office and web page: (516) 678-5800 Extension 381 or on the web at <https://respectlife.drvc.org>
2. **Get involved.** Both web pages listed above offer easy links to contacting your elected representatives. Let the Governor and our other elected officials know that this Act violates the dignity of the human person and that you do not support it.

Get involved in the efforts already underway at your parish, such as Respect Life Committees. In addition, our Diocesan Respect Life Office can direct you to ways that you can support and promote the sanctity of life locally, on Long Island.

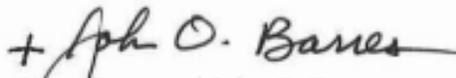
3. **Pray.** Pray the Holy Rosary. Ask the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, Protector of Mothers, Defender of Life and the Family, to strengthen us so that we may be compassionate, courageous witnesses to the truth. Ask also for the intercession of Saint Thomas More, patron of statesmen, politicians, lawyers and judges, who lost his life for refusing to renounce his conscience and give in to the tides of political power and privilege.

Pray for our elected officials and for all people and pray that our politicians come to understand their profound obligation to defend the most defenseless among us. Any Catholic who actively supports an attack on the sacredness of life, chooses to place him or herself in grave moral danger and outside of the Communion of the Church. We pray for their souls, for a spirit of repentance, for a return to the truth of the love of God. It is God's love that formed each one of us in our Mother's womb.

A civilization that not only will not protect, but actually celebrates an attack on its most vulnerable members is morally bankrupt and stands on the verge of collapse. We pray for the courage of the martyrs, that an awakened spirit of evangelization and voices raised together will move hearts and minds, and call us back to our God-given senses, to the God who made us, who loves us, and who offers us our eternal destiny in love.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,


 Most Reverend John O. Barres
 Bishop of Rockville Centre

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