

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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*Jesus said, "Love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father."*

Matthew 5:44-45a

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 23, 2020

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero

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

Business Manager: Mr. Thomas Crennan

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

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

Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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

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

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

Monday afternoons

at 12:45 p.m. in the church

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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

First Saturday: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 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.

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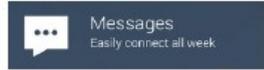
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Step 2: Search "myParish app" & press download 

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

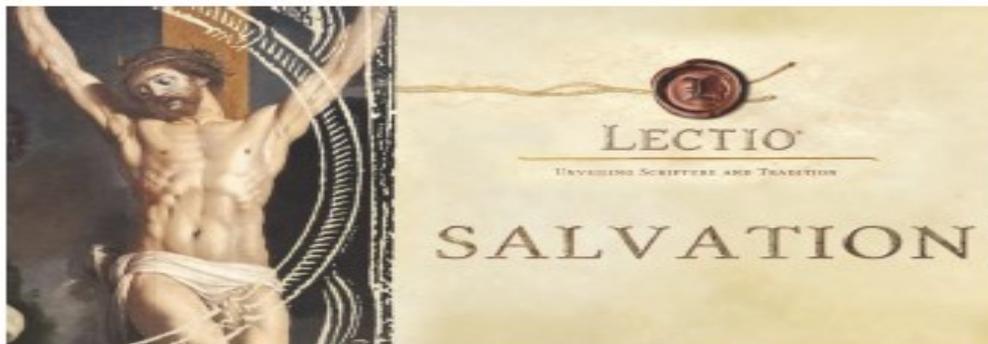
Step 4: Set OLPH as your main parish

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FORMED[®]

WHAT TO WATCH THIS LENT



Lectio: Salvation

with Dr. Michael Barber

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven "for us men and for our salvation." But what does "salvation" mean?

In this remarkable 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian, Dr. Michael Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical answer.

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Ash Wednesday—Lent 2020 begins!

We're getting ready to launch another Lent! This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Take a look at our schedule of liturgies for Ash Wednesday and be sure to attend one of them. Read through our special insert in this bulletin about the meaning and significance of Ash Wednesday, and spend some time reflecting on and praying about the power of the day. Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence, so try to observe the laws of the Church concerning fast and abstinence in order to mark the holiness of the day; in fact, pay attention to the rules about fasting on all the Fridays throughout Lent. Most importantly, take the time to ponder how you will make the most of this Lent, and make it a special time of grace and renewal.

As I frequently say, holiness and growing in grace do not just happen on their own, automatically, simply because we wish them to happen; it takes decision-making and concrete action in cooperating with God's grace. Perhaps one serious thing for us to consider this Lent is the idea of making room for **SILENCE** in our life. We are bombarded by so much noise, so much information input, and so much instantaneous communication, that we might actually lose the ability to be still and **LISTEN** to God.

Many times we think about giving up something for Lent, although I, and many people, prefer to take on an additional spiritual practice rather than just give something up. What about doing penance this Lent by **ADDING SILENCE** to your life every day, and being still and listening to God? This might include giving something up — putting the phone down or fasting from social media. I think we would be amazed at what will happen if we are faithful to a Lenten discipline of silence. Try it!

Please do not park in the bank parking lot on Ash Wednesday

Please remember that Ash Wednesday is a regular business day, so please do not park in the bank parking lot on the north side of the church during business hours when you come for Ash Wednesday. We need to be a good neighbor and respect the need for the bank to have parking available for its customers. Your cooperation with this is appreciated. What a great way to begin a season of Lenten charity...by being concerned about the needs of our neighbor!

Mardi Gras

Of course, before we settle in to the serious business of Lent, it makes perfect sense to go a little crazy with fun and feasting, so be sure to be at our parish Mardi Gras this Tuesday night (see the bulletin ad elsewhere). We begin with a beautiful Evening Prayer, at the end of which we will say good-bye to the "Alleluia" until its return at Easter, and we will move in procession to the burning of the palms outside. Then, we'll move to our Ice Cream Social for fun, music and games. It will be another great "OLPH Moment," and you won't want to miss it. I always enjoy being there, and I know you will, too.

Go to Confession during Lent—don't wait until the last minute!

As part of our thinking ahead of time as to how we will make the most of Lent, don't forget to make plans to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Why not schedule it as an actual appointment in your calendar? Our Confession times during Lent will be listed in a special ad throughout all of Lent. Don't wait until the last minute and find that you can't get to Confession! There are plenty of times available.

Also, don't forget that we will once again have Confessions from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday of Holy Week, this year on April 6 (as will every other Catholic parish) — that would be a great day to go! One way or another, make your plans NOW as to when you will go to Confession during Lent.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Also take note in our bulletin of the times for Stations of the Cross throughout Lent. I love the idea that this popular Lenten devotion becomes another "OLPH Moment" as various groups in the parish work together to take responsibility for leading a service, and I think it's a great thing that different formats and styles are used for these Stations. That's another example of what it means to be a parish family, and of what makes OLPH "the place to be." I am grateful to Deacon Robert Becker who coordinates these Stations of the Cross each year, and I thank all the groups and group leaders who step up to the plate and respond to Deacon Robert's request to take a turn. Do make sure you make it a point to attend the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Watch the bulletin each week throughout Lent and into Easter Time for explanations and

announcements concerning the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as we journey with and pray for the four young people who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil this year. RCIA is a very spiritual and life-giving process, and it is very much a ministry and responsibility of the entire parish community; everyone should be praying for and be in solidarity with those who are being initiated into the Catholic Church. Please be sure to keep yourself apprised of what's going on with our soon-to-be Catholics in the weeks ahead. Special thanks go to Jeffrey Gaab, our overall Coordinator of RCIA, and to Jo-Ann Domanico, who works with Jeff by overseeing the process as it applies to older children. You both do an amazing job of keeping track of all the moving parts and of bringing a true Christian witness of faith to the formation process.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2020

If you have not yet made your pledge to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal, please do so as soon as possible. We count on the rebate money we receive to keep us afloat, and the sooner we reach and surpass our goal, the sooner we begin to receive that income. I give to the Appeal each year, and I ask you to, also, especially if you have never given before. My deepest thanks go to all those who have already given to this year's Appeal, and I also thank, in advance, those who will soon be making their pledge.

Brick memorializations continue

Take note that the brick memorializations in our beautiful and prayerful "Let the Children Come to Me" Prayer Garden are available on an ongoing basis, and will continue to be available in the future. However, as noted on our flyer, we are getting ready to send out another batch for engraving, and this batch will be installed and blessed at some point in this upcoming springtime (all those who memorialized a brick in this latest batch will receive a letter announcing when the blessing will be). So, while bricks will continue to be available for memorialization after this, if you wish to get in on this batch for the Spring of 2020, you'll have to act very, very soon.

This brick memorialization program is very important to us, so I thank you for your support of this fund raiser for the parish. Remember: it's OK to memorialize more than one brick, so if you have done so in the past, maybe you could consider taking another one. Also, spread the word to others outside the parish; you don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH to memorialize a brick, and, in fact, you don't even have to be Catholic!

A great Lenten resolution: Don't leave Mass early

I wrote about this topic last week, but it's important enough that I think it bears repeating, especially for those who might have missed it last week; it's the topic of leaving Mass early. We should be staying in the pew and not leaving until the singing of the Closing Song is finished.

Now, of course there may be the occasional time when someone legitimately has to leave Mass early, leaving, for example, immediately after Communion, with the most obvious example being because of illness. So, if we see someone leaving Mass early, we should never be judgmental toward them; there may be a good reason.

However, I would be so bold as to say that the majority of the time there probably is not a good reason to leave Mass early, especially considering the frequency and regularity with which some people leave early, again, for example, leaving right after receiving Holy Communion, or leaving before the final blessing. We all need to examine our behavior and challenge ourselves to do better if we are the ones leaving Mass early. Isn't it disrespectful to God and to everyone else there to leave early? Doesn't it convey the message, "Well, I got what I want (*e.g.*, Communion), so now I can leave?" Don't we all have the responsibility to each other for our common worship together to all stay until the singing of the Closing Hymn has ended? I have heard of some churches that have a sign posted at the exit, "Judah left early, too." While I think this is perhaps a little harsh and, as I said, a little judgmental toward those who might have a legitimate reason, it does kind of starkly challenge us to make sure we do indeed have a legitimate reason. Personally, I don't think "because I have somewhere else to go" or "I don't want to be part of the traffic" are good enough reasons. Mass is not just some ordinary activity we do like we do everything else. We all need to take to heart that the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is the most important thing we do, and it should be the center of our week and the center of our life. So, does our behavior at Mass, including our attitude about when and the way we exit, really convey that centrality?

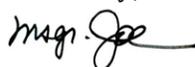
I ask everyone to pray over and reflect on these thoughts.

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 AND WORSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES FEBRUARY 26

6:30 a.m.— Mass
 12:15 p.m.—Mass
 4:15 p.m.—Word Service
 5:30 p.m.—Word Service
 7:30 p.m. — Mass



Stations of the Cross

Fridays

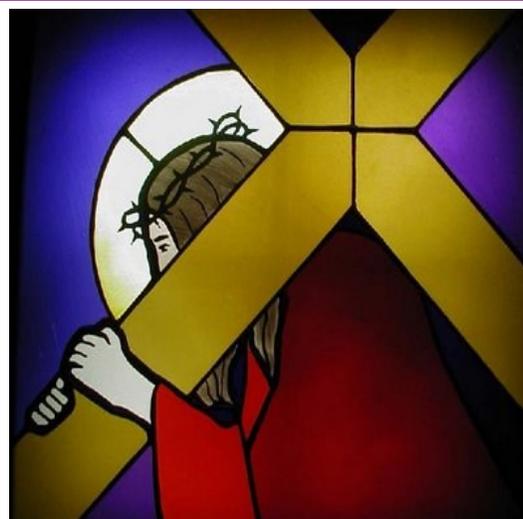
February 28, March 6, 13, 20
 and April 3

at 7:30 p.m. in the Church

March 27 3:00 p.m.

April 10 12:00 Noon

February 28 led by the Liturgy Committee



We are continuing the custom of having different groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross on the Friday nights during Lent as a great way to highlight the traditional Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

L Turn away
E
N
T from sin

CONFESSIONS

Every Monday

following the 12:15 p.m. weekday Mass

Saturdays: February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28
 4:00 p.m.— 4:45 p.m.

Saturday April 4: 3:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Monday of Holy Week, April 6:
 3:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 26

THE MEANING OF ASHES

Lent begins with ashes on our brows, reminding us of fundamental truths about ourselves. The dust of the ashes reminds us that death is inevitable for each of us. The ashes speak of repentance and of our need to convert our lives. The words at the imposition of ashes call us to repent and to believe in the Gospel. The ashes speak of a fire that has grown cold, a fire that needs to be rekindled within us by the time we gather around the new fire at the Easter Vigil. We seek to rise from the ashes of our sinfulness to a fuller life with Christ.

But before we can embrace the new life of the resurrection, we must embrace the cross. Before coming to the font of life-giving water, we must travel the desert. To embrace new life, we must be willing to embrace death. To become our true selves, we must leave the false selves behind which we have been hiding. Though it sounds negative, the dying to self to which we are called is the only way to fullness of life, and thus it is a profoundly positive step in our spiritual life, a step that begins with being signed with ashes.



COMMUNAL MEANING OF ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

We make our Lenten journey through the desert in the company of the catechumens preparing for the initiation sacraments at Easter. This is the origin of Lent.

What we have come to call Lent developed in the fourth century, when three intersecting movements coalesced. The first was a paschal fast that gradually developed from two days into a forty-day observance. The second was the pattern of initiation that gradually developed into a full catechumenate with an intense period of spiritual formation leading to the sacraments at Easter. The third was the order of penitents, which sought a second conversion for those who sinned seriously after baptism. Modeled on the catechumenate, this process of the order of penitents culminated with reconciliation just before Easter.

Thus the forty-day fast was understood as the final stage of preparation for those called to baptism and also as a time for reconversion for the

already-baptized. As the whole community accompanied the elect and the penitents through this season, it came to be seen as a time for baptismal renewal for all the members of the church.

In subsequent centuries, however, both the catechumenate and the order of penitents gradually disintegrated. Lent was still seen as a penitential season, but the emphasis was on individual works of self-denial and on personal identification with the passion and cross of Christ. Lent was still a preparation for Easter, but the baptismal focus was largely lost, and the communal nature of conversion was ignored. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving were held up as Lenten activities, but they became private rather than corporate. The liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council called for a recovery of the ancient tradition of a communal understanding of Lent.

We are to journey through Lent together, then, as though we were all catechumens. We are to listen to the readings and pray the prayers as though we were approaching the waters of life for the first time. We seek to understand and thus to enter

into the experience of the elect, those called to enter into the paschal mystery of Christ Jesus through the waters of the font. Thus we all prepare together to come to the water again, to be more deeply converted to Christ and to renew our baptismal promises with conviction.

DON'T JUST "RECEIVE" ASHES

As a parish, we wish to highlight that ashes are never just *received*, but rather that being branded with ashes is a sign of a **commitment** we make. The ashes are a sign that together we are all enrolled in the "order of penitents" and that we are committing ourselves to cooperate with God in **changing our life**. Ashes should not be passively received, but **actively accepted as a challenge** — a challenge to die and to rise with Christ, a challenge to embark on the Lenten journey with ones' brothers and sisters, a challenge to seriously undertake the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

LENT: ITS MEANING, STRUCTURE, AND OUR CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

THE MEANING OF LENT

We're going on retreat! True, we may not physically be traveling to a far-off place, but we are nonetheless going on retreat. The solemn season of Lent may be seen as a time of retreat for the entire Church, as we prepare to celebrate Easter and the new life which comes to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. In fact, three focal points can form the basis for our Lenten spiritual journey:

- focusing on the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection;
- final preparation of those in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- rediscovery of and recommitment to Baptism by those already baptized, through their penance, spiritual renewal, and ongoing conversion.



The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II* explains:

The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent — the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance — should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer. More use is to be made of the baptismal features which are proper to the Lenten liturgy.... The same may be said of the penitential elements. But catechesis, as well as pointing out the social consequences of sin, must impress on the minds of the faithful the distinctive character of penance as a detestation of sin because it is an offense against God. The role of the Church in penitential practices is not to be passed over, and the need to pray for sinners should be emphasized. During Lent, penance should be not only internal and individual but also external and social.

THE STRUCTURE OF LENT

Most people know that Lent is 40 days long, but they think that the 40 days are the six weeks plus the four days of the week of Ash Wednesday (which totals 46 days) minus six Sundays, which equals 40 days. But Lent does not end on Holy Saturday; it ends on Holy Thursday evening. The Triduum, or Three Days, beginning with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concluding with evening Vespers on Easter Sunday, is a three-day season unto itself, and not merely the final three days of Lent. The span of days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday is 44 days, but the ancient fathers of the Church calculated 40 days by beginning the count with the First Sunday of Lent, and continuing until Holy Thursday. This practice has been kept to the present time, hence the 40 days of Lent.

At least four phases of the season can be discerned:

1. ***Ash Wednesday and the next three days:*** These four days form a solemn preview of the season; the Scriptures and Mass prayers announce the major aspects of the observance and call us to enter into the season. The First Sunday of Lent begins the period of 40 days, with the Rite of Election for the catechumens being one expression of this.
2. ***The 28 days from the First Sunday until the Saturday of the Fourth Week:*** Scripture readings and penitential rites provide the structure for these days. Penance services, the Penitential Rite (Call to Continuing Conversion) for candidates for reception into the full communion of the Church celebrated on the Second Sunday, and the first two scrutinies for the elect on the Third and Fourth Sundays, are all a part of this time. Two feast days, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(March 19) and the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25), break this violet period in 2020. The Fourth or *Laetare* Sunday (March 22) brings its own nuances, and rose-colored vestments may be worn that day.

3. **From the Fifth Sunday and following:** Attention becomes focused on the Passion of Christ during this period of Lenten time. The Third Scrutiny for the elect is celebrated on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

4. **The last days, called Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:** These days are given the highest liturgical precedence so the Church will not be distracted from final preparations for the Triduum. Focus on the Passion of Christ becomes intensified.

Remembering that Lent is primarily about baptismal preparation and conversion, let us be aware of the structure and movement of this season as we journey toward Easter.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER RITUAL ELEMENTS DURING LENT

Our church environment will look different during the Lenten season. The environment in which we worship helps us to enter into a Lenten spirituality — what we see (and don't see) and smell and hear is all a part of the way we pray. Here are some things you will notice during Lent:



THE ASHES USED ON ASH WEDNESDAY WILL BE ON DISPLAY ALL DURING LENT, in the Divine Mercy Chapel area. This will be an ongoing reminder of the spiritual journey of Lent, a journey of dying and rising, a journey of changing our lives to be closer to Christ. The ashes come from burned palms saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

THERE WILL BE NO FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH. The Roman Rite is specific about flowers for this penitential season: they are not allowed! The only exceptions this year are the feasts mentioned above and "*Laetare*" Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

OUR BAPTISMAL FONT WILL HAVE A "LENTEN LOOK" TO IT. Our baptismal font will be decorated with purple bands, as a reminder that these forty days of penance and conversion lead to a renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. We are thirsting for the new Easter water which will flow at the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection!

MUSIC WILL BE MUCH SIMPLER DURING LENT. For example, the organ will be used only to accompany singing, which means there will not be any prelude or postlude instrumental music, except on *Laetare* Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), when the liturgy has a more joyful tone. In a sense, then, you could say that we are fasting with our music. Don't worry, though; we'll make up for it in the exuberance and joy of Easter Time!

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, WE WILL KEEP THE CHURCH'S ANCIENT TRADITION BY SINGING THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN PILGRIMAGE. We invoke the names of the saints who accompany us on our journey to Jerusalem.

ON THE OTHER SUNDAYS OF LENT WE WILL SING THE ENTRANCE ANTIPHON. In place of an Entrance Hymn, we will sing the proper (or assigned) text for the Entrance Antiphon as found in the *Roman Missal*. These antiphons set the tone for the liturgy and express the theology of the particular Sunday being celebrated. The antiphon and the accompanying psalm verses will be sung to a Lenten psalm tone. The text for the antiphons and psalm verses and music for the psalm tone can be

found in the Music Supplement in the back of the Gather hymnal.

FOR THE PENITENTIAL ACT AT ALL SUNDAY MASSES DURING LENT WE WILL RECITE THE CONFITEOR (THE “I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD...”) AND THEN SING THE KYRIE ELEISON (“LORD, HAVE MERCY”). This will highlight for us the penitential nature of the season and help us to more intently “acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.” It also gives us the chance to use the *Confiteor* (“I confess to almighty God...”) which is not often heard at Sunday Masses.

WE WON’T BE HEARING “ALLELUIA!” Instead of singing “Alleluia” before the Gospel, we sing instead: “Praise and honor to you, O Lord, O Lord. Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” Also, we won’t sing the word “alleluia” in any of our hymns. We look forward to Easter Time when we celebrate the newness of life and will again sing the “alleluia” with new joy and praise.

WE WILL USE THE APOSTLES’ CREED INSTEAD OF THE NICENE CREED. The *Roman Missal* tells us, “Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles’ Creed, may be used.” So, to highlight the sacredness of the season, we will use the Apostles’ Creed instead of the Nicene Creed, the one we usually use, for all of Lent and Easter Time. This will highlight for us the baptismal character of both the Lenten and Easter seasons.

THERE WILL BE NO SINGING OR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS DURING LENT. This will help create a mood of prayerful quiet and reflection appropriate to the season. The Priest may continue to pray the preparation prayers silently, or he may recite them out loud, giving the people the opportunity to respond, “Blessed be God forever.” The exception to this will be *Laetare* Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), when the liturgy has a more joyful tone.

SIMPLE CHANT TONES WILL BE USED FOR THE EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS. The *Holy, Holy*, the *Mystery of Faith*, and the *Great Amen* will be sung to very simple chants, without accompaniment. Also, the Lamb of God chant will be sung using the Latin text (“*Agnus Dei...*”).

CROSSES AND IMAGES IN THE CHURCH WILL BE COVERED STARTING WITH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT. This custom becomes yet another stark visual reminder of the seriousness of Lent and helps us to truly experience heavenly joy and resurrected life when the images of the saints, who are in heavenly glory, are seen once again come Easter.

There are other ritual aspects that go into the celebration of Lent:

- the omission of the Glory to God in the highest at the beginning of all Sunday Lenten Masses;
- traditional Lenten practices such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving;
- Lenten devotions such as Stations of the Cross and our Parish Mission (look for details elsewhere in the bulletin).

As we journey through the days of Lenten springtime together, let us enter into its spirit by anticipating the new life which comes to us through Jesus’ resurrection at Easter.



PRAYER AND WORSHIP



FIRST FRIDAY & FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

First Sunday Devotions —Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place Sunday, **March 1** at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Each month, all are invited to join the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society for Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 6:30 p.m. Reflecting the diverse community present at OLPH, each hour of the evening is celebrated in different languages (English, Spanish, Polish). The evening concludes with Benediction at 9:30 p.m.

Mass for All People With Special Needs

March 7

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

Please join us on **Saturday, March 7** at **4:00 p.m. in the auditorium**. Let's all come together and worship together! After Mass we have Hospitality!

Levels 6—8 and Teens may join us early to help the ministry with set up and to gain Confirmation Service hours. Call Jessica at the Religious Education office 631-226-7725 X 252 to let her know you are coming.

We can always use some help in preparing for our monthly Mass and other special needs events. How about you? Contact Jessica Becker Paolo at 631-226-7725 X 252 or email to jbecker@oloph.org

*No Special Needs Mass in April due to Palm Sunday.
Our next Special Needs Mass is **May 2** at **4:00 p.m.***

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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

Monday, February 24—12:45 p.m.

Monday, March 2—12:45 p.m.

Monday, March 9—12:45 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**

HELP WANTED

Offerers are needed to help the Rosary Altar Society to wash and iron the linens that are used during Mass. This important ministry is flexible with schedules and suited to anyone with a washer, dryer and iron.



If anyone is able to help with picking up the linens once a week to wash, iron and return a day or two later please call or email Mary Ellen Barrett at 631-252-3852 or bonnybluehouse@gmail.com

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Next Sunday, March 1, the **First Sunday of Lent**, our brothers and sisters who are in formation to become Catholic through the process of the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** will enter a new stage in their journey. Just as Lent is a time for all Catholics for intense renewal, conversion, and purification, the same is true for those preparing to become Catholic at Easter.

The **catechumens** (those who are unbaptized), having completed the period of their catechumenate, will be accepted into a more intense preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. This third step is called the **Period of Purification and Enlightenment**. They will no longer be called catechumens, but will be referred to as the **elect**; their names will be enrolled in a special Book of the Elect, signifying them as people who have been chosen for initiation. This ceremony is called the **Rite of Election** and is celebrated on a diocesan level with the Bishop of the diocese.

Our diocese will celebrate the Rite of Election for the catechumens next Sunday, on the **First Sunday of Lent, March 1, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Church, Brentwood**. Next week at the **12:00 Noon** Mass here at OLPH, we will call forward our catechumens by name, pray for them, and formally send them forth to be recognized by the Bishop. Please feel free to join us at this important communal celebration and congratulate *Carmen Mitchell, Grace Mitchell, Leonardo Munoz* and *William Shaffer* as they prepare for this next step in their faith journey.

MEETING FOR ALL ALTAR SERVERS

All Altar Servers are required to attend an important meeting on **Monday, March 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the church**. Among other items, we will discuss assignments for Holy Week, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and First Communions and Confirmation. All servers are expected to attend. **You are expected to attend even if you will be away for Easter; other things will be discussed besides Easter**. If you absolutely cannot be there, you must contact Msgr. Joe as soon as possible. Thank you. (Note: this meeting applies only to the young people who serve; it does not apply to the adults who serve at weekday Masses and Funerals.)

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS FOR LENT ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please take home a *Little Black Book* which contains daily reflections for the Lenten season. This book, following on the *Little Blue Book* which was so popular for Advent, will provide the opportunity for prayerful sacred reading for every day of Lent. Let God speak to you during this special and holy time of the liturgical year by taking a few minutes for quiet reflection using the *Little Black Book*.



PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN BANK PARKING LOT ON ASH WEDNESDAY

We ask that you kindly not park in the bank parking lot on the north side of the church on Ash Wednesday. Remember that Wednesday is a normal business day for the bank, and the bank lot is not our property. Let's be a good neighbor! Please do not park in their lot on Ash Wednesday. Thank you.



ABSTINENCE AND FASTING – ASH WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS OF LENT

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstinence.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Responsorial Psalms of Lent

This season of Lent, as we prepare for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering an uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of Easter. **Beginning on Sunday, March 1 and continuing every Sunday through March 29**, we will offer parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist. We will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each Sunday in the St. Lucy Meeting Room in the basement of the rectory to examine and discuss the joyful message of the Paschal Mystery. Each session will feature a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by the members of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Bring your Bible and join us to break open the Word of the Lord.

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.

BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER

ATTENTION BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE PARISH, FOURTH GRADE AND OLDER

We are in the process of **recruiting new Altar Servers!** Being an altar server is a great way to be involved at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. You make an important contribution to the life of the parish and you perform an important ministry. Besides, it's fun!!! You serve at weekend Masses and other special events, attend some meetings throughout the year, and have fun parties!

Why not become an altar server? We would love to have you, and we will provide plenty of training — no prior experience is necessary!! If you are a boy or a girl who is in the **4th grade or older (it's o.k. if you are in 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, or even older!)**, you are invited to become an altar server. Parents, why not mention it to your daughter or son to get them interested? Training will start soon, so sign up now. If you are interested, **mail or drop off the coupon below to Monsignor Joe at the Rectory, 210 South Wellwood Avenue.** *No phone calls, please; you must let me know in writing! It's OK to scan this page and send it electronically with all the info to msgrio@oloph.org*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, RESPOND BEFORE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020, SINCE THE FIRST TRAINING MEETING WILL BE SOON AFTER THAT (you will receive a letter giving you specific information).

Sorry...no responses can be accepted after February 24!

We hope to hear from YOU!!!

Yes, I am interested in becoming an Altar Server!
RETURN THIS BEFORE FEBRUARY 24!

Name _____

Address _____

Town/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____@_____

Date of Birth (month/day/year) ____/____/____

Family Envelope/Registration Number _____ *****Required: Your family must be registered parishioners of OLPH.**

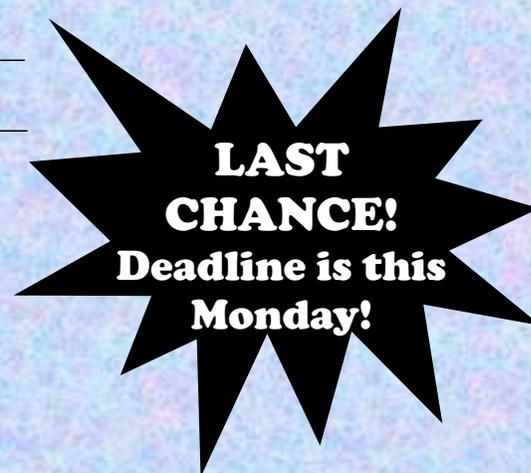
Year You Received First Holy Communion _____

Grade you are in right now _____

Check one:

_____ I go to public school; Name of School _____

_____ I go to Catholic school; Name of School _____



Liturgical Ministers



WE NEED YOU! WE WANT YOU! **OLPH IS RECRUITING NEW READERS, USHERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

WHAT DO EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS DO?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priests and deacons in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Those who wish can also go on for extra training to bring Holy Communion to our homebound sisters and brothers.

HOW DO I BECOME AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER?

1. You must contact Barbara McPhail at 631.226-1354 or e-mail to gospa254@gmail.com.
2. You must send a letter to Msgr. Joe at the Parish Office or e-mail to mshrjoe@oloph.org requesting to become a minister.
3. You must meet with Msgr. Joe for an interview.
4. You must attend one of the diocesan training sessions.

WHAT DO READERS DO?

Readers proclaim the Scriptures and sometimes the Intercessions at Sunday and daily Mass and at other liturgies.

HOW DO I BECOME A READER?

1. You must contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 to leave a message or send an email to DeaconRobert@oloph.org.
2. You must attend one of the diocesan training sessions.



DIOCESAN TRAINING SESSIONS:

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Christopher's, Baldwin (McGoldrick Hall)

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
at St. Christopher's, Baldwin (McGoldrick Hall)

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
at St. Elizabeth's Parish, Melville (Msgr. Kane Hall)

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
at St. Rosalie's, Hampton Bays (Community Center)

WHAT DO USHERS DO?

Ushers serve an important role in the liturgy! First and foremost, they are ministers of hospitality who welcome all those who come to liturgy. They help create an environment conducive to worship by the way they greet people with warmth and friendliness. Ushers also serve by guiding the movement of the assembly during processions such as the reception of Holy Communion and at other times. Taking up the collection is another way Ushers serve the assembly.

WHO SHOULD BECOME AN USHER?

Anyone, including teens who have received Confirmation, can become an Usher. This is a great ministry for **families to do together...the young ones can do this with parents and older children!**

HOW DO I BECOME AN USHER?

You should contact Mike Williams at olpushersministry@gmail.com or, if you don't have e-mail, leave a message for Msgr. Joe at the Parish Office, (631) 226-7725 and he will pass the message along to Mike.



All liturgical ministers must complete a Volunteer Registration Form, have Virtus training and be a registered parishioner. *For information about becoming Virtus compliant: Contact Helene Calabrese at hcalab2@optonline.net.*

MARDI GRAS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SPONSORED BY THE FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



**LAST
DAY TO
RSVP!**

When: Tuesday, February 25
Where: O.L.P.H. Church
Time: 7:00 PM



MARDI GRAS REPLY FORM

First & Last Name: _____

_____ #of adults _____ # of children

Telephone number: _____ Email Address: _____ @

Please RSVP to Eileen Corticchia at kencort36@gmail.com

or 631-682-4853

RSVP by Sunday, February 23, 2020



Bring a non-perishable food item for St. Vincent de Paul!

Here are some of our parishioners enjoying our "Family Paint Night" held on Friday, February 7. A special thank you to all and to the Family Ministry and the Spanish Prayer Group who sponsored the fun evening!





One Family in Mission
Called to Evangelize

2020 OLPH GOAL:

\$110,400

Total pledged: \$20,325

of pledges: 102

Total payments: \$13,475



2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Please consider making a gift to the
2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal.



For more information, to watch our video
or to make a donation,
visit www.drvc.org/CMA
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

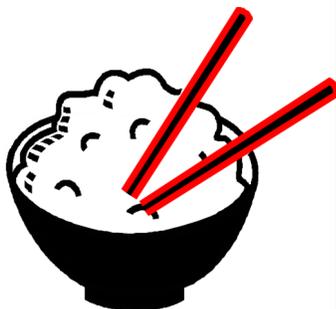
Levels 6, 7 and 8:

There is no class
 on Wednesday, February 26,
 due to Ash Wednesday! Make
 sure you take the free time to
 go to church for your ashes!

Levels 6, 7 and Service Corps:

Looking for service hours?
 Join us for our
 Lenten Mission Service Series!
 Serve your community through
 the Corporal Works of Mercy!

On Wednesday, February 26,
 give alms to the poor by
 helping us label the Lenten rice
 bowls in
 room 16 of
 the school
 from 6:15
 p.m.—7:15
 p.m.



On Saturday, March 7
 Pray for the living & the dead
 by making Rosaries from
 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 in room 24 of the school.

Vacation Bible Camp Needs You!

Planning Meeting Thursday, March 19 at
 6:00 p.m. in room 3 of the school. Please
 consider being a part of our Conductors Team!
 Contact April for more information!



Save the Date

Vacation Bible
 Camp
 July 13th-July 17th

Happy Saint of the Day!

St. Josemaria Escriva

Josemaria was born in Spain to a devout Catholic family. When he was young he saw a monk walking barefoot in the snow and felt the call of God, but didn't know what God wanted, so Josemaria became a priest. After educating



himself and really building his relationship with God by discerning what the message could be, he had an epiphany. He realized that God wanted everyone to see peoples' call to holiness no matter what they are called to in life; we all have different walks of life, but we all need a relationship with God. Josemaria started an institution called Opus Dei and concentrated on helping women with the call!

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631 225-9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Community Meal: Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631. 921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Deborah Deasy—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Virginia Beyrer—631-226-6635
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

Food Pantry List!

PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP
OATMEAL/CEREAL
JAR SPAGHETTI SAUCE
MACARONI & CHEESE
BAKED BEANS
CANNED CARROTS
CANNED FRUIT
FRUIT JUICE
JELLY/JAM
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 the parking lot located on the corner of

Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

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

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying:
“You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 61 children, 77 adults and 19 seniors for a total of 157 people in 73 households. Thank You!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

**TO OUR ANONYMOUS SUPPORTERS WHO LEAVE FOOD ON THE
SANCTUARY STEPS AND MONEY IN THE POOR BOXES...THANK YOU!**

*....when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing
(Matthew 6:3)*

This teaching of Jesus is lived and practiced by so many of our fellow parishioners at OLPH. We are blessed by secret benefactors who anonymously make regular donations of food and other necessities, leaving them on the steps of the sanctuary, or dropping off at the Pantry during office hours. Also, take a look in the Sunday bulletin weekly collection breakdown. The contributions put into the poor boxes as you leave church add up and are the major source of our funding. You know who you are, but we're not sure that you realize how much your quiet acts of charity mean to the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at OLPH, and to those whom we strive to serve. Thank you and may God bless you!!!

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY

DONATIONS:

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

We have a DESPERATE need for:

New packages of men's underwear S-3XL

New packages of men's socks

Hats and gloves

Clean, gently used men's jeans,

hoodies, waterproof coats and sneakers

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

MIDDLE AGES

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

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

Our next meeting:

Tuesday, March 3

Making peanut butter sandwiches for Mercy Inn

7:00 p.m. in Room 24

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

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, March 8

Come pray at the 12:00 p.m. Mass

then join us for

"Sunday Dinner" at 1:00 p.m.

RESPECT LIFE

Do medical problems = abortion?

An unborn baby was found to have a misshapen head and a sac-like protrusion and projection of the brain covering a third of his face. The parent refused the doctor's suggestion of abortion. The baby was born after natural labor, and didn't cry, but sneezed to announce his arrival. Hospice had been arranged for him, since the doctors expected him to die. But God had other plans, and he became too healthy for hospice! Soon afterward, the protrusion was removed. He's facing a rough road, but is full of smiles.

Once again, God trumped the medical experts!

RESPECT LIFE

"40 DAYS FOR LIFE" – Join us and all our fellow Catholics, the entire world, and all people of life to pray for the mothers and children.

- 1 - We encourage you to join us in prayer in front of Planned Parenthood at **540 Fulton Ave., Hempstead** or **70 Maple Ave., Smithtown**. Choose a time slot between **February 26 to April 5** – sign up at 40daysforlife.com/Smithtown
- 2- Pray with friends and family at our parish or at home.
- 3- Fast and sacrifice as your health permits.



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)

amazonsmile

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Vincent Boccanfuso
Eileen Corticchia (Chair)
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Jeffrey Gaab
Joselyn Kalt
Mary Leon
Rachelle Louis-Jacques
Carlton Mitchell
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
Adele Venezia

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

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



Milo Leon Edward Garcia

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:

George Smawley
Arleen Loughlin

"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."

PASTORAL CARE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

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

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

Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville
Annual Irish Night—March 7
St. Brigid's Parish in Westbury
It's never too cold to buy chances!



This weekend, **February 22-23**, the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville will be selling chance books for their annual Irish Night. The night will be held **March 7** in St. Brigid's parish in Westbury. The proceeds go directly to support the care of their "sage" elder sisters. Please consider supporting these women religious, as you so generously have in past years. OLPH parishioners are always supported daily in their prayers, as the Sisters served for many years here in this parish. Thank you for your generosity!

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

John McPhail

Nettie Deasy

Rose Garofalo

Helene Jirinec

Nancy Wirth

Grace Tuttle

Randall I. & Johanne Press

Janina Soroka

Natalie & Lew Yugel

Kristen Wieneke

Joan & John Peter

Richard DeVilla

Loretto Dinardo

Louis Grasso

Carol Kennelly

Frank Merendino

Gordon Hinds

John Guidice

John Leyden

Patricia Wilson

Lauren Mule

Roseanne Buonpastore

Anna Commarato

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.

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

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

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, February 24—
WEEKDAY**

6:30	Rosaria Pellegrino
12:15	Roberto Mascio

**TUESDAY, February 25—
WEEKDAY**

6:30	Ermelinda Gallo
12:15	Frank Denzel

**WEDNESDAY, February 26—
ASH WEDNESDAY**

6:30	Thomas Schnatz
12:15	Maria Romano
4:15	<i>Word Service</i>
5:30	<i>Word Service</i>
7:30	Stanley Kielczewski

**THURSDAY, February 27—
THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY**

6:30	Maria Aliano
12:15	For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family

**FRIDAY, February 28—
FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY**

6:30	Frank Gallo
12:15	Joseph Zummo

**SATURDAY, February 29—
SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY**

8:00	Filomena & Jaime Moniz
------	------------------------

**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

5:00	For the People of the Parish
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**Sunday, March 1
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00	Noreen Stucky
10:00	Rose Farrell
12:00	Frances Dell Accio
5:00	Ann DeGirolamo

PARISH CALENDAR**Monday, February 24, 2020**

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24
7:15 p.m.	Adult Confirmation Meeting	St. Mark's Rm.

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

5:30 p.m.	Mardi Gras Set up	Auditorium
6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras	Church

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	<i>No Exposition</i>	
2:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	<i>No Religious Ed. Classes</i>	
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 12
7:00 p.m.	<i>No Religious Ed. Classes</i>	
8:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	Church

Thursday, February 27, 2020

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Rm
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

Friday, February 28, 2020

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
7:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:30, 10:00	Religious Ed. Classes	School
11:15 a.m.	Level 4 - Penance Service	Church
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
4:30 p.m.	K of C Wheelchair Mission	Outside
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, March 1, 2020

7:30 a.m.	K of C Wheelchair Mission	Outside
9:15 a.m.	RCIC	Room 18
11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	St. Lucy Rm.
2:00 p.m.	Level 8—Confirmation Retreat	Auditorium
5:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Confirmandi	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

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

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia. Familias interesadas favor llamar a Virginia Constantinou 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 1° de Cuaresma - Ciclo A Reflexiones de las lecturas del domingo 1 de Marzo del 2020

Cuaresma es un tiempo para encontrar el gozo de la luz de Dios, incluso en los momentos más oscuros de los cuarenta días después del Miércoles de Ceniza. Es un tiempo para buscar el gozo en vida y los dones de la gracia de Dios mientras nos preparamos para celebrar la muerte y resurrección de Señor.

Estamos reunidos en el nombre de Jesús.

Él nos trajo vida donde solo avía muerte;

con su obediencia compensó por nuestra desobediencia.

Que su gracia y su paz esté siempre con ustedes.

Primer Lectura (Génesis 2,7-9; 3,1-7): Tentados desde el Principio

En una historia de carácter simbólico, el escritor sagrado dice que, según tradición inmemorial, los hombres han sufrido siempre la tentación de hacerse a sí mismos sus propios dioses, dueños absolutos de su propia vida y felicidad. Ésta sigue siendo la tremenda tragedia humana.

Segunda Lectura (Romanos. 5,12-19): El Hombre Jesucristo Nos Salva

Adán, representando a toda la humanidad, echó a perder la buena y recta relación con Dios, con otros seres humanos, y consigo mismo. El Hijo de Dios, el hombre Jesucristo, vino a restaurar esta relación. Ésta es la tragedia humana que Jesús vino a remediar.

Evangelio (Mateo 4,1-11): Jesús Vence Nuestras Tentaciones

Jesús venció todas nuestras tentaciones humanas de egoísmo, soberbia y poder. Él quiso servir a Dios y salvar a los hombres. De este modo nos hizo capaces de servir con humildad a Dios y a nuestro prójimo.

Cuando nos miramos con seriedad a nosotros mismos, nos percatamos de que hay cosas que nos impiden ser lo que deseáramos ser, como personas y como cristianas. Tenemos la impresión de que no somos libres para ser auténticamente nosotros mismos. --- Al principio de su misión Jesús se miró a sí mismo y vio las tentaciones que le impedirían llevar a cabo su misión. --- La Cuaresma es para nosotros el tiempo propicio para mirar dentro de nosotros mismos y para ver qué es lo que nos impide ser verdaderamente libres para servir y amar a Dios y a los hermanos según es debido. --- Acompañemos a Jesús al desierto, miremos al hondón de nuestro corazón, y con Jesús rechazemos lo que nos atenaza, lo que nos mantiene tibios e indiferentes, para que con él y como él podamos servir.



La celebración de la Pascua del Señor, constituye, sin duda, la fiesta primordial del año litúrgico. De aquí que, cuando en el siglo II, la Iglesia comenzó a celebrar anualmente el misterio paschal de Cristo, advirtió la necesidad de una preparación adecuada, por medio de la oración y del ayuno, según el modo prescrito por el Señor. Surgió así la piadosa costumbre del ayuno Infrapascual del viernes y sábado santos, como preparación al Domingo de Resurrección

OFFERING UPDATE February 15/16, 2020

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	281	143	\$3,320.00
8:00 a.m.	225	104	2,849.00
10:00 a.m.	391	124	3,364.00
12:00 p.m.	400	124	2,904.00
5:00 p.m.	195	38	1,090.00
Coin			4.75
Children's Env.		13	33.00
Faith Direct			2,308.00
TOTAL	1,492	546	\$15,872.75
2019 total	1,632	555	\$16,354.50
Candles			\$592.23
Poor Box			\$399.51

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TO OUR NEW OLPH PARISHIONERS February 2020

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- Daniel, Priscilla, Daniel & Conor Seigh*
- Emily Amundsen*
- Joseph, Amanda & Benedetto Misuraca*
- Ryan & Rosemary Finn*

2019 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS

Tax letters for the 2019 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.

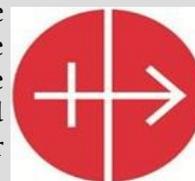
DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN

All requests for items printed in the bulletin must first have approval from Msgr. DeGrocco or 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.*

- March 1—passed
- March 8—February 28
- March 15—March 6

THE CHURCH IN NEED

On March 1, 2020 a collection will be taken for "The Church in Need." The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is a particular need for help:



- **Church in Central and Eastern Europe** - the funds collected provide support for pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region.
- **The Church in Latin America** - your support of the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.
- **The Church in Africa** - the fund supports pastoral projects that strengthen communities in their faith and foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension.

PREPARING FOR
Sunday, March 1, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*Jesus said, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

Matthew 4:4

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

We begin this first Sunday of Lent with a reminder of the fundamental sin of the whole human race: trying to seize equality with God. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, whom God created in his own image and likeness, were not content with the wonderful place God had made for them. They were entrusted by him with the cultivation and care of the garden at Eden and lived in a glorious and innocent intimacy with him. God gave them everything they needed and only forbade them to do one thing, eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, to protect them from death. Yet this they did. Immediately they experienced the consequences of their choice: once completely free and open to God, they now separated themselves from him. This is sin and sin brings death.

Romans 5:12-19

If the story ended with the first reading, it would be sad indeed. But Paul tells us that this was not the end. The wondrously good news, the Gospel, is that while the first Adam brought death to humankind, the New Adam (Jesus) brought life to us all! By his death and resurrection, Jesus brought us justification and righteousness, paying the debt for the sins of our first parents and restoring our relationship with his Father. We are no longer condemned by the actions of the first Adam to death and separation from God. Christ restored for us that first relationship wherein we can truly become what we were intended to be – sons and daughters created in the image of our loving Father!

Matthew 4:1-11

The readings come full circle today. While in the first reading Adam and Eve fail miserably when tempted by the devil, in the Gospel reading we see Jesus resist and triumph over the temptations of the devil. Three times Jesus is tested with crafty words and empty promises. Three times Jesus turns to God's Word in Scripture to stand fast and to rebuke temptation. How about us? Will we rely on God alone or on our own power in response to the lure of sin or the glamour of evil? What better model can we have for how we should behave when we are tested and tempted than Jesus!

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, February 24, 2020:

James 3:13-18 + Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday, February 25, 2020:

James 4:1-10 + Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday, February 26, 2020:

Joel 2:12-18 +

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

+ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 + Luke 9:22-25

Friday, February 28, 2020

Isaiah 58:1-9a + Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday, February 29, 2020:

Isaiah 58:9b-14 + Luke 5:27-32

Sunday, March 1, 2020:

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 + Romans 5:12-19

+ Matthew 4:1-11

Gospel Reflection Questions....

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

1. Right after Jesus was baptized and heard the Father's voice calling him "My Beloved Son," the Spirit led him to the desert. Jesus probably wanted to think about what those words meant, and to pray about his ministry. The Spirit wanted him to be tested. How does it make you feel to think he had to fight temptation the same way you do?

2. What desert images hold Lenten meanings for you? Do you ever hear the Spirit calling you to pray when you feel you are in the wilderness? What part did the Spirit play in this Gospel story? What part will you let the Spirit play in your Lent this year?



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