

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



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Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

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*Whoever drinks the water I shall give  
will never thirst.*

John 4:14

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 12, 2023**

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Pastor:** Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

**Parochial Vicars:** Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero, Reverend Emmanuel Okonkwo

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

**Business Manager:** Ms. Jill Marie Delano

**Director of Faith Formation:** Mrs. April Kleinlaut

**Music Director:** Mr. Christopher Reilly

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

## COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open **each day until 6:30 p.m.**,  
except on Thursdays (closed after the  
12:15 p.m. Mass, for cleaning)  
and on holidays (closed after the 12:15 p.m. Mass).

*Come in and spend some time in prayer!*

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday – Friday:** 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

**Saturday Morning:** 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):** 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday Masses:**

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

**Special Needs Mass:**

First Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m.  
in the auditorium (Sunday Anticipated Mass)

**Holy Days of Obligation:** Consult the bulletin

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer communally, in person,  
each Saturday in the church immediately following  
the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Each Sunday, we pray Morning  
Prayer at 9:15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.  
on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link  
on the home page of our website.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

*Also available by individual appointment  
with one of the priests.*

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Wednesdays:** 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**First Saturdays:** 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

## DEVOTIONS

**OLPH Novena:** Mondays following 12:15 p.m. Mass

**Rosary:** Weekdays following 6:30 a.m. Mass  
Saturdays and Sundays following 8:00 a.m. Mass

**The Holy Face of Jesus:** Tuesdays following  
12:15 p.m. Mass

**First Fridays and First Saturdays:**

As announced in bulletin

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Thursday:** 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

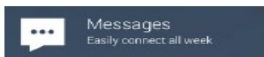
**Friday:** 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

## Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App



Search for "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish app" & press download

Text **App** to **55321** to download our parish app

- 1) Download **myParish App**
- 2) Select our Parish after opening



myparishapp.com/appstore

Made with by DioCESAN

### *New number to download the Parish App!*

### Text to **55321**

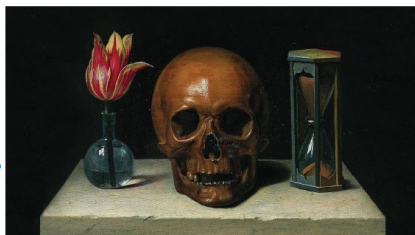
*The old number 88202 is no longer in effect!*



## THIS WEEK ON FORMED

### Week of March 12, 2023

### WATCH



#### The Story of Death Eternal Rest Episode 1

Where did death come from? What does death mean for the human person? Is it simply just part of life, or is it something else? In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.

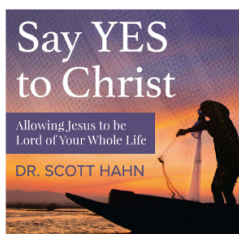
### LEARN



#### Living Lent as a Family (Part 2 of 4)

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Keenan and Bri Fitzpatrick, parents of four, to discuss liturgical living during Lent and marks of the Christian home in our world today.

### LISTEN



#### Say Yes to Christ: Allowing Jesus to be Lord of Your Whole Life by Scott Hahn

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In doing so, she became the model of perfect discipleship. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



## PASTOR'S PAGE

### *Third Sunday of Lent*

We're a good way into Lent now. Simplicity, a focus on conversion, renewal and new life, and a journey toward thirsting for the waters of the renewal of our baptism are all elements that should characterize these days in the desert with the Lord. Let's once again turn to the prayers of the Mass to express for us the meaning of the journey we are on.

In the Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Third Sunday of Lent, we petition God that "*we who are bowed down by our conscience may always be lifted up by your mercy.*" Notice how clearly the prayer reminds us that God always runs to meet us with His forgiveness, lifting us up out of sin, when we are weighed down by our wrongdoing. God's grace is stronger than our sin, and God's power to bring us back is stronger than our waywardness when we stray from Him.

The Prayer over the Offerings reminds us of an important aspect of receiving God's forgiveness: that as recipients of forgiveness and mercy, we must also then become, in turn, agents who bestow that same mercy and forgiveness on others. In that prayer we pray, "*Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbor.*" In order to rightly bring our "sacrificial offerings" — *i.e.*, in order to celebrate Mass worthily, which involves making a suitable and authentic offering of self — we must be reconciled with our brothers and sisters with whom we celebrate. We who have been forgiven must in turn forgive others.

This mercy and forgiveness of God, and sharing that mercy and forgiveness with others, leads to new life, now and in the life to come. We can never forget that the Eucharist is always a pledge of the life to come; thus, in the Prayer after Communion we pray, "*As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion.*" The Eucharist we celebrate here on earth is always a foretaste of the eternal banquet of which we hope to partake one day in heaven.

As always, there are so many rich spiritual themes to be derived from reflecting on and praying over the prayers we use at Mass, and I encourage you to do so as a part of your Lenten meditations this week.

### *Adult Faith Formation: The Responsorial Psalms of Lent*

Remember to attend our sessions focused on the Responsorial Psalms during Lent. It's never too late to hop on board; each week is its own little session, so you can come at any time. What a great way to enrich your celebration of Sunday Mass! The sessions take place between the 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses (so, it starts at about 11:15 a.m.) in the North Sacristy in the church. Look for the information about this elsewhere in this bulletin, and be sure to come to one or more of the sessions.

### *Stations of the Cross*

Friday night Stations continues this coming Friday, March 17; look for the information elsewhere in this bulletin. Our thanks go to all the parish groups who are taking a turn to lead the Stations on Friday nights. This is a great Lenten spiritual practice to participate in. Come to Stations together as a family each Friday night, making it an opportunity for family prayer time together!

Also, plan to attend the special Easter Time devotion, the Stations of the Resurrection, on Friday within the Octave of Easter ("Easter Friday"), April 14.

### *We're still looking for sinners!*

This coming week we'll reach the half-way point of Lent. What are your plans for getting to Confession if you have not already gone? I'll highlight Monday of Holy Week, April 3, as possibly the BEST time to go to Confession, because all the priests will be available constantly from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and then again 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on that day. There are the Saturday times, too, and, of course, as always, you can call or e-mail one of the priests and make a separate appointment to see him for Confession.

### *Offer to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday*

You can still offer to have your feet washed at our Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. Don't be shy or embarrassed about this; there are many spiritual blessings that come your way by participating in the Mass in this manner.

We always try to get a good cross-representation of parishioners, so we're looking for young and old, boys and girls, men and women, actively-involved and not-so-actively-involved...you name it! You can respond by returning the response coupon found elsewhere in this bulletin. Keep in mind that since we always try to have a cross-representation of the parish, you may not get called this year because we want to balance out our representation of ages, gender, parish involvements, *etc.* If you're not asked this year, don't worry, and please don't be insulted; we will hold on to your name and keep it in the "pool" to be called in a future year.

### *Erin Barrett, our new Director of Music*

I'm thrilled to announce that Erin Barrett has accepted the position of Director of Music here at OLPH. Welcome on board, Erin!

We all already know Erin, since she grew up here at OLPH, and the entire Barrett family has always been very active in the parish in many different capacities. Erin herself, who has a degree in music, has for many years been a member of the Youth Choir and Adult Choir, and has served as a Cantor and an instrumentalist (keyboard and flute), so she takes up this new role with a great background in the wonderful musical tradition of OLPH. I have every confidence in Erin and I know she will bring many good things to our parish music program and liturgical life. We are blessed to have her take on this job.

Erin will begin to take on her new responsibilities at the end of this week, which is also when Chris Reilly will be leaving us to begin his work in his new parish. Once again, we wish Chris well and pray that he will have many blessings in his role as Director of Music in his new parish, one closer to his home.

### *St. Patrick's Day and St. Patrick's Parade*

This Friday is St. Patrick's Day, so "Happy St. Patrick's Day" to all who celebrate the day,

especially those of Irish heritage! May the day be a day of joy and blessings for those who celebrate it.

Don't forget that following on St. Patrick's Day itself, the Lindenhurst St. Patrick's Parade will take place on Saturday, March 25. Like last year, it will be a great community event. This year's Grand Marshal is Lindenhurst's own Bishop Robert Brennan, currently the Bishop of Brooklyn, so it will be a real hometown celebration. This Italian boy, your Pastor, will be marching in the parade, too!

I'm pleased that OLPH is such a tremendous part of the parade, especially because the festivities are beginning with the 8:00 a.m. Saturday Mass here at OLPH, at which Bishop Brennan will preside, and which I will concelebrate. So, everyone: begin the day with its proper spiritual focus by attending Mass at 8:00 that morning. Let's have a tremendous OLPH showing!

### *Catholic Ministries Appeal 2023*

As you know from your attendance at Mass this weekend, we are kicking off the 2023 Catholic Ministries Appeal here at OLPH.

The first thing I need to say is a very heart-felt and emphatic **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** concerning last year's Appeal; all of you continued to be so very generous, even in the face of the horrendous economic conditions we are all dealing with. As a result of your generosity in the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal, OLPH received back a total of \$25,788 in rebate money. Although that's in the neighborhood of \$28,000 less than what we were receiving back pre-pandemic, we still managed to make our goal and, in fact, go just a slight hair over, and so we received the rebate. I want you to know how sincerely grateful I am to everyone who participated.

Because we depend on that rebate money so much, I'm asking you to contribute to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal, if you have not already done so. The goal we have been assigned this year is **\$114,600**, which is the same as last year's.

Now, I know how difficult it can be for many of you to hear this appeal at this time, given the tough economic times, and people's feelings about the diocese. Nonetheless, I am



asking that you give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal as best you can. I do; I'll be giving to it, because I think it is still worthwhile, and I ask you to, also.

Why? Well, the simple reason is that it still does good things. The Appeal supports many ministries of the Catholic Church in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, programs and ministries run at the diocesan level that are too large to be run by parishes. We have been assured that 100% of every dollar raised is restricted and goes only to the objectives, programs and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal, and not toward the diocesan bankruptcy or other payouts.

Another reason to give to the Appeal is because of what I alluded to before: the more we raise, the more we are helping our beloved OLPH, because of the rebate formula. When we reach our goal of \$114,600, we receive back 20% of that amount; then, if we go over goal, we receive back 80% of everything that is raised over the goal amount. We are again counting desperately on this income from the Catholic Ministries Appeal rebate to help keep us financially solvent.

If you have any questions or concerns about giving to the Appeal, please call me and I'll be happy to speak with you. I thank you for

whatever support you can give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal once again this year.

### *50/50 Mega Jackpot Fund Raiser*

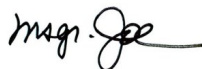
Lastly, I call your attention to an important new fund raiser we have undertaken: **The 50/50 Mega Jackpot!** There are signs about this in the church lobbies, and throughout the village, and there's an ad in our bulletin giving all the details. It's simple: tickets are \$50 each, and there is no limit to the number of tickets sold. One winning ticket will be drawn on May 13 (at Sidelines Café) and the winner takes 50% of the pot. It's as easy as that! This is a great and easy way to support the parish, so please be sure to participate in our new **50/50 Mega Jackpot**, and spread the word to everyone you know — get them to participate, too!

### *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,



## **PROPER RESPECT FOR THE CONSECRATED HOST— IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING**

There's a serious problem which pops up from time to time which we must address. There are occasions when we find a Host in the pews — and even stuck underneath the pew! — mainly in the Divine Mercy side section of pews (the “bank side” of the church), but even elsewhere in the north side section of pews and elsewhere throughout the church. This is gravely sacrilegious to the Blessed Sacrament, and as a community we must try to do everything we can to prevent this from happening.

If you receive Holy Communion in the hand, **it must be consumed immediately and not carried back to one's seat.** If you are not receiving Communion in the correct way, please begin doing so immediately and do not carry the Host back with you to your seat. Parents, please make sure your children are consuming the Host immediately and not carrying it back to their seat.

We need **everyone** to be on guard about this throughout the entire church, especially those who sit in the north side section of pews. If you notice someone bringing the Host back to their seat, please kindly, politely and gently say something to the person about how this is incorrect, and/or inform an Usher. Proper reverence for the consecrated Host is essential. **“If you see something, say something!”**

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

—Msgr. DeGrocco

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### Stations of the Cross

#### Fridays

March 17, 24 and 31  
at 7:30 p.m. in the church  
April 7 at 12:00 Noon



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.

March 17 will be led by Youth Service Corps.

*And also, save the date... Friday, April 14—Stations of the Resurrection!*

L Turn away  
E  
N  
T from sin

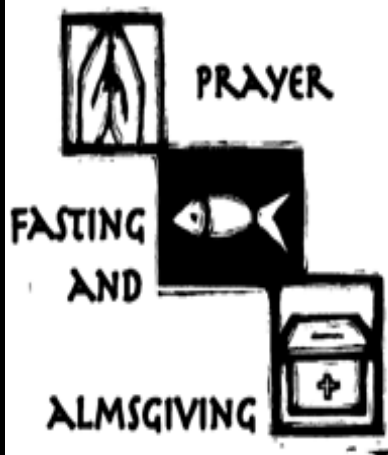
## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: March 18, 25  
4:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Saturday April 1: 3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Monday of Holy Week, April 3:  
2:00—4:00 p.m. and 6:00—9:00 p.m.

## ABSTINENCE AND FASTING



All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on 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 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 the Good Friday fast and abstinence.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARISHIONERS TO OFFER TO HAVE THEIR FEET WASHED ON HOLY THURSDAY**

The Washing of Feet is one of the most beautiful and powerful moments in the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. The action ritualizes the humble service of Jesus who came to serve and to lay down his life for us. The rite is also a powerful reminder of Jesus' command for us to imitate his humble service, and to wash each other's feet through acts of generous, self-emptying love.



Each year we select parishioners to have their feet washed, and we try to represent a good cross-section of the parish. **We would like to ask you to offer to have your feet washed at our Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper this year, on April 6.** This is a great opportunity for you to offer to be part of our Sacred Paschal Triduum in a very powerful way. Don't be shy about nominating yourself or someone else! It's OK for more than one member of the same family to be included! It's a great offering you would be giving to OLPH. If you are interested, simply return the response coupon below.

Young or old; long-time parishioner or new; male or female; involved in the parish or not-so-involved — we want to get a good cross-representation, and so we want YOU to come forward and offer yourself. Because we are trying to have a representative balance, please do not worry or be insulted if you submit your name but are not called this year — we'll hold on to your name for future years! Return the response form today!

-----  
 YES! I would like to have my name included among those willing to have my feet washed on Holy Thursday, either this year or in a future year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ (sorry to ask...but we want to include a variety of ages!)



If more than one member of your family would like to offer, you can make a copy of this or send in the information on your own paper, or list several names, if you would like to do it together.





## **BLESSING OF BREAD AND PASTRIES** **ON ST. JOSEPH'S DAY**

March 19 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, the celebration of the day is transferred to Monday, March 20, because March 19 is a Sunday of Lent. It is traditional to bless bread, pastries, and other food and to give a portion of it to the poor on St. Joseph's Day. Therefore, we will be offering a blessing of bread, pastries (and any other St. Joseph's foods traditional to your family) at both our weekday Masses, at 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., on Monday, March 20. Join in marking St. Joseph's Day in this way by bringing your breads and pastries to be blessed!

## **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**



### *Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of the Lord*

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. **Every Sunday through March 26**, 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 north sacristy of the church. Each session will feature a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by a member of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Handouts of the psalms will be provided. Come join us in breaking open the Word of the Lord.

## **HELP NEEDED TO WATER THE EASTER FLOWERS**



Help keep our beautiful Easter plants and flowers alive! We need people to offer to take turns to come in and water the Easter plants and flowers during the seven weeks of Easter Time, starting the week of April 9. It will take only a little while once or twice a week, starting at 12:45 p.m. one or two days a week, so your commitment will be minimal. Your responsibility will end when we return to Ordinary Time after May 28 (Pentecost). It's a great way to do something helpful for the parish that does not require a huge ongoing commitment. It's something you can bring your child with you to do!

Won't you help us out? Please contact Denise Martinez at [countrydee02@gmail.com](mailto:countrydee02@gmail.com) or by **TEXT ONLY** at (631) 575-9519 and she'll give you all the details and sign you up. Thank you!



## **SILENCE BEFORE MASS DURING LENT**

### **WE'RE HIGHLIGHTING THE LENTEN SEASON BY FOCUSING ON SILENCE BEFORE MASS BEGINS**

*During the holy season of Lent, we're emphasizing that the time before Mass should be a time for silent prayer, when we prepare our hearts for an encounter with the Lord. Pope Francis once pointed out in one of his teachings, "When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us...[However,]... "it is not meant for chitchat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus." He added, "Silence is so important." The Pope also spoke about how the Mass is not a show, but a place where we encounter the Lord. In this encounter, he said, silence is what "prepares us and accompanies us."*

*During Lent, the Cantor will call everyone to silence five minutes before Mass begins. Let's all give each other the gift of silence, being quiet together in those last moments before Mass begins to prepare ourselves for Mass. Out of respect for each other, let's give each other that special gift. Maybe we can cultivate that habit inside us, and it will continue even after Lent! Thank you for your cooperation.*

### **FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION**

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.

### **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.

### **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.

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### *Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

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

**Mondays at 12:45 p.m.**



### LIVE-STREAM MASS

We live-stream the **10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass** each week.

You can join us virtually using one of the following:

- The link at the top of the OLPH website:  
[www.olphlindenhurst.com](http://www.olphlindenhurst.com)
- OLPH YouTube Channel: OLPH Church Lindenhurst



### JOIN OUR LIVE-STREAM TEAM

We need new members to join our Live-Stream Team either for weekdays or weekends. If you are tech savvy, interested in broadcasting techniques and are willing to help record our liturgies, please contact Fr. Frank Zero at the rectory office at (631) 226-7725 or email [fzero@oloph.org](mailto:fzero@oloph.org).



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Join us Next Sunday at the **10:00 a.m. Mass**  
Children 1st Grade and older can join in the Children's Liturgy of the Word every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.



Participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to teach children how to participate in Mass, since they do the same things that are being done in the main body of the church.







**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**

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

**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION****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

**LEVEL 8**

On Wednesday, March 15th, you will have your Penance Service in the church at 7:00 p.m. A parent/guardian must accompany the student.

**LEVELS 4 and 5**

Your Safety Meeting is on Saturday, March 18th, during your regular class time. Students go to the auditorium for attendance and sit with their class for the presentation.

**BIBLE CAMP PREVIEW DAY**

Sunday, March 19, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, in the auditorium.

*Are you looking to save BIG?!*

*For one day only* register at this event and get the early bird special!

There will be fun, games, food, and fellowship as we get ready for this summer!

**Vacation Bible Camp Needs You!**

**Planning Meeting Saturday, March 18, at 11:30 a.m. in the school auditorium.**

**Please consider being a part of our Space Ranger Team!**

**Contact April for more information.**

**Save the Date:**

***Vacation Bible Camp  
 July 10<sup>th</sup> - July 14<sup>th</sup>***

***Happy Saint of the Day!***

**St. Dymphna's feast day is May 15th.**

**She is the patron saint of anxiety and those suffering from mental afflictions.**

**Dymphna was born in Ireland. When her mother died, her father suffered from a mental illness. He wanted to marry**

**Dymphna, his own daughter!**

**When she found out about his plan, she and a priest named Gerebran fled the country, to Belgium. While in Belgium,**

**Dymphna built hospitals for the poor and sick. Eventually her father found**

**Gerebran and Dymphna and killed them both. She was 15 years old.**

**Dymphna was called the "Lily of Eire" for her vow of purity and chastity.**





# 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
- † 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—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631-226-7725 x 234
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631-226-6175—jbecker@oloph.org

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of  
Gates & High Streets

**631.226.7725 x. 234**

*The office is open:*

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

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

In today’s Gospel, Jesus says: “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.”

Through your almsgiving you are doing the will of the Father and finishing the work of Jesus. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

### NEW Food Pantry List!

**PASTA SAUCE**

**SHELF STABLE MILK**

**TUNA**

**PEANUT BUTTER**

**JELLY**

**PORK & BEANS**

**COFFEE**

**CEREAL**

**CANNED PASTA**

**TOILET PAPER**

Thank you

for your continued generosity.

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

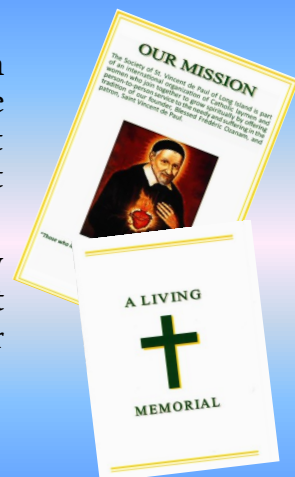
## THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

### † AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

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

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

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



**OLPH CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & GUILD**



# Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale April 1 and 2



Following Saturday 5:00 p.m. and all Sunday Masses  
Located in the priest garages on High Street

Proceeds go for the benefit of OLPH  
homemade baked goodies: cakes, bread, cookies,  
cupcakes, chocolate lollipops  
*cash only please*



## *OLPH Confraternity of Christian Mothers & Guild*

We are so very pleased to announce

Mr. Jim Totino, deacon candidate, as guest speaker  
for our upcoming March meeting,  
Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
in Room 18 in the School Annex.

We humbly invite all women of our parish—  
whether single, married,  
widowed, with or without children—to attend.

Refreshments to follow meeting.

Please mark your calendar and come see what we are all about.

For additional information please contact our President:

Pat Gandarillas Tel. #: 631 956-1291 email: [gandari@optonline.net](mailto:gandari@optonline.net)



## **THANK YOU FROM THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**



The total for the Baby Bottle Coin Campaign 2022  
for the Life Center just came in....

**\$9,758!**

Thanks to you the Life Center will be able to help  
more Moms and babies.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS

A person wishing to volunteer in any parish or organization in the Diocese of Rockville Centre must first complete three requirements:

1. Attend Protecting God's Children (Virtus)
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screening application.

(Background screening is conducted on all volunteers and employees every 5 years.)

### Directions to Complete the 3 Requirements:

1. Sign up to attend a Protecting God's Children class: [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org)  
When you log on to the Virtus website, you will create a Virtus account.

- a. If you have not attended a Virtus class, you are a first time registrant.
- b. The first screen will ask the name of your organization—from the drop down list select **Rockville Centre-Safe Environment**.
- c. Follow all directions on the next screens.
- d. One screen will have the **Codes of Conduct**. Please acknowledge the Codes of Conduct.
- e. Continue with the registration process and select the class you will attend.
- f. After selecting the class, you will be instructed to complete the background screening application.

2. Background Screening Application:

- a. Sterling Volunteers is the company providing the background screening.
- b. Follow all the directions to complete the background screening application. **DO NOT STOP ONCE YOU BEGIN THE APPLICATION!** If you stop—you are locked out of the process due to security procedures.
- c. You will need to provide your Social Security #; if you do not provide a Social Security # you will be charged a fee.
- d. After completing the application, hit the 'Submit Button'

Congratulations! You have now:

Registered to attend a Virtus class ~ signed the Codes of Conduct ~  
Completed the Background Screening.

## UPDATE YOUR VIRTUS SCREENING



*Are you an active Offerer in our parish?*

*Were you last background screened prior to 2018?*

If you answered 'Yes' to both questions – it is time to be re-screened.

To facilitate this process the Diocese has made the background screening application available on-line. You will receive an email shortly (if not already) from the Diocese advising you to log into your Virtus account.

Please follow the prompts when you log into your Virtus account ([www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org)). You will be directed to complete the Sterling Solutions background screening application.

For security reasons, please complete the application in one session and be sure to hit the 'submit' button when completed. If you interrupt the process, you will be locked out of the system.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rockville Centre Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children/Young People: 516-678-5800, or mail [pditomasso@drvc.org](mailto:pditomasso@drvc.org) You may also contact Helene Calabrese by email with any questions, i.e., [hcalab2@optonline.net](mailto:hcalab2@optonline.net)

Thank you for your active participation in our parish community, for all you do to help create a safe environment for everyone and to make OLPH, as Msgr. Joe says, "The Place to Be!"



# 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
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Jill Marie Delano, Business Manager	204	jdelano@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo, Associate Pastor	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
Chris Reilly, Director of Music	210	creilly@oloph.org
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 Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at [jsg375@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

Eileen Corticchia  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Jeffrey Gaab  
Gregory Guido  
Sonia Hansen  
Joselyn Kalt  
Mary Leon  
Rachelle Louis-Jacques  
Carlton Mitchell  
James Totino

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

### YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel  
Gerry Chille

### YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett  
Bill Bendernagel  
Gerry Chille (Chair)  
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Jill Marie Delano  
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  
Kenneth Hale  
Jenine Jimenez-Spina  
Denise Martinez  
Barbara McPhail  
Chris Reilly  
Deacon Doug Smith  
Mike Williams  
Fr. Frank Zero

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



# PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

## **BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

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

**Third Announcement:**  
*Steve Eden & Leann Farah*

**Second Announcement:**  
*Donald Chaffin & Dana Colton*

## **WE BELIEVE**

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Santiago Segovia</i>	<i>Ana-Paula Goncalves Kalinowski</i>
<i>Angela Gleixner</i>	<i>Rudy Calabrese</i>
<i>Baby Antonio James Kienle</i>	<i>Donald Thompson</i>
<i>Kristin Goetze</i>	<i>Susan Ferraro</i>
<i>John Leyden</i>	<i>Sister JoAnn Bonauro</i>
<i>Giuseppe Ferrarelli</i>	<i>Frank Farrugia</i>
<i>Cameron Allen</i>	<i>George La Clair</i>
<i>Christopher Santiago</i>	<i>Mary Huber</i>
<i>Patty Santopadre</i>	<i>John McPhail</i>
<i>Providence Colascione</i>	<i>Diane Wilmart</i>
<i>Sherwood Davis</i>	

## **GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS**

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



If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. Please call the Parish Office to have the name of the person added to the list. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for four weeks and **will be announced at Mass the first week only.** You don't need to make the request again until after the name is removed from the list.

## **WE REMEMBER**

*We remember those who have died in our parish.*

*John Mallozzi*  
*Michael DiGiantonio*  
*Juliana Curran*  
*Mary Reiprecht*

*“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.”*

**The Bereavement Ministry** assists anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one and helps the person grow through their grief.

Joining a Support Group, with the help of trained facilitators, will help the person strengthening their faith in themselves and God.

Our next group starts **April 29 to July 1** from **11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Please contact Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or Forubabe77@aol.com for more information.



<b>MASSES FOR THE WEEK</b>	
<b>MONDAY, March 13— Lenten Weekday</b>	
6:30	Linda M. Keeley
12:15	Josephine Crema
<b>TUESDAY, March 14— Lenten Weekday</b>	
6:30	Maria J. Gioia
12:15	Vito Crescione
<b>WEDNESDAY, March 15— Lenten Weekday</b>	
6:30	Vincenta Soncho
12:15	Carmelo & Ann Curto
<b>THURSDAY, March 16 — Lenten Weekday</b>	
6:30	Joann Cippoletti
12:15	Raymond Damadian
<b>FRIDAY, March 17— Lenten Weekday (Saint Patrick, Bishop)</b>	
6:30	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton
12:15	Francis McDonald
<b>SATURDAY, March 18 — Lenten Weekday (Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)</b>	
8:00	Charles Zimmerman
<b>Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
5:00	Josephine Louise Lopresti
<b>Sunday, March 19 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
8:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
10:00	Armand Liguori
12:00	For the People of the Parish

<b>PARISH CALENDAR</b>		
<b>Monday, March 13, 2023</b>		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Room 24
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Schola Rehearsal	Church
<b>Tuesday, March 14, 2023</b>		
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Holy Name Society Meeting	Room 24
7:00 p.m.	Living the Eucharist	School
7:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation: Confirmation	St. Mark's Room
<b>Wednesday, March 15, 2023</b>		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus
5:30 p.m.	Levels 6: Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Level 7: Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Level 8: Penance Service	Church
<b>Thursday, March 16, 2023</b>		
1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
5:00 p.m.	Service Corps Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:30 p.m.	Baptismal Prep Class for Parents	Room 18
<b>Friday, March 17, 2023</b>		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
3:00 p.m.	Wedding	Church
7:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
<b>Saturday, March 18, 2023</b>		
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5: Classes	School
11:30 a.m.	Bible Camp Meeting	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
4:00 p.m.	Confession	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
<b>Sunday, March 19, 2023</b>		
9:00 a.m.	Bible Camp Preview Day	Auditorium
10:00 a.m.	OCIA	Church
11:00 a.m.	CYO Track Registration	Auditorium
11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation: Psalms	North Sacristy
12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
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 a Dios todos los jueves a las 7:00PM en la cafetería, en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Únete a nosotros en oración, por ti y por tu familia en Alabanzas y reflexión de la palabra de DIOS.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia Interesados favor llamar a Ali-na Patrón al (516) 263-9401

Para más información sobre los sacramentos del bautizo matrimonio y servicio pastorales Unción de los enfermos y la Eucaristía, llamar a la rectoría 631) 226-7725/ en español a Irma González al (631) 620-2401.

### Lecturas del 3º Domingo de Cuaresma - Ciclo A 3/12/23

**Lea las lecturas en su Biblia y luego reflexione con nosotros.**

(Ver Segunda Lectura)

El amor de Dios ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo que se nos ha dado.

Que ese amor de Dios esté siempre con ustedes.

Padre de vida y dador de todo lo bueno: Queremos beber tu vida al máximo.

Que Jesús, tu Palabra Viviente, nos hable de corazón a corazón.

Danos una sed insaciable de las cosas realmente importantes:

la fe y el sentido de nuestras vidas, la esperanza en un mundo mejor

lleno de tu justicia y tu paz, un espíritu de amor comprometido

que sabe cómo compartirse a sí mismo. Otórganos generosamente todo esto

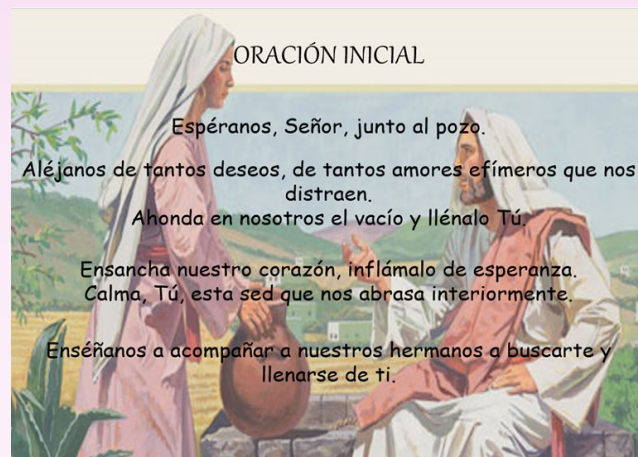
por medio de Jesucristo nuestro Señor.

**Primera Lectura (Éxodos 17,3-7):** . *He aquí que yo estaré delante de ti allí:* Uno de los grandes temas de este viaje de Egipto a Canaán era que Dios estaba con ellos. Él estaba con ellos en cada paso del camino y aquí, otra vez, Él mostraría Su presencia a Moisés y a Israel.

**Segunda Lectura (Romanos 5,1-2.5-8):** Justificados, por tanto, por la fe, estamos en paz con Dios por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, <sup>2</sup> por quien también tenemos acceso en virtud de la fe a esta gracia en la que permanecemos, y nos gloriamos apoyados en la esperanza de la gloria de Dios.

**Evangelio (Juan 4, 5-e42):** 15. La mujer no comprende el sentido, pensando solamente en el agua natural que tenía que sacar del pozo todos los días. Tan sólo por la revelación de sus pecados ocultos viene a entender que Jesús hablaba simbólicamente de un agua sobrenatural, que no se saca del pozo. Jesús, antes de darle el "agua viva", quiere despertar en ella la conciencia de sus pecados y la conduce al arrepentimiento con admirable suavidad. Ya brota la fe en el corazón de la samaritana. Lo prueba la pregunta sobre el lugar donde había que adorar a Dios. Los samaritanos creían que el lugar del culto no era ya el Templo de Jerusalén sino el monte Garizim, donde ellos tuvieron un templo hasta el año 131 a.C. Cf. Esdr. 4, 1 - 5 .

¿La samaritana cambio de vida y tú?



La próxima semana nuestra parroquia realizará The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Los fondos de esta colecta proporcionan alimento al hambriento, ayuda a los refugiados desplazados y llevan el amor y la misericordia de Cristo a los pueblos vulnerables aquí y en el extranjero. La próxima semana, por favor, contribuyan generosamente a la colecta y revelen el amor de Cristo a los más necesitados. Infórmense más acerca de la colecta en [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**OFFERING UPDATE  
March 4/5**

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	297	90	\$3,617.00
8:00 a.m.	185	80	2,533.00
10:00 a.m.	341	92	2,873.00
12:00 a.m.	336	67	2,152.00
<b>Total coin:</b>			9.20
<b>Faith Direct</b>			3,646.25
<b>Children's Env.</b>		12	34.00
<b>Mail-ins:</b>			1,400.00
<b>Special Needs</b>	42	17	968.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,201	358	\$17,232.45
<b>2022</b>	1,153	348	\$18,476.56
<b>Candles</b>			\$968.94
<b>Poor Box</b>			\$278.19
<b>1st Saturday</b>			\$111.00

**DEADLINES FOR  
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- March 19—deadline passed
- March 26—March 17 deadline
- April 2—March 24 deadline

**Important Diocese of Rockville Centre Information**

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were over 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred, and the forms to use, can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page: <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 12.**  
**DID YOU REMEMBER  
TO SET YOUR CLOCKS  
AHEAD ONE HOUR?**



Next week, our parish will take up *The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC)*. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and **help Jesus in disguise.**

Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



THE SECOND ANNUAL  
**LINDENHURST  
ST. PATRICK'S  
PARADE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2023**

↳ PARADE STEPS OFF AT 12PM ⌋

**GRAND MARSHAL  
BISHOP ROBERT J. BRENNAN**

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL MASS BEFORE THE PARADE AT 8AM  
**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP RCG**  
210 S WELLWOOD AVE, LINDENHURST, NY 11757



**PREPARING FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Not as man sees does God see,  
because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.* 1 Samuel 16:7

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

Our three readings today speak about seeing. In particular, they stress that we must see as God sees and not as the world does. This first reading tells the story of how the prophet Samuel was called to anoint a new king of Israel since Saul, the first king, was rejected by God for disobedience. God sends Samuel to find another among the sons of Jesse in Bethlehem. Jesse presents his six oldest sons to Samuel for approval but none of these finds divine favor. Although they are strong and good-looking God tells Samuel that he looks past external appearances and into the heart. He chooses the youngest son, David, who was still out shepherding at the time. Once anointed as king, the Spirit of God rushes upon him. This should remind us that if God chooses you to do something then God will give you the strength and power to do it.

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

The Letter to the Ephesians takes as its theme the universal church and its unity in Christ. All members, Jews and non-Jews alike, are part of one body that is united to Jesus through baptism. In this reading we hear that living with Jesus is living in the light whereas to live without him is to live in darkness. When we live in the dark we live in spiritual blindness and cannot see our way. When we accept the light, as we did at our baptism, we are called to “live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.” We have to renew our commitment to living in the light every day.

**John 9:1-41**

In the Gospel reading we hear more about seeing in a very concrete way. A man was born blind and Jesus heals his eyes so that he can see. What must that have felt like – to see for the very first time! It’s hard to imagine but perhaps by recounting this story in great detail John is trying to make a deeper point about Jesus’ actions. Jesus says “I am the light of the world” before healing the man. The first thing the man must have seen when healed would have been Jesus’ face. Truly Jesus was the light of the world to him. Is he to us? Do we look to Jesus for light in our lives or do we persist, as the Pharisees did, in refusing to see as God sees? Are we struck by external appearances and stuck in our own view of the world? This would be spiritual blindness, having sight but not really seeing. Fortunately, by our baptism we do have Jesus for our light and can rely on him every day if we but open our eyes.

**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. In the beginning of the Gospel, the blind man was simply a man on the street. By the end of the Gospel he was thrown out of the synagogue for defending Jesus. What changed him into a disciple? Which of these titles fits you: passer-by, believer, confessor, challenger or disciple?

2. Pope Francis tracks the blind man’s path below from spiritual blindness to light. Can you relate to your own spiritual blindness slowly turning to light in your life?

*“The path of the blind man ... is a gradual process that begins with knowing Jesus’ name. He does not know anything else about him. In fact, he says: “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes” (John 9:11). In response to the pressing questions of the doctors of the law he first says that Jesus is a prophet (John 9:17) and then a man close to God (John 9:31). After he is thrown out of the Temple, excluded from society, Jesus finds him again and “opens his eyes” a second time, revealing to him his [Jesus’] true identity: “I am the Messiah,” he tells him. At this point, the man who was blind exclaims: “I believe, Lord!” (9:38), and prostrates himself before Jesus.*

*This is a passage of the Gospel that gives us a glimpse of the drama of the interior blindness of many people. And we glimpse our own interior blindness too because we sometimes have moments of such blindness. ... Let us open ourselves to the light of the Lord. He awaits us always in order to enable us to see better, to give us more light, to forgive us. Let us not forget this!”*

*Pope Francis, Daily Homily,  
March 30, 2014*

**Readings for the Week**

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

**Monday, March 13, 2023:**

2 Kings 5:1-15ab + Luke 4:24-30

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023:**

Daniel 3:25, 34-43 + Mathew 18:21-35

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023:**

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9 + Matthew 5:17-19

**Thursday, March 16, 2023:**

Jeremiah 7:23-28 + Luke 11:14-23

**Friday, March 17, 2023:**

Hosea 14:2-10 + Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday, March 18, 2023:**

Hosea 6:1-6 + Luke 18:9-14

**Sunday, March 19, 2023:**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13b

+ Ephesians 5:8-14

+ John 9:1-41

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*"...let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them." - Pope Francis*

**Almsgiving in Lent**

**During the Lenten Season we are asked to pray, fast and give alms.**

Lent is a perfect time for us to pray for those in need - whether it is for their material, emotional or spiritual needs. And when you practice fasting and abstinence during these forty days, please remember those of our neighbors who reach out to us for help.

One way to do this is by making a gift to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**, which supports programs that help people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs.

Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

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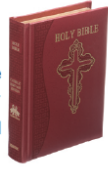


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