

# 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



*Jesus answered and said to them,  
“Destroy this temple  
and in three days  
I will raise it up.”*

*John 2:19*

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 4, 2018**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

**Pastor:** Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

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

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

**Business Manager:** Mr. Frank Pokorney

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

**Music Director:** Mr. Christopher Ferraro

**Pastor Emeritus:** Reverend Monsignor Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

### **COME IN AND PRAY...**

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

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday – Friday**

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

**Saturday Morning:**

8:00 a.m.

**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):**

5:00 p.m.

**Sunday Masses:**

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

### **LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

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

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

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

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

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

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

### **OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS**

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

### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Monday Evening: after OLPH Novena Devotions

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

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

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

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

# Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

March 9, 23

at 7:30 p.m. in the Church



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 9: Family Life*

*March 23: Knights of Columbus and Catholics for Freedom of Religion*

*Stations of the Cross will also be held at 3:00 p.m. on March 16 led by Fr. Fidelis.*

# CONFESSIONS

MONDAY—FRIDAY

following the 12:15 p.m. weekday Mass

SATURDAY MARCH 10 & 17: 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

SATURDAY MARCH 24: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 26: 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.





## PASTOR'S PAGE

### Third Sunday of Lent

By now I'm sure we are all into a rhythm of Lenten spirituality, and I hope we feel enveloped by the "atmosphere" of Lent. Simplicity, a focus on conversion, renewal and new life, and a journey of thirsting for the waters of the renewal of our baptism are all elements that should characterize these days in the desert with the Lord. As always, we should turn to the prayers of the Mass to express for us the meaning of the journey we are on; the words of the liturgical prayer of the Church should echo, support and nourish the spiritual 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 prayed, *"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 — we must be reconciled with our brothers and sisters with whom we celebrate. We who have been forgiven must in turn forgive others. The First Reading at Mass, which lists the Ten Commandments as given in the Book of Exodus, helps us to examine our relationship with our brothers and sisters (*i.e.*, the last seven Commandments) and gives us food-for-thought in examining our conscience.

This mercy and forgiveness of God, and the sharing of 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.

### Have you updated your Census Registration?

I once again remind you that if you receive a mailing indicating that you have not yet updated your Census Registration information, please kindly return the completed Census Form as soon as possible. It is vitally important that we keep our census information as accurate as possible, so we know how many families we have in our parish, how many members overall, and what the demographic information is concerning the makeup of our parish, so we can do accurate pastoral planning. In addition, we need to clean up our records, for example, by removing people who are no longer in the parish, so that we do not waste money doing mailings that are no longer valid.

Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about whether you have updated your records, you can always call the parish office and ask. You can also stop down and pick up a new Census Form at the rectory any time during normal business hours.

### When will you go to Confession during Lent? Don't wait until the last minute!

I know I may be sounding like the proverbial "broken record," but let me ask you: have you put a date and time aside in your calendar, to set going to Confession as an actual appointment, either at one of our designated regular times, or, perhaps most appropriately, on

## PASTOR'S PAGE

Monday of Holy Week when priests will be available constantly from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.? Or, why not call or e-mail one of us priests and make a separate appointment for Confession at a mutually-convenient time? There's nothing more joyful and uplifting than celebrating God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Don't deprive yourself of that grace!

### **Brick Memorializations are still available**

Allow me to remind you that brick memorializations continue to be available; see the flyer printed elsewhere in the bulletin. We have received a good response so far. Once we attain the number of bricks needed in order to take advantage of the free shipping offer (thus saving money), we will send out a batch for engraving. There's still time to get in on this next set before we send them off for engraving, so return your form soon! You still have your choice of location, either along the Walkway to the Blessed Mother or in the prayer garden around the "Let the Children Come to Me" statue (the Blessed Mother Walkway is filling up, fast, though, and eventually no bricks will be left along there, so if you want that location, act quickly!).

Also, feel free to spread the word to family and friends about this. You don't have to be from OLPH (in fact, you don't even have to be Catholic!) in order to memorialize a brick.

### **Pope Francis' Catecheses on the Holy Mass**

We continue our series printing Pope Francis' catecheses on the Holy Mass, given at his Wednesday audiences. Since Mass is so central to our life as Catholics, we can never learn enough about it. The selection below continues the talk from the Holy Father's audience of January 31, 2018, as he continues to reflect on the meaning of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. I present his words *verbatim*.

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At Mass, then the Readings begin, we listen to the Word of God.

We need to listen to Him! It is, in fact, a question of life, as the incisive expression well

reminds that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" — the life that the Word of God gives us. In this connection, we speak of the Liturgy of the Word as the "table" that the Lord prepares to feed our spiritual life. That of the Liturgy is an abundant table, which draws widely from the treasures of the Bible, be it of the Old or of the New Testament, because in them the Church proclaims the one and the same mystery of Christ. We think of the richness of the biblical Readings offered by three Sunday cycles that, in the light of the Synoptic Gospels, accompany us in the course of the Liturgical Year — a great richness! I wish to recall here the importance of the Responsorial Psalm, whose function is to foster meditation on all that was heard in the Reading that preceded it. It's good that the Psalm is enhanced with the song, at least in the refrain.

The liturgical proclamation of the same Readings, with the songs deduced from Sacred Scripture, expresses and fosters ecclesial communion, accompanying the path of each and all. One understands, therefore, why subjective choices, such as the omission of Readings or their substitution with non-biblical texts, are prohibited.

We know that the Lord's word is an indispensable aid not to get lost, as the Psalmist well recognizes, that, addressing the Lord, confesses: "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). How can we face our earthly pilgrimage, with its toils and trials, without being regularly fed and illumined by the Word of God that resounds in the Liturgy?

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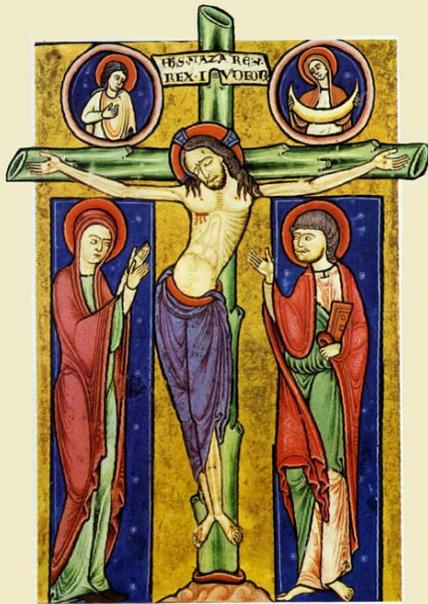
### **In conclusion...**

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,





Our Lady of Perpetual Help Music Ministry  
presents

## PASSION, PRAISE AND PASCHAL MYSTERY

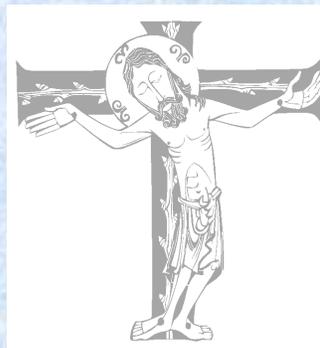
An Evening of Choral Music and Meditations  
on Christ's Passion and Death

Friday, March 16, 2018

7:30 p.m.

*There will be a free-will offering to support the restoration  
of the pipe organ at St. Albert's Chapel in the Motherhouse  
of the Sisters of St. Dominic, Amityville*

# Lenten Mission 2018



**Are You Willing to Walk With Jesus This Holy Week:**

**Are you willing to serve?**

**Are you willing to die?**

**Are you willing to rise?**

**Sunday, March 18 · Monday, March 19 · Tuesday, March 20**

7:30 p.m. Prayer Service each evening

Led by **Fr. Paul H. Colloton, OSFS, D.Min**

**PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULES:**

*PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES FOR THESE DAYS*

**Palm Sunday**

**Saturday, March 24:**

5:00 p.m. Vigil  
with Procession

**Sunday, March 25:**

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



**SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR  
Easter Sunday Masses**

**Saturday, March 31:**

8:00 p.m. only

**The Easter Vigil  
in the Holy Night**  
(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass)

**Sunday, April 1:**

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.  
(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday)

*\* note special times*



**PALM SUNDAY VIGIL PROCESSION**

**Special Procession to Commemorate  
the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem  
SATURDAY, MARCH 24 – 5:00 P.M. MASS**

On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. This is always such a great celebration for the parish!

**At the 5:00 p.m. Mass Saturday, March 24, we will celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion with a special Solemn Procession.**

**For Saturday, March 24, please note:**

- ◆ Confession time on Saturday, March 24 is earlier – 3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
- ◆ We are closing the church to all but the handicapped; people will be directed to the auditorium
- ◆ 5:00 p.m. Mass begins in the auditorium, continues with the Procession, and continues in the church
- ◆ In case of inclement weather, we will begin in the church.

Even if you do not usually attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, consider attending as together we begin the celebration of Holy Week.



## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### **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.



### **MEETING FOR ALL ALTAR SERVERS**

All Altar Servers are required to attend an important meeting on **Tuesday, March 13 at 4:15 p.m. in the church.** Among other items we will discuss assignments for Holy Week, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and First Communion 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.)*

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



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

**Monday, March 5—7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, March 12—6:30 p.m.**

**due to Level 8 Penance Service**

**Monday, March 19—6:30 p.m.**

**due to the Parish Mission**

### **Evening Prayer**



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

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

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

**-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1175**

# PRAYER AND WORSHIP

## Prayer for Peace



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

## MINISTRY MONDAY



Our Music Director, Chris Ferraro, was featured on a new Podcast series called **“Ministry Monday.”** In his interview, Chris discusses an article he recently wrote about the pastoral dimension of music ministry. To listen to the podcast, go to the website [www.ministrymonday.org](http://www.ministrymonday.org). Chris’s interview was released on February 25.

## **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.

## **PROPER RESPECT FOR THE CONSECRATED HOST**

I have been informed of a serious problem we must address. I have been told that for three weeks in a row, on Monday morning there has been a Host on the floor on the pews in the Divine Mercy side section of pews (the “bank side” of the church, the north side section of pews). The first week the Host was in the last row, and the next two weeks the Host was on the floor in the second-to-last row.

We must remember that if we 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.

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

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers and condolences over the loss of my grandmother Alberta Zero. The outpouring of prayers, love, and support were of great consolation to my family and myself. In these times of difficulty it is very helpful and consoling to have such an outpouring of support. Thank you again for your prayers and know of mine for all of you. It was no surprise that all of you have been so supportive. I am blessed having been assigned to such a loving parish.*

God Bless,  
*Fr. Frank  
and Family*



## **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 twelve (12) 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 March 29.** 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 among the twelve, 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!

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ (needed so we can 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.

### **KEEP THE CHURCH CLEAN! LEAVE IT NICER THAN YOU FOUND IT!**

We have been having a problem in recent months of all sorts of litter being left in pews throughout the church. Used tissues, other papers, food items, empty water bottles, and litter in general, are being left behind, and it is making the church look a mess, which is highly disrespectful to the Lord and to each other. It is essential for us to maintain a dignified space in which we can give God due honor, worship and reverence.

Your cooperation is greatly needed! Please be conscious of not dropping or leaving litter in the church. If something does drop, please be sure to pick up after yourself and your children before leaving the church. Let's give each other this gift of respect and caring! Keep the church clean, and leave it nicer than you found it! Thank you.

## 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.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**

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

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Friday: CLOSED  
 Saturday: By Appointment

**LEVEL 8**

On Monday,  
March 5,  
meet in the  
Auditorium  
at 7:15 p.m.  
for a  
Confirmation  
Parent  
Meeting!

**LEVEL 7**

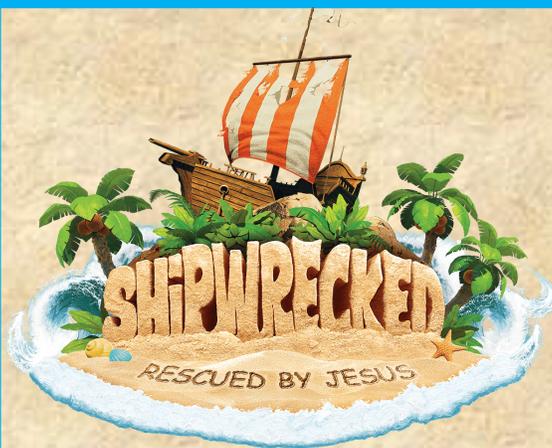
On Wednesday,  
March 7,  
meet in the  
Auditorium  
at 7:30 p.m.  
for a Parent  
Meeting on  
Social Justice!

**LEVEL 2**

On Saturday,  
March 10,  
parents meet  
in the  
Auditorium  
during class  
time for a  
Communion  
Parent Meeting!

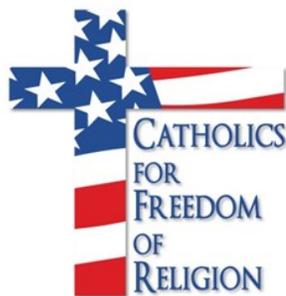
**LEVEL 8**

On Sunday,  
March 11,  
meet in the  
Auditorium  
at 3:00 p.m.  
for your  
Confirmation  
Retreat!

**Vacation Bible Camp****July 16<sup>th</sup>- July 20<sup>th</sup>****Bible Camp Preview Day****Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>****after the 10:00 a.m. Mass  
in the Auditorium**

Come join us as we learn about this year's Bible Camp Theme—**Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus**. There will be hospitality, games, crafts, and singing. Middle School Campers will discover Service Camp as they make sandwiches for those in need. Early Registration for Bible Camp will be available.

## CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



### Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

#### Freedom of Speech & Freedom of Thought Wins—for now:

Bakersfield, CA: In what has become a familiar story, cake-artist Cathy Miller was sued by a same-sex couple when she declined to create a cake for their wedding because her faith "will not allow me to participate in things that I feel are wrong." And, just as other bakers have done, she offered to sell them a pre-made cake which they refused. Also, as other bakers have done, she referred the couple to a different bakery that was willing to create this special order cake. Instead, the couple went to the California Department of Fair Housing who then sued the baker.

In a surprise and welcome court ruling, Superior Court Judge David Lampe rejected the argument that personal offense trumps conscience. "The right to freedom of speech under the First Amendment outweighs the State's interest in ensuring a freely accessible marketplace," Judge Lampe wrote. "The right of freedom of thought guaranteed by the First Amendment includes the right to speak, and the right to refrain from speaking."

"A wedding cake is not just a wedding cake in Free Speech analysis. It is an artistic expression by the person making it ..."

"The State asks this court to compel (Cathy) Miller to use her talents to design and create cake she has not yet conceived with the knowledge that her work will be displayed to celebrate a marital union her religion forbids ... Such an order would be the stuff of tyranny."

This ruling by Judge Lampe is only temporary. The full case comes to trial in CA in June.

The almost identical case of Colorado baker Jake Phillips is now being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court and will also be decided in June. (onenewsnow.com, 2/7/18; frc.org, 2/7/18; theblaze.com, 2/6/18)

*"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freedom of speech."*

Benjamin Franklin

#### Action Steps:

- \* Pray that Americans will value liberty and practice respect/tolerance for opposing views.
- \* Read *The 5000 Year Leap—A Miracle that Changed the World*, "The Role of Religion"

## FR. FIDELIS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

### *Move Around With Us, Inc.*

is a non-profit organization created by Fr. Fidelis to help young Nigerians who are in desperate need of wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, etc. but cannot afford such luxuries. **You can help!** If you have (in good condition) and no longer need such items please contact Fr. Fidelis at the rectory who, with the Pastor's permission, will collect and arrange for the items' transport overseas.



*(Charitable donation tax letter available upon request)*

# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631.225.9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Community Meal: Gigi Gracey—631.943.0095—gigigracey1962@gmail.com—Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Golden Age Society: Dolores Barone—631.957.3432
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631.921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Bernard League: Deacon Doug Smith—631-226-7725—dsmith4475@aol.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Deborah Deasy—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Fran Grasso—631.956.3003—sixfingers13@gmail.com
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org—Caroline Grogan—631.225.7688—straightclaw@optonline.net

## NEW Food Pantry List!

**PREPARED PASTA SAUCE  
CANNED CHICKEN/MEAT  
CANNED FRUIT  
PANCAKE MIX/SYRUP  
JUICE BOXES  
SHELF STABLE MILK  
POWDERED MILK  
CEREAL  
PEANUT BUTTER  
JELLY OR JAM  
WATER**

*NO PASTA AT THIS TIME, PLEASE.*

**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 Room 24 of the School

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.—12:00 Noon

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

In today's Gospel Jesus is asked, "What sign can you show us?" Every day we can see signs of how God has visited us in the blessings of our lives. Let us be a sign of God's love by being a blessing to others.

**Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can be a sign of God's love to the suffering and poor.**

## † A LIVING MEMORIAL

**THANK YOU!!!** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul OLPH Conference wishes to thank those who have supported our Living Memorial Card program. Your donations are used to offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering within our parish.

Memorial donation envelopes are available on the pews, 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. A beautiful memorial card acknowledging your donation is sent to the bereaved.

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

### OUR MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Long Island is part of an international organization of Catholic laymen and women who join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, Saint Vincent de Paul.



*"Those who love the poor in life will have nothing to fear in death..."*  
- Saint Vincent de Paul

*As a Living Memorial  
to the life of*

*A donation has been made by*

*To the  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
of Long Island*

*Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss.*

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

### HOMELESS MINISTRY DONATIONS

*We are in need of the following items:*

Men's pants (jeans & sweat pants) - larger sizes  
 Women's new underwear (sizes 5,6,7)  
 Heavy hoodies - L to 3 XL  
 Winter hats (skull type)/gloves - men & women  
 Sneakers - 10, 11, 11.5, 12, 13, 15  
 Work boots (in good condition)  
 Gently used tents

*If it is easier, we can always use **Kmart gift cards** (and the like) or financial donations, and we'll do the shopping.*

*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 woman  
in your late 40s, 50s, or early 60s?

**Tuesday, March 6**

**Easter Project for Community Meal  
and the retired Sisters of St. Dominic  
in Room 24 at 7:00 p.m.**

Meetings are usually held on the first and third weeks of the month in Room 24 of the "new" school. For more information, call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or e-mail at [gtonness@optonline.net](mailto:gtonness@optonline.net)

## DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

**Bereavement Support Group:** St. Mary's Parish in East Islip is offering a free 8 week support group for adults who are struggling to cope with the death of a loved one. Registration is required for this group, which begins on Wednesday, **March 7** from 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. The group will run for 8 consecutive weeks through April 25<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served. For information and/or registration, please call the rectory @ (631) 581-4266, x 100. In order to participate in this group, the death must have occurred prior to Dec. 13, 2017.

**Bereavement Support Group:** for Widows & Widowers, an 8 week program for age 50 and over starting Friday, **March 9**, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. St. Joseph Parish Center, 39 N. Carll Ave., Babylon. For more information and registration, please call: Terry Hoffmann 631-669-0198 or Geri Olson at 631-661-8994.

**Supermarket WINGO & Chinese Auction** Saturday, **March 10**, 7:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m. \$5 admission includes free Wingo sheet, one free ticket for door prize, coffee & cake. Food available for purchase. No one under the age of 5 will be admitted. No early arrivals, please! Grace Methodist Church, 515 South Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst. 631-226-8690

**Silent Lenten Retreat** at the Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore, Friday—Sunday, **March 23-25** "Let Us Consider Gentle Jesus in His Dying." Retreat begins Friday, 6:00 p.m. Space is limited. \$175 per person (shared rooms). Payment in full (checks payable to Montfort Missionaries) mailed to Kathy Roeder, 26 South Saxon Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706 by **March 16**. For information call 631-666-7500 or email montfort06@gmail.com.

**Magnificat**, a Ministry to Catholic Women, cordially invites you to attend a *Lenten Day of Reflection - "Journey to the Cross,"* which will enable us to have a deeper experience of reflection, meditation, and prayer, as we prepare for Holy Week on Saturday, **March 24th**, at St. Agnes Cathedral, Ministries Bldg., Rockville Centre, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person (bring your own lunch), and pre-registration is required. Please make checks payable to "Magnificat" and mail to: Judy Murphy, 42 Pinehurst Street, Lido Beach, NY 11561. *Checks must be received by March 19th.* Payment will not be accepted at the door. For additional information, please contact Judy at (917) 453-5750. Come and bring a friend, as we prepare for Holy Week!

**Part-time Maintenance Helper position.** St. Joseph's, Babylon seeking person for Monday—Friday 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Various duties include maintenance, operations, snow plowing, knowledge of stripping & waxing floors, industrial cleaning chemicals; plumbing and electrical skills a plus. Send resume to Anna Rose Regan, Business Manager, St. Joseph Parish Center, 39 Carll Ave., Babylon, NY 11702 or fax 631-669-9175 or call 631-669-0068 x159.

**Bereavement Support Groups**, for those who have lost a loved one and are grieving: General Bereavement Groups will be meeting weekly at St. Bernard's Parish, Levittown, Thursdays, April 5-June 7, 6:30-7:45 p.m.—contact Sister Christine Sammons, 516-731-6074; and at St. Brigid's Parish, Westbury, Tuesdays, April 3-June 5, 7:00-8:15 p.m.—contact Maria Piniero, 516-334-0021. Also, a Group for Bereaved Parents will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, ongoing, starting Monday, March 5, at St. Bernard's Parish, Levittown, 7:00-8:15 p.m.—contact Sister Christine Sammons at 516-731-6074.

**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**



***Brett Alexander McCaffrey***

***Becket Ryan Schaefer***

**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:*

***Pelligrino Felicciardi***

*“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.”*

**MASS MEMORIALS**

A beautiful way to remember a loved one!  
Memorials used during the Masses for week of  
**March 4-10:**

***Altar Bread & Wine***

*In Memory of*

***Mary A. Lee***

***& Edward J. Abbott***

***7th Anniversary***

*Requested by*

***Marilyn & Martin Abbott***

*Please contact the Parish Office at 631.226.7725 for other options for memorials.*

**PERPETUAL HELP MASS  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018  
AT 12:15 P.M. MASS**

Cardinal Joseph Zen & The Chinese Underground Church (Living)	Requested by CFFR
Michelina Miller	Requested by Charles, Sandra, Shelby & Michael Miller

**WE BELIEVE**

**We pray for the sick of our parish...**

***Paul Madonia***

***Kevin Reid***

***Susan LaSala***

***Bonnie & Richard Rieger***

***Ralph Assario***

***Joseph Pugh***

***Charlotte O’Kobrick***

***Peter Leyden***

***Isabella Belen***

***Cynthia Breitfeller***

***Marjorie Santoli***

***Beata Konopka***

***Kathy Stanton***

***Margaret Russo***

***Theresa Gloria Madonia***

***Paula DiBernardo***

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 having their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks depending upon space.

**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.

# MASS INTENTIONS

## MONDAY, March 5, 2018— Lenten Weekday

6:30	Peter Robert Cheshire
12:15	Maimie Sue Willenbrock

## TUESDAY, March 6— Lenten Weekday

6:30	Sheila Sorge
12:15	Aldo Aleszczyk

## WEDNESDAY, March 7— Lenten Weekday (Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs)

6:30	Robert Hodnik
12:15	Perpetual Help Mass (Listing on p. 16)

## THURSDAY, March 8— Lenten Weekday (Saint John of God, Religious)

6:30	Marie D. Desir
12:15	Vincenza Mallozzi Mancinelli

## FRIDAY, March 9 — Lenten Weekday (Saint Frances of Rome, Religious)

6:30	Bernardo Benebe
12:15	Salemi Family

## SATURDAY, March 10— Lenten Weekday

8:00	Merle Lee Iannucci
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### Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00	Sandra Pagan (Living)
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### Sunday, March 11 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00	Maureen Juliano
10:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
12:00	For the People of the Parish
5:00	For the Deceased members of the of the LoPiccold Family

# PARISH CALENDAR

## Monday, March 5, 2018

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy
7:00 p.m.	Devotions	Church
7:15 p.m.	Level 8 Parent Meeting Level 8 Classes	Auditorium School

## Tuesday, March 6, 2018

6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Middle Ages	Room 24
7:30 p.m.	Adult Confirmation	St. Mark
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16

## Wednesday, March 7, 2018

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
1:45 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 10
7:30 p.m.	Level 7 Parent Meeting Level 7 Classes	Auditorium School
7:30 p.m.	Family Life Meeting	Cafeteria

## Thursday, March 8, 2018

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
6:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball Practice	Auditorium
6:45 p.m.	VBC Planning	Room 12
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Pastoral Council Meeting	St. Lucy
7:30 p.m.	RCIA	Room 18
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

## Friday, March 9, 2018

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

## Saturday, March 10, 2018

8:30; 10:00 a.m.	Level 2 Parent Meeting Levels 1—5 & Sp. Ed	Auditorium School
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Convent
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

## Sunday, March 11, 2018

10:00 a.m.	RCIC RCIA	Room 18 Church
12:45 p.m.	Junior Legion of Mary	Room 24
3:00 p.m.	Confirmation Retreat	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Holy Hour	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

# SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

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

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

### PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

### THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

## YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jean Bjork  
Tricia Buckley (Chair)  
Eileen Corticchia  
Msgr. Joe DeGrococo  
Greg Guido  
Sonia Hansen  
Joselyn Kalt  
Melissa McLaughlin  
Kevin Sabella, Jr.  
Kevin Sabella, Sr.  
James Totino  
Peter Triolo  
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)  
Ed Cirella  
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®  
Msgr. Joe DeGrococo  
Bob Meade  
Frank Pokorney  
John Reynolds  
Sandra Tandoi

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

## YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

## 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 PM en adelante en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Le ofrecemos el cuidado de los niños, también les enseñamos la doctrina de la iglesia.

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

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

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

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

### Reflexión de las Lecturas de 14º Domingo de Cuaresma - Ciclo B

**Después de haber leído las escrituras de este domingo**

**Primera Lectura (2 Corintios 36,14-16, 19-23):** Dios Da a Su Pueblo Nuevas

Oportunidades

Incluso cuando Dios castiga a su pueblo con el exilio, Dios no puede menos de ser fiel. Utiliza incluso a paganos para devolver a su pueblo a la Tierra Prometida.

**Segunda Lectura (Efesios 2,4-10):** Todo es gracia..

Por su gracia, Dios ha salvado a su pueblo del exilio. De nuevo por la gracia de Dios, su Hijo Jesús nos salva de la muerte del pecado. En el plan de Dios todo es un don gratuito de gracia.

**Evangelio (Juan 3,14-21):** Salvador por la Cruz de Cristo

Cristo tenía que morir en la cruz para salvarnos y darnos vida eterna, ya que Cristo vino no a condenarnos sino a salvarnos.

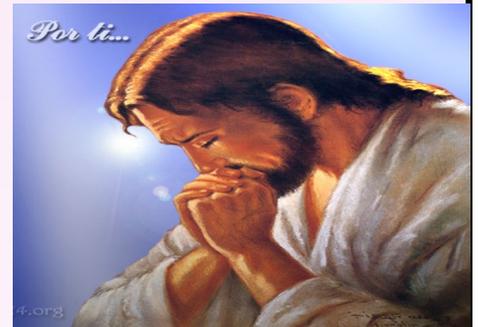
**Tanto Amó Dios al Mundo...**

Si fuéramos realmente conscientes de cuánto nos ama Dios ¿cómo podríamos permanecer indiferentes o rehusar nada a Dios? Si creemos firmemente que él nos encuentra dignos de amor, ¿cómo pudiéramos no poner nuestra confianza en él? Él no nos fuerza: simplemente nos invita: "Este es mi amor hacia ti; ¿te gustaría aceptarme a mí y mi amor? ¿Te gustaría compartir mi amor con otros amándoles a ellos también?" ¿Qué respuesta le damos a Dios, por medio de Jesucristo?

**Mirando a la Cruz**

En nuestras Iglesias y en la mayoría de nuestros hogares damos al crucifijo un lugar de honor. ¿Quiere ello decir que debemos amar las cruces? No, pero indica que creemos en nuestro Señor crucificado y que le amamos de corazón. Él nos salvó por su cruz y resurrección. Él es la señal de que Dios nos ama tanto que nos entregó a su único Hijo para traernos perdón, vida y amor. Es a Cristo Jesús a quien alzamos nuestra mirada buscando fuerza para llevar las cruces que vienen a nosotros en las dificultades de la vida. También le miramos buscando alegría y felicidad en nuestro peregrinar y buscando vida eterna más allá de la muerte. Con Jesús celebramos ahora, en la eucaristía, el memorial de su sacrificio en la cruz y de su resurrección.

La Cuaresma es el tiempo que precede y dispone a la celebración de la Pascua. Tiempo de escucha de la Palabra de Dios y de conversión, de preparación y de memoria del Bautismo, de reconciliación con Dios y con los hermanos, de recurso más frecuente a las "armas de la penitencia cristiana": la oración, el ayuno y la limosna (ver Mt 6,1-6.16-18). De manera semejante como el antiguo Pueblo de Israel marchó durante cuarenta años por el desierto para ingresar a la tierra prometida, la Iglesia, el nuevo pueblo de Dios, se prepara durante cuarenta días para celebrar la Pascua del Señor. Si bien es un tiempo penitencial, no es un tiempo triste y depresivo. Se trata de un tiempo especial de purificación y de renovación de la vida cristiana para poder participar con mayor plenitud y gozo del misterio pascual del Señor.



## OFFERING UPDATE February 24/25, 2018

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	377	158	\$4,041.00
8:00 a.m.	215	101	2,745.00
10:00 a.m.	413	119	3,051.00
12:00 p.m.	480	127	3,446.00
5:00 p.m.	312	55	1,785.50
<b>Coin</b>			17.86
<b>Mail-ins:</b>			224.00
<b>Children's Env.</b>		22	81.20
<b>Faith Direct</b>			2,423.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,797</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>\$17,814.56</b>
<b>2017 total</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>\$17,525.28</b>
<b>Candles</b>			\$930.62
<b>Poor Box</b>			\$500.39

## UPDATE YOUR PARISH CENSUS INFORMATION!

We are continuing the process of updating our Parish Census Database with "Phase II" of the process. A large mailing has gone out to all registered parishioners who did not return updated Census Forms during "Phase I." **When you receive that mailing, please complete the Census Form and return it as soon as possible.** It is vitally important that we keep our census information as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about whether or not you have updated your records, you can always call the parish office and ask. You can also stop down and pick up a new Census Form at the rectory any time during normal business hours. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.



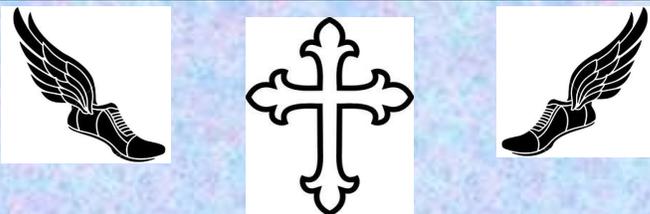
### Catholic Relief Services Collection March 11, 2018

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home 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).

### 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 no later than the dates listed below and as a word document to Carmel Becker at [cbecker@oloph.org](mailto:cbecker@oloph.org). *Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

March 11—passed  
March 18—March 9  
March 25—March 16



## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CYO SPRING TRACK REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

### REGISTER ONLINE

[https://  
ourladyofperpetualhelpcatholiccyouthorganization.sipay.com/  
site/](https://ourladyofperpetualhelpcatholiccyouthorganization.sipay.com/site/)

### REGISTER IN PERSON

Sunday **March 18**, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
in OLPH school room #12  
Or—fill out registration form (available online),  
and mail or drop off at the rectory

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Coach Joe Artusa @ 631-225-0410  
Or Luke Farrell @ 516-343-5434

**PREPARING FOR Sunday, March 11, 2018—  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.*

John 3:16

**2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

In this reading we hear how God acted with compassion when the Jewish people sinned. In particular, the kingdom of Judah was being led by kings and priests who ignored God’s words by worshipping idols and being unjust in their affairs. Worse still, they mocked the prophets and messengers he sent to call them back. They were stuck in their sin. Then God did what appears to be a harsh thing – he allowed them to be conquered by their enemies and taken captive. For seventy long years they languished in Babylon until God used King Cyrus to allow them to return home and rebuild the Temple. God not only justly punished the people for their obstinate sin but gave them a second chance. It’s good to know that God will have compassion on us and offer us a second chance when we sin.

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

We hear again in this section of Paul’s letter how God is “rich in mercy” and compassion because of the great love he has for us. For when we are spiritually dead in our sins God will raise us to new life through Christ. He gives us “the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” Just like God allowed the Israelites a second chance through no effort of their own, God will save us through no efforts of our own: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.” What good news indeed!

**John 3:14-21**

A Pharisee named Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions at night because he was too afraid to come during the day for fear of what others might think. Jesus tells him to walk in the light of the truth because only those who love evil prefer the darkness. The light of the truth can be summed up in that one famous sentence we see at football games and elsewhere – John 3:16 – which says that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Wonderful news indeed!

**Gospel Reflection Questions....**

*After reading next Sunday’s Gospel take some time to pray on it before you come to Mass. Use the questions below to aid your reflection.*

1. “For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son ...” So what is your job? Are you one who will tell the world about this love? Name some ways (other than preaching) that you can do this. Might you run into difficulties at times? Is it true that you are not alone and that you will always receive the grace you need?

2. Nicodemus had been searching quietly for God in his life. Jesus said to him, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” According to Pope Francis, Jesus told Nicodemus that God was seeking Nicodemus first, loving him first and waiting for him to return love. Does that hold true for us too?

“Today’s Gospel ‘sets the stage’ for Nicodemus, who, while playing an important role in the religious and civil community of the time, has not ceased seeking God. He did not think: ‘I have arrived’; he did not cease seeking God ... In the nighttime dialogue with the Nazarene, Nicodemus finally understood that he had *already* been sought and awaited by God, that he was personally loved by Him. God always seeks us first, awaits us first, loves us first. ... In fact Jesus speaks to him in this way: ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life’(John 3:16).”

*Angelus, Saint Peter’s Square  
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity  
Sunday 11 June 2017*

**Readings for the Week**

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

**Monday, March 5, 2018:**

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

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018:**

Daniel 3:25, 34-43

+ Matthew 18:21-35

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018:**

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

+ Matthew 5:17-19

**Thursday, March 8, 2018:**

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

**Friday, March 9, 2018:**

Hosea 14:2-10

+ Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday, March 10, 2018:**

Hosea 6:1-6

+ Luke 18:9-14

**Sunday, March 11, 2018:**

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

+ Ephesians 2:4-10

+ John 3:14-21



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- Pope Francis*

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--Toni DeFelice, LMSW, CASAC  
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