

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



*“Rejoice in the
Lord always.*

I shall say it again: rejoice!”

Philippians 4:4

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2015

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Rev. John Sureau, Rev. Fidelis Ezeani

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacons: Deacon Frank A. Odin, Deacon William Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith

Business Manager: Deacon Thomas J. Bast

Coordinator of Faith Formation: April Kleinlaut **Music Director:** Christopher Ferraro

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday – Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

6:30 a.m.

and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.,

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,

12:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

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

210 S. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst

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.

New Sunday Mass Schedule Effective

**Weekend of
January 2-3, 2016**

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.,

10:00 a.m.,

12:00 Noon,

and 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.

YEAR OF MERCY

PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

**THIS TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 15th**

7:30 p.m.

Bishop Nelson Perez, Presiding



A perfect way to prepare for the Lord during these Advent days is to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation! We're having a special **Parish Communal Penance Service with Individual Confession and Absolution this Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.** Bishop Nelson Perez, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will be our guest presider and preacher to lead us in prayer for this liturgy at the beginning of the Year of Mercy. Bishop Perez is a dynamic and engaging preacher who will come with a great message of hope and inspiration.

At this service we will pray a Liturgy of the Word together, led by Bishop Perez, so that together we can hear the invitation to God's mercy and draw strength from one another's prayer as we acknowledge our common need to be healed and forgiven. Then we will have the opportunity to go to individual confession and receive absolution.

What great grace and blessings we will find in this beautiful Penance Service! It's the perfect way to celebrate this sacrament during Advent, especially in this Year of Mercy. Make sure you give yourself the gift of being there!



Sacrament of Reconciliation

In addition to the Advent Penance Service on December 15th, we have provided a number of opportunities for you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the Advent season.

Individual Confessions:

Monday through Friday—Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Saturday, December 19th - 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Third Sunday of Advent

We continue our journey through these hope-filled days of longing and preparation as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent this weekend. This Third Sunday of Advent marks an important point in our season. Later this week, on Thursday, December 17, we begin the "second phase" of Advent, when we turn our attention more specifically toward the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. This was alluded to in the Prayer after Communion for this Sunday's Mass, when we prayed, "*We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.*"

However, it is Advent joy that is the overwhelming and prominent characteristic of the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*. Some expressions of that joy can be found in the lighting of the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath and by the rose-colored vestments the priest and deacon might wear. The readings pick up on this theme of joy: the prophet Zephaniah, in the first reading, exhorts all of Israel to "shout for joy" and to "sing joyfully." St. Paul in the second reading reminds us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." The source of this joy is both the nearness of the Lord that we already experience, and the coming of the Lord in the rapidly-approaching celebration of the Nativity.

Elsewhere in this bulletin we have a special insert for the Third Week of Advent, and, as I hope you have been doing for the previous two weeks, I hope you will refer to those pages and use them as a basis for your Advent prayer and spiritual reflections throughout the upcoming week.

Parish Penance Service for Advent and the Year of Mercy

I do hope you will give yourself a treat and come to our Advent Parish Penance Service for the Year of Mercy this Tuesday night, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the church.

Anyone who comes to a Penance Service knows what a beautiful and moving experience it is. The highlight, of course, is the opportunity to individually celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive absolution. However, that cel-

ebration of reconciliation takes place within the context of a very powerful communal prayer service of readings, songs, prayers and preaching. We have invited Bishop Nelson Perez (my co-host on *Insight*) to come and preside and preach at this service, so we can expect some enriching and dynamic preaching. There's something very touching and stirring about a communal prayer service to pray for penance and reconciliation; hearts are moved and the experience of God's love, tenderness and mercy is palpable because of the prayers of everyone gathered. It is the perfect way to celebrate the gift of God's forgiveness as our sins are absolved through the ministry of the Church as present in the ministry of the priest, and it's a truly amazing way to joyfully prepare the way of the Lord this Advent season.

Three Parish Events

Three parish events, two that have already taken place and one that is coming up, warrant a mention at this time.

First, we should extend our congratulations to all who offer themselves in the Van Ministry to the Homeless. That ministry celebrated its one-year anniversary with a special celebration on Friday, December 4. I have written before about the fantastic work being done by this ministry and I want to thank all those who work in and support the Van Ministry to the Homeless.

Second, I wish to thank all who participated in the extraordinary celebration of Lessons and Carols this past Friday night, December 11. As always, it was a magnificent presentation of Advent music and readings that perfectly expressed the spirituality of this season and truly helped us to "keep Advent" in a prayerful and joyful way. I am very grateful to Chris Ferraro, our Director of Music, for all that he does all year long to make OLPH "the place to be" in terms of our liturgical music; his leadership in an event such as Lessons and Carols demonstrates how blessed we are to have him here.

Finally, this coming Friday, December 18, a late-Advent night, will be the occasion of our annual Christmas Pageant. This event has become bigger and better with each passing year, and seeing the children enter into this prayerful presentation of the Christmas story fills one's

PASTOR'S PAGE

heart and soul with joy and light. I know you'll enjoy being there, so do come out and support our young parishioners in this offering they make. I myself will continue my custom of making my contribution to the effort by playing trumpet in the band — my annual return to playing the trumpet!

Bambinelli Sunday

You can read the announcement elsewhere in this bulletin that we are starting a new custom here at OLPH, our own Bambinelli Sunday! It's a custom done in Rome, but we'll put our own spin on it by celebrating it on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Adults and children: be sure to bring your figure of the Christ Child from your home manger scene, and we will have a blessing for all these figures at all the Masses next weekend.

New Sunday Mass Schedule

Here's another reminder, to continue to make sure everyone is aware of it: the new Sunday Mass schedule begins the weekend of January 2-3, 2016. The new schedule will be: Saturday (Sunday anticipated) — 5:00 p.m.; Sunday — 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, 5:00 p.m. Keep alert for it! Be ready! Spread the word!

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,



FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 18, 2015

7:00 p.m.—Church

All are welcome!!!



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week

Each day during the third week of Advent, at the evening meal, two purple candles and one pink candle are lighted. The following prayers accompany the lighting of the candles.

All make the sign of the cross: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



Someone at table reads the Scripture assigned to the liturgy of the day (one or both of the readings may be used). See the list of daily readings printed elsewhere in this bulletin. Then the Leader continues:

Leader: **Lift up your hearts.**

All respond: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The Leader prays: **God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these your gifts with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

After the meal, the Leader says: **Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

All respond: **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**



Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....



The weekdays from December 17 up to and including December 24 are ordered in a more direct way to preparing for the Nativity of the Lord.

— Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar

Advent is the season of hope and longing. Jesus is the One who fulfills our hopes and satisfies the longings of our hearts. As our hopes and longings intensify, even the prayer of the Church takes on a special sense of urgency. Throughout the world, Christians invoke Jesus' coming by praying the "O Antiphons." These short but powerful petitions use the ancient Messianic titles to describe who Jesus truly is and what He will do for His people.

On December 17 pray: "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation."

On December 18 pray: "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

***On December 19 pray:** “O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.”*

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

—Collect of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior’s coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

—Another prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

The glory of God is a living person and the life of each living person is the vision of God.

—Irenaeus of Lyons
Second century

Our brokenness is the wound through which the full power of God can penetrate our being and transfigure us in God. Loneliness is not something from which we must flee but the place from where we can cry out to God, where God will find us and we can find God. Yes, through our wounds the power of God can penetrate us and become like rivers of living water to irrigate the arid earth within us. Thus we may irrigate the arid earth of others, so that hope and love are reborn.

—Jean Vanier

Rise up, Lord, with mercy for Sion, for the time of mercy has come, the time has come at last.

—Cistercian liturgy



In the annual celebration of the approaching birth of the Savior this solidarity with Christ will not only be recalled in memory, but indeed will be newly established and secured through the presence of the Lord. Every Christian celebration is indeed not just a remembrance and memorial, somewhat like an annual birthday celebration. Rather, the celebration of Christmas becomes a faith-filled and loving encounter with the Lord of salvation and thereby a true coming of the Messiah into our own time. Thus Advent is not just a make-believe play, a pious piece of devotional theater, but a true approach of the Lord.

—from *The Key to Faith: Meditations on the Liturgical Year*
by Adolf Adam

YEAR OF MERCY

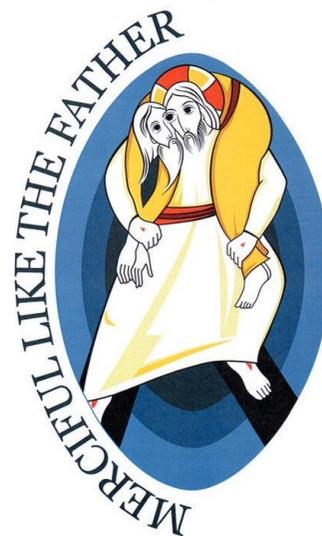
EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

The Jubilee of Mercy began this past Tuesday on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This Jubilee of Mercy is an opportunity for the Church and its members—each one of us—to rediscover God's gift of mercy so we may become "missionaries of mercy."

Pope Francis called for this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in April with the publication of the Papal Bull *Misericordiae Vultus*. Throughout the year ahead, we will publish excerpts of this document as well as other resources about this special time of mercy. We continue with the fourth paragraph of the document in this week's edition of the bulletin.

4. *I have chosen the date of 8 December because of its rich meaning in the recent history of the Church. In fact, I will open the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which for too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way. It was a new phase of the same evangelization that had existed from the beginning. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction. The Church sensed a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father's love in the world.*

You can read the entire document by going to the new OLPH website or by visiting the Jubilee of Mercy website at www.im.va.



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON @ OLPH

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m.,
and 12:00 Midnight Mass
Christmas Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The 6:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Masses will not be celebrated on Christmas Day.



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Vigil of Solemnity

Thursday, December 31, 2015

5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2016

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

The 6:30 a.m. Mass will not be celebrated on January 1st.

PARISH LIFE AND MINISTRY

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH

Each year children gather with their families in St. Peter's Square in Rome for "Bambinelli Sunday." The families bring with them the figure of the Christ Child from their family crèche (Nativity scene) at home, and the figurines are blessed by the Pope.

Taking a cue from this tradition, we'll be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH next weekend, December 19-20. You are invited to bring to Mass your figure of the Christ Child from your home crèche. We'll offer a blessing of these figurines at all the Masses next weekend.



Calling All Boys & Girls

(Ages 10 through 17)

DO YOU WANT TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH?

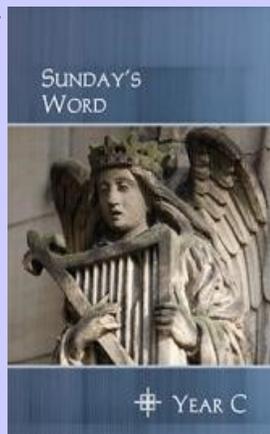
The Junior Legion of Mary is a perfect blend of prayer and works that will lead you to a moral life, and you will have fun doing it. Some of the works we are currently involved with is the May crowning of the Blessed Mother, helping serve at the Community Meals, making rosaries, visiting nursing homes, sending cards to our military, just to name a few.

The word Legion means army. The Legion of Mary is our Blessed Mother's army. Our ammunition is the rosary and the Miraculous Medal.

There is no obligation to join. *Come to a meeting held in Room 24 of the School at 1:30 p.m. on any Sunday* and see what it is all about. There will be two members of the Senior Legion of Mary present at all meetings. Refreshments will be served.

THE NEW SUNDAY'S WORD FOR 2016

The new *Sunday's Word* book for the new liturgical cycle, Year C (2016) which began Sunday, November 29, the First Sunday of Advent, is now available at the rectory and may be purchased for \$2.00.



Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards



Join in the Mass intentions for the Masses of Christmas by using the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards which are now available throughout the church. These cards are a wonderful and meaningful way for you to remember your loved ones at Christmas and to have them prayed for at our Christmas Masses. Return the envelope with your donation in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory, and keep the card to send your Christmas Spiritual Bouquet.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR ALL USHERS

There will be a meeting for all ushers where information about the new Mass schedule will be discussed. Choose ONE of these meetings to attend: **Monday, December 14, at 7:45 p.m., OR Tuesday, December 15, 2:30 p.m.** Both meetings will be held in the church.

All ushers are expected to attend. If you cannot attend, please inform Mike Williams of the reason. We look forward to seeing you there as we go over important details that will allow for a smooth transition of the ushers' ministry into the new Mass schedule which will begin in January.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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

Monday, December 14—7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 21—7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 28—7:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer

All are invited to pray Evening Prayer on Saturday 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**

HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

In response to Bishop Murphy's call for parishes to urgently pray for peace because of all the unrest in the world, 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.

Prayer for Peace

Following Bishop Murphy's request, we are asked to pray this prayer privately, and we are encouraged to use this prayer as a part of all meetings and gatherings held here at OLPH.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
who are called the Prince of Peace,
Who are yourself our peace
and our reconciliation,
Who so often said 'Peace to you',
Grant us peace!*

*Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice
and brotherly love.*

*Banish from their hearts
whatever might endanger peace.*

*Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and
defend the great gift of peace.*

*May all peoples of the earth
become as brothers and sisters.*

*May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign al-
ways over us all. AMEN*

Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!
(Pope Saint John XXIII)



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY: 11AM TO 7PM
TUESDAY: 9AM TO 2PM
WEDNESDAY: 2PM TO 8PM
THURSDAY: 9AM TO 3PM
SATURDAY: 8AM TO 1PM



Third Week of Advent



Level 4 Parent/Child Workshop

Enjoy some of the pictures from our Advent-themed workshop with Level 4 families! Visit our parish's Facebook page to see more pictures.



Gaudete Sunday

Today we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath. We call today "Gaudete" Sunday, from the Latin word which means "Be Joyful!" We are filled with joy as we await the birth of Christ!

Stay Connected!

Want to keep up-to-date with meetings, events, and snow days? Make sure we can reach you through one or more of the following:

Email

(call us to confirm if you're not sure)

Text Messages

(call us to find out how to sign up!)

Facebook

(follow us at OLPH Religious Education)



Level 2 Parent Meeting: First Penance

Level 2 Parents are reminded that on **December 19th** there will be a mandatory sacrament meeting with Msgr. Joe on First Penance (Reconciliation). Parents are to meet in the auditorium during their child's regular session time. Important details about First Penance will be discussed as well as information about First Holy Communion in the Spring. We ask that all families please send at least one parent/guardian for this meeting.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.567.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Marie Foster—631.592.1509—cffer@oloph.org
- † Community Meal: Gigi Gracey—631.943.0095—gigigracey1962@gmail.com—Deborah McDonald -516.662.2529—Dnk875@aol.com
- † Driving Ministry: Maureen Russo—631.226.4182
- † Golden Age Society: Dolores Barone—631.957.3432
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@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: Kristine Doyle—631.804.3466—Kristine Kelly—631-412-5629—stbernardleague@oloph.org
- † 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: Caroline Grogan—(631)225-7688—straightclaw@optonline.net
- † Widows/Widowers: Rita Gardell—631.252.5494

NEW Food Pantry List!

**MAC & CHEESE
CANNED FRUIT
CAKE MIX
PIE CRUST
CORN MUFFIN MIX
HOT CHOCOLATE
COFFEE
PUDDING
PEANUT BUTTER
PAPER TOWELS**

Thank you for your continued generosity.
Cut out this list and bring it with you
when you go shopping!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of
Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

Saturday 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise...”

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

**THE
bluedoor
BOUTIQUE**

Hours of Operation:

Monday: 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Saturday: 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

The entrance to the Thrift Boutique is on the south side of the parish campus, next to the St. Vincent de Paul bins. Park using the Gates Street / High Street Parking Lot.

The Blue Door Thrift Boutique is our parish's latest effort to serve the poor and vulnerable in our parish community—and a great way to get a deal for our parishioners! In little over a month, we have ministered to many who are supported by our Homeless Ministry and Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Take note of our hours and visit the Blue Door. It is a wonderful place that has many wonderful items—from clothing to cooking ware, from religious items to rare finds—you might find helpful. Meet the wonderful offerers who make it such a place of welcome. When you shop at The Blue Door, you not only get a great deal but help support our parish's ongoing work and ministry.

Want to get involved in the Blue Door?

E-mail to thebluedoor@oloph.org for more information!

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish social ministries are working together to support life at all stages. All gifts should be returned by Sunday evening, December 13th.

If you still have a gift to be dropped off, please do so by the end of the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday. If you are unable to drop your gift by then, please bring it to the Parish Office on Monday, December 14, 2015.

Remember....

- Gifts for St. Vincent de Paul (green tags) *should be wrapped*.
- All other gifts **should NOT be wrapped**.
- Gift certificates/gift cards should be returned to the Parish Office or in the collection. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE GIFT CARDS BY THE TREE.**

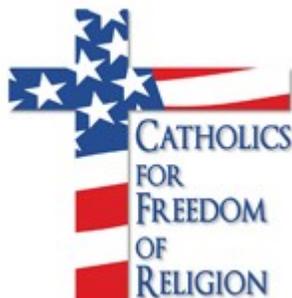
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Last Friday, our Homeless Ministry gathered to celebrate one year of service and care for the poor and the vulnerable in our local community. Many who work “out front” and “behind the scenes” came together for the celebration of the Eucharist followed by dinner and fellowship. Take a look at some of the pictures from the evening below!



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Little Sisters of the Poor and U.S. Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court's decision to hear Little Sisters of

the Poor vs. Burwell means that another group of Christians must beg permission to practice their faith. The Little Sisters is an international Roman Catholic Congregation founded in 1836 and operates nursing homes for the poor in 31 countries, including 30 homes here in the U.S.

As Catholics, they follow Church doctrine and thus don't include coverage for abortion-drugs, contraception or sterilization in their employee health plans. The Becket Fund explains, "Although the government exempts church and church-run ministries from the HHS (contraception) mandate, it argues the Little Sisters aren't religious enough for this exemption. Instead, it demands that the Little Sisters comply or pay crippling IRS fines." (spectator.org, 11/16/15)

However, many labor unions and large corporations, including McDonald's and Cracker Barrel, have received a waiver for an exemption from ACA (Affordable Care Act). (obamacarewaiver.org, 2/3/15)

"Selective enforcement of the law is the first sign of tyranny," wrote The Washington Times. "So far, seven states and 1,372 businesses, unions and other institutions have received waivers from the (ACA) law. (freedomoutpost.com, 4/26/14)

"We will not compromise our faith. We will not accept rules and regulations that violate our consciences or impose actions and practices that go against the moral teachings of our faith and our Church."

Bishop William Murphy,
Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY

Saint Bernard League

We need Saint Bernards!

Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family or two in need within our parish community? A number of our "St. Bernard's" from last year have moved on to college and we are in need of some new hands and hearts (and shovels!)



At this time, we are in need of St. Bernard's for the following areas:

We have families in need on the following streets (with area of house #).

S. 13 th (200s and 300s)	S. 8th St. (300s)
N. Wellwood Ave. (800s)	Pecan St. (500s)
S. 3 rd (400s)	S. 4th St. (700s)
S. 5th St. (300s)	Dominick Ct. (teens)

We have already assigned close to 50 families.....so we would like to get the ones above assigned ASAP!

If you can help, please e-mail to stbernardleague@oloph.org. We'd love to have all families matched up before the first snow of the season.

MIDDLE AGES

Are you in your late 40s, 50s, or early 60s?

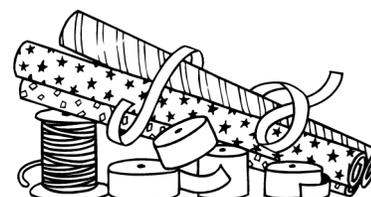
Are you looking to meet others your age for times of spirituality, socializing and social action?

Our next meeting: **Wednesday, December 16** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 10 in the Old School basement.

Projects include: Van lunches, and wrapping Giving Tree presents for the Veterans in Yaphank.

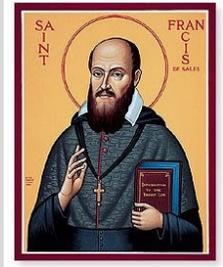
Please bring scissors, ribbon and medium gift bags.

For information call Gail Tonnessen at 631-957-1449 or email her at gtonness@optonline.net



OLPH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Hi! My name is St. Francis de Sales, and I'm the patron saint of writers. That's why your Pastoral Council has picked me as their patron and intercessor in this column which they offer to you. Here we will grow in our appreciation of the Catholic faith through questions and answers. So, I encourage all of you to send me your questions about Catholicism. All questions are welcomed and all will remain just between you and me (we won't print your name in the bulletin). Please e-mail pastoralcouncil@oloph.org and each time this column appears, a new question will be answered. So, let's get started! I'll pray for you what I pray for everyone: May the Lord grant you His peace!



“Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you.” – St. Jerome

Question 11: Why can't I just ask God for forgiveness at home instead of having to go to confession and tell a priest I'm sorry for my sin?

The good news is you want to ask for forgiveness, which is step one of the healing process. But if you are truly sorry for your sin, why the need for a physical confession? Can't God hear you at home also? To answer this question, we will first touch on sin itself, then we will touch on the Sacraments of Healing.

Sin is a reality. Sin is present in human history and any attempt to ignore it or to give this dark reality other names would be futile (CCC 386). Without the knowledge Revelation gives of God, we cannot recognize sin clearly and are tempted to explain it as merely a developmental flaw, a psychological weakness, a mistake, or the necessary consequence of an inadequate social culture, etc. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for us can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving Him and loving one another (CCC 387). By committing a sin — and in one way or another we do this every day (we are human) — we separate ourselves from God. So if we are separated from God, how can we be reconciled back to God? Reconciliation!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is just that. We separate ourselves from God and then God reconciles us back to Him. The word “reconcile” can be defined as to restore to friendship or to bring back into harmony. But that still doesn't answer the question of needing to physically go to Confession. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “the Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation, even among her own members” (CCC 1421).

Notice how our Lord Jesus is considered the “physician of our souls and bodies.” Imagine you felt a pain in your tooth and instead of physically going to the dentist, you just asked God to make it go away. Now, depending on the problem, your pain may go away, but if you need root canal, chances are you will need to make that appointment. Physically going to Confession may be similar to that doctor's appointment. But the good news is you will not feel the pain of the root canal, and you will not be numb after!

We can always ask God for forgiveness, but there is something special, something real, that makes going to Confession much deeper than just asking for forgiveness at home. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (and yes, it is one of the seven sacraments of the Church) focuses on the root of the problem, in this case, our sin. Recall the word “sacrament” is defined as an effective sign given to us by Jesus through which we share in God's life.

Now you may have noticed different names or titles associated with this sacrament, words such as conversion, penance, confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Some of these terms help explain the physical aspect of going to Confession.

This sacrament is called the sacrament of conversion because it makes sacramentally present Jesus' call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father from whom we have strayed by sin.

It is also called the sacrament of penance, since it consecrates the Christian sinner's personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction (CCC 1423). The word "penance" can be defined as an act of showing sorrow or repentance for sin.

It is also called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. This is key in answering your question. In a profound sense it is also a "confession" — acknowledgement and praise — of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful men and women.

It is called the sacrament of forgiveness since by the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent (that's us sinners) "pardon and peace." Again, the priest, acting in the name of our Father and Lord, grants us absolution for our sins, something we cannot receive on our own.

It is called the sacrament of reconciliation because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: "Be reconciled to God." He who lives by God's merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord's call, as in Matthew 5:24: "Go; first be reconciled to your brother" (CCC 1424).

As you can see, our Lord Jesus Christ, acting through our priests, is the doctor of our souls and body. So though we may sin every day (we all do through our thoughts, actions, words, etc...), we may not make it to Confession every day. Trust me, for some of us it may be years or decades. But take baby steps and strive for once a month, once a quarter, or at least once a year. In this Year of Mercy, make it a point to physically go. Look at the hours of Confession in our bulletin or any local parish. The good news is you don't have to make an appointment and wait three months. You will not have to sit in the waiting room listening to some elevator music or watching some annoying talk show. You can just sit in the church in peace, talking to God, listening to God, and confess what is on your mind to a priest who will grant you absolution. Yes, absolution! You will not be judged, and you will not be crucified (Jesus already did that for us). You may feel heavy and weighted down going in, but you will feel light as a feather coming out. Jesus is the healer...now go in peace!

It's time to celebrate with family, friends and our fellow parishioners!

Please join our

Parish Family Spanish Prayer Group

Thursday, December 17th

7:00 p.m.

School Cafeteria

"Jesus Es El Camino La Verdad y La Vida"

(Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life)

for a delicious dinner!



All are welcome!

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

El grupo de oración “Jesús es el camino la verdad y la vida”. Te invita a alabar y glorificar a DIOS todos los jueves a las 7:00 p.m. en la cafetería. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Únete a nosotros en oración, Alabanzas y reflexión de la palabra de DIOS.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia. Lleva la bendición a tu casa. Interesados favor llamar a Virginia Constantino al (631) 957-1149.

El sacramento del bautizo. Las ceremonias bautismales se llevan a cabo cada segundo y cuarto domingo del mes. Los padres que necesiten bautizar a sus hijos deben atender alas sección de charlas, estas charlas son cada primer y tercer lunes del mes.

Para más información sobre los sacramentos del bautizo matrimonio y servicio pastorales. Unción de los enfermos y la Eucaristía, Contacto Padre Juan Sureau - 631.226-7725 x. 224 o email: jsureau@oloph.org o en español, Irma González 631-620-2401 o correo electrónico: lanegra628@yahoo.com.

Lecturas del domingo 20 de Diciembre de 2015

4th domingo de Adviento

Primera lectura Miqueas 5: 1-4: Belén de ti saldrá el jefe de Israel el hijo del hombre. Un rey humilde que traerá paz y salvación. El que anunciaron los profetas. Descendiente del Rey David cuyo reino no tendrá fin.

Segunda lectura Hebreos 10:5-10: Vengo para cumplir tu voluntad. Jesús se entrega completamente a la voluntad de su padre. El día antes de ser entregado Lucas 22:42 pide al Padre, si es posible aparta de mi esta copa, pero que no se haga mi voluntad sino la tuya. Que en nuestro si, se haga en nosotros también su voluntad y no la nuestra.

El sato Evangelio 1:39-45: He aquí la esclava del señor hágase en me según tu palabra. ¡Como respuesta Dios a los hombres! No los salva sin que ellos mismos quieran. El salvador ha sido deseado y acogido por una Madre. Una jovencita acepta libre y conscientemente ser la servidora del señor y llega a ser la Madre de Dios.

Nuestro mundo está lleno de gente ordinaria, humilde, que vive en oscuros pueblecitos, y sin embargo algunas personas como ésas han cambiado el curso de este mundo. Dentro de la historia de la Iglesia honramos hoy a la primera persona que procede de ese medio ambiente ordinario. Una frase sencilla suya, un humilde “Sí”, cambió el curso del mundo y de la futura Iglesia y derriba el poder del mal con la aparente debilidad, humildad, obediencia y servicio. Una mujer sencilla y un niño frágil están en el origen de nuestra salvación. Reconozcamos la forma sorprendente y asombrosa de la venida de Dios. María Su SÍ a Dios, cambio la historia de la humanidad. El SÍ de María y el de Jesús nos llama a nosotros y a toda la Iglesia hoy a dar nuestro SÍ incondicional a Dios. Pidamos en esta eucaristía que podamos unirnos a Jesús y a María en su SÍ. Y de ese modo podremos cambiar el curso del mundo hoy.



Ha llegado el tiempo de celebrar con amigos y la parroquia!

Eres nuestro invitado

Únete al grupo de oración en espa ñol
“Jesús es el camino, la verdad y la vida”

Para la deliciosa cena navideña
Jueves, diciembre 17 a las 7 p.m.

En la Cafetería de la parroquia

Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, Lindenhurst



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
Deacon Tom Bast, Business Manager	204	tbast@oloph.org
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Patti Chavis, Parish Secretary	212	pchavis@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	religiously@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Coordinator of Faith Formation	257	acarbaugh@oloph.org
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Fr. John Sureau, Associate Pastor	203	jsureau@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@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 Fr. John at the Parish Office to begin the process.

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 Fr. John at the Parish Office.

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)
Lori Byron
Msgr. Joe DeGrococo
Marie Foster
Greg Guido
Sonia Hansen
John Keller
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
Christina Taparata
James Totino
Pete Triolo

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Robert Dobres
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
Deacon Tom Bast
Gerry Chille (Chair)
Ed Cirella
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrococo
Bob Dobres
Bob Meade
John Reynolds

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Robert Becker
Lynn Bergin
Mark Costantino
Msgr. Joe DeGrococo
Chris Ferraro
Jenine Jimenez-Spina
Amy Keller
Barbara McPhail
Deacon Doug Smith
Fr. John Sureau
Mike Williams

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

WE CELEBRATE

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

-Rite of Baptism



Colette Grace Marie Ladolcetta

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:

Ellen Primavera
Virginia (Jean) Romano
Edward Jensen
Eugenia Cedeno

"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."

PLEASE REMEMBER THERE ARE TWO COMMUNION STATIONS ON EACH SIDE IN THE CENTER AISLE UP FRONT

Everyone is reminded that there are two Communion stations up front in the center aisle, one directly in the center and one to the side in front of the center pew. Please alternate as you go to Communion, with one person going to the center and the next person going to the side. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to create an orderly and reverent movement during the Communion Procession.

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Teresa Smith</i>	<i>Julia Fredereck</i>
<i>Patricia Grasso</i>	<i>Bernadette Sinnott</i>
<i>Teresa Grasso</i>	<i>Rosalie Grottola</i>
<i>Eliza Fielding</i>	<i>Mario Lotito</i>
<i>Ron Ferrugiari</i>	<i>Salvatore Rizzolo</i>
<i>Deborah Manno</i>	<i>Tony Gallo</i>
<i>Rosemary DeMartino</i>	<i>Paul Beyer & Family</i>
<i>Perry Iannacone</i>	<i>Patricia Ann Collier</i>
<i>Donato Panessa</i>	<i>Vanessa Faith Probst</i>
<i>Carol Gilroy</i>	<i>Mary Doran</i>
<i>Joan Cox</i>	<i>Janet Sheilds</i>
<i>Catherine Tamburino</i>	<i>Joseph Sciascia</i>
<i>CarolAnn Alma</i>	

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. To have your name or the name of a loved one listed in our parish bulletin, please call the Parish Office at 631-226-7725 x. 200. Names remain in the bulletin for three weeks.

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 14— Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

6:30	Jean Szabo
12:15	Eleanor & Henry Zuber
7:00	Devotions

TUESDAY, December 15— Advent Weekday

6:30	Frank Corso
12:15	Rita Brown
7:30	Parish Penance Service

WEDNESDAY, December 16— Advent Weekday

6:30	Josephine Bochicchio
12:15	Frank Valente
12:45	Exposition

THURSDAY, December 17— Late Advent Weekday

6:30	Matthew Cronin
12:15	John J. Casey

FRIDAY, December 18— Late Advent Weekday

6:30	Natalie Magnani
12:15	John William Stoker

SATURDAY, December 19— Late Advent Weekday

8:00	Doris Burrell
4:00 – 4:45	Confessions

Vigil for FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00	Lee & Abbott Family
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Sunday, December 20— FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:30	For the People of the Parish
8:00	The Pecere Family
9:30	The Sottile Family
11:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
12:30	Carol Ann Mastrodeca & Marcella Frances Hoffman
5:00	Eugene Gardell

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 14, 2015

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul	Room 24
2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Room 24
7:00 p.m.	Devotions	Church
7:15 p.m.	Level 8 Classes	School
7:45 p.m.	Ushers Meeting	Church

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

2:30 p.m.	Ushers Meeting	Church
4:00 p.m.	CYO Cheerleading	Auditorium
7:00 p.m.	Holy Name Society Meeting	Room 18
7:30 p.m.	Parish Penance Service	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul	Room 24
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
7:00 p.m.	Homeless Van Ministry	Room 13
7:30 p.m.	Level 7 Classes	School
7:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts	Cafeteria

Thursday, December 17, 2015

2–6:00p.m.	Church Closed for Cleaning	Church
4:00 p.m.	CYO Cheerleading	Auditorium
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 19
5:30 p.m.	Pageant Rehearsal	Church
7:30 p.m.	Parent Baptismal Prep	Room 16
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

Friday, December 18, 2015

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul	Room 24
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (Young Adults)	Cafeteria

Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Level 1- 5 Classes	School
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul	Room 24
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

Sunday, December 20, 2015

11:00a.m.	RCIA /RCIC Dismissal	Church
12:00p.m.	Community Meal	Cafeteria
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:00 p.m.	Prayers for Peace	Church
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

WEEKLY OFFERING UPDATE Dec. 5/6, 2015

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	370	161	\$3,394.50
6:30 a.m.	95	37	1,315.00
8:00 a.m.	250	89	2,535.00
9:30 a.m.	345	89	1,768.00
11:00 a.m.	375	143	3,492.00
12:30 p.m.	295	83	2,000.00
5:00 p.m.	296	46	1,490.50
Total coin:			24.39
Mail-ins:			669.00
Children's Envelopes		26	66.32
Faith Direct			1,979.25
Special Needs	72	19	495.00
TOTAL	2,098	693	\$19,228.96
2014 TOTAL	2,125	686	\$18,768.24
Candles			\$1,002.78
Poor Box			\$384.35
1st Saturday			\$152.26

New Sunday Mass Schedule Effective Weekend of January 2-3, 2016

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m.,
12:00 Noon,
and 5:00 p.m.

AS A REMINDER

**ALL 2015 pledges
For the *Catholic Ministries Appeal*
must be paid-up by
December 31st, 2015
to ensure that OLPH receives
the benefit of the rebate.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TO BE CANCELLED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

There will be no Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on *Wednesday, December 23* since that is the time the church will have to be decorated for Christmas.

Exposition and Benediction will resume as usual the following *Wednesday, December 30*. Thank you for your understanding.



TO
OLPH
November 2015!

Mr. & Mrs. Jason Segesto & Family
Mr. Edward Matthew Schavel
Mr. & Mrs. Marlon Shivana Narine & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Karyn Santini & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Renna & Family
Mrs. Julia Naccari & Family
Mr. Joseph Cardinale
Ms. Kellie Watson & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Peppers
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Crispo
Ms. Lorraine Silvestri & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wichern & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Armando Espinoza & Family

Preparing for December 20, 2015 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you
by the Lord would be fulfilled.”*

Luke 1:45

Micah 5:1-4a

Salvation will come through a “messiah,” an anointed ruler. The Book of Micah shares with Isaiah the expectation that God will deliver Israel through a king in the line of David. Bethlehem-Ephrathah is the home of the Davidic line. The Messiah will bring about peace, reconciliation between God and humankind, through His very person.

Hebrews 10:5-10

The Christian faith professes that the sacrifice of Christ is the only true atoning act for sin. The Old Testament sacrifices could not effect true spiritual benefits but only prefigured this work of Christ. Jesus knew that accomplishing the will of the Father—reconciling God with His people—meant the complete sacrificial offering of his humanity back to God.

Luke 1:39-45

Luke’s “infancy narrative” presents parallel scenes of angelic announcements of the birth of John the Baptist and of Jesus, and of the birth, circumcision, and presentation of John and Jesus. In this parallelism, the ascendancy of Jesus over John is stressed: John is prophet of the Most High (Luke 1:76); Jesus is Son of the Most High (Luke 1:32). John is great in the sight of the Lord (Luke 1:15); Jesus will be Great (an attribute of God alone) (Luke 1:32). John will go before the Lord (Luke 1:16–17); Jesus will be Lord (Luke 1:43; 2:11). This contrast is encapsulated in the visitation scene and the dialogue between the mothers of John and Jesus.

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. If you were expecting a majestic ruler how would you have felt about the stable and manger? When you experience poverty in your life, do you accept it as a meeting place with God or do you run from it?
2. What is the mission of the Messiah? Why is Christ’s offering presented as effective whereas the “sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings” of the Old Covenant seem less so?
3. The infant “leaped for joy” in his mother’s womb. Discuss this moment as mankind’s welcome to the savior. How close do you come to “leaping for joy” when you recognize God’s presence in your life?

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 14, 2015:

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
+ Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15, 2015:

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
+ Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16, 2015:

Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25
+ Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17, 2015:

Genesis 49:2, 8-10
+ Matthew 1:1-17

Friday, December 18, 2015:

Jeremiah 23:5-8 + Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday, December 19, 2015:

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a +
Luke 1:5-25

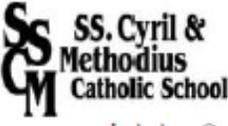
Sunday, December 20, 2015

Micah 5:1-4a + Hebrews 10:5-10
+ Luke 1:39-45



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<p>The Sign Shop, Inc. 1270 Merrick Rd., Copiague, NY 11726 (631) 226-4145 John Prete, Parishioner</p>	<p>MVM Contracting All Phases of Home Improvements Dependable Free Estimates Mike Cell 631-327-5831 Licensed & Insured</p>	<p>PHONE 631-225-5144 E-MAIL: info@stoneunltd.com Website: www.Stoneunlimited.org STONE UNLIMITED, Inc. MONUMENT MANUFACTURING & INSCRIPTION WORK Mowimow po polsku</p>	<p>Sergio's ITALIAN RESTAURANT LUNCH & DINNER - "7 DAYS" 541-6554 5422 Merrick Rd., Massapequa</p>
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Celebrating Advent.....

Our celebration of Advent is preparing us well for Christmas! On Sunday, November 29th, our Family Life Ministry hosted its second annual "Getting Ready for Advent" celebration. Members of our parish's Community of Praise prayer group led the morning by presenting the prophets of Advent, including appearances from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch and Micah. Thanks to all who made the morning a wonderful experience of prayer, praise and fellowship! See page 10 for some great pictures from our Level 4 Retreat!



To see more photos and to keep up on other ministries check out the OLPH Facebook page.



...So we can be ready for Christmas!

Thanks to those in our parish who helped to place and prepare our parish Christmas lights last weekend. Want to be involved? Help us with the take-down on January 10, 2016 at 12 Noon.



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