

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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



*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means ‘God is with us.’”*

Matthew 1:23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016

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. Martin Kenny

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 Vigil: 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.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT OLPH

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m., and 12:00 Midnight Mass
Christmas Carols begin at 4:30 & 11:15 p.m.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon
The 5:00 p.m. Mass will not be celebrated on Christmas Day.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Vigil of Solemnity
Saturday, December 31, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.



2017 ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES START

Spirituality: Fulfilling Our Deepest Desires: Growing Closer to God



In this world, every person is on a journey. As Christians, we believe we are either journeying toward the beatific vision or we are on a path that is separation from God. Through the centuries, those who have traversed the path to holiness successfully have offered wisdom and counsel to others through their public and private writing. In this survey course, we will review the writings of four Doctors of the Church: St. Theresa of Avila, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. John of the Cross and St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Content of the course will be drawn from Ralph Martin's *The Fulfillment of All Desire*, available from Emmaus Road Publishing. (You do not need to buy the book in order to take the course.)

Thursdays: January 19, 26, February 2, 9 & 16

Instructor: Deacon Robert Becker

Room: TBA

To register, contact the Parish Office at 631.226.7725 X 200, e-mail to rabecker@optonline.net or return the form below.

Yes, please, Sign me up!

Spirituality: Fulfilling Our Deepest Desires: Growing Closer to God

Name _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

A fee of \$20 per person will be collected to cover the costs of materials.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

So, here we are, at our last Advent Sunday before this year's celebration of The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas). How well have you kept Advent this year? Have you really prepared your heart for Christ to be born in you? We're blessed with the longest possible Advent this year — this Fourth Week of Advent is a full week. So, if you still need to take some time out for spiritual preparation, there's still plenty of time to do so! Make the most of this last week.

Perhaps in these final days of Advent this week we could all be more conscious of how we spend our time, trying to be particularly attentive to how God is speaking to us, perhaps even in gentle whispers, and how he is asking us to do His will. Joseph takes center stage in our Gospel reading this week, as, at the prompting of an angel, Joseph offers his own "yes," his own *fiat*, to doing the Lord's will. Joseph, the just and righteous man, takes Mary into his home. What is the Lord asking us to do to prepare to receive Christ in our hearts more deeply? Is the Lord asking us to stretch beyond our "comfort zone" into the new, the unchartered and the unfamiliar? If so, can we nonetheless respond with the same "yes" that Joseph did? Perhaps the words of this week's Responsorial Psalm can be our constant companion throughout these last days of Advent, reminding us to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit: "*Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*"

A New Bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre

By now I am sure you have heard that Pope Francis has appointed a new Bishop for us. Bishop Murphy's retirement request, as required by church law when a Bishop turns 75, was submitted back in May of 2015, and just now accepted. Our new Bishop, to be formally installed on Tuesday, January 31 at St. Agnes Cathedral, is Bishop John Barres. Bishop Barres comes to us after being Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown, PA. You can read more about Bishop-designate Barres by going to our diocesan website, www.drvc.org.

Bishop Murphy is retiring after serving our diocese for the past 15 years, having been installed on September 5, 2001. I have had the pleasure of knowing Bishop Murphy well and serving him as his Secretary and on many diocesan projects he asked me to be part of over the years. He is a man of prayer and deep commitment to the Church

who tirelessly gave of himself to help others encounter Christ. We are grateful for his years of service to us and we should offer prayers for him in this time of transition.

Let's remember to pray for Bishop Barres, as well, as he prepares to take on his new role. Our Diocese is a large, complex one with many challenges facing it in the years ahead. We welcome Bishop Barres and offer him our prayers, congratulations and support.

No Confessions on Saturday, December 24, but yes, Confessions on Tuesday, December 20

Please remember that this coming Saturday, December 24, we will not be having the usual Saturday Confessions at 4:00 p.m., because it is Christmas Eve. We have added an extra time for Confessions this week, on Tuesday evening December 20, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Thank you for your attention to this.

The first set of bricks has been installed

Well, as of this writing, the first set of bricks has been installed, and, if I do say so myself, the bricks look great! **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO PHASE ONE OF OUR BRICK MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN!** Stop by and take a look at the Walkway to the Blessed Mother and find your brick; take some time to read the other memorializations, and offer some prayers. I'm glad we were able to get this done before we got deep into winter.

Reminder: we are now into **PHASE TWO OF BRICK MEMORIALIZATIONS!** We are continuing to memorialize the bricks down the walkway, picking up where we left off, and plenty of bricks are available. **Need a last-minute special Christmas gift? What a great idea this would be!** Please support the parish by memorializing a brick.

Once this next batch of Phase Two bricks has been installed, we'll look to have a blessing of the walkway, most likely in the springtime. Please watch the bulletin for information.

New Order of Celebrating Matrimony

There's much excitement in the world of liturgy, because as of the Feast of the Holy Family this year, Friday, December 30, the new Order of Celebrating Matrimony goes into effect and is to be the new ritual used in celebrating the Sacrament

of Matrimony.

The Church continues the ongoing reform of the liturgy, and, fifty-plus years after the Second Vatican Council, we are at a point where we are doing a “second wave,” so to speak, of revisions of our ritual books. Updated translations are being provided to further refine the translations done immediately after the Council in the 1960’s; the third edition of the Roman Missal, with its revision of Mass texts which went into effect in 2011, is perhaps the most noticeable example of this, although there are others as well (the Rite of Confirmation was recently updated as well).

There is really not all that much that is new in this second edition of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. Most of it involves simply an updated, revised translation of the same prayers and texts for the rite. There are some new options for texts, and some new elements such as the *Glory to God in the highest* now being required for all celebrations of Matrimony within Mass, a required acclamation to be sung by the assembly after the bride and groom have exchanged consent (to highlight the assembly’s participation), and an optional hymn or canticle of praise that can be sung by all after the exchange of rings.

Perhaps most important, though, is that any revision of a ritual book is the occasion to look not just at the new words, but at our entire approach to celebrating the sacrament, and the way the ritual is enacted. As we explore and understand more deeply the ritual the Church gives us, we can soon realize that certain so-called “traditional” wedding practices are not traditional at all and may in fact be antithetical to Christian faith. However, the Christian faith perspective might seem foreign to many of us because we are barraged by the advertising and excess of the wedding industry. As a result, wedding propaganda that has more to do with profit and consumerism rather than Christian values often influences couples preparing for marriage. Many of the social customs associated with weddings are accepted without questions regarding their appropriateness or meaning, and this is unfortunate since often these customs are non-Christian and even anti-Christian. At some point, every bride and groom being married must ask themselves a bottom line question: What do they want their wedding to speak of: values of commercialism, profit and ostentatious display, or Christian values of commitment, love and faith in Jesus Christ as expressed through the symbols and rituals of the Church?

Remember, liturgy is a language that expresses in enacted, bodily form the meaning and theology of the sacrament. When the Church celebrates sacraments in liturgical ritual, we do things in a certain way because we believe that it is within the ritual pattern of behavior that the religious meaning of what we are doing is expressed. One example of this is to remember that in the Sacrament of Matrimony, both the bride and groom are equal in dignity and prominence, since together they themselves are the ministers of the sacrament. Seeing the wedding day as “the bride’s day,” and introducing other “fairy tale” aspects, is often incompatible with the Catholic understanding of the ritual celebration of marriage. That’s why at OLPH, for example, the Entrance Procession at weddings is enacted in a way that expresses the unity and equality of both the bride and the groom; thus, the groom must walk down the aisle, not just the bride. The bride and groom have the option of walking down the aisle together or walking separately, in which case the bride is the last one to walk down the aisle, and the groom is the next-to-last one to walk down in front of the bride. (If the couple is concerned about the groom not seeing the bride before she walks down the aisle, this is easily arranged.) Both bride and groom may be accompanied down the aisle by whomever they wish: the bride may be accompanied by her father alone, or by her mother alone, or by both her parents. The same is true for the groom: he may be accompanied by one or both of his parents. Enacting the Entrance Procession in this way ritualizes that both bride and groom are of equal dignity and importance in the wedding liturgy, insofar as in their persons they are the central symbols of the sacrament, and together they are the ministers of the sacrament.

It’s always exciting when the Church introduces a new ritual book and I am sure that our use of the new *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* will bring many blessings and much richness to the life of OLPH.

Incense will be used at more Masses

An item concerning the festivity of our worship was recently raised at a Liturgy Committee meeting. It was noted that while we use incense at really “big” and major liturgies such as the Easter Vigil, Midnight Mass, Pentecost Vigil, etc., it might be a good idea to expand our use of incense at more Masses on festive, important days. In this way more people would have the benefit of enter-

ing into the prayer of the liturgy more deeply through the use of incense.

As you know, incense (“holy smoke,” you might say!) engages us in prayer and in a sense of the transcendent by engaging both our visual senses and our olfactory senses. As we see the smoke of the incense rise, and as we are treated to the aroma of the sweet-smelling fragrance (incense is often referred to as “the fragrance of Christ”) we are reminded both of the ways that our prayers rise to God and the ways that we, as a people at worship, are called to be a chosen race, a holy priesthood and a holy nation. When people and objects are honored with incense at liturgy, it is an expression and a reminder to us all that everything about our sacred worship is to be set apart for the holy and we, at worship, should be led into the transcendent.

Therefore, I have accepted the recommendation of the Liturgy Committee that we use incense at Masses on more occasions. So, from now on you can expect to see and smell incense at all Masses on these liturgical days: Christmas; Epiphany; Easter Sunday; Octave of Easter; Pentecost Sunday; Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; and Christ the King.

Help decorate the church for Christmas

Well, it’s finally time to “deck the halls,” and so we’ll be decorating the church for Christmas this Friday, December 23 at 1:00 p.m. Why not come down to help? We would love to have you! You remember the old saying, “Many hands make light work,” right? I guarantee you will have a good time, and it’s a great way to feel more connected to the parish and your fellow parishioners, and to meet some new friends. Wouldn’t it be a great thing for you to come into Mass at Christmas, point to the decorations, and to be able to tell your family, “I helped with that!” I’ll be there this Friday, December 23, and I hope you will, too!

Be nice to people next weekend!

OK, fellow parishioners, it’s time for our annual pep talk: let’s all remember to be joyful and

welcoming toward all the extra people who will be coming to Mass next weekend on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We won’t grumble, we won’t pout, and we will all smile and be cheerful, right? What a great Christmas gift it would be to give up “your” seat to someone who only comes to Mass a couple of times a year — and to do so joyfully! That would be the true spirit of Christmas! Parking may be a little difficult, and it will probably take you a little longer to get out of the parking lot, but what a great spiritual offering we make when we do not let those little and inconsequential inconveniences rob us of Christmas joy!

When all is said and done, let’s be glad that the folks do come. Sure, it would be fantastic if everyone came every week, but we just have to deal with what is. Who knows? Our warm welcome and sense of hospitality next weekend may just be the thing needed to get some people to come back more often. One thing is for sure: if we “regulars” are cranky with them, chances are they won’t be back! Let’s give them the same greeting that Christ himself would give them. Most importantly, let’s be prepared to laugh and be jolly. If God can put up with us, with all our faults and foibles, can’t we put up with each other?

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,



CHANGE IN THE PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS

Our parish website address has changed.

It is now olphlindenhurst.com (it is no longer .org).

All e-mail addresses remain unchanged; it is only the website address that is new.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Prayer 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.

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.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
who are called the Prince of Peace,
Who are yourself our peace
and our reconciliation,
Who so often said 'Peace to you',
Grant us peace!
Make all men and women witnesses
of truth, justice and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts
whatever might endanger peace.*



*Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee
and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples of the earth
become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always
over us all. AMEN
Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!
(Pope Saint John XXIII)*

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 19—7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 26—7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 2—7:00 p.m.

PERPETUAL HELP MASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 12:15 P.M. MASS

William "Bud" Sullivan	Requested by Lorraine Sullivan
Ronald Richards	Requested by Patti Chavis
Richard Harrer	Requested by Margaret Rizzo
Margaret Carillo	Requested by Your Family
MaryAnn Vellucci	Requested by Bruce Bianchi
John Treanor	Requested by Sylvia Drago
JoAnne Kraus	Requested by The Hartmann's
Natalie C. Forster	Requested by Loray Fischer
Harrison Family	Requested by Sheila Walsh & Family
Donna Petra & Family	Requested by Sheila Walsh & Family
Edward Dunlop	Requested by Sheila Walsh & Family
Thomas McTighe	Requested by Sheila Walsh & Family

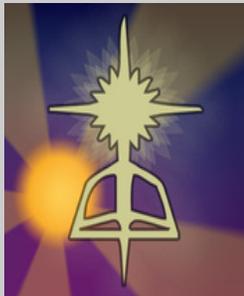
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AT MASS

Requests to have something announced in the verbal announcements at Mass must be submitted in writing to Chris Ferraro at cferraro@oloph.org no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Wednesday evening before the Sunday requested. All requests are subject to approval by Msgr. Joe. Requests submitted verbally or submitted at the last minute to Chris, to one of the priests or deacons or to the sacristan will not be honored.
Thank you for your cooperation.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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

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.

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.

GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS

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



FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week

Each day during the fourth week of Advent, at the evening meal, all four candles 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. Amen.**

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

O Antiphons...

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 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."**

***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."**

***On December 20 pray:* "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom."**

***On December 21 pray:* "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death."**

***On December 22 pray:* "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust."**

***On December 23 pray:* "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God."**

***On December 24 pray:* "Today you will know the Lord is coming, and in the morning you will see his glory."**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

All make the sign of the cross to begin, and then the Leader continues with this greeting:

Leader: Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

All respond: Amen.

Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Then someone proclaims the reading:

Reader: Listen to the words of the letter of St. Paul to Titus: But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

Our response will be: Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our home, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

Then the Leader continues: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The lights of the tree are now illuminated. Then the Leader concludes:

Leader: May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

All respond: Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**



BLESSING OF A MANGER/NATIVITY SCENE

*The manger scene is blessed each year on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. All make the sign of the cross and the Leader begins: **Our help is in the name of the Lord.***

*All respond: **Who made heaven and earth.***

Then someone proclaims the reading:

Reader: Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The Gospel of the Lord.

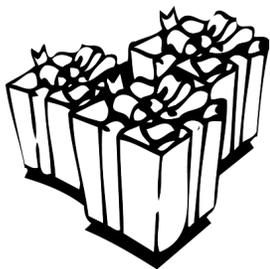
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Christmas songs and carols may be sung, for example, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.



MUSIC NOTES



Have you unpacked all your gifts?

Perhaps God is calling you this Christmas season to become a part of the music ministry at OLPH. If so, read below to see which ensemble might suit your gifts. Perhaps one of your spiritual gifts has not yet been opened. Pray about it and then give a call.

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir sings at the 12:00 p.m. Mass most Sundays (September to June) and for other special liturgies during the year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the church. Members are high school aged or older. Reading music is not a requirement, just a desire to praise God in song and the ability to carry a tune. Please call in advance if you are interested in joining or would like more information.

Contact:
Chris Ferraro
(631) 226-7725, ext. 210
cferraro@oloph.org



Youth Choir

The Youth Choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass three times a month (September to June) and at other special liturgies during the year. Rehearsals are held on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the school building. Members are in grades 3 through 12.

Contact:
Amy Keller
mrs.amykeller@yahoo.com



Youth Band!

Members of the Youth Band lead the music at the Sunday night 5:00 p.m. Mass twice a month. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings. The band needs young musicians: piano, flute, cello preferred. Try-outs are required.

Contact:
Dan Volpe
(917) 468-9584



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 TUESDAY: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY: 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 SATURDAY: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

LEVEL 4 PARENT/CHILD ADVENT WORKSHOP

Last Saturday, December 10th, Level 4 students and their parents gathered to share in the joy of Advent and learn more about this joyful season.

Enjoy these photos!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Peter Canisius
Feast Day: December 21st
 In the 16th century, St. Peter Canisius was asked to act as a "secret agent," taking sacred decrees and texts across hostile Germany. He was chosen for this role because of his kind, charitable manner and relentless defense of the faith against heresy. After this mission, St. Peter was asked by King Ferdinand to write the first true Catechism for the entire Church. He divided Church teaching into wisdom and justice. St. Peter was committed to the Jesuit way of spreading the Gospel with kindness as well as truth, and he showed great patience in the face of hostility. In this way, he was a model catechist and evangelizer. He is the patron saint of Germany.
St. Peter Canisius, pray for us!



CHRISTMAS RECESS

CLASSES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE:

Wednesday, December 21st
 Saturday, December 24th
 Monday, December 26th
 Wednesday, December 28th
 Saturday, December 31st
 Monday, January 2nd, 2017



INTERESTED IN SUBSTITUTE TEACHING?

The Religious Education team is looking for catechists interested in acting as substitute teachers. Student teachers are also welcome and needed to assist our regular and substitute teachers.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Marie Foster—631.592.1509—cfr@oloph.org
- † Community Meal: Gigi Gracey—631.943.0095—gigigracey1962@gmail.com—Deborah McDonald -516.662.2529—Dnk875@aol.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: 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: Jessica Becker—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org—Caroline Grogan—631.225.7688—straightclaw@optonline.net

NEW Food Pantry List!

JAR TOMATO/PASTA SAUCE
CANNED MEATS/CHICKEN
JELLY
SNACKS
SHAMPOO
CONDITIONER
TOOTHPASTE
TOOTHBRUSHES
PAPER TOWELS

*Please bring your donations to the St. VdP office:
 Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon
 or 1st & 3rd Saturday 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m. or drop off
 on the sanctuary steps in the church.*

**Thank you for your continued generosity.
 Cut out this list and take it to the store!**

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, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God.

In the month of December, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor and suffering to face their hardships and fears, by assisting families, providing food and the things they need to feel loved this Christmas season.

† 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. To date, your donations have amounted to over \$4,000 which is used to offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering within our parish.

Memorial donation envelopes are available on the pew ledges, in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon and 1st & 3rd 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.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY *Happenings*

HOMELESS MINISTRY

FOOD PREPARERS

We are always in need of individuals, families and groups to prepare a light meal and/or soup for our weekly runs. Can you help us? Contact Regina Muir at 631.226.2709 or e-mail to rmuir11@aol.com. You assist when you can—usually once every other month!

DONATIONS

We are in need of the following items:

Men's underwear – L, XL
hoodies - M, L, XL
sweat tops - M, L, XL
sweat pants - M, L, XL
sneakers - 10, 11, 12, 13
socks

Toiletries:

Lotion not more than 1 oz.
Shampoo – travel size – not larger than 3 oz.
 Small packs of **tissues**

Granola bars

Cup-of-soup

Before you throw out or recycle those plastic grocery bags please consider leaving them for us to use to distribute items to the homeless.

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 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 gathering is

Tuesday, December 27

Annual Christmas Party at 7:00 p.m.
 offsite at Villa Gaia
 101 N. Wellwood Ave, Lindenhurst

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

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE

**Ugly Sweater Contest?
 We've got the WINNER!!**



Stop by for great Christmas decorations, ornaments, gifts, and **CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST WINNERS!** Our prices are the lowest around. New merchandise every week.

THE *bluedoor* **BOUTIQUE** **HOURS OF OPERATION**
 M, W, F 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 SAT. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Donations gratefully accepted whenever the shop is open. Please no toys, stuffed animals, books or electric items.

RESPECT LIFE

**“Baby Problems?” – Don't give up...
 there is always HOPE.**

For example – Shellie & Greg Tucker were expecting a baby. Suddenly the doctor recommended “termination” because they would not survive since they were “co-joined” and shared a diaphragm and liver. As the doctor was saying this, the mother felt her babies kicking inside of her. They refused abortion and searched for another doctor.

Four years later they have two separated happy “normal” little girls, climbing and getting into “trouble.” They were separated at 8 months after a 7 hour operation.

If you know ANYONE considering abortion or who has been advised to abort, do NOT be silent. Offer them hope and direct them to doctors who believe in life – **Gianna Center/Gabriel's Courage** at Good Samaritan Hospital or the **Life Center** or **Birthright**. Call our Respect Life Committee for more information – Louise 631-412-3831.

Respect
 L i f e

WE NEED MORE SAINT BERNARDS

We need your help for the Saint Bernard League

(Saint Bernard's are known for bringing people to safety in hazardous weather conditions!)

The Saint Bernard program was initiated to keep seniors and the disabled safe from falls on snow or ice during the winter. The program also keeps pathways clear for the neighborhood and allows emergency vehicles to reach those in need. When you sign up to be Saint Bernard, you are strengthening our community, improving someone else's life and transforming your own life through service.

How do I become a Snow Buddy?

Offerers simply call the Parish Office at **631.226.7725** or email **stbernardleague@oloph.org**. Once the match is made, the organizers of this program will send out reminder emails and ask you to reach out to your recipient and confirm they are in need of service, then you bring a smile, and a shovel to that person's house and make their day brighter.



FROM THE MINISTRY OF PRAISE

We've gone through a complete year almost and come approaching what is probably most people's favorite time of year. We become more aware of each other. Our thoughts and hearts turn to love, and caring. We are stretched to give and do for others. Joy and giving become part of our vocabulary. A baby will be born on Christmas not only in the crib, but also in our hearts. Once again we can be renewed, encouraged and lifted up. We want to share the many blessings we have received so we buy gifts for our family and friends. Picking just the right gift in the hope they will like it and most of all know that we really care and love them. We hope and pray that we are a shining light of God's love. We pray that they will experience the love of God through us. That God will use this to touch and bring them closer to Himself. We know and see how God has touched, healed and blessed us through others. This is simple, isn't it! God is so good, all the time.

We've all heard the question many times "Why go to church? I get nothing out of it." Maybe this will help us to give an answer to a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter who is questioning and searching. A Church member wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard some-

thing like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today." When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

Christmas brings more people to Mass than any other holiday, so let us pray that they are nourished and strengthened to face the New Year in a holier and more God centered way.

Peace of Jesus,
Frank
Deacon Frank

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO ISPANO 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

CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO Reflexiones de las lecturas del 12/25/16

Y EL VERBO SE HIZO HOMBRE

En nuestro propio tiempo Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su propio Hijo-luz radiante de la gloria de Dios-, por medio del cual hizo todas las cosas.

Que este Hijo, Jesucristo el Señor, esté siempre con ustedes.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 52,7-10): La Buena Noticia de Liberación

Dios anuncia la liberación a su pueblo cautivo. Esta liberación nos alcanza a nosotros hoy medio de Jesús.

Segunda Lectura (Hebreos 1,1-6): Ahora Dios nos Habla por medio de su Hijo

Dios ha hablado con frecuencia al pueblo, pero desde la venida de su Hijo a la tierra, él nos habla su palabra definitiva, Jesús. En él apreciamos lo que significa Dios y quién es Dios.

Evangelio (Juan 1,1-18): Y el Verbo se Hizo Hombre

El evangelista Juan nos habla del misterio de Jesús: Él es la imagen del Padre, su Palabra se hizo hombre, su luz disipa nuestra oscuridad, Dios vive entre nosotros. ¿Le aceptamos nosotros como él es?

Hoy Dios nos dice algo muy importante sobre el sentido y significado de nuestra fe cristiana. Nuestra fe nos es precisa y solamente una doctrina en la que creemos. La Palabra de Dios no es una doctrina, sino una persona: Jesús. En él la Palabra de Dios y sus promesas se vuelven vivas. El Hijo de Dios se hace nuestro hermano y centro de nuestras vidas. En Jesús, Dios Padre nos revela quién es él: un Dios que ama, un Dios que salva, cercano a su pueblo. Por medio de Jesús, Dios nos vincula a sí mismo y él se vincula a nosotros.: comparte plenamente nuestra vida. Por medio de y con Jesús podemos responder al amor de Dios en fiel entrega a Dios y los unos a los otros. Celebremos todo esto con Jesús. **

Señor nuestro, Jesucristo: Tú entraste en nuestro mundo como la Palabra de paz del Padre. Da a tus hijos y a todas las naciones una paz basada en la justicia y en la verdad.

Disponnos para ofrecer siempre los unos a los otros signos de reconciliación y para hablar palabras de acogida y de paz, Únenos en la paz de tu reino donde vives y reinas por los siglos de los siglos.



FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

On Saturday November 26th the Family Life ministry hosted a Families in Service Project in conjunction with 2 classes of Confirmation Candidates. We worked in a few ways to practice the corporal works of mercy.

We made over 500 sandwiches for Mercy Inn in Wyandanch, donated food for the Friars Suppliers mission trip to Haiti and assisted in the decorating of the Parish Giving Tree benefiting several ministries including The Life Center and prison ministries.



PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

First Announcement:

Salvatore Gerbino & Genine Rigney

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

*Lucas Robert Fischer
Gabriel Joshua Espinoza
Emma Katherine Moran*



**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:

*Patricia O'Shea
Wilma De Caneo
William H. Winkelman
Jacob Sajkoski
Rita Burke*

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

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Eileen Henry</i>	<i>James Quartuccio</i>
<i>Alyssa Drenkalo</i>	<i>Rosemarie Collins</i>
<i>Anthony Borelli</i>	<i>Ryan Deleana</i>
<i>Vance Viverito</i>	<i>John Gallagher</i>
<i>Fran Milo</i>	<i>Bunnie Rieger</i>
<i>Sheila Kump</i>	<i>Reinhard Beresowski</i>
<i>Carmine Alesi</i>	<i>Mary Doran</i>
<i>Robert Walker</i>	<i>Peter Masak</i>
<i>Dominick Pane</i>	<i>Herb Otten</i>
<i>Wojciech Chojnacki</i>	<i>Bernadette Sinnott</i>
<i>Judith Walsh</i>	
<i>Catherine Tamburino</i>	

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. To have your name or the name of a loved one listed in our parish bulletin, please call the Parish Office. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.**

Vestment Memorials

We have two new vestments that are available to be memorialized. The donation for each vestment is \$700 and a memorial label can be sewn inside. If you are interested in a vestment memorial, please contact Chris Ferraro at the rectory office, (631) 226-7725 ext. 210 or cferraro@oloph.org.

Thank you to Rosaleen Walters and Rose Botticello who recently memorialized our new funeral pall, the white cloth placed over the casket at Funeral Masses. The new pall is in memory of Bill Botticello and George S. Walters.



**Have you returned your
new census form and
updated your
parish registration
information?**

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 19— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Zorka Karlovic

12:15 Lee & Abbott Families

TUESDAY, December 20— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 John Sagesser

12:15 Joao (John) & Olivia Marques

WEDNESDAY, December 21— Late Advent Weekday *(Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church)*

6:30 John Sagesser

12:15 William Dow

THURSDAY, December 22— Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Irene Solonchak

12:15 Frank Ignazia Rossetti

FRIDAY, December 23— Late Advent Weekday *(Saint John of Kanty, Priest)*

6:30 Elvira & John Puleo

12:15 Perpetual Help Mass (List on pg. 6)

SATURDAY, December 24— Late Advent Weekday

8:00 Robert Guarini

Vigil for THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD *(Christmas)*

5:00 Grace & Anthony Gerrato

12:00 For the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD *(Christmas)*

8:00 Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

10:00 Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

12:00 Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 19, 2016

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry Room 24

7:00 p.m. Devotions Church

7:00 p.m. Level 8 Classes School

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

4:00 p.m. CYO Cheerleading Auditorium

6:45 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Confessions Church

8:00 p.m. Community of Praise Room 16

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry Room 24

12:45 p.m. Exposition Church

2:00 p.m. Legion of Mary Business Meeting Room 24

6:00 p.m. Van Run Room 10

Thursday, December 22, 2016

1–5 p.m. Church closed for cleaning Church

4:00 p.m. CYO Cheerleading Auditorium

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal Room 16

5:30 p.m. Altar Server Practice for Midnight Mass Church

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group Cafeteria

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

8:00 p.m. NA Meeting Room 24

Friday, December 23, 2016

9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry Room 24

1:00 p.m. Decorate Church for Christmas Church

Saturday, December 24, 2016

*All Parish offices are closed, Reception desk
closes at 12 Noon & all activities cancelled for the
Nativity of the Lord
Christmas*

4:00 p.m. NO Confessions Church

Sunday, December 25, 2016

*All Parish offices are closed
& activities cancelled for the
Nativity of the Lord
Christmas*



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
Patti Chavis, Parish Secretary	212	pchavis@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, 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
Martin Kenny, Business Manager	204	mkenny@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Alice White at 631-805-2133 or e-mail at Alicem9@icloud.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 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 DeGrocco
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

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
Bill Bendernagel
Gerry Chille (Chair)
Ed Cirella
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Martin Kenny
Bob Meade
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

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

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

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, December 25, 2016—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

“The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.’”

Luke 2: 10-11

Isaiah 9:1-6

This prophecy of Isaiah comes from a perilous time in the history of the Jewish people, one just preceding the fall of the Kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. when the powerful nation of Assyria was conquering surrounding territories with ruthless and relentless drive. Especially in such threatening times, Judah longed for the leadership and protection of a mighty and righteous warrior-king. But more than this, their ideal king was not only a political and military leader, but God’s representative who ruled like him, establishing right relationships and seeking the good of all. This reading expresses Judah’s hope that a true son of David, the ideal king of years past, would soon appear. Like God, he would be completely dedicated to the people’s welfare, ruling his people wisely and bringing peace to the entire kingdom.

Titus 2:11-14

Paul’s letter to Titus is one of the shortest writings in the New Testament. Paul appointed Titus, a Gentile Christian who had accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys, as the person in charge of developing the church on the large Mediterranean island of Crete. The letter as a whole deals primarily with how Christians should act. Today, we hear the reason why we should live “temperately, justly and devoutly.” It’s because of what Jesus has done for us. His death and resurrection on our behalf is God’s gracious gift, springing straight from divine love for us. Christians on Crete, and in Lindenhurst, should live as a community saved by this divine gift, eagerly responding to that gift by conduct befitting all who belong to God.

Luke 2:1-14

Of the four evangelists, only Matthew and Luke give an account of the birth of Jesus. Luke was a Greek-speaking Gentile convert to Christianity and a physician who also accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys. He is the only one to place Jesus’ birth in its historical context, giving details about who were the Roman emperor and the Syrian governor at the time and placing the birth in Bethlehem from where, according to the ancient prophecy of Micah, the expected messiah-king would arise, whom we heard about in our first reading from Isaiah. But perhaps most importantly, Luke records several details that stress Jesus’ special love and outreach to the poor. He was born in lowly circumstances and laid in a manger, that is, a feeding trough for animals. The first to hear the Good News of salvation is a group of shepherds, people who were generally despised and avoided by other Jews as unclean sinners. Today we also hear that Good News. May we also take it to heart and proclaim, along with the angels at that first Christmas, “Glory to God in the highest!”

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 19, 2016: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a + Luke 1:5-25	Saturday, December 24, 2016: (Morn) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 + Luke 1:67-79
Tuesday, December 20, 2016: Isaiah 7:10-14 + Luke 1:26-38	(Vigil) Isaiah 62:1-5+ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 + Matthew 1:1-25
Wednesday, December 21, 2016: Songs 2:8-14 + Luke 1:39-45	(Midnight) Isaiah 9:1-6 + Titus 2:11-14 + Luke 2:1-14
Thursday, December 22, 2016: 1 Samuel 1:24-28 + Luke 1:46-56	Sunday, December 25, 2016: (Day) Isaiah 52:7-10 + Hebrews 1:1-6 + John 1:1-18 1:18-24
Friday, December 23, 2016: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 + Luke 1:57-66	

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. If you want to find God today where might you start looking? Do you think the shepherds were the same after their experience? Did they understand what the angels said when they went and found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the stable? What enables you to see the divine in the ordinary?
2. In his homily on Christmas Eve Pope Francis said the Jesus is the meaning of life and history, and he pitched his tent among us. Why does he say the shepherds were the first to see this “tent.”

The shepherds were the first to see this “tent,” to receive the news of Jesus’ birth. They were the first because they were among the last, the outcast. And they were the first because they were awake, keeping watch in the night, guarding their flocks. The pilgrim is bound by duty to keep watch and the shepherds did just that. ...

To us the Lord repeats: “Do not be afraid!” (Luke 2:10). As the angels said to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid!” And I also repeat to all of you: Do not be afraid! Our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us on the way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness. He is mercy: our Father always forgives us. He is our peace. Amen.

*Midnight Mass, December 24, 2013
Vatican Basilica*

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