

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



“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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 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



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Oh, what a glorious night! The Family Ministry hosted the annual Christmas Pageant on a very cold night. The children worked very hard and parents devoted their time during a very busy time. Refocusing on the simple joy of a single night of the Lord's birth brought warmth to all. Great fellowship followed. Thank you especially to the Level 8 class for serving as part of their Confirmation service.



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.

PASTOR'S PAGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

GRACE, PEACE AND BLESSINGS TO YOU ON THIS BEAUTIFUL FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to all who have come to worship at OLPH! I extend to you a warm greeting in the name of Christ! To those who worship with us every week, how good it is to be with you again! To our parishioners who come today after not having come to Mass for a while, we extend a warm greeting of welcome as well, and we want you to know how happy we are that you are here! Know that when you are not here, we miss you! To friends and family members of our parishioners who are visiting here: we are privileged that you have joined us, and you enrich our assembly! To those who have come to us for the first time and are new to OLPH: we are thrilled to have you here, and we hope you become a regular participant in the life of the parish! **WELCOME TO ALL!**

As Pastor, I continue to give thanks to God for the generosity, goodness and self-giving of so many people here at OLPH as they reach out to each other here in the parish and beyond. Most importantly, our weekly celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is what allows us to see the Kingdom of God in our midst, as we are nourished in Word and in Sacrament to go out to announce the Gospel of the Lord and to glorify the Lord by our life. Allow me to say from the bottom of my heart to all who do so much and who give so generously: **THANK YOU**. You are the reason why OLPH is “the place to be.”

We have so much to be thankful for here at OLPH! May the abundant blessings of Christmas Time come to you and your family at this holy time of year! As always, all the members of the Pastoral Staff and I are here to serve you in whatever way we can. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

The Nativity of the Lord and the season of Christmas Time

Truly Christmas Time is a time of joy! How could we not feel joy as we recount the songs of angels in darkened skies, the wonder of shepherds in their fields, the faithful journey of wise

men following a star in the night? All of this tells us of the mystery we celebrate: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; God became man, so that men and women might become divinized; as we proclaim in the Nicene Creed, “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God” has entered the world!

As people who know Jesus, the Son of God who came into the world to save us, our very lives should radiate the joy of knowing him and being close to him. Our lives, full of rejoicing, should become the visible expression of the miracle we celebrate at Christmas. Christmas Time is a perfect entry point into a fuller expression of Christian joy by each and every one of us. The preparing we did during Advent should have prepared us to be more joyful at Christmas! How will you radiate with Christ's joy this Christmas?

The document *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar* reminds us, “After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery [Easter Time], the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time.” (32)

Remember, Christmas is not over on December 26! Far from it! Christmas Time begins on Christmas Eve, and it continues up to and including the Feast of the Baptism of

the Lord, which this year is January 9, 2017 — so keep your lights and decorations up until then!

There are so many wonderful liturgical feasts that make up Christmas Time: the Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr, on December 26; the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, on December 27; the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28; the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, this year on Friday, December 30; and January 1, the Octave (eighth day) of the Nativity of the Lord, which is also the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, on Sunday, January 8; and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 9. We have a whole lot of celebrating to do, don't we?!



Updating your Parish Census Registration

You may be aware that we are in the process of updating our parish census data. The last time a parish census was done was in the early 1980's. The data we have from that census are, in many cases, either outdated, or no longer relevant or correct. Also, there is information such as cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses that are part and parcel of life now that were not around at that time. It's important for us to have accurate records so that we can do fruitful pastoral planning; in addition, the Diocese of Rockville Centre often makes decisions about parishes (how to allocate diocesan resources, the number of priests that should be assigned to a parish, *etc.*) based on parish census information.

It is vitally important for each and every registered parishioner to fill out (completely) and return a new Parish Census Registration Form. If you received one when they were handed out at Mass a few weeks ago and have not returned it yet, please do so soon. If you did not receive one, or if you need another one, please stop by the rectory during office hours and pick one up. Thank you for your cooperation with this ongoing effort.

I must at this time offer a tremendous **THANK YOU** to all who worked on our Census Committee, with special thanks going to Joan Baffa who chaired the committee. The members of this committee worked tirelessly at many meetings that involved what seemed like endless revisions of the new census form and dealing with fine points of painstaking detail. Everyone wanted to get it right and I appreciate their perseverance, patience and hard work in the whole process. You should all be proud of the results! The Chair, Joan Baffa, has been especially diligent not only in calling and running the meetings, but in following through and working with us in the even-more-daunting task of overseeing the inputting of all the updated information. Thank you for your continued offering of your time and talents, Joan, as this never-ending project goes on and on!

Brick Memorialization—Walkway to the Blessed Mother

You might have noticed the new memorialized bricks which have been installed in our Walkway to the Blessed Mother on the rectory front lawn. This has been a very successful undertaking for OLPH, and we would like it to continue. In addition to memorializing our prayers for our deceased loved ones and other prayer inten-

tions, it's also an important fund raiser for OLPH. We are now in the process of accepting submissions for the next set of bricks to be memorialized, and we are looking for these to be sent in by February 1. Bricks will continue to be memorialized down the walkway, picking up from where Phase One left off. Then, we will send out for engraving this second batch from Phase Two and have them installed when they are returned. We are planning to do a blessing for all of these bricks some time in the springtime.

Please consider helping OLPH by joining in this brick memorialization. Mention it to everyone you know; you don't have to be a parishioner of OLPH (or even Catholic, for that matter!) to have a memorialization. Thank you for your support of this important project.

Happy, Blessed and Safe New Year, and see you next weekend!

As you enjoy the festivities and good cheer of this Christmas week, we look forward to seeing all of you again next weekend, as it will be both a Sunday, with its regular obligation to attend Mass, and the Octave (eighth) Day of the Nativity of the Lord, which is also the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (a Holy Day of Obligation when it falls during the week). Also, let's not forget it's New Year's Day, which is another great reason to attend Mass — to offer the upcoming year as a spiritual and prayerful gift to God.

Please be safe on New Year's Eve. Enjoy the holiday and Happy New Year! May 2017 be a year rich in blessings and mercy for you and your family, and for all of us at OLPH!

In conclusion...

Together, let's aim high in Christ. Together, let's bring out the best in each other. Together, let's be the best we can be in Christ.

And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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)*

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.



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 Laboure. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Monday, December 26—7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 2—7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 9—7:00 p.m.

ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE PHOTOS

Please remember to pick up the photos displayed on the Altar of Remembrance last month. There are still a number of photos left in the Sacristy. Please see the Sacristan to pick up your photos. Thank you for your cooperation.



BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE

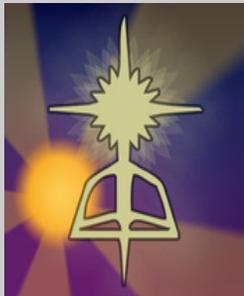


If the announced intention at Mass is for your intention, or if you have memorialized the bread and wine, and you would like to carry those offerings forward at the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, please be sure to let the ushers know this before the Mass begins. They will be happy to have you do this. If no one steps forward to specifically request this, then they will select people from the assembly.

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

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.



COMMUNITY OF PRAISE

The Community of Praise is a welcoming group of parishioners committed to living in the Holy Spirit. We meet each week to praise God in song, pray with each other, study Scriptures, and support each other on our journey of faith. We support the parish by our prayers, by joining with other parish groups for special projects, and by offering the Life in the Spirit Seminar. All are welcome to come and pray and praise with us, just once every week. We meet in Room 16 of the school every Tuesday night from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.



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

BLESSINGS TO USE AT HOME

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.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

NEW CATHOLICS WANTED and NEEDED!

*What about you? Do you want to be baptized?
Are you already baptized in another Christian church
and want to become Catholic?
What are you waiting for?*

Are you thinking of
becoming Catholic?

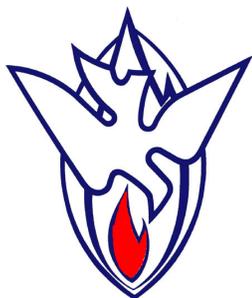


We offer a beautiful and life-giving process to join the Catholic Church and would love for you to be a part of it! You will join with other women and men interested in becoming part of the Catholic faith. Together, led by members of our parish community, you will discover God's call for you!

We are hoping to form a new group of those interested in joining the Catholic Church. **We need you to reach out and invite someone you know who might be considering this and have them contact us here at OLPH!**

Would you like to share your faith with those discerning God's call in their own hearts? To accompany another in this process not only aids those in this process of formation but transforms you as well. For more information about adult process, contact Alice White at 631-805-2133 or e-mail to: Alicem9@icloud.com. For information about becoming part of our children's process, contact Jo-Ann Domanico at 631-884-5245 or email to lax1618@yahoo.com.

ADULT CONFIRMATION



CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?

If you are a baptized Catholic, but have not been fully initiated, we offer a process for those who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

For adults who desire more information, contact Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to rabecker@optimum.net For teenagers and their families who desire more information, contact the Faith Formation Office at 631.226.7725, x.251 or e-mail to religioused@oloph.org.

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.

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.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP MURPHY



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2016



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

She was found with child by the Holy Spirit!

The profound beauty of this startling mystery touches our hearts and opens our spiritual eyes to the truth that changes our lives and transforms the destiny of all of us who believe and proclaim the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, Jesus, Son of God made man. What makes this possible is God's plan to redeem us all. Two realities come together. One divine, the power of God's love, the Holy Spirit, enters the human heart of a simple Jewish maiden who readily accepts God's Spirit into her heart. She in turn offers herself totally to God's by her FIAT: *let it be done to me according to your Word!*

Small wonder that the angels sing as they behold Mary giving birth to Jesus, the divine Son now one with us, fully one with us, save sin, so that we might become sharers of His life through Mary, the passage way of divinity into humanity. Think of it. Contemplate it. The divine enters the world the same way all of us did: through the womb of a loving mother. Think of it. Contemplate it. In a simple stable, surrounded by shepherds with no material means but with the richness of being poor, utterly dependent on God's loving care, teaching us what truly matters in life: human love transformed by divine love, the human love of family, the divine love of God, now joined not just this once but forever in an eternal covenant God makes with us through his only begotten Son.

As we ponder and contemplate, we are invited to respond: respond with joyful prayer, respond with grateful hearts, respond with our love for the Child, the mother, the foster father with shepherds adoring and angels singing. But now that we, once again, have come spiritually to Bethlehem with them, we must not only give thanks to God, we also must show His love through our own hearts and lives in imitation of the generosity of the new born Child Who saves the world. My friends, this Christmas may the love of God Who comes to us by the birth of Mary's Son inspire us to renew our love for all the world, for our families and our friends and, even more, for those who are poor and overlooked, those who are suffering or alone, those who are so often "left out", those who need us to show them the face of God which is the face of Jesus Christ.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL!

A JOYFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU WHOM I CARRY IN MY HEART!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

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.



Religious Education: What's it all about?

Here we strive to pass on the Gospel through engaging catechesis ("to echo the teaching"). Our program provides or supplements a Catholic education to elementary and middle-school students. The Sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion are received in Level 2, while Confirmation is received in Level 8. Sacramental preparation is integrated into the curriculum, and every grade level is important. Our weekly classes and meetings allow our young people to draw closer to Christ!

Merry Christmas

Wishing you peace and joyful tidings as we celebrate the birth of Jesus

New Registration 2017/18 Year

New registrants may begin registering **January 2nd 2017**. This includes all students who will be in 1st grade in September 2017, all students in grades 1-7 who wish to begin religious instruction, and all homeschooled or Catholic school students who have not registered with the Office. All children who are parishioners of OLPH must receive their sacraments here at OLPH, regardless of where they go to school. **As of this year, new registrants MUST make an appointment to register, and a baptismal certificate is required at the time of registration, no exceptions.**

Our first official registration week is in the second week of February 2017

Monday, Feb. 13th 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14th 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 15th 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16th 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 17th 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Our office is always closed Fridays!

Returning Families:

Families wishing to continue their child's religious education will be sent a letter in March 2017 regarding registration, which will begin in April. Please call our office for more information on re-registering.

Check us out on Facebook!

Did you know the OLPH Religious Education Office has a Facebook page? Follow us for updates, photos, and more!

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—cffr@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!

SHELF-STABLE MILK
COFFEE
TOOTHPASTE
TOOTHBRUSHES
PAPER TOWELS
NAPKINS
SOAP
TOILET PAPER

*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.

Today we celebrate the feast of Christmas and hear how the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. Then they left glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that “God is with us.”

† **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:

Wash cloths

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.

Soaps - travel size - not larger than 3 oz.

Shampoo - travel size - not larger than 3 oz.

Toothpaste - small - not larger than 3 oz.

Toothbrushes

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

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!



Leather jackets, wool coats, vests, fleeces, scarves, hats and more! Everything you need to stay warm this winter, available at **CRAZY** low prices at The Blue Door Boutique.

Our prices are the lowest around. New merchandise

THE
*blue*door
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 MINISTRY

“Here I am!” HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED BABY!

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - - nine months after her mother conceived her. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. She is no different now than before birth except that she breathes and eats differently. She is truly a miracle. She began as a 46-chromosome cell and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies and their mothers for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth “so that they might have life and have it to the full!”



FRIENDS OF MUSIC

“The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.”

- *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #112*

The *Friends of Music* is an annual initiative to support the music ministry here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. With the generosity of our *Friends*, we are able to continue to offer beautiful music for our liturgies and concerts and special programs throughout the year. As we approach the end of the year, we especially thank all of our 2016 *Friends of Music* at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for their generosity.

St. Cecilia (\$200 and above)

- Anonymous
- Joan Baffa, *In honor of the extended members of the Baffa Family*
- Douglas and Carol Bertolino, *In loving memory of Cecelia Bankovich*
- The Curry Family, *In loving memory of Lorraine Curry*
- Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, *In loving memory of Marcy & Bill DeGrocco*
- Christopher and Cathy Ferraro
- Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton, *In loving memory of Richard and Catherine Liston Hamilton*
- Sheila Lanza
- Anthony and Francis Pellarin
- Joseph and Marie Powers, *In thanksgiving*
- Peter and Grace Tapanis
- James and Jacqueline Totino, *In honor of Juliana Martinez*
- Nick and Lillian Vilardi
- Annette Walsh, *In honor of Msgr. Joe DeGrocco*
- Annette Walsh, *In honor of Kevin Walsh and all who cannot speak for themselves*

St. Gregory the Great (\$100 to \$199)

- Anonymous
- Mary Ellen and David Barrett, *In loving memory of Ryan Barrett*
- Charles and Barbara Ferraro, *In honor of Grace and Sarah Ferraro*
- Mrs. Joan Hosey, *In memory and honor of Philip Hosey*
- James Kendall, *In memory of Ann Kendall*
- Janina Soroka, *In memory of John Soroka and Anthony and Maria Jankowsky*
- Stephen and Deirdre Strigaro, *In loving memory of the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society*

St. Augustine (\$50 to \$99)

- Anonymous
- Deborah Duffy
- Ottmar and Theresia Keller, *Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Keller and Mr. and Mrs. Max Gehrlein*
- Patricia and Michael Little, *In loving memory of Jane Doyle Gustafson*
- Marlene Rief, *In Thanksgiving for our Precious Gift, Amelia Jean Connolly*
- Bob and Linda Setti, *In Thanksgiving for our Precious Gift, Mary Elizabeth Setti*
- Dick and Valerie Singh
- Gail Tonnesson, *In loving memory of Mary G. Tonnesson*
- Alvin J. Wickenheiser, *In loving memory of Lorraine T. Wickenheiser and Fred and Mae West*
- Linda Zarzycki, *In memory of Margaret and Harold Poolt*

St. Ambrose (\$25 to \$49)

- Anonymous, *In loving memory of William Dow*
- Mr. and Mrs. Corazon F. Andres, *In loving memory of Corazon P. Bareng*
- Patricia M. Dow and Family, *In memory of William R. Dow*
- Martin Gibbs, *In honor of my sister Valerie Singh*
- Richard and Maryann Haas, *In loving memory of Margaret Grillo*
- Rose Mourdoukoutas, *In honor of Valerie Singh*
- The Volpe Family, *In memory of Ryan Barrett*

Cherubim (up to \$24)

- Angela G. Zoccali, *In loving memory of Angela DelBianco*

**Join the 2017 *Friends of Music* at OLPH and be a part of our music history!
Contact Chris Ferraro - cferraro@oloph.org for more information.**

MARCH FOR LIFE



MARCH FOR LIFE Friday, January 27, 2017

This year we have a MUCH BETTER chance to save those innocent little lives...

Once again, we are blessed that Msgr. Joe has allowed us to hire a bus to take us to the March. There will be Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 5:00 a.m. and the bus will leave immediately after.

A "free will" offering is requested to offset the cost of the bus. If interested, please call Kathy of the Respect Life Committee at 631-225-9864.



2016 OLPH GOLF OUTING

The members of the *OLPH Knights of Columbus Council #794* would like to thank everyone who took part in making the *2016 OLPH Golf Outing* a success. At the December 6th K of C meeting, the 3 winners of the "Go for the Green" raffle were presented with winnings. Each winner received a check for \$907. Congratulations to Neil and Agnes Monaco, John Hines and Bob Salvia. The Council also presented a check for \$3,791 to Msgr. DeGrocco, the proceeds from this year's event. Thanks to everyone who took part, especially to all the golfers who were able to join us on October 28th, our rain date.



Pictured l-r: Charlie Shami, Grand Knight, Bob Dobres, Co-Chairman 2016 Golf Outing, Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor, and Mike Hearney, Co-Chairman 2016 Golf Outing

WE NEED MORE SAINT BERNARDS

We need your help for the Saint Bernard League

(Saint Bernards 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.

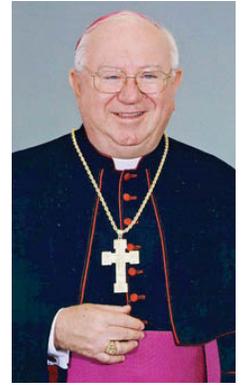


EL MINISTERIO HISPANO



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Navidad 2016



Queridas Hermanas y Hermanos en Cristo,

¡Ella se encontró que estaba embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo!

La profunda belleza de este portentoso misterio toca nuestros corazones y abre nuestros ojos espirituales a la verdad que cambia nuestras vidas y transforma el destino de todos los que creemos y proclamamos el nombre de Emmanuel, Dios con Nosotros, Jesús, Hijo de Dios hecho hombre. Lo que hace esto posible es el plan de Dios para redimirnos a todos. Dos realidades se unen. Una divina, el poder del amor de Dios, el Espíritu Santo, entra en el corazón humano de una simple doncella Judía que acepta de manera natural el Espíritu de Dios en su corazón. Ella a su vez se ofrece totalmente a Dios por medio de su FIAT: *¡Que se haga en mí de acuerdo con tu Palabra!*

No es de extrañar que los ángeles canten mientras contemplan a María dando a luz a Jesús, el Hijo divino ahora uno con nosotros, totalmente uno con nosotros, salvo el pecado, para que podamos llegar a ser partícipes de su vida a través de María, el pasaje de la divinidad a la humanidad. Piénsalo. Contéplalo. El divino entra en el mundo de la misma manera que todos nosotros: a través del vientre de una madre amorosa. Piénsalo. Contéplalo. En un establo sencillo, rodeado de pastores sin medios materiales pero con la riqueza de ser pobre, totalmente dependiente del cuidado amoroso de Dios, enseñándonos lo que realmente importa en la vida: el amor humano transformado por el amor divino, el amor humano de familia, el amor divino de Dios, ahora unido no sólo esta vez sino para siempre en un pacto eterno que Dios hace con nosotros a través de su Hijo unigénito.

A medida que meditamos y contemplamos, somos invitados a responder: responder con oración gozosa, responder con corazones agradecidos, responder con nuestro amor por el niño, la madre, el padre adoptivo con los pastores adorando y los ángeles cantando. Pero ahora que una vez más hemos venido espiritualmente a Belén con ellos, no sólo debemos dar gracias a Dios, también debemos mostrar su amor a través de nuestros propios corazones y vidas, imitando la generosidad del recién nacido que salva al mundo. Mis amigos, que esta Navidad el amor de Dios que nos llega por el nacimiento del hijo de María nos inspire a renovar nuestro amor por todo el mundo, por nuestras familias y nuestros amigos y, más aún, por los pobres y abandonados, los que están sufriendo o están solos, los que están tan a menudo "excluidos", aquellos que necesitan que les mostremos el rostro de Dios que es el rostro de Jesucristo.

¡GLORIA A DIOS EN EL CIELO Y EN LA TIERRA PAZ A LA GENTE DE BUENA VOLUNTAD!

¡A TODOS USTEDES, QUE LLEVO EN MI CORAZÓN, UNA NAVIDAD ALEGRE Y BENDECIDA!

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.

Second Announcement:

Salvatore Gerbino & Genine Rigney

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish community this week:

Rosemarie Collins

John F. Dhuy

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

PASTORAL CARE 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.

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

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



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

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>Marie Foster</i>
<i>Catherine Tamburino</i>	<i>Laurel Kurnides</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.



SUPER 72 RAFFLE

DECEMBER WINNERS

- \$1000 - Ms. Caroline Cimaszewski**
- \$250 - Pasquale Vacca**
- \$100 - R. Cieslak**
- \$100 - Mrs. Rita Helgans**
- \$100 - Lillian & Patrick Pigott**
- \$100 - Powers Family**
- Special Christmas Drawing \$250**
Kathy & Charles Feldman

MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, December 26—
Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

6:30 Doreen Cozzetto

12:15 Josephine & Julia Rosetti

**TUESDAY, December 27—
Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist**

6:30 For the Enthronement of Jesus Christ as
King of Poland & All Nations

12:15 Cheryl Ruppel

**WEDNESDAY, December 28—
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

6:30 Donald Murray

12:15 Angela & Sherman Glass

**THURSDAY, December 29—
Fifth Day within the Octave of
the Nativity of the Lord**

6:30 Steven Sikorsky

12:15 Robert Barrett

**FRIDAY, December 30—
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

6:30 Father John Sureau (Living)

12:15 Francesco Stancati

**SATURDAY, December 31—
Seventh Day within the Octave of
the Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 Carolyn F. (Chickie) Vlaun

**Vigil for
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
(The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord)**

5:00 Dominick De Girolamo

**Sunday, January 1
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
(The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord)**

8:00 For the People of the Parish

10:00 Paul Riedener

12:00 Anthony Gerrato

5:00 Dennis Trager

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 26, 2016

7:00 p.m. Devotions Church

*No Religious Education classes
through January 2nd, 2017*

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

4:00 p.m. CYO Cheerleading Auditorium

6:45 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Middle Ages Christmas Party Off Premises

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

Wednesday, December 28, 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 Room 24

5:30 p.m. NO Level 6 & 7 Classes School

6:00 p.m. Van Run Room 10

Thursday, December 29, 2016

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

4:00 p.m. CYO Cheerleading Auditorium

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group Cafeteria

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous Room 24

Friday, December 30, 2016

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

7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Room 24

Saturday, December 31, 2016

*All parish activities have been cancelled.
The Rectory will remain open, as usual, until 3:00 p.m.*

Sunday, January 1, 2017

*All parish offices are closed and all activities have been
cancelled. The Rectory reception desk will open
Monday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.*



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.

OFFERING UPDATE December 17/18 2016

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	297	104	\$2,762.00
8:00 a.m.	289	132	3,478.00
10:00 a.m.	494	136	3,741.00
12:00 pm.	475	149	3,909.00
5:00 p.m.	249	47	1,243.50
Total coin:			17.67
Mail-ins:			40.00
Children's Env.		16	22.23
Faith Direct			2,034.50
TOTAL	1,804	584	\$17,247.90
2015 total	2,055	680	\$18,551.78
Candles			\$848.54
Poor Box			\$252.78

THANK YOU FOR NOT BLOCKING THE PRIEST GARAGES!

We ask your cooperation in not parking along the driveway outside the priest garages and in keeping cars clear of that area completely. Especially since priests may need to go out on sick calls and other emergencies, it is important to keep the large driveway area and the space in front of the garage doors completely accessible. Thank you.

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

January 1—passed
January 8—December 29
January 15—January 6

*Due to the Christmas & New Year holidays,
deadlines have been made earlier by the printer.*
Thank you for your cooperation.

HELP WANTED!



HELP TAKE DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on *Tuesday, January 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the church.* We could use as many helpers as possible to make the job go quickly and easily. Just come on down and lend a hand!



The IRA Charitable Rollover is back and is now permanent!

What's called a rollover is actually a "qualified charitable distribution" that can be made to our Parish.

If...

- **You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift.**
- **Your IRA is a traditional or Roth.**
- **You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions.**
- **You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).**

VERY IMPORTANT!! Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Parish. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.

Example: Mrs. Connors, age 76, has \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 to her Parish in 2016. Upon hearing of the Charitable IRA Rollover opportunity, she directs the custodian of her IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2016 directly to the Parish as a 2016 gift. She will not be subject to income tax on her \$5,000 qualified charitable distribution.

This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, January 1, 2017—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

Luke 2:19

Numbers 6:22-27

The Book of Numbers is so called because it contains two accounts of “numbering” the Hebrew tribes as they wandered through the wilderness on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Today’s reading contains a familiar and beloved blessing which is a priestly prayer to be used at the end of an act of ritual worship by Aaron and his sons. In the Old Testament, a blessing is understood to convey some kind of power to the hearer, often the power to give or sustain life. Because the sole source of the blessing is God, this power comes from him and is reliable, permanent, and effective.

Galatians 4:4-7

Paul wrote Galatians perhaps twenty-five years after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus at a time when the new Christian movement still had some conflicting interpretations of who Jesus was. His purpose in composing the letter was to clarify his views of Jesus and defend them against some of his opponents. In this reading, Paul teaches that Jesus was both human and divine as he writes “God sent his Son, born of a woman.” Jesus, the Messiah, came to free those bound by the ritualistic requirements of the Law of Moses and offer a relationship with God which is more like that of a family. Through Jesus, we become sons and daughters of God. We can call on him with affection just as Jesus did: “Abba, Father!”

Luke 2:16-21

Today’s Gospel begins by drawing to a close Luke’s account of the shepherds’ response to the message of the angels about the birth of Jesus. Luke stresses their joyful response to such Good News which is hopefully the same as our response today. When they tell Mary what they heard from the angels, she responds by accepting it even if she cannot understand it fully at the moment. She reflected on their words “in her heart.” Mary surrendered to God, as told to her by the angel Gabriel, and now she is receiving confirmation of those words from a most unlikely source: a band of shepherds, people considered as unclean sinners at the time. Still, she continues to hold these words in her heart, trusting even when she cannot fully know. She names her son Jesus, as foretold by the angel, a name which means “God saves.” In time, the meaning of that powerful name and the deeper identity of her son will become revealed to her. We hear today that God has come in Jesus to save us, turning first of all to the lowly, the poor, the outcast, and the despised, including women and sinners.

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. What do you suppose Mary and Joseph were thinking as the shepherds were coming to them to see their child and to tell of the message they had been given? What would your reaction have been?
2. St. Luke tells us that “Mary Kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Do you spend enough time reflecting on the events of your life, to try to discover how God is present in them? Can you trust enough to believe that if you reflect on your life in that way, you will discover that God is leading you closer to Him?

3. In a homily on this Solemnity in 2015, Pope Francis said, “Mary is so closely united to Jesus because she received from him the knowledge of the heart, the knowledge of faith, nourished by her experience as a mother and by her close relationship with her Son. The Blessed Virgin is the woman of faith who made room for God in her heart and in her plans; she is the believer capable of perceiving in the gift of her Son the coming of that ‘fullness of time’ (Gal 4:4) in which God, by choosing the humble path of human existence, entered personally into the history of salvation. That is why Jesus cannot be understood without his Mother.” What do you need to do to make more room for God in your life and in your plans?



Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 26, 2016:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
+ Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday, December 27, 2016:

1 John 1:1-4 + John 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday, December 28, 2016:

1 John 1:5—2:2 + Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday, December 29, 2016:

1 John 2:3-11 + Luke 2:22-35

Friday, December 30, 2016:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
+ Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday, December 31, 2016:

1 John 2:18-21 + John 1:1-18

Sunday, January 1, 2017:

Numbers 6:22-27
+ Galatians 4:4-7
+ Luke 2:16-21

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