

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



*John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”*

Matthew 3:1-2

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 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.

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

210 S. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst

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

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 13th
7:30 p.m.

*Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski,
Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre,
Presiding*

A perfect way to prepare for the Lord during these Advent days is to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation! We're having a special **Parish Communal Penance Service with Individual Confession and Absolution on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.** Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will be our guest presider and preacher to lead us in prayer for this liturgy. Bishop Andrzej is a dynamic and engaging preacher who will come with a great message of hope and inspiration.

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

What great grace and blessings we will find in this beautiful Penance Service! Make sure you give yourself the gift of being there!



Individual Confessions:

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

Saturdays - 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

(Confessions will be 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 17th.)

Tuesday, December 20 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

THERE ARE NO CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

PASTOR'S PAGE

Second Sunday of Advent

As we continue our celebration of this beautiful season of hope-filled longing, expectation and preparation, the Mass prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent give voice to our desire that we may be able to live in a whole new, transformed way in order to see the salvation that is coming.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass speaks both of the urgency of our Advent journey and of the need to think in new ways: *“Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.”* What is it that we are busy about and in haste about during these days: is it really over spiritual things that prepare our hearts and our homes for Christ, or is it over things less important? Are the things that are tiring us out really worth the time and energy, or could our time and energy be better spent on deeper, more meaningful pursuits?

Also, as we “set out in haste” to meet Christ this season, we can encounter Christ only through hearts and minds that are attuned to Him, and so we need the gift and grace of “heavenly wisdom.” Advent, as a time of wonder and longing, is a time for us to change our thinking so that God’s ways become our ways. Our minds and thoughts should be expanded to trust more in the wonders that God can and will do for us. Pope Francis has said that God is a God of surprises, and God certainly surprised humanity by coming among us and being born in the flesh! What other surprises might God have in store for us that we, through our “learning of heavenly wisdom,” should be prepared for?

Consider making the above-quoted Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent a part of your prayer every day during the upcoming week.

Remember, no matter what our consumer-driven society tells us, it’s not Christmas yet! We have once again included some special pages in this bulletin to help you and your family keep an Advent spirituality and to pray Advent at home; I hope you make use of this material. We are urged to “Keep Christ in Christmas,” but in order to do that well, we must first **“Keep Advent in Advent.”**

Our Parish Census Update is underway!

We launched it last weekend, and so it is now officially underway: our Parish Census Up-

date Program is in full swing! Please be sure to return your new Census Registration Form so that we can update our records. The forms may be mailed back to the rectory, dropped off at the rectory, or dropped in the collection basket at Mass. We need to update the records for every registered parishioner. Help us spread the word far and wide. Forms may be picked up at the rectory if needed.

Let this be our constant refrain: *“Have you updated your parish registration information?”*

Brick Memorialization

I am pleased to announce that our first batch of bricks that were memorialized have arrived back from the engraver. We will now go through a process of checking them to make sure there are no errors in the engraving, and then we will begin installing them as much as we can and as quickly as we can in the weeks ahead, according to what the weather permits us to do. Thank you for your patience and understanding. All the bricks that have been memorialized so far will be installed as fast as possible.

That means that we can now begin Phase II of our brick memorialization. Bricks continuing along the walkway to the Blessed Mother statue will now again be available for memorialization. As we did the first time around, we will have an “open period” where we will be accepting memorialization forms and payment. Then, we will close that phase for the sake of being able to have an entire batch of bricks engraved and sent to us at once, thus saving shipping costs. If bricks are still available, we will hold a third phase to continue to make available any open bricks.

This brick memorialization is an important fund raiser for OLPH and will go a long way toward keeping things going around here. Please be generous in your support of this brick memorialization campaign, and feel free to spread the word to anyone and everyone; you don’t have to be a parishioner at OLPH (you don’t even have to be Catholic!) to have a brick memorialized.

Holy Day of Obligation— Immaculate Conception, December 8

This Thursday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All Catholics are obligated to attend Mass for this Solemnity, so we’ll be seeing you back later in the week!

We have printed the schedule of Masses elsewhere in this bulletin.

What a wonderful feast this is, especially since it occurs during Advent and fits so beautifully into our Advent spirituality! What we celebrate is Mary's total freedom from original sin from the moment of her conception. This freedom from the sin of Adam and Eve is shown in the Gospel for the Mass of the Holy Day, as Mary proclaims to the angel Gabriel, "*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*" Mary shows her willingness to place herself fully in God's hands, even when it promises to be difficult and requires great faith and trust.

However, Mary is always seen as the model disciple, the model of our faith, and so this day should be a day when we pray that our faith and trust may be the same as Mary's. This is expressed in the prayers of the Mass of the day, as in the Collect (Opening Prayer) we will pray that "... *through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your [God's] presence*" and in the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer we will refer to Mary as "*a model of holiness.*"

Allow this Solemnity to be for you a day to reflect on the place of Mary in your prayer life and as a model of faith for you.

**Parish Advent Penance Service—
Tuesday, December 13**

We will again be celebrating a special Advent Parish Penance Service, this year on Tuesday, December 13; details can be found elsewhere in this bulletin. We have invited Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, to be our guest presider and preacher that night, and anyone who has heard Bishop Andrzej preach knows what a delightful, engaging and thought-provoking preacher he is.

The Penance Service will follow the format of a Liturgy of the Word, with songs, prayers, readings, and a homily, after which all will have the opportunity to individually celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. While there are numerous other opportunities to go to Confession during Advent, I do hope you will make it a special priority to come to the Penance Service as the time when you go to Confession for this season. Come and pray with your brothers and sisters even if you do not plan on going to Confession! As you well know, there is something very powerful about our praying together that enriches our experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The

communal aspect of the liturgy before the individual confessions provides strength and encouragement for those who do go to Confession, and it makes the experience of the Lord's mercy and forgiveness that much richer and deeper. Mark your calendar and make your plans now to be there on December 13. You'll be glad you did; what a great way to celebrate Advent!

Bambinelli Sunday—

Bring your figure of the Christ Child to be blessed at all Masses December 17-18

We're continuing a custom we began last year of celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH. We'll be celebrating it on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, at the Masses the weekend of December 17-18. "Bambinelli Sunday" is the custom of bringing the figure of the Christ Child from your crèche (Nativity scene) at home and having blessed in church. We did this last year for the first time, but because it was new, many people forgot; I recall that at the Masses I had last year, when I announced it at Mass and asked for people to come forward, many, many of you quickly had that pained look on your face as you suddenly remembered that you forgot to bring your Christ Child figure, even though you intended to!

Make a note of it now and remember it for this year! Bring the figure of the Christ Child from your home Nativity scene to Mass on the weekend of December 17-18, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will bless the figures at the end of Mass. What a great way to mark Late Advent Time and to connect your home celebration of Advent and Christmas with your celebration at Mass.

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,



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 7

Eve of the Holy Day

5:00 p.m. Mass

Thursday, December 8

Mass Schedule:

6:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

*Exposition will be held from 8:30 p.m.—Midnight
Will include the Annual Night of Prayer for the Unborn*

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

PERPETUAL HELP MASS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 5:00 P.M. MASS

Barbara LaPersonerie	Requested by Pat Steel
Patrick & Cecelia Flynn	Requested by Lorraine Sullivan
Salvatore Fischeti	Requested by Leonard Kalman & Leslie
Etta Imprevento	Requested by Mary Ann
Jeffery Montgomery	Requested by Maura Bailey
Richard Harrer	Requested by Henry J. Klem
Danielle Doris (Living)	Requested by Marie Doris
The Eiring Family	Requested by Ann Marie & Ed Jacobs
Joseph Belluardo (Living)	Requested by The Heller Family
Charles Coyne	Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Cunningham
Thomas O'Boyle	Requested by Emma Bailey

NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

Thursday, December 8th

8:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.



Uniting the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with the Feast of St. Juan Diego.

It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on December 8th) that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and prays through Her intercession for the establishment of a Culture of Life, protection for the Church from persecution and asks Our Lord to REVIVE OUR LAND. All are invited to participate!

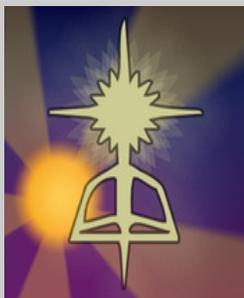
PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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**



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 5—7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 12—7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 19—7:00 p.m.

ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS: MEETING ON DECEMBER 6

All our young people who serve as Altar Servers are reminded to attend the very important meeting on **Tuesday, December 6, at 4:30 p.m. in the church.** Among other business items, we will discuss assignments for the Christmas schedule and serving weddings. All Altar Servers are expected to attend, *and one parent* should attend as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY AT OLPH



We'll again be celebrating our own "Bambinelli Sunday" here at OLPH on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 17-18.** You are invited to bring to Mass that weekend your figure of the Christ Child from your home crèche (Nativity scene). We'll offer a blessing of these figurines at all the Masses that weekend. Don't forget to bring your Christ Child figure to Sunday Mass December 17-18!

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lighting Your Advent Wreath During the Week

Each day during the second week of Advent, at the evening meal, two purple 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...

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 Second Sunday of Advent*

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

— *Another prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent*

What keeps you from giving now? Isn't the poor person there? Aren't your own warehouses full? Isn't the reward promised? The command is clear: the hungry person is dying now, the naked person is freezing now, the person in debt is beaten now—and you want to wait until tomorrow? "I'm not doing any harm," you say. "I just want to keep what I own, that's all." You own! You are like someone who sits down in a theater and keeps everyone else away, saying that what is there for everyone's use is your own....If everyone took only what they needed and gave the rest to those in need, there would be no such thing as rich and poor. After all, didn't you come into life naked, and won't your return naked to the earth?

— *St. Basil, Fourth century*



Second Sunday of Advent



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we honor holy Mary, and celebrate her conception in the womb of St. Anne. As we praise God, who kept her sinless from the first moment of her life, we remember God's mercy, which has freed us from sin in baptism.



O God, who by the Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

— *Collect of the Mass for the Immaculate Conception*

Father, the image of the Virgin is found in the Church. Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin, for you kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith. Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

— *Another Prayer for the Immaculate Conception*

Hail Mary, the most beautiful dove, which carried the word of God for us; we greet you with the Archangel Gabriel saying: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O Virgin, the glory of our race; you have borne Emmanuel for us. We pray that you will remember us before the Lord Jesus Christ, that he will forgive us our sins.

— *Coptic liturgy*

John the Baptist's first major theme is: Reflect, repent, convert! In every age people fall prey to the temptation to overturn the proper order of values. What is important is degraded to a minor matter, what is minor or even wrong is raised to a principal theme, the central issue of one's life. It can be greed. It can be ambition with its exhibitionistic and ruthless careerism. It can be quarrelsomeness and the insistence on always being right, or envy and a desire to dominate, or the unmastered desire for pleasure that Paul at one point so powerfully describes: "their god is their belly" (Phil 3:19). These are all products of egoism, which places one's own self in the center and degenerates into idolatry. John sees this clearly and therefore calls for reflection: Admit your offense, confess your sin and let yourself be cleansed. As a symbol of such purification he offers a baptism of repentance in the Jordan.

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

Listen, a clear voice is calling. / It pierces the night and the darkness: / Awake and leave behind sleep and dreams — / Christ is shining in the heavens. / This is the bright time of hope. / The dawn approaches; the day begins: / A new star begins to beam, / Before whose glow the darkness flees. / From heaven is sent one as a lamb / Who will take all our sins upon himself. / In faith we turn our faces to him / And ask his forgiveness. / So that, when again he comes in light, / And his brilliance strikes the world with terror, / He may not avenge sin with punishment, / But gently gather us to himself.

— *A hymn for Advent, Author unknown*

FAMILY LIFE ADVENT ACTIVITY

Sunday, November 27, the First Sunday of Advent was celebrated with breakfast and prayer sponsored by the OLPH Family Life Ministry. They were assisted by Confirmation candidates who helped serve breakfast. An Advent chain was given out to take home and remind us during Advent that small tasks can help prepare our hearts for Jesus.



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NEW BOXES OF CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE



The new boxes of **Children's Envelopes** for the upcoming liturgical year are now available! Children should use these envelopes to make their offering in the weekly collection basket at Mass, in addition to their family's offering.

The purpose of the envelopes is not a money-raising one, but rather to provide parents a tool to reinforce in their children the idea of stewardship for their Church and responsible giving toward others. It's a great way to teach children the value of being thankful for the gifts God gives us and the importance of sharing the abundance of those gifts with others. Ideally, the money — whatever amount is placed in the envelope (there is no minimum or maximum!) — comes from the children themselves, *e.g.*, out of their allowance, rather than being just handed to them from the parents. In this way, Christian attitudes are nourished in the children, and this can be yet another avenue for parents and children to discuss responsible Christian living.

New boxed sets of Children's Envelopes for the entire new liturgical year (starting with Advent 2016) are available in baskets throughout the church. Families who wish to use them should simply take a box which contains envelopes for the entire year, with the children then returning one envelope each week, dropping it in the collection basket at Mass. The envelope should have the child's name and amount of the offering written on it. The design on the envelope may be colored in and decorated in other ways if desired. The amount collected in the children's envelopes is published in the bulletin each week. As with the usual collection offerings, the money will go toward supporting the mission of and programs at OLPH.

Encourage your children to use these envelopes as a way of growing in Christian stewardship and responsibility!

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 16, 2016

7:00 p.m. Church



We would like to involve as many members of our parish community, especially all parish children! We have many speaking parts for children who can memorize a few lines and speak loudly and clearly. There are roles for: Mary, Joseph, Herod, Three Kings, Innkeeper, Angels and of course the shepherds.

Please indicate if your child is interested in having a speaking role. Parts will be given out at the first rehearsal, so anyone wishing to have a speaking part must be able to attend all rehearsals. There is something for children of every age!

College Students (especially those coming home for Christmas) and Adults: We need help with supervision of angels and shepherds, assistance with hospitality and more! If you can help, please contact Trish Buckley at 631-561-5790 or e-mail buckleyt@optonline.net.



We especially need parishioners to be part of our **Christmas Pageant Chorus and Music Group!** We need singers, etc. For more information, contact Amy Keller at Mrs.amykeller@yahoo.com

Pageant Practices

Thursday, December 8th 4:30—6:00 p.m

Tuesday, December 13th 5:30 –7:00 pm

Thursday, December 15th 5:30—7:30 pm Dress Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____@_____

Grade _____

My child is interested in having a speaking role!

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Located in the school building
 Phone # 631.226.7725 x. 253
 Email: religiously@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.



Second Sunday of Advent



REVEAL Chastity Presentation

Maureen Brady and Nolan Reynolds gave a wonderful presentation to our Level 7 students.



Upcoming Dates:

Level 4 Parent/Child Workshop:
 Saturday, December 10th, all sessions

Level 6 Penance Service:
 Wednesday, December 14th, during class time

Congratulations to our Newly Baptized Students!

Anthony DeMarino and Jesse Martinez are now officially part of the Catholic family of OLPH!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Nicholas

Feast Day: December 6th

St. Nicholas, a 4th century Greek bishop, lived a life of generosity and piety. His famous gift-giving began when he secretly deposited three bags of gold through the window of a family whose daughters were too poor to marry.

However, St. Nicholas was not known only for his presents; at the famous council of Nicea (which established many great truths of our faith), he was so angry with heretic Arius that it is said he slapped the man in the face! St. Nicholas is one of the Church's most beloved saints, fighting tirelessly through his life against paganism and poverty. He was a powerful leader as well as a benefactor for children and the poor. *St. Nicholas, pray for us!*



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Reminder: the Faith Formation office will be CLOSED on **Thursday, Dec. 8th** for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Remember to attend Mass!



The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was born without original sin.

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.

DECORATING THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT

Many thanks go to our Exterior Decorating Crew, made up of Middle School Girl Scout Cadets & their troop Leader, and some Confirmation candidates and parents. They did a great job helping to decorate the exterior of the grounds for Advent!
Thank you for helping OLPH to celebrate Advent well!



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!

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.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

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 13
at 7:00 p.m.**

Wrapping Party for the Veterans Christmas Gifts please bring extra scissors, tissue paper and gift bags.

The meetings will be held in Room 24 of the “new” school (use large parking lot).

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

Upcoming Meeting:

Tuesday, December 27: Annual Christmas Party at 7:00 p.m. offsite at Villa Gaia, 101 N. Wellwood Ave, Lindenhurst.

There is a
place for
you at
our table...



COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

OLPH's Community Meal Ministry has served hundreds of meals to members of our parish community. Generally held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, the Community Meal seeks to provide a place of good food, good fellowship and good times for all who come!

**Our next Community Meal is
Sunday, December 18th
Come and pray with us at the
12:00 p.m. Mass then join us for
“Sunday Dinner” at 1:00 p.m.**

Diocese of Rockville Centre Day of Prayer and Healing for Women after Abortion

This day of prayer and healing for women after they have had an abortion is an opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The day is directed by faithful priests who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer.

Date: Saturday, December 10, on Long Island

For more information visit: respectlife.drvc.org

To register contact: Project Rachel 1-888-456-4673 projectrachel@drvc.org

All reservations and information are confidential.

Healing *after Abortion*

Ocean
of mercy

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #794 & OLPH HOLY NAME SOCIETY
KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST**



**TAKE PART IN THE 2016
“KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS”
POSTER CONTEST**

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGES 5-14

CONTEST RULES:

1. The wording “Keep Christ in Christmas” must appear on the poster.
2. Paper: any color oak tag (recommended) or similar style construction paper. Poster must be 11” X 17”
3. Medium: There are no restrictions on colors, types of print, pastels or crayons, or number of colors. **NO THREE DIMENTIONAL** work of any type. **NO GLUEING** of objects. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used, please laminate or cover in clear plastic to protect the artwork.
4. Artwork: must be completely done by the STUDENT.
5. All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus & Holy Name Society.
6. On back of the poster glue or tape information in the coupon below.
7. Return your poster to your Religious Education teacher or to OLPH Rectory during regular business hours.

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Age: _____ **DOB:** _____

Grade: _____

I certify that this poster is the original work-product of the applicant.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

For additional information, please contact Mike Hearney at 631-560-0451, or Bob Newberry at 917-613-7848

All Posters must be turned in by December 10, 2016



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

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25

The final judgement in the Gospel of Matthew should serve as a call to action for each and every one of us. Our parish Advent Giving Tree is one way to respond! Our parish social ministries are working together to support life at all stages. There are tags on our Giving Tree to help the hungry, the unborn, the sick, the immigrant and those in prison. You need to empty the tree of the tags and return them no later than **Saturday/Sunday, December 10/11**. Below are description of some of the agencies we will be supporting this year. *If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ronessi at dronessi@verizon.net or 631.225.4115. Gifts for St. Vincent de Paul (green tags) should be wrapped. All other gifts should not be wrapped.*

St. Vincent de Paul

Each year, our parish supports many families at Christmas with food, toys and clothing. Read more in our bulletin about our parish's outreach efforts.

Community Meal Ministry

Our Community Meal Ministry needs your help to provide a “little bit of Christmas” for our guests.

OLPH HOMELESS VAN MINISTRY

Help our parish provide basic necessities for the local homeless during this season.

LIFE CENTER

The Life Center assists pregnant women as they prepare to give birth to the gift of life in their own lives. Learn more about the life center at www.lifecenterli.org



SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Support the work of our Middle Ages group in providing Christmas gifts and necessities for our local veterans.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Immigration Services

Support our brothers and sisters and their families who are just coming to our country. Read more at www.catholiccharities.cc

The Giving Tree

Prison Families

Support our Diocesan Prison Ministry as they provide gifts for the children of men and women in prison.

HOPE HOUSE MINISTRIES

Hope House Ministries supports young men struggling with addiction and brokenness in their own lives. Learn more about Hope House at www.hhm.org.

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

Reflexiones de las lecturas del Tercer domingo de Adviento

La tierra, Señor, se alegra en estos días, y tu Iglesia desborda de gozo ante tu Hijo, el Señor Jesús, que se acerca como luz esplendorosa, para iluminar a los que yacemos en las tinieblas, de la ignorancia, del dolor y del pecado.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 35,1.6, 10): Alegría para los Que Sufren

Por medio del profeta Isaías, Dios promete que él mismo vendrá a liberar a su pueblo. – Jesús traerá esta esperanza y alegría a los pobres y a los que sufren.

Segunda Lectura (Santiago 5,7-10): Tengan Paciencia: El Señor Está de Camino hacia Nosotros

Evangelio (Mateo 11,2-11): La Buena Noticia Proclamada a los Pobres

Jesús trae el amor de Dios a los pobres y a los que sufren; de esta forma cumple lo que el profeta Isaías había anunciado sobre la instauración del nuevo mundo de Dios.

No Habrá Pobres entre Ustedes

Entre los principales signos que Jesús cita sobre su identidad como el esperado Mesías está el siguiente: él llevó la Buena Nueva de salvación a los pobres. Los profetas del Antiguo Testamento habían dicho que el Salvador haría eso precisamente. Incluso la Ley había dicho ya anteriormente: "No habrá pobres entre ustedes". Los pobres eran la gran preocupación de Jesús. --- Nosotros somos discípulos de Jesús. ¿En qué medida alcanzamos fraternalmente a los pobres, como Jesús? ¿Cuántos pobres hay todavía entre nosotros? Pidamos a Dios en esta eucaristía que nos haga conscientes de la pobreza que nos rodea, y que nos haga signos vivientes de su presencia bondadosa para los pobres.

El *testimonio*, que María, la Madre del Señor, vive, sirviendo y ayudando al prójimo. Coincide este domingo con la celebración de la **Virgen de Guadalupe**, y precisamente la liturgia de Adviento nos invita a recordar la figura de María, que se prepara para ser la Madre de Jesús y que además está dispuesta a ayudar y servir a quien la necesita. El evangelio nos relata la visita de la Virgen a su prima Isabel y nos invita a repetir como ella: "**Quién soy yo para que la madre de mi Señor venga a verme?**"

Sabemos que María está siempre acompañando a sus hijos en la Iglesia, por lo que nos disponemos a vivir esta tercera semana de Adviento, meditando acerca del papel que la Virgen María desempeñó. Te proponemos que fomentes la devoción a María, rezando el Rosario en familia, uno de los elementos de las tradicionales **posadas**. Encendemos como signo de espera gozosa, la tercera vela, color rosa, de la Corona de Adviento.

SEMANA 3:

TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Han llegado los tiempos mesiánicos

« Estad siempre alegres en el Señor; os lo repito: estad alegres. El Señor está cerca. » (Antífona de Entrada, Flp 4, 4.5)

« Estás viendo, Señor, cómo tu pueblo espera con fe la fiesta del nacimiento de tu Hijo; concédenos llegar a la Navidad - fiesta de gozo y salvación - y poder celebrarla con alegría desbordante. Por nuestro Señor. » (Oración Colecta)

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

WE REMEMBER

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

Janet Connor

“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...

*Eileen Henry
Bonnie Rieger
Alyssa Drenkalo
Anthony Borelli
Vance Viverito
Fran Milo
Sheila Kump
Carmine Alesi*

*Robert Walker
William Decaneo
Dominick Pane
Wojciech Chojnacki
Judith Walsh
Catherine Tamburino
James Quartuccio
Rosemarie Collins*

MASS MEMORIALS

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

Altar Bread & Wine

In Memory of

Charles Coyne

Requested by

Mr. & Mrs. Pecoraro

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

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.**

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



Madison Grace Mulero

We welcome the newest member
of the Catholic community here at OLPH!

DECORATING THE INSIDE OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT

Thanks too to our great indoor crew, who prepared the inside of the church for Advent! Great job!



CONGRATULATIONS!



At our Thanksgiving Day Mass on November 24, Msgr. Joe presented the diocesan St. Agnes Medal of Service Award to Richard and MaryAnn Haas, who were unable to attend the ceremony with Bishop Murphy in Rockville Centre (see the Pastor's Column in the November 20 bulletin for full details). Congratulations to Richard and MaryAnn for this well-deserved honor!

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 5— Advent Weekday

6:30 Francis Venezia

12:15 Lucy VanEron

TUESDAY, December 6— Advent Weekday (*Saint Nicholas, Bishop*)

6:30 Alex Polanco

12:15 Eugenia Cedeno

WEDNESDAY, December 7— Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

6:30 Angela & Sherman Glass

12:15 Giuseppe Lentini

Vigil for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00 Dolores Catalano

THURSDAY, December 8— Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 In Thanksgiving for the Pasquin Family

12:15 For God's Blessings & Holy Mother Protection
upon the Cannon & Jablonski Families

FRIDAY, December 9— Advent Weekday (*Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin*)

6:30 Margaret Lampasone

12:15 Robert Barrett

SATURDAY, December 10— Advent Weekday

8:00 Holly Gallo

Vigil for THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 Perpetual Help Mass Intentions (pg. 5)

Sunday, December 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 Eva Sciara

10:00 For the People of the Parish

12:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Holy
Name Society

5:00 Doris Burrell

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 5, 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 6, 2016

4:00 p.m. CYO Cheerleading Auditorium

4:30 p.m. Altar Servers Meeting Church

6:00 p.m. Van Ministry Run Room 10

6:45 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Catechists Meeting Auditorium

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

Wednesday, December 7, 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

5:30 p.m. Level 6 Classes & Penance School

7:30 p.m. Level 7 Classes School

Thursday, December 8, 2016

**MOST ACTIVITIES CANCELLED FOR THE SOLEMNITY
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. THE RECTORY
RECEPTION DESK WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL FROM
9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.**

4:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Church

8:30 p.m. Exposition—Annual Night of
Prayer for the Unborn Church

Friday, December 9, 2016

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

7:00 p.m. Holy Name Society Meeting Room 10

Saturday, December 10, 2016

8:00, 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. Levels 1— 5 Classes
(Level 4 Parent/Child Workshop) School

1:30 p.m. Reader Training Auditorium

4:00 p.m. Confessions Church

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Church

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

Sunday, December 11, 2016

8:00 a.m. RCIA Church

10:00 a.m. RCIC Room 18

1:30 a.m. Junior Legion of Mary Room 24

1:00 p.m. CYO Basketball Auditorium

2:00 p.m. Baptisms Church

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Church

7:00 p.m. Holy Hour for Peace Church

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
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 November 26/27 2016

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	392	145	\$3,713.00
8:00 a.m.	325	139	3,702.00
10:00 a.m.	562	138	3,489.00
12:00 pm.	465	260	3,893.00
5:00 p.m.	212	48	1,470.50
Total coin:			28.79
Mail-ins:			149.00
Children's Env.		24	80.57
Faith Direct			2,034.50
TOTAL	1,956	754	\$18,560.36
2015 total	2,111	676	\$18,490.38
Candles			\$990.52
Poor Box			\$382.77

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.

December 11—passed
December 18—December 9
December 25—December 15
January 1—December 19

Due to the Christmas holidays printing deadlines have been made earlier by the printer. Thank you for your cooperation.

HOLY DAY OFFICE HOURS:

• All parish offices, except for Rectory Reception desk, are closed on Thursday, **December 8**, in observance of the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*.

• The reception desk will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Our thanks go to Ryan Sullivan and Team SUF for their generous donation in support of our Food Pantry at Thanksgiving.



RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION NEXT WEEK DEC. 10/11

Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURTESY

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.

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, December 11, 2016—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense he comes to save you.”*

Isaiah 35:4

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The first section of the Book of Isaiah collects numerous oracles the prophet proclaimed over a span of nearly forty years. Included in the collection are calls to repentance, warnings of impending destruction, and visions of God's ultimate deliverance. Today's reading is one of the last type, a hopeful vision that at some time in the future God will bring unimaginably great new life to his people. So great will be this new life that even the land itself will be renewed with lavish growth. Not only will God's people be free, but they will be whole which is they way they were created to be. There will be no more sickness, infirmity, lameness, or blindness. God will come to set all things back into right and proper order. That truly is a time to look forward to!

James 5:7-10

This letter, attributed to James the leader of the Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem after Jesus' resurrection, focuses primarily on how people should act, that is, on right and ethical conduct. The reading today explains the reason for acting properly: the return of Christ is not far away. When Christ returns, he will bring final judgment with him – “Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.” James tells Christians, then and today, to be patient and not to complain about one another, lest we will be judged and found unworthy. He drives home this point by telling us four times to be patient. Although it may be really hard to be patient sometimes, it seems that it's pretty important.

Matthew 11:2-11

Last week, we heard how John the Baptist called for repentance in order to prepare for the arrival of God's final rule which he described as “the coming wrath.” This week he questions if Jesus is the Messiah, maybe because Jesus' ministry emphasized healing and mercy rather than wrath. But Jesus refers John back the reading from Isaiah we just heard where the blind will regain their sight and all manner of sick people will be cured as a way of indicating that he is indeed “the one who is to come.” Jesus then goes on to clarify John's role in all of this. Was he a “reed swayed by the wind” who followed every false Messiah? No. Did he come from a royal family wearing fine clothing? No. Jesus tells the crowds and us that John is the new and final prophet, the return of Elijah, announcing the arrival of the Messiah, just as it was written about by the Old.

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, December 5, 2016:

Isaiah 35:1-10 + Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 6, 2016:

Isaiah 40:1-11 + Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 7, 2016:

Isaiah 40:25-31 + Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 8, 2016:

Genesis 3:9-15
+ Ephesians 1:3-6; 11-12

+ Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 9, 2016:

Isaiah 48:17-19 + Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 10, 2016:

Sirach 348:1-4, 9-11
+ Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 11, 2016:

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 + James 5:7-10
+ Matthew 11:2-11

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. Explain in both the literal and metaphorical senses “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised.” John asked Jesus if he was “the one who is to come.” Jesus answered with the above statement. The people who came to John were seeking the deepest desires of their hearts. How was Jesus' response an answer to those desires?

2. John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused at the gentle, healing Jesus. Pope Francis invites us into the cell of John the Baptist to look into his soul, which was weighed down not only by chains, but by “the shackles of doubt.” Does God always come into your life the way you expect? [John the Baptist] suffered in prison—let us say the word—the interior torture of doubt, saying: “But maybe I made a mistake? This Messiah is not how I imagined the Messiah would be.” And he invited his disciples to ask Jesus: “But tell us, tell us the truth: are you he who is to come?” because that doubt made him suffer. “Was I mistaken in proclaiming someone who isn't who I thought?” The suffering, the interior solitude of this man. “I, on the other hand, must diminish, but diminish thus: in my soul, in my body, in everything.”

... Let us ask the Lord for the grace of humility that John had, ... the grace that there [be] always space in our lives for Jesus to grow and that we abase ourselves, to the very end.

*Pope Francis: God Triumphs through Humility; Mass at the Casa Santa Marta.
May 2, 2016*

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