

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



A voice of one crying out
in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

Matthew 3:3

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2013

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Rev. Ethel Anarado + Rev. John Sureau

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

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

Facilities Manager: Deacon Donald A. Stamm **Business Manager:** Deacon Thomas J. Bast

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

COME IN AND PRAY...

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

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

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Holy Day: 6:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday and Sunday
after the 5 P.M. Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday Evening: after OLPH Novena Devotions

Wednesday: 12:45 to 4:30 p.m.

First Sunday: 7:00 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.

OLPH HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY IS PLANNING A GREAT NIGHT FOR TEENS THROUGHOUT LONG ISLAND!!

OLPH Youth Ministry invites youth throughout Long Island to

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH NIGHT

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord....Isaiah 2:5

FRIDAY, December 13, 2013 +

8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.



Doors open at 7:30 P.M. in the Auditorium. Evening Prayer begins at 8:00 P.M.



As daylight declines during the winter season, we long for the light of day even more. We gather, at night, for Evening Prayer, the prayer of the Church, to pray for Christ's light to touch each of our hearts. Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, our pastor, will preach at Evening Prayer.

We also know that darkness can reign in our hearts and our world. As part of the night, we invite all to join in our **Service of Light**—an opportunity to learn about ways young people can and make a difference in the local community—how they can walk in the light of the Lord! The **Service of Light** will include music, food (of course!), opportunities to meet friends, and a chance to learn about ways to be the light of Christ in our world.

The event is free, however, we ask that each person who attends bring one food item for our local food pantry or a new unwrapped toy to assist Prison Ministry in our own Diocese.

Also, we need delicious desserts....how about helping us out?? If you can help with making something for this great night, contact Brittany Evans at olph.yfia@gmail.com.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Parish Visitation This Weekend

As you already know from having attended Mass, this weekend we have welcomed Msgr. James McNamara, Vicar for the Central Vicariate, for his Parish Visitation to OLPH. Msgr. Jim has had a very busy weekend meeting with the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and many other parish ministries, societies and organizations, in order to get a sense of where OLPH is at as a parish and to hear the comments, impressions and input of those involved in leadership in the parish. In time, I will receive a report from Msgr. Jim, which will also be forwarded to Bishop Murphy, and this report, which I will share with the Pastoral Staff and Pastoral Council, will help us in planning our direction for the future.

Advent

So, how are you doing so far in keeping Advent? Admittedly, it can be difficult to keep an Advent spirit of longing and waiting and preparation when everything about our society is prompting us to celebrate Christmas now, and to have it all over and done with on December 26. I think it becomes a question of **balance**. There are some legitimate things that have to get done ahead of time: baking the cookies, shopping for gifts, writing the Christmas cards. While all this is good, let's also be careful of working ourselves into such a frenzy that we create a "*hurry up and let's get this over with mentality*" when it comes to things that are supposed to bring joy and peace. We have to ask the question as to the value of something that becomes such a burden that we have to "get it out of the way as early as possible."

Perhaps part of a real Advent spirituality involves **re-prioritizing**. Given the limited amount of time we have to get ready for Christmas, what things are really worth our time and effort, and what things are perhaps expendable for the sake of creating some spiritual emptiness in our life? What things, though they might be good and nice, might be less important, and therefore perhaps left undone, for the sake of taking time for Advent prayer, reflection, and Scripture reading? How can we **re-order** and **re-prioritize** our life so that we are not so frenetic and overwrought over what has to get done? Remember, in Advent we are getting ready for the coming of the Prince of Peace, not the Prince-of-Those-Who-Are-Exhausted-from-Overwork-and-Stress. If that's true, what do we need to do to make this Advent a little less stressful for ourselves and our loved ones?

I hope as a minimum each family is taking a few minutes each day or night, perhaps before the evening meal, to light their home Advent wreath and to say some prayers together, perhaps using the prayers we

offer in this bulletin.

"Merry Christmas," not "Happy Holidays"

There's something else I would ask you to keep in mind in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It's well-known that there seem to be forces in our society that would like to eliminate any religious meaning from Christmas, and part of this seems to be a concerted effort to eliminate use of the word "Christmas." As Christians, we must consistently oppose any tendency to turn Christmas into some generic winter holiday. We should not allow "Happy Holidays" to replace "Merry Christmas" (or to replace "Happy Hanukkah," for those who celebrate Hanukkah, for that matter) as a greeting. At this time of year I have been known to wear a button on my coat that says, "It's OK to say Merry Christmas to me!" Maybe you've seen buttons like that around; if you have one, wear it! I would urge everyone to make sure you use religious greetings in your conversations with others.

What surprises and, in fact, disappoints me, is that way that Christians, we Catholics included, often play into this and reinforce it. It's subtle; I don't think we are trying to destroy the religious meaning of Christmas, but we are unconsciously reinforcing a bad tendency when we inadvertently repeat a generic "Happy Holidays" greeting. Another example of this might be found in the Christmas cards we send. What do your Christmas cards look like? Do they explicitly affirm the religious meaning of Christmas, or do they portray images and scenes of some generic winter holiday or other cutesy, non-descript graphic? Would a stranger know that Jesus Christ is the meaning of Christmas as a result of reading your Christmas card? As yet another example, if we are creating something for public display or advertisement, are we being sure to purposefully use the word "Christmas" and religious pictures and imagery, instead of a generic "Happy Holidays" and snowmen and snowflakes?

It's just something for all of us to ponder...

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer

Last weekend we began praying Evening Prayer as a community, and it was wonderful! I was thrilled by the number of people who attended, and those who prayed it enjoyed doing so. The practice will continue indefinitely: each Saturday and Sunday evening, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass (somewhere around 6:10 or 6:15 p. m.) those who wish to do so will gather to pray Evening Prayer. Texts will be provided, and it will take only about 15 minutes or so. Consider joining in as frequent-

ly as you can!

Lessons and Carols: A Beautiful Advent Prayer

Next Sunday evening, December 15, at 7:30, OLPH will celebrate Lessons and Carols. You've been reading about it and hearing about it, so I hope you have given yourself the gift of setting the time aside to be there. There is no more beautiful and uplifting way to pray "Come, Lord Jesus!" than in the songs and Scripture readings of Lessons and Carols. Please make every effort to attend.

Parish Penance Service, Monday, December 9

Let me remind you about our Parish Penance Service this Monday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church. Celebrating God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most apt way to prepare our hearts to receive this Lord this Christmas, and so we will celebrate a communal Advent Penance Service. How splendid it is for us to celebrate the gift of God's forgiveness by together, as a community, reflecting on that forgiveness through prayers and Scripture readings, and then celebrating individual Confessions. That's what we will be doing this Monday night at 7:30 p.m., so please join us. It's a great way to get to Confession during Advent!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Since this Sunday is December 8, the liturgical celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The celebration of that Solemnity is transferred to the next day, Monday, December 9, but the obligation to attend Mass is not transferred. However, even though there is no obligation to attend Mass, I encourage all parishion-

ers, if at all possible, to attend Mass, either here at OLPH or wherever might be convenient, in order to mark this important Solemnity, which is also the Patronal Feast of the United States of America.

Youth Ministry Event

I am very pleased that OLPH will be hosting a special "Advent Evening Prayer and Community Outreach Night" for youth throughout Long Island this Friday night, December 13. This shows some great leadership on the part of our Youth Ministry, and I thank BrittanyMarie Evans, our Youth Minister, for her hard work and leadership not only with this event, but also for all the time and energy she puts into Youth Ministry in our parish on an ongoing basis. Thanks too to all who have worked with Brittany on this event and on everything that has built up and re-energized our Youth Ministry at OLPH. It is growing, growing, growing, and that's a great thing!

How appropriate, too, that this event is inviting youth to "walk in the light of the Lord" on December 13, which is the Feast of St. Lucy! St. Lucy, one of my favorite saints, is associated with light and with sight, and is a great "Advent saint" as we focus on the light of Christ's coming into the world overcoming the darkness.

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,



NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE TONIGHT—Sunday, December 8, 2013 8 P.M. to 11 P.M.

It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on December 9th) 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!

All are asked to come for at least one hour tonight and pray for God's gift of life!

ADVENT MONDAYS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Advent season is a wonderful time to receive God's loving forgiveness in this beautiful sacrament. We have provided a number of opportunities for you throughout the Advent season.



Parish Penance Service

(with individual confessions)

**This Monday, December 9, 2013
7:30 P.M. + Church**

(Please note: OLPH Novena Devotions will take place at 6:30 P.M. on this night.)

Individual Confessions

Saturdays— 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

**Friday, December 13th &
Wednesday, December 18th**

7:00 –8:00 P.M.

**Saturday, December 21
3:00-4:30 P.M.**

**Monday through Friday
Following the 12:15 P.M. Mass**

Come, learn and share about the Advent Scriptures!!!



ADVENT SCRIPTURE STUDY AND REFLECTION

Mondays of Advent

Monday, December 9, 2013

This Monday after the 6:30 A.M. Mass

Room 24

(Facilitated by Fr. Ethel)

OR

This Monday after the 12:15 P.M. Mass

Room 24

(Facilitated by April Carbaugh)

We'll provide the coffee and drinks—you provide the snacks!

OLPH LOVES OUR KIDS!

Children's Christmas Pageant

**Friday, December 20, 2013
7:00 P.M. Church**

We'd like to involve as many members of our parish community, especially all parish children!

It's easy...there are only two short practices and a dress rehearsal.

There's something for all ages....

Pre-K through Grade 3—Angels and Shepherds (We need hundreds of them!)

Grades 4 through 6—Three Kings and the Royal Servants

Grades 7 through 12—We needs lots of help—musicians, singers, organizers, help with Hot Cocoa and cookies, assistant directors and more!



Pageant Practices

Tuesday, December 10th—4:30 P.M. + Friday, December 13th—4:30 P.M.

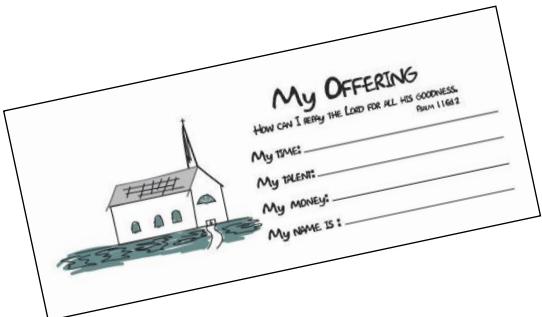
DRESS REHEARSAL: Tuesday, December 17th—4:30 P.M.—Church

If you haven't signed up yet, please e-mail to OLPHFAMILY@aol.com or to Fr. John at jsureau@oloph.org or call the Parish Office at 631.226.7725.

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES

We remind you that **Children's Envelopes** are available for children to place in the weekly collection basket at Mass. Use of these envelopes is completely voluntary, of course, and the primary purpose is not a money-raising one.

The purpose is to provide a tool for those parents who wish to reinforce in their children the idea of stewardship for their Church and responsible giving toward others. Ideally, the money (whatever amount is placed in the envelope—there is no maximum or minimum) comes from the children themselves, *e.g.*, out of their allowance or other money they earn, rather than just being handed to them from the parents.



The envelopes are available in boxes on an ongoing basis in the church. The box contains a year's supply. Families who wish to use them should simply take a box. Children then return 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 will be published in the bulletin each week.

SECOND WEEK 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 WEEK OF ADVENT

More thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

On December 8 (December 9 this year, since December 8 falls on a Sunday), the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, we honor holy Mary, and celebrate her conception in the womb of St. Ann. 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

MUSIC NOTES

Celebrating 50 Years of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy



This past Wednesday, December 4, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* tells us, “the musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value” (112). The Constitution was the first document produced by the Second Vatican Council in 1963, and it called for the reform and promotion of the liturgy. One of the eight chapters in this document addresses the integral nature of music in the liturgy, and identifies norms and principles for its renewal and promotion.

The Constitution explains that the purpose of sacred music is “the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful” (112). Sacred music adds delight to prayer, fosters unity of minds, and confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites. As a result, the Council Fathers declared that the treasure of sacred music is to be preserved and fostered with great care, through the promotion of choirs and a wider and more frequent teaching and practice of music in seminaries, institutions, and schools (see CSL, 114, 115).

The 50th Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: A Parish Celebration © 2013 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. Orders: 1-800-933-1800. Written by Christina Bax. Text from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy © 1982, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL).

Join the Choir for Christmas

Would you like to sing with the adult choir for the Christmas Season (or even just Midnight Mass) but can't commit to singing every Sunday? We'd love to have you. College students are especially welcome. Call Chris Ferraro at 226-7725 ext. 210 or email him at cferraro@oloph.org for more information or to discuss what the commitment might entail.

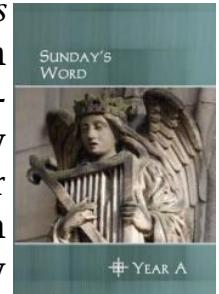


Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards

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.

New Sunday's Word for the New Liturgical Year- Year A

The new *Sunday's Word* book, with the Sunday readings for the new liturgical year which began with the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, is now available at the rectory. A \$2 donation is requested to cover the cost of the book.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. —Pope Francis

Food Pantry Shopping List

- Shelf Stable Milk
- Canned Fruit
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Pasta Sauce
- Small Packages of Rice
- Canned Meats
- Pork Beans/Baked Beans
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Soaps and Shampoos

**Cut out this list and bring it with you when you go shopping!
Thank you and God bless you!**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot on corner of Gates and High Streets

Our NEW phone # 631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9 A.M. —12 Noon

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.

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE



Thanks for your generous response during the First Sunday of Advent. Our original batch of tags were all taken by the 9:30 A.M. Mass. Now, we are able to provide even more assistance to those in need. If you have not taken a tag (or tags) yet, please do so this weekend.

GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN December 14/15.

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

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

CALLING ALL NURSES!

Nursing Ministry

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul."

3 John 2

Thank you to all who have offered their time and talent for our Parish Nursing Ministry.

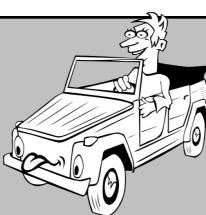
Our first meeting will be:

**TUESDAY,
December 10, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

Rectory Meeting Room

If you are interested in being a part of this new ministry and want to find out more information, please contact Regina Muir at 631.226.2709 or e-mail to rmuir11@aol.com.

**DRIVING
MINISTRY...**
Start your engines!



- Do you have 1 or 2 hours a month to help your fellow parishioners?
- Would you be willing to bring a fellow parishioner to Mass?
- Can you help a parishioner who might need a lift to a doctor or medical appointment?

We are trying to start a driving ministry at OLPH. We need a commitment from a number of drivers with a good license and insurance and, of course, some time to donate to others. The service will be medical appointments and participation at Sunday Mass.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact Maureen Russo at 631.226.4182 or the Rectory at 631.226.7725.

ALL DRIVERS MUST BE VIRTUS TRAINED.

Special thanks to those who have already replied...we're almost ready to get started!

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Please join the *Holy Name Society's* regular meeting at the **Knights of Columbus—Brady Hall**



**Wednesday, Dec. 11
at 7:30pm**

We will have a speaker from
“Catholics for Freedom of Religion”

Please join us and the Parish group for Religious Liberty!

St. Bernard League **HELP NEEDED!**



Our St. Bernard League is ready to go (and shovel!)

We are in need of someone (or a team) to serve as the administrators of the program. This would require only being able to use a database program and a phone. You do not need to shovel, unless you really want to do that too!

For more information, please contact Fr. John at 631.226.7725 or e-mail to jsureau@oloph.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ OLPH

High School & Middle School Youth Ministry: Brittany Marie Evans (olph.yfia@gmail.com)

Youth Service Corps: Fr. John Sureau (jsureau@oloph.org)

Catholic Youth Organization: Mr. Phil Amico (olphcyophil@aol.com)

Boy Scouts: Mr. Tom Duffy (dduffy2@msn.com)

K of C Squires: Mr. Frank Nicosia (happynicosias@yahoo.com)

K of C Squires: Ann Marie Perullo (amp1761@hotmail.com)

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Upcoming High School Events - All 8th - 12th graders are welcome to attend any of these events!

TODAY—Sunday, December 8th

3:15—4:45 P.M./Cafeteria

Advent—Getting Ready for What?

What difference does it make?

Who really needs Christmas?

December 13th— See page 2 of the bulletin.

December 22nd - Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater, be ready to sing carols and make PB&J's, and meet us at 3pm in the Cafeteria to make some sandwiches for the soup kitchen!

ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our next middle school night is

Thursday, December 12th

7:30—8:45 P.M.

Meet by the Youth Office at 7:30, entering through the front doors on Wellwood Avenue

Upcoming Middle School Youth Ministry Dates

Friday, December 13th—7:30—9:30 P.M.

See inside page 2 of the bulletin

Tuesday, December 19th- Times TBA

We are going to bring some of the “spirit of the season” to some of our parish’s homebound parishioners!

SCOUTS SERVING OUR PARISH!



Eagle Scout Matt Ninomiya (and fellow scouts) spent a recent Saturday morning clearing and rebuilding the walk-through that will allow parishioners to move easily from the Rectory Lawn to the Parking Lot! Great job, Matt!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday, December 9, 2013:

Genesis 3:9-15 + Ephesians 1:3-6 + Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10, 2013:

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

Wednesday, December 11, 2013:

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

Thursday, December 12, 2013:

Zechariah 2:14-17 + Luke 1:26-38

Friday, December 13, 2013:

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

Saturday, December 14, 2013:

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 + Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 15, 2013:

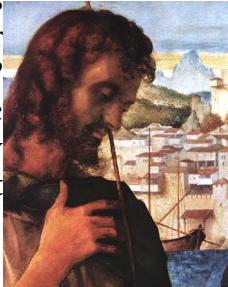
The Third Sunday of Advent

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

After reading next Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11), take some time to pray on it before you come to Mass.

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. Does God always come into your life the way you expect? Explain. Who are the prophets in your life? Why is listening just as important for a prophet as speaking?



EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

Para ofrendas de pan y vino en el altar, favor llamar a la oficina parroquial al 631.226.7725.

Los días martes de cada semana llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares a 7:30 P.M. Para información, llamar Virginia Constantinou a 631.957.1149.

Te invitamos a alabar y glorificar el nombre de DIOS todos los jueves a las 7:00PM en la cafetería Comenzando con el Santo Rosario, alabanzas y reflexión de la palabra.

Para más información sobre los sacramentos del bautizo matrimonio y servicio pastorales Unción de los enfermos y la Eucaristía, contacto Padre Juan Sureau - 631.226.7725 x. 224 email- jsureau@drvc.org En español Irma González 631 620-2401 correo electrónico lanegra628@yahoo.com.

LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera Lectura (Is 11,1-10): *Un Salvador Lleno del Espíritu de Dios.* El gran profeta Isaías anuncia que vendrá un Salvador, como un hombre que transformará el mundo y le traerá la paz de Dios, porque está lleno del Espíritu del mismo Dios.

Segunda Lectura (Rom 15,4-9): *Sigan a Cristo, Salvador de Todos.* Las Escrituras del Antiguo Testamento conservaron viva la esperanza del pueblo de Dios. Nosotros participamos de la misma fe, y rogamos que esa misma esperanza se extienda a todos los hombres y a todos los pueblos.

Evangelio (Mt 3,1-12): *Cambien Su Conducta, y el Señor.* Vendrá Juan el Bautista vino para preparar a los judíos para la venida del Salvador, Jesucristo. Su mensaje era, y todavía lo es para nosotros hoy: Cambien de conducta; ábranse a su Espíritu.

Adviento tiempo de esperanza y de conversión.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

There is still time to participate!

IRA Charitable Rollover expires December 31st

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

Here's how to do it:

- If you are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift....
- If your IRA is a Traditional or Roth...
- If 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).

The best way for you to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution." In most cases you will only have to fill out a simple form.

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 our Parish. Upon hearing of the Charitable IRA Rollover opportunity, she directs the custodian of her IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2013 directly to the Parish as a 2013 gift. She will not be subject to income tax on her \$5,000 qualified charitable distribution.

For more information, contact the Planned Giving Office:

Main Contact: Barbara Kilarjian

Phone: 516-379-5210 ext 229

E-Mail: bkilarjian@drvc.org

Website: <http://www.drvc.org/planned-giving>



As we prepare for the busy winter season it is a great time to enroll in our automatic electronic offertory program with *Faith Direct*. In the same way we may pay some of our bills or make other online donations, eGiving is simply the easiest and most convenient way for you to make, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help to receive, your weekly offering. With *Faith Direct*, you can save time while also helping Our Lady of Perpetual Help reduce our expenses.

It's easy as **1....2....3....4....5....**

1. Go to www.faithdirect.net.
2. Click on Individuals.
3. Then, "ENROLL NOW".
4. Enter our Church code: NY286.
5. Then complete your enrollment form.

It really is that easy!!!!

If you have any questions about the Faith Direct Program, you can call 1.866.507.8757 or e-mail to info@faithdirect.net.

Take some time in the weeks ahead to learn more about Faith Direct and consider signing up today. Your willingness make use of this program is a huge help to our parish community.

Thank you!

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 631.226.7725

Religious Education: 631.226.2384

St. Vincent de Paul (Parish Outreach) :

631.226.7725 X 234

Parish Website:

www.olphlindenhurst.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 Mondays 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.

RITE OF 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 Deacon Doug or Fr. John at the Parish Office 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 Doug or Fr. John at the Parish Office.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jean Bjork

Tricia Buckley (Chair)

Lori Byron

Marie Foster

Greg Guido

Sonia Hansen

John Keller

Kimberly McPhail

Kevin Sabella

Christina Tatarata

James Totino

Pete Triolo

Msgr. Joe DeGrocco

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Robert Dobres

John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett

Deacon Tom Bast

Gerry Chille (Chair)

Ed Cirella

Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®

Bob Dobres

Bob Meade

John Reynolds

Deacon Don Stamm

Msgr. Joe DeGrocco

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

Your Parish Liturgy Committee

Robert Becker

Mark Costantino

Debbie McDonough

Barbara McPhail

Rosaleen Walters

Mike Williams

Msgr. Joe DeGrocco

Chris Ferraro

Deacon Doug Smith

Fr. John Sureau

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|--|---|
| MONDAY, December 9— The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | |
| 6:30 | Anthony Dell'era |
| 12:15 | Paul Haselau |
| 7:30 | Parish Penance Service |
| TUESDAY, December 10— Advent Weekday | |
| 6:30 | Gaspare & Maria Piazza |
| 12:15 | Santo Spinnichia (25 years) |
| WEDNESDAY, December 11— Advent Weekday <i>(Saint Damasus I, Priest & Doctor of the Church)</i> | |
| 6:30 | Vito & Porzia Mossa |
| 12:15 | Lee & Abbott Family |
| THURSDAY, December 12— Our Lady of Guadalupe | |
| 6:30 | Margaret Gabrielson |
| 12:15 | Vincent Corrigan |
| FRIDAY, December 13— Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr | |
| 6:30 | Eleanor Minutolo |
| 12:15 | Jack Klinger |
| SATURDAY, December 14— Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church | |
| 8:00 | Immacolata DeMarco |
| Vigil Mass for THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | |
| 5:00 | Victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School |
| December 15 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | |
| 6:30 | Robert Koudelka |
| 8:00 | Holy Name Society |
| 9:30 | Gaetano D'Angelo |
| 11:00 | Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mother |
| 12:30 | For the People of the Parish |
| 5:00 | Michael Pentaleri |

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Monday, December 9, 2013 | | |
| 7:00 A.M. | Advent Faith Sharing | Room 24 |
| 12:45 P.M. | Advent Faith Sharing | Room 24 |
| 2:30 PM | St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. | Room 14 |
| 4:30 P.M. | Rel. Ed.—Grade 2 Penance Service | Church |
| 6:30 PM | Novena | Church |
| 7:15 P.M. | Rel. Ed.—Grade 8 Class | School |
| 7:30 P.M. | Parish Penance Service | Church |
| Tuesday, December 10, 2013 | | |
| 4:30 PM | Christmas Pageant Practice | Church |
| 5:30 P.M. | CYO—Cheerleading | Auditorium |
| 7:00 P.M. | Special Needs Ministry | St. Lucy Meeting Room |
| 7:30 P.M. | Nurses' Ministry Meeting | Rectory Meeting Room |
| 7:45 P.M. | Community of Praise | Room 14 |
| 8:00 P.M. | Alcoholics Anonymous | Cafeteria |
| Wednesday, December 11, 2013 | | |
| 1:30 P.M. | Legion of Mary | Room 24 |
| 4:30 P.M. | Rel. Ed.—Grade 2 Penance Service | Church |
| 7:15 P.M. | Rel. Ed.—Grade 7 | School |
| 7:30 PM | Boy Scouts | Cafeteria |
| Thursday, December 12, 2013 | | |
| 4:00 P.M. | Youth Choir Rehearsal | Room 14 |
| 5:30 P.M. | CYO—Cheerleading | Auditorium |
| 7:00 P.M. | Youth Ministry | Library |
| 7:30 P.M. | Adult Choir Rehearsal | Choir Loft |
| 7:30 P.M. | Narcotics Anonymous NA | Room 24 |
| 8:00 P.M. | Mothers Prayer Group | Room 16 |
| Friday, December 13, 2013 | | |
| 4:30 P.M. | Christmas Pageant Practice | Church |
| 7:00 P.M. | Confessions | Church |
| 7:30 P.M. | Youth Ministry | Auditorium |
| Saturday, December 14, 2013 | | |
| 8:30/10:00/ 11:30 A.M. | Rel. Ed.— Grades 2, 5, and 6 | School |
| 10:00 A.M. | Special Education | Cafeteria |
| 11:00 A.M. | Rel Ed.—Grades 3 and 4 Penance Service | Church |
| 1:00 P.M. | CYO—Basketball | Auditorium |
| 8:00 P.M. | Alcoholics Anonymous | Auditorium |
| Sunday, December 15, 2013 | | |
| 8:00 A.M. | RCIA | Church |
| 1:00 P.M. | CYO—Basketball | Auditorium |
| 7:30 P.M. | Advent Lessons & Carols | Church |
| 8:00 P.M. | Alcoholics Anonymous | Cafeteria |

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

WE CELEBRATE

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

-Rite of Baptism



John George Manscalco
Avary Quinn Rossetti
Sophia Brielle Lanzilotta
Emma Maria Kreutzberg
Oscar Matthew Pogozelski
Christopher Joseph Hansen

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

WE REMEMBER

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

Steven Kozlowski
John Giancola
Leanore Blankenhorn
George Kraft

"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."

**Restrooms are at
Entrance to the Church,
Not the Sacristy**

We ask all parishioners to use the new restroom located off of the south side of the Wellwood Avenue lobby entrance of the Church. The sacristy restroom should no longer be used. Thank you for your cooperation.

WE BELIEVE

*The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? - Psalm 27*

We pray for the sick of our parish...

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Frances Larsen | Joan Heuthe |
| Mary Doran | Joan Cox |
| Franca Carcone | Anthony Botticello |
| Bob Horan | Hugo Martin |
| Rachel Dressler | Lambert Fuechtmann |
| Christopher Gouedy | Denise Kaminsky |
| Vincent Graff | Carmela Campanelli |
| Joan Byrne | Ann Marie Nuss |
| Harold Molinari | Grace Wolf |
| Segundo Cedeno | Sean Kelly |
| Pat Hilly | Rev. Terrance Hoppenjans |
| Pina Mascio | Andrew Donovan |
| Steven Ciolino | Nadia Viola |
| Nancy Sirico | Nina Soriano |
| Deacon Joseph Bartolotto | Roberta Caristo |
| Peggy & Kevin Curran | Richard Brosan |
| Mary Schmidt King | Vera Henriques |
| Philip Hosey | Reynold Ruiz |
| Louise Perrotta | Dominick Pane |
| Bernard Lang | Natalie Boscia |
| Karl Kercelius | Cecelia Pastore |
| Anthony Kercelius | Hildegard Maus |
| Nanette Ringle | Dominick Barone |
| Megan David | Carmela DeFilippo |
| Sister Janet Schreiner | Jennifer Martins |
| Eileen Quinn | Dorothy Dechent |
| Heather Calamia | |

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.

As has been our practice, after the fourth week, the name will be removed from the sick list in the bulletin. If you wish to have your name or the name of a loved one to remain in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office to let us know.

PRAYING FOR THE SICK AT MASS

We pray for the sick by name during the Universal Prayer at Mass. Any name requested to be listed in the bulletin will be announced for the first week only at Mass and will remain in the bulletin for the following three weeks.

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- ♦ The *Seminary of the Immaculate Conception* in Huntington will host “*Art on the Vine*” on **Sunday, December 8**, from 2 to 6 pm. \$50 per ticket. Tickets will be sold at the door. The afternoon will include a musical performance, lecture on the history of the Crucifixion image in art, tours of the Seminary, wine tasting, refreshments, and a Christmas Boutique. For tickets and information, Seminary Development Office, 631.423.0483 x. 102, or bmalone@icseminary.edu.
- ♦ **Healing Mass at the Immaculate Conception Center**, Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston. **Tuesday, Dec. 10** at 7pm. Rosary, Mass & Healing Service celebrated by Fr. Augustine Fernando. For more info call: 718-229-8001.
- ♦ **St. Anthony of Padua Relics Visit New York Dec. 12-14!** **Thursday, Dec. 12** at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, 110-06 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, Mass begins at 12:05PM. **Saturday, Dec. 14** St. Catherine of Sienna, 33 New Hyde Park Rd., Franklin Square, Vigil Mass at 5 & 8PM with Veneration before and after each Mass.
- ♦ **Christmas Cookie Trail & Holiday Sale**— Choose from a variety of homemade cookies! Grace Methodist Church, 515 S. Wellwood Ave., Friday, **December 13** from 3-8PM. Roast pork dinner & salad bar (eat in or take out) 5:30-7:30PM. Adults \$13—children (under 12) \$6. For more info call 631-226-8690.
- ♦ Tune into “**RELIGION AND ROCK**” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7-8 am on **WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM** on Long Island’s East End. Listen on Saturdays at **11PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and 11 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117**. To listen online or receive more information regarding “**Religion and Rock**” go to www.ReligionandRock.com or at “**Religion & Rock**” on ITUNES.
- ♦ **Camp Fatima** for boys and **Camp Bernadette** for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2014 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes region of NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children ages 6-15. Round trip bus transportation is available out of Long Island. For a brochure and DVD, contact Michael Drumm at 603-364-5851 or email mdrumm@campfatimabernadette.org or visit us at www.campfatimabernadette.org. Sessions fill quickly!
- ♦ **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**—We are searching for the *Longest Married Couple in the U.S.* Maybe it's your parents... grandparents... That nice couple who live down the street... Nominations are accepted from anywhere in the United States! Send nominations to: dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net. Nominate a couple you know today!
- ♦ **Heal Your Marriage.** Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, **February 7th, 2014** at the Montfort retreat house in Bay Shore, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from **Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille** who can help.

| | | | | |
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Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15, 2013

7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
210 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst



Gn the evening, in the peak of winter darkness, we gather in the quiet church, with candles lit from the Peace Light originating from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, to hear the Scriptures and great music of Advent. Based on the traditional service from Kings College, Cambridge, OLPH parish will add its own touch, with readers of all ages and music led by the adult choir, youth band, youth choir, cantors, and instrumentalists. The assembly is as much a part of this service as the choirs and joins in singing the great hymns of Advent. Join us as we prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts and pray for peace throughout our troubled world.

3 generation
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