

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



For God will show
all the earth your splendor:
you will be named by God
forever the peace of justice,
the glory of God's worship.

Baruch 5:3-4

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2012

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton

Parochial Vicars: Rev. Moise Aime + Rev. Ignace Lolecke + Rev. John Sureau

In Residence: Rev. Michael Holzmann

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

Pastoral Associate for Administration: Deacon Donald A. Stamm

Director of Religious Education: Thomas J. Acemoglu

Music Director: James R. Kendall

High School Youth Minister: Brittany Evans

Middle School Youth Minister: Peggy Harnisch

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 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., and 6:30 p.m. (Mass in Polish).

Masses for Holy Days are as announced and published.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday – Friday following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Saturday: 4:00 to 5:00 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: 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Nights: Will resume after Christmas season.

First Saturday: 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

210 S. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst

Monday- Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

**EVENING OFFICE HOURS, AT THIS TIME,
ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ADVENT @ OLPH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help R. C. Church presents the

Christmas Musical

A Thrill of Hope

With a little bit of



The game show hosted by our pastor, Msgr. Joe.

OLPH YOUTH and ADULT CHOIRS retell the Christmas Story with newly composed medleys of the season's most loved music. What a beautiful way to celebrate Advent in preparation for Christmas! Come and be a part of this wonderful evening.

Saturday, December 15th

8:00 P.M.—Church

CONTESTANTS NEEDED!!!!

I want to be a contestant on OLPH's own version of Divine Intervention on December 15th!

Name _____

Phone # _____

Bring this reply form to the Rectory no later than Friday, December 14th!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

How Are You Doing With Advent?

So, here we are, beginning the second week of Advent. How are you doing so far? We are once again providing special pages in the weekly bulletin for you and your family to use at home, to help you focus on keeping an Advent spirituality throughout these days of joyful preparation and anticipation. The better you keep Advent, the less stressed you will feel come Christmas, and the more you will be able to enjoy and appreciate the fullness of the liturgical season of Christmas Time that only begins, not ends, on Christmas Day. Make time for prayer; light the Advent wreath as a family, and say the prayers; take time to read the daily Scripture readings. Prepare your hearts, so that you will truly see the salvation of the Lord!



Parish Penance Service

One of the great ways the Church gives us to prepare ourselves during the Advent season is by offering us the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) — a.k.a., “going to Confession.” The Church gives us several different rites for celebrating the Sacrament. One rite is the one we are probably most familiar with, the Rite of Reconciliation of Individual Penitents; that’s what we experience, for example, when we go to Confession on Saturday afternoons or weekdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. However, there is a second rite, the Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution, often referred to as a Penance Service. Here, the individual confessions take place within the context of a Liturgy of the Word.

Celebrating the Sacrament within the celebration of the Word of God in a Penance Service is a beautiful and moving way to focus on the love and mercy of God that are the heart of the Sacrament. Often it is just such a liturgy that moves someone to finally take the step of returning to the Sacrament after a long absence. The Church tells us that a communal celebration shows more clearly the nature of the Sacrament as a sacrament of the Church. The Word of God invites us to conversion and we assist each other with common prayer. Through our presence and our prayer together, we give witness to our faith and to the necessity and power of the Sacrament in our life. We are helped to examine our conscience within a communal context, and sometimes this helps us to a more complete examination. The preaching can help us to recall the infinite

mercy of God (which is greater than our sins), our need for repentance, and the social dimension of grace and sin, as we acknowledge that our actions as individuals affect the entire body of the Church.

As announced elsewhere in this bulletin, we are holding an **Advent Parish Penance Service with Individual Confessions this Monday, December 10 at 7:45 p.m. in the Church.** Everyone is invited, of course; *why not make it a family activity, and bring your children, so you can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation together?* I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of this opportunity, along with the other times available for Confession as advertised in the bulletin and in the mailing sent to parishioners.

Celebrating First Penance

While we’re on the subject of the Sacrament of Penance, let me mention that last week we completed our celebrations of First Penance with the children in second grade. They were beautiful celebrations. I thank our Director of Religious Education, Thomas Acemoglu, the staff of the religious education office, Christine Graham and Kristine Doyle, and all the catechists who prepared the children for the celebration, and Jim Kendall and the cantors who provided music at the liturgies. The children were well prepared and the liturgies were prayerful and reverent.

I also wish to thank the parents for their role in their children’s religious formation. This year we began to involve the parents more directly in the preparation and the celebration. It is our intention to continue to reinforce the parents’ role in the religious formation of their children, asking the parents to be more and more involved and proactive in various activities and worship experiences.

Penance and Religious Formation—Role of Parents

Since we’re on the subject of the parents’ role in the religious formation of their children, allow me to mention another change in approach we are taking with other grade levels. It is the custom to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation for each of the grade levels in our Religious Formation Program; this is good and necessary, and will continue. However, we want to do this in the most advantageous way, in a way that fosters a dignified and reverent celebration of the Sacra-

ment and that maximizes the liturgical sense of what we are celebrating. Therefore, from now on we will be offering the Sacrament to the children in all the grade levels through several **Communal Penance Services, to which parents will be expected to bring their children.** This represents a change from the way it was done in the past, with the teachers bringing the children over by classes. However, I feel very strongly that the proper context must be set for the sake of the dignity and proper celebration of the Sacrament, and so in the future we will continually seek to “up the ante” concerning the experience we give to our children of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and, indeed, all our Sacraments.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

This Wednesday, December 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. What a wonderful Advent feast to celebrate as this day focuses on Our Lady’s appearances at the hill of Tepeyac to the native convert Juan Diego. Although this feast is held in high regard by all Catholics, it holds a special place in Spanish culture, and so we are pleased to celebrate this occasion with the Spanish community of our parish. The 7:00 Mass Wednesday night will be in Spanish and will be a festive celebration. Why not consider coming to the Mass to mark the special day, to join in a unique aspect of our Advent spirituality by honoring the Blessed Mother under the title of “Our Lady of Guadalupe,” and to show your solidarity with your brother and sister parishioners who celebrate this feast as part of their Spanish culture? I suspect there will be hospitality and festivity after the Mass as well!



Handrails and Confessionals

I’m sure you have noticed some of the work taking place in the church. Handrails have been installed on the outer edges of the sanctuary steps. *Please walk over to those handrails and use them if you need to — that’s what they are there for!!! Don’t let pride get in the way of your safety!!!* I think they blend in well with the overall décor and do not detract from the beauty of the sanctuary.

Second, construction has begun on refurbishing our confessionals, a topic about which I wrote several weeks ago. Work will proceed on them one at a time

until all four have been renovated and made to be a more attractive and inviting space for going to Confession. This continues the work originally planned as part of the restoration campaign, work that I fully intend to follow through on. Work that still remains to be done is the renovation of the bathrooms in the church (I know they are in very bad shape and are a problem in many ways — and I promise you they will be taken care of), the finishing of the renovation of the sanctuary steps and making the sanctuary handicapped-accessible; and a baptistery area, in which I hope to include an immersion font. Funds from the capital campaign account will be used to complete these renovations, although, because not as much was collected as originally hoped-for, we will also have to find additional means of funding these renovations, which we will do as part of an overall financial plan that is responsible and realistic. More information on each specific step along the way will follow when appropriate.

Winter Choral Concert

This Saturday night at 8:00 will be our annual Winter Choral Concert, an event that promises to be a very spiritual and beautiful one, with selections performed by our various parish music groups. Please make every effort to attend this event as our participation in it is yet another way to build up our life together as a parish family.

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet Cards

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards 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 all our Masses on Christmas Day. Use the card and return the envelope to the rectory or in the collection in order to participate in our Christmas Spiritual Bouquet.

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,

ADVENT @ OLPH

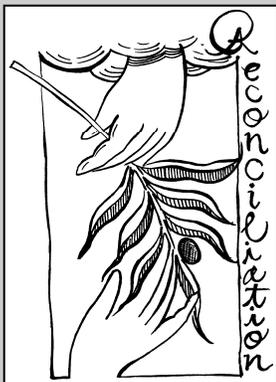
Parish Penance Service

This Monday,

December 10, 2012

7:45 P.M. + Church

(Please note: OLPH Novena Devotions will take place at 6:15 P.M. on this night.)



We come together to pray, hear God's word and reflect on the many ways God's healing love can transform our lives. This is a beautiful time for family and friends to gather as we each seek to belong more deeply to the Lord and to the Church.

In addition to our prayer service on Monday, the Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated at the following times:

Individual Confessions

Saturdays— 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

(Confessions will begin at 3:30 on December 22nd.)

Friday, December 14th &
Wednesday, December 19

Following the 7:00 P.M. Mass

Monday through Friday

Following the 8 A.M. Mass



ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Throughout the season of Advent, we will light our Advent wreath at the beginning of each Mass. We would like families and individuals in our parish to be a part of this. **If you and/or your family are able to be part of this on the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent, please sign up in the binder found in the back of the Church (on the ledge).** We will contact you with more information.

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet cards 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 all our Masses on Christmas Day. Use the card and return the envelope to the rectory or in the collection in order to participate in our Christmas Spiritual Bouquet.



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

Thoughts to Ponder during Advent....

On December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, we honored holy Mary, and celebrated her conception in the womb of St. Ann. As we praised God, who kept her sinless from the first moment of her life, we remembered 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**



STORM RELIEF @ OLPH

Our work continues....

Clearing and Re-building Exchange

If your home or the home of someone you love is in need of clearing, please contact Mr. Michael Connolly at 631.226.7725 or olphsandyr relief@aol.com.



HELP IS NEEDED!!!!

If you or a group you are part of want to be part of clearing and cleaning efforts, please also contact Mike using the phone # above. A number of parishioners are in need of help! We can't help them without you.

Counseling Support

We would like to put together a listing of licensed mental health counselors, social workers and psychologists willing to provide support for individuals and families in need. If you are willing to have your name listed, please contact Fr. John by e-mailing (jsureau@drvc.org) or faxing (631.225.9597) a copy of your license and contact information.



Housing Possibilities

If you have a legal dwelling (house, apartment or room) that you are able to rent to a family that has been displaced, please contact Fr. John at 631.226.7725 or e-mail to jsureau@drvc.org for more information. We anticipate the need for housing to increase for families as winter arrives and the reality of rebuilding takes hold. We hope to be able to provide a list of local housing possibilities for individuals and families if the need arises.



DO YOU NEED FURNITURE!?!?

As you rebuild, a number of parishioners have come forward to offer gently used furniture. For more information, contact Tricia Buckley so she can help to match you up!

If you have furniture in good condition that you would like to donate to a family in need, please contact Mrs. Tricia Buckley at 631.561.5790 or e-mail to buckleyt@optonline.net. Our hope is to connect families who have available furniture with families in need. **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, bring furniture to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.**



St. Vincent de Paul Parish Outreach

Parishioners and community members in need are invited to our St. Vincent de Paul Office (the grey house) at 272 Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY.

In addition to our regular hours, St. Vincent DePaul will be open on Tuesday afternoons from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. to assist you. You are most welcome here, most especially in times of need.

10,000 DOLLARS OF TOYS

Darius Rucker, previously lead singer for Hootie and the Blowfish, is offering to bring \$10,000 worth of toys to the town that votes the most times on a website called <http://eventful.com/competitions/dariusrucker2012>. As of this publication, Lindenhurst has 4414 votes, Toms River is 2nd with 2086 votes. Voting is open until tomorrow, December 10th.



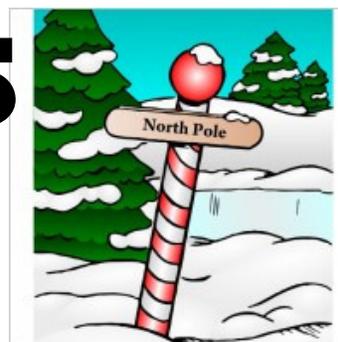
Vote today and support our local community!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Members of St. Jude's Children's Network are hosting a special dinner for the support of the children of Lindenhurst impacted by the storm and connection with our Christmas Party on December 18th (see next page). The dinner will take place at 6:30 P.M. at Goccia d'Oro Restaurant next Sunday, December 16th. For more information contact the restaurant at 631.225.6161 or Maria Burzo at 631.662.8358.

St. Joseph's Hospital—Catholic Health Services invites all children and families of Lindenhurst impacted by Super-storm Sandy to a special

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Tuesday,
December 18, 2012

4:30 –6:00 P.M

School Auditorium

Come to an afternoon of Christmas joy as we celebrate with Santa and Mrs. Claus and many other characters from the North Pole!

Each child who comes will receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

Music, food, fellowship and fun for all!

RSVP is required—631.226.7725 NO LATER than
Monday, December 17, 2012.



FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Children's Christmas Pageant Friday, December 21, 2012 7:00 P.M. Church



(PLEASE NOTE: The 7 P.M. Mass will be celebrated in the Covent Chapel on this night.)

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 need lots of help—musicians, singers, organizers, help with Hot Cocoa and cookies, assistant directors and more!

If you can help with our pageant, please fill out the form below or e-mail to olphfamilylife@aol.com.

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 call Fr. John at 631.226.7725 or e-mail to jsureau@drvc.org.

We especially need parishioners to be part of our **Christmas Pageant Chorus and Music Group!** We need instrumentalists, singers, etc. For more information, contact Mr. Jim Kendall at 631.226.7725.

Pageant Practices

Tuesday, December 11th—4:30 P.M.—Church

Friday, December 14th—4:30 P.M.—Church

DRESS REHEARSAL: Tuesday, December 18th— 4:30 P.M.—Church

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN UP!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____@_____

Grade _____

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

ADVENT HOSPITALITY BREAKFAST

The Hospitality Committee invites all parishioners to join us for a free continental breakfast on

**Sunday,
December 16, 2012
after the 9:30 a.m.
Mass.**

In the midst of these busy days, take some time to share with other members of the parish community.

Come and enjoy the breakfast and meet other parishioners!!!

HELP NEEDED!!!

We are looking for bakers. This month's theme is COOKIES. Do you have a special cookies recipe and would like to share it?

If you would like to bake or help with the hospitality breakfast, please contact Debbie McDonough at 957-0765 or email olphfamilylife@aol.com.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you seeking Baptism?

Do you want to be confirmed or receive Eucharist?

Have you been baptized in another Christian faith and now desire to become Catholic?

Do you have a family member or friend who would like to receive the sacraments?



If your answer is YES to any of these questions, we want to hear from you.

The Church gives us a beautiful process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for those who seek to become fully initiated in the Catholic Church. We are in the process of putting together plans for this process at OLPH to begin in the upcoming weeks. If you're interested and would like additional information, please contact Deacon Doug Smith at 631.226.7725 or Fr. John at 631.226.7725, x. 224 or e-mail to jsureau@drvc.org.

OFFERERS NEEDED

We are in need of men and women from our parish to become part of our RCIA team!

If you would like to help with this wonderful ministry by helping with group faith sharing, assisting with catechesis, preparing meals or in any other way, we would love to have you be part of it all!

Contact Fr. John if you're interested or for more information!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Youth Faith in Action

Presents
The first annual

Winter Gala

Sunday December 16th

6:30pm to 10:30pm

OLPH School Auditorium

210 S. Wellwood Avenue Lindenhurst

Join us as we celebrate the Advent season with great friends, good times and our dancing shoes!

This event is open to all high school teens grades 9-12 and any former Life Teen college students! This is a great opportunity to stop by and see what the new youth program in our community is all about!

\$25.00 Per Person Dinner will be served.

Dress in your best!

For tickets please contact Brittany Evans, Youth Minister,
at OLPH.YFIA@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY @ OLPH

For High School Students....

YOUTH FAITH IN ACTION (YFIA)

Over the past months, our high school youth ministry adult and teen leaders have been meeting to plan an exciting new program for our parish's high school students. **Youth Faith in Action** is our parish's official youth ministry for high school students.



Members of our teen and adult planning group meet to work on the Winter Gala and other upcoming events.

Since September, the adults responsible for youth ministry have met and developed some clear goals for the year ahead.

One of the first goals was the establishment of a group of high school students to plan, organize and take responsibility for youth ministry in our parish. They have met for nearly two months and are doing a great job! (They even came up with the name!)

They have met for nearly two months and are doing a great job! (They even came up with the name!)

In the weeks ahead you'll see more about efforts including the ways we hope to see young people involve in every aspect of parish life and organizing and leading our parish in a number of new and exciting ways.

Now it's up to our entire parish to get behind our latest efforts and encourage the young people we know to learn more about YFIA at OLPH. Look for more info in each issue of the bulletin or join our Facebook group—OLPH Youth Faith in Action on Facebook or e-mail to olph.yfia@gmail.com

High School Students....

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, December 16—*Winter Gala*

-See page 12 for more information.

Sunday, December 23—

*Christmas Cards for the Military and
Church Decoration for Christmas*

6:15—9:30 P.M.

Friday, December 28—

YFIA in NYC

Join our youth adult and teen leaders on a post-Christmas to New York City, including: Mass at St. Patrick's, Dinner in Manhattan, a visit to the Rockefeller Center and more!

Middle School Students....

Thank you!!!

Thanks to all of our middle school students and teen leaders who helped with our Family Life Ministry's St. Nicholas Story Time! What a great example of our parish's ministries working together!

All 6th, 7th and 8th graders needed and wanted!!!

Look for the blue door on the south side of the Convent (closest to the grey house). We meet from 7:30 til 8:45 pm. It's a great place to come, hang out, play great games and learn about our faith.

Check the bulletin for more information about our upcoming EDGE events in the weeks ahead.

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

El grupo de Oración- “Jesús Es El Camino La Verdad y Vida” se reúne todos los días Jueves a las 7:00 P.M. en la cafetería. Para información, llamar a Irma Gonzalez a 631.241.5606.

Para más información sobre los sacramentos de el Bautizo y el Matrimonio y Servicio de Pastoral Uncción de los Enfermos y la Eucaristía, contacto Padre Juan Sureau – 631.226.7725, x. 224 - jsureau@drvc.org

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.



Presten atención...

Hay representantes de FEMA disponibles en la biblioteca pública de Lindenhurst para los miembros de nuestra comunidad que hablan inglés y también para aquellos que hablan español que fueron afectados por la tormenta. Para recibir ayuda, si Ud. no tiene su ciudadanía legal sólo necesita tener el certificado de nacimiento de su hijo/a y la tarjeta de seguro social. Usted no tendrá ningún problema con las autoridades.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday,

December 12, 2012

7:00 P.M.—Church

(The 7:00 P.M. Mass will be celebrated in Spanish on this night.)

Come and pray with our parish community as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance to Juan Diego in Tepeyac.

As the patroness of Mexico, Latin America and the Philippines, Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us of God's special care and love for the poor and most in need.



Nuestra Señora De Guadalupe

Patrona Principal De México, de América Latina y Las Islas Filipinas

Solemnidad En México

Fiesta En América

Miercoles 12

de Diciembre

7:00 P.M. Church

Era el mes de diciembre de 1531, solamente diez años después de conquistada Tenochtitlán por los españoles, cuando la santísima Virgen se apareció al indio Juan Diego en el cerro del Tepeyac. Lo nombro su embajador ante el obispo, fray Juan de Zumárraga, para que le construyeran un templo. La prueba de que las palabras de Juan Diego eran ciertas fueron las rosas que llevo en su tilma y preciosa imagen que apareció dibujada en ella. La santísima Virgen es nuestra Madre. Toda la historia de Juan Diego y de las apariciones de la Virgen están fundadas en una constante y solida tradición.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

The poor have much to teach you. You have much to learn from them. -St. Vincent de Paul

Food Pantry Shopping List

When you are out at the store, can you pick up a few things for our food pantry?

- Peanut Butter**
- Jelly & Jams**
- Shelf Stable Milk**
- Canned Fruit**
- Canned Juice**
- Pancake Mix & Syrup**
- Cake & Muffin Mix**
- Canned Tuna and Salmon**

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

272 Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY
631.225.5531

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9 am—12 noon

Tuesdays - 4 P.M.—7 P.M.

Saturday, December 22nd —9 am –12 noon

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. 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 GIVING TREE

Our parish giving trees are up and filled with ornament gift tags. Now we need you to empty those trees by taking the tags off and begin shopping on behalf of others in our parish and local communities.

Each tag indicates a specific gift suggestion that is needed to support families and individuals in need.

ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED UNDER THE TREES BY Sunday, December 16th with the tag securely attached.



The Saint Bernard League

(Saint Bernards are known for bringing people to safety in hazardous weather conditions!)

If you are in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use this help, call the Parish Office at 631.226.7725, x. 224 or e-mail to jsureau@drvc.org so we can begin to match people up now.

We also need Saint Bernards!

Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family or two in need within our parish community? We'd love to have all families matched up before the first snow of the season.

If you can help with this, call the Parish Office at 631.226.7725, x. 224 or e-mail to jsureau@drvc.org This is a great way to help those in need (do some tremendous community service!)

OLPH BELONGS MORE DEEPLY

Bishop Murphy's recent pastoral letter, *You, Too, Go Into the Vineyard*, gives each of us much to think and pray about. Bishop Murphy writes:



"Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" is one of the dismissals we hear at the end of Mass. Responding to that, we affirm that what we have shared at Mass in word and sacrament we will carry with us into the world. We cannot be Sunday Catholics and Monday pagans or virtuous Catholics at home but act the opposite out in our daily world. We share a commitment, each in his or her own way, to bring Christ to the world. We are His evangelizers who see the world as the vineyard of the Lord and willingly and with great confidence, not in ourselves but in Christ, are ready to take part in helping make that vineyard ever more fruitful."

This week, all who filled out prayer cards are called to be direct "evangelizers" by reaching out to the person for whom they are praying. Pray this week that their efforts this Advent will make the "vineyard ever more fruitful."

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

MARCH FOR LIFE Friday, January 25, 2013

Our parish is attending the Annual March for Life on **Friday, January 25, 2013**. We will gather at OLPH at 5:00 A.M. for Mass in the Church and depart immediately after.

After the March, we will leave Washington at 5 P.M. There will be a stop to and from Washington, DC. All are encouraged to bring sandwiches and snack for the bus as the stops will likely be brief.

To RSVP to this event, contact Kathy Feldman of our Respect Life Committee at 631.225.9864. All responses are requested by January 18, 2013.

A Free Will Offering of \$20.00 is requested, but not required, for participation. This will cover the cost of the bus and any extra monies will be donated to Regina Residence, Catholic Charities outreach to pregnant and parenting women and their children.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Mass for People with Special Needs **Saturday, January 5th**

4:00 P.M.

Auditorium

Look for more info in upcoming editions of the bulletin!

"We must recognize and appreciate the contribution persons with disabilities can make to the Church's spiritual life, and encourage them to do the Lord's work in the world according to their God-given talents and capacity."

**-Welcome and Justice for Peoples with Disabilities,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING UPDATE

December 1-2, 2012

Mass Time	Weekly Collection	# of Envelopes	Attendance
Special Needs Mass	\$244.00	7	65
5:00 P.M.	\$2809.00	137	344
6:30 A.M.	\$1630.00	57	117
8:00 A.M.	\$2061.50	87	219
9:30 A.M.	\$1883.00	77	277
11:00 A.M.	\$3341.00	137	433
12:30 P.M.	\$2107.00	108	320
5:00 P.M.	\$1454.00	34	192
6:30 P.M.	\$673.00	13	212
Faith Direct	\$1774.00		
Mail In	\$223.00		
TOTAL	\$18,199.50	657	2114
2011 Totals	\$17,189.00		2142

MASS CHANGE

Beginning in the new year (2013) we will have only **one** Mass on Saturday mornings, the 8am. We will no longer celebrate the 9 am Mass on Saturday beginning in January 2013.



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!

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Third Time

*Marc Iurka (St. Louis, Sound Beach, NY)
& Nicole Altstatt*

*Christopher Sperber (St. Eliz. Ann Seton)
& Teresa Bonventre (OLG)*

WE REMEMBER

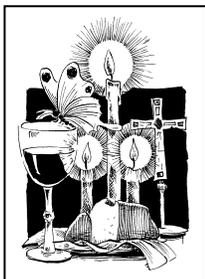
We remember those who have died in our parish community this past week...

Dennis J. Sheehan

Jean Strumpfler

Anthony J. Vergona

Anthony Giordano



Altar Bread & Wine

A beautiful way to remember a loved one is to make an offering for the bread and wine used at our parish's Masses for a particular week. If you are interested, speak to anyone at the rectory to arrange to have the Altar Bread and Wine used during the Masses memorialized in the name of someone you love for the week.



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...

Joseph Colascione	Helen Bartley
Constance Panessa	Bob Little
Lisa Marie Hulsen	Connie Perrotta
Marie Steinbecher	Eileen C. Quinn
Justin Marino	John Huff
Kevin Curran	Erika Kroll
Charles Muller	Vincent Corrigan
James Coffin	Catherine Tamburino
Al Wickenheiser	Richard Brosan
Madeline Olejniczak	Mary Doran
Anthony Kercelius	William Pugh
Pauline Lomot	Janet Pugh
Betty Cunningham	Andrew Pellicane
Nettie Deasy	Joseph Gerbino
Alex Taparata	Anthony Cito
Pete Doyen	Luca Mazzili
Joseph O'Shea	Peggy Pannullo
Elizabeth Taroni	Margaret Stangelo

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. To have your name or the name of a loved one listed in our parish bulletin, please call the Parish Office at 631.226.7725 or e-mail cbecker@oloph.org.

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.

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

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 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 at the Parish Office.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 10 –

Advent Weekday

8:00 Gaspare & Maria Piazza

12:00 Santo Spinnicchia

7:00 Marchetti Family

**TUESDAY, December 11 - Advent Weekday—
Saint Damasus I, Pope (optional)**

8:00 O'Neill Family (Living)

12:00 O'Neill Family (Living)

7:00 James Marckesano

WEDNESDAY, December 12—

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 Armando Treglia

12:00 John Kozalka (Living)

7:00 Margaret Gabrielson

THURSDAY, December 13 —

Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:00 Michael Healion

12:00 The Holy Angels

7:00 Francis Joseph Start, Jr.

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

8:00 Immaculata DeMarco

12:00 Frances Bogge

7:00 Brendan Fitzgerald

SATURDAY, December 15— Advent Weekday

8:00 Arthur & Loretta Clemens

9:00 Annette Romanello

Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent—

5:00 Pauline Villani

SUNDAY, December 16—

Third Sunday of Advent

6:30 Mass for the People of the Parish

8:00 Book of the Faithful Departed

9:30 Louis Marrero

11:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild

12:30 Michael, Eleanor Bebbino & Hope Ventura

5:00 Ellen McDonald

6:30 Mass in Polish

THE 1000 CLUB

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**2012/2013
1000 Club**



**2nd drawing
is Dec. 12
ARE YOU
IN?
Got your
ticket?**



1st Prize: \$1000

2nd Prize: \$250

3rd Prize: \$150

4th Prize: \$100

EXTRA \$1500

CHRISTMAS DRAWING

**OLPH invites you to join
the 2012-2013 "1000 Club"
at the cost of \$50**

Make your \$50 check payable to: "OLPH 1000 Club."

YOU CAN STILL ENTER—
THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF TICKETS AVAILABLE!

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- **The Holy Name Society of OLPH** wishes to thank all who made our annual Turkey Raffle an outstanding success. Congratulations to all the winners: Thomas Shivers, Stephen Strigaro, Doug Smith, Deanna O'Malley, Ed Cirella, Denise Barbieri, J. Shea, St. Vincent de Paul (3). Thank you to those who donated their turkey to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.
- **Annual Winter Coat Drive.** Please bring new or gently used coats to the **Knights of Columbus**, 400 S. Broadway, Lindenhurst, or call Sal 516.410.1205 to arrange for a drop-off.
- **Art on the Vine at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception - Sunday, December 9th from 2 pm to 6 pm.** Wine Tasting by Pindar Vineyards. Commentary by Joseph Bertuccio, Wine Expert & Author. Exhibit & Sale by Professional Artists. Tours of Seminary Art, Chapels, Library & Unique "Folk Art". \$50 per Guest. Proceeds benefit the education and formation of our seminarians – our future priests. For tickets and information, contact 631-423-0483 x 102 or bmalone@icseminary.edu
- **Hope House Ministries** is sponsoring a **"Classic Irish Christmas Show"** on Saturday, **December 15, 2012** at 2:00 P.M. at St. Joseph's College, Patchogue, NY. The concert features Andy Cooney and his band, the Darrah Carr Dance Troup and Emcee Mike McCormack. Reserved seat admission tickets are \$35 per person and may be purchased through Hope House Ministries (631.928.2377, x. 22).
- **Cleary School for the Deaf** is offering evening *Adult Education classes in American Sign Language*, Levels 1,2,3 & Intermediate/Advances. **January 30th—May 1st, 2013** (ages 12 & up). Call Carolyn Kelly 631-588-0530 or email ClearyASL@hotmail.com for more information.

A PARKING NOTE

Please note that for the next couple of weeks we will be leasing the greater part of our school parking lot to Wells Fargo for their hurricane relief effort. The lease calls for them to use the space until December 15. Wells Fargo will be making a significant donation to the parish for this use. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church is a Roman Catholic parish in Lindenhurst, New York. We are a member of the Diocese of Albany. Our parish is a vibrant and growing community of faith. We offer a variety of ministries and programs for all ages. We are currently seeking qualified individuals for various positions. If you are interested, please contact our office at 631.249.4994.

PARISH OFFICE
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
 400 S. Broadway, Lindenhurst, NY 11759
 Phone: 631.249.4994
 Fax: 631.249.4995
 Email: info@olpchurch.org

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS!

Did you know that the OLPH bulletin is printed free of charge each week? Not only that, our parish receives a part of the advertising commission. **So please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!**

If your business could use a shot in the arm, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each week, nearly two thousand people attend Mass at OLPH, most of whom live and shop in the Lindenhurst area, receive or view our bulletin online. It's an easy way to reach thousands of area families with information about your business.

For more information on how to advertise in our bulletin, call The Church Bulletin Company at 631.249.4994.

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	<p>W.S.D. TAX & ACCOUNTING WILLIAM S. DEMPSEY 220 N. Wellwood Ave. Lindenhurst 226-4184</p>	<p>CLASS "A" HOME IMPROVEMENTS, INC. (516) 354-1144 • (718) 470-9531 ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS 90 lb. Flat Roofing • Shingle • Gutters • Leaders S.B.S. ROOFING ROBERT LAFAYE, (OWNER) Senior Citizen Discount NASSAU Co. #91109680000 • N.Y.C. Lic. 683428</p>	<p>Joe Tree Tree Service Split Firewood Removal Pruning Licensed (631) 956-3740 Stump Grinding Insured</p>	<p><i>The Sign Shop, Inc.</i> 1270 Merick Rd., Copiague, NY 11726 (631) 226-4145 John Prete, Parishioner</p>
<p>PHONE 631-225-5144 E-MAIL: info@stoneunltd.com 1-800-660-0662 Website: www.Stoneunltd.com STONE UNLIMITED, Inc. MONUMENT MANUFACTURING & INSCRIPTION WORK Mowimy po polsku</p>		<p>D'Andrea Bros. Funeral Home 99 Oak Street, Copiague 631-691-5700 Serving our Communities since 1959 Physically Challenged Accessible Pre-Need, Funeral and Cremation Services Monuments and Incriptions Beatrice E. Lewanduski • George Wischerth David D'Andrea • Joseph A. Carlantone</p>		
<p>East Neck Nursing & Rehabilitation Center A Leader in Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Services 134 Great East Neck Road, West Babylon 422-4800 "We Make A Difference"</p>			<p>PAT DOLAN PLUMBING Licensed Master Plumber 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE No Overtime Mon.-Sat. 7 am - 7 pm 631-225-8943</p>	

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	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL 41 Union Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701 631-264-7166 www.smtschool.org Call for a Tour Today! 2 year old program, Nursery, Pre-K (5 full day, Extended Day or 1/2 day) Kindergarten-Eighth Grade Before and After Care Sports (CMSAA), Clubs, Student Government, State of the Art Technology, Math Olympiads, SMART Technology, National Jr Honor Society, Performing & Fine Art Programs, K Builders Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and School Providing over 90 years of Catholic Education and Academic Excellence</p>	<p>LIBERTY TAX SERVICE 656 N. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst P: 631-225-2996 F: 631-225-2030</p>	
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SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Last Saturday, we celebrated our first Mass for People with Special Needs. Over 60 people attended. What a wonderful celebration for all in our parish community. Our next Mass for People with Special Needs and those who love them will be on Saturday, January 5, 2012 at 4 P.M. in the Auditorium. ALL ARE WELCOME!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Take time each day to read the daily readings of the Church. When we do this we are more closely united to the Church and better prepared to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist. Actual texts—audio and visual - can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm>. A number of apps, including Ibreviary, also contain the daily readings.

Monday, December 10, 2012:

Isaiah 35:1-10 + Luke 5:17-25

Tuesday, December 11, 2012:

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

Wednesday, December 12, 2012:

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
+ Luke 1:26-30 or Luke 1:39-47

Thursday, December 13, 2012:

Isaiah 41:13-20 + Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 14, 2012:

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

Saturday, December 15, 2012:

Sirach 8:1-4, 9-11 + Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 16, 2012

Zephaniah 3:14-18a + Philippians 4:4-7 +
Luke 3:10-18

After reading next Sunday's Gospel, take some time pray with these questions, before you come to Mass.

1. What kind of people went to hear John and repent? Would you show up to hear someone like John today? What would you want to see and hear? Can people be prophets even though their looks or behavior is a departure from the norm? Do you know any prophets? Discuss.

2. The tax collectors, soldiers and others asked John what they should do to be forgiven and prepare to start a new life. He told them to share their food and clothing with the poor, and to be honest and just with their neighbors. How do you think he would answer if you asked him that question today?



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