

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father."

Matthew 5:44-45a

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 19, 2017

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero

Deacons: Deacon William Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith, Deacon Robert A. Becker

Business Manager: Mr. Martin Kenny

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Monsignor Daniel S. Hamilton

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME IN AND PRAY...

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday

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

Saturday Morning:

8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,

12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday and Sunday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

We pray Daytime Prayer each Wednesday at 1:50 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday – Friday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass (except on Holy Days of Obligation)

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

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

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Church (unless otherwise announced)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday Evening: after OLPH Novena Devotions

Wednesday: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

from Holy Hour to Happy Hour to Holy Hour

Come join us for a family evening of prayer and fun concluding with the burning of palms as we begin our Lenten journey by strengthening our relationship with God!



Tuesday, February 28



5:45 p.m. — Church
Cost: \$20.00 per family
or \$5.00 per person



Please bring a covered dish to be shared with your family and a few others!
You may drop off your dish as you enter the church.



Music, games, 50/50 & more!

Any questions or ticket information contact:

Deirdre Strigaro 631.225-0928

or familylife@oloph.org

MARDI GRAS REPLY FORM

First & Last Name: _____

_____ #of adults _____ # of children & ages _____

Telephone number: _____ Email Address: _____ @ _____

Amount enclosed: cash _____ check _____ *Make checks payable:*

OLPH

Covered dish _____

Please return to OLPH Rectory or in the collection basket

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, February 26th.

All donations accepted.

Any questions or ticket information contact:

Deirdre Strigaro 631.225-0928 or familylife@oloph.org



PASTOR'S PAGE

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we continue with this segment of winter Ordinary Time in our liturgical year, you'll notice that the Gospel texts have, with one exception, been from the Gospel of Matthew. In fact, the entire fifth chapter of Matthew's Gospel has been proclaimed at Mass over the past few Sundays, starting on the Fourth Sunday and concluding this week. Chapter 5 is the Sermon on the Mount, which begins with Jesus' teaching of the Beatitudes. Over the course of these weeks, we have been challenged with the nature of Christian discipleship and what it means to live as members of the Kingdom of God.

I urge you to take some time to re-read chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel in its entirety, and to take some time to reflect on the challenge given by Jesus for the way we are supposed to live our life. Many of the teachings found here are not easy to accept; they ask us to go beyond what might be easy and spontaneous to do, and they ask us to really strive to do what is right, and compassionate, and life-giving.

Of course, every time we gather for Mass, we are supposed to, through the words, actions and music of the ritual, hand ourselves over to the mystery of being transformed to be in deeper union with Christ, and therefore take Christ's teachings, apply them to our life, and be changed to live His way a little more perfectly. Week after week the prayers of the Mass make this connection that what we do at worship is supposed to change us so that we follow Christ's way more closely in the life we live outside of worship. For example, in the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass for this week, we asked God that, *"always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you."* In other words, we don't want our faith to be something that remains only in the church building or in pious thoughts in our mind, but rather something that is put into concrete action.

Similarly, in the Prayer over the Offerings, we prayed, *"As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is your due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honor of your majesty may profit us for salvation."* This prayer can remind us that while our worship adds nothing to God's greatness, and God in no way needs us or is dependent on us, it is true that we are the ones who gain when we have our lives ordered correctly and when we make the proper place for worship and offering sacrifice to God.

Finally, the Prayer after Communion gave voice to our desire that the mystery we celebrated at

Mass would truly be experienced in our life, for example, in the practice of Christian living: *"Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries."*

Once again we see what a fruitful spiritual exercise it is to reflect on and pray over the actual texts of the Mass — the Scripture readings, and the main prayers prayed out loud by the priest in the name of the whole community.

Parents with young children: THANK YOU for your witness at Mass!

Speaking of Mass, I feel compelled to share with you an observation which always brings great joy to my heart and a smile to my face; perhaps you have witnessed it, too. It is the phenomenon of seeing parents with their very young children at Mass.

The fact that parents bring their very young children to Mass — sometimes several young children! — is something to be affirmed, to be supported, and to be grateful for. I am always amazed at the love and sense of self-giving exhibited by the parents. Let's face it: it's not easy to come to Mass with infants, toddlers, children who are 4 and 5 years of age (it may not be easy with children of ANY age, but I think there's a special challenge the younger the age of the child). Yet, as difficult as it may be to try to keep them well-behaved, nonetheless parents bring the children to Mass because they are recognizing the awesome and important responsibility they have to raise them in the faith and to have them at Mass week after week. The weekly repetition of "this-is-what-we-do-we-go-to-Mass-every-week-as-a-family" is the BEST religious formation parents can provide. It is a special gift they give to their children.

There is nothing more beautiful than the sight of a mother or father teaching their child how to go to Mass. So often I see it: a parent will point to the words in the song book, or point to the words of the prayers on the worship aid card, or point out to the child some action taking place in the sanctuary or elsewhere in the church, sometimes whispering an explanation to the child; all of this is wonderful and heart-warming, and I commend parents who make the sacrifice of forming their children in the faith in this way. For a certain number of years parents are making the sacrifice of not being able to participate in Mass exactly as they would like to, undistracted, but it is a sacrifice they willingly make as part of

their role as the primary religious formators of their children.

Week after week I look out and see parents with young children at Mass, helping their children to participate, and I absolutely love it. It brings a smile to my face and I think it's one of the things that makes OLPH "the place to be." I wish to thank all the parents who bring young children to Mass, and I want you to know that your young children are always welcome. Perhaps, if you see a family with young children, you could go up to them and affirm their presence, and acknowledge the way that having young children as part of our liturgical assembly enriches us as a parish community and brings a fullness to our worship.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

We're continuing along in our participation in the Catholic Ministries Appeal, and I thank those who have already made a pledge; I am very grateful! If you have not yet done so, may I ask that you do so as soon as possible? It would be a great help to us. Thank you to everyone for your generosity with this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Faith Direct—electronic giving

Allow me to call your attention to a great way to support OLPH on a regular basis: it's through electronic giving. Through Faith Direct, you can make your weekly offering to OLPH directly through your credit or debit card or through transfer from your bank account. You schedule recurring offerings monthly or weekly, and you can always update your options and choices at any time. You are always in control; it is safe and easy.

Using Faith Direct means you'll be able to make your weekly offering no matter what, whether you are out of town, or unable to attend Mass at OLPH because of illness, travel or weather. Your offering will always be received.

I myself make my weekly offering to OLPH using Faith Direct, and I would ask you to consider doing the same. People who use it like it very much. Check it out by going to www.faithdirect.net and finding out all the information. The code for signing up for OLPH is NY286.

Discussions regarding financial stability and viability

As I have mentioned on several different occasions, finances continue to be the most difficult and vexing part of parish life; there are many challenges we face with no simple or magical solutions. In the weeks and months ahead, I will be having discussions with the Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council and, most especially, the Finance Committee, to look at all the issues and to try to explore how we can pursue paths that will lead to greater financial stability and viability into the future. I thank you for your continued support, and, most especially, for your prayers as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us forward.

Are you getting ready for Lent?

So, it will be here before you know it! Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our season of Lent, is coming soon — March 1! To celebrate Lent well, we should be prepared for it. It's not too early to begin to think about how you will make Lent a special time of renewal and conversion, through the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Be ready for Lent!

Make sure you sign up for Mardi Gras!

Of course, before we settle down for the serious business of Lent, we might as well "go out with a bang" by having a great Mardi Gras celebration! We always have a great time here at OLPH with our Mardi Gras, which is great for families, kids, and for everyone. Information about the Mardi Gras can be found elsewhere in this bulletin, and the evening always ends with the burning of palms. Make sure you join in the fun and the prayer! Sign up today!

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,



PARISH LENTEN MISSION



The Wisdom of St. Joseph for Lent

Sunday, March 5

Monday, March 6

Tuesday, March 7

Each night at 7:30 p.m. in the Church

This year our parish Lenten Mission will be led by
Fr. Patrick Griffin, CM

In May 2013, Pope Francis instructed the Catholic Community to include Joseph in all the Eucharistic Prayers. The directive brought Joseph a little closer to the front in some Christian consciousness and prayer. In this retreat, we will acknowledge the wisdom of St. Joseph as it touches us personally, as it invites the formation of community, and as it points towards what is most important for a family. We hope to grow to be more like this good man as we celebrate the values of this Lenten season leading us to Easter.

Fr. Patrick Griffin, CM, a Brooklyn native, was ordained a Vincentian priest in 1979. After ordination, he completed a doctorate in Biblical Studies and then taught at various universities and seminaries. From 1993-1999, he worked in Rome as the Econome General of the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians). From 2010-2014, Fr. Griffin ministered in Paris as the Director General of the Daughters of Charity. In March 2014, Fr. Griffin returned to St. John's University in NY where he assumed his current position as the Executive Director for the Vincentian Center for Church and Society.



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Evening Prayer

All are invited to pray Evening Prayer on Saturdays and Sundays after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Here we pray the psalms, listen to the Word of God and give thanks to God for the blessings of the day. Evening Prayer is usually about ten to fifteen minutes in length.



So come and pray...

**Saturdays and Sundays
After the 5:00 p.m. Mass**



**BRING PALMS TO BE
BURNED
FOR USE AS ASHES**

We are all familiar with the practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, which this year is *March 1*. The ashes are a sign of the public penance to which we are all called during the Lenten season. As we promise to repent and believe in the Gospel, the ashes brand us with the sign of the cross — a sign of our commitment to the journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, a journey which ends with the new life of baptism and baptismal renewal during the Easter season. Penitential acts are undertaken as a community, as together we journey to the cross and resurrection.

What you may not know is where the ashes come from. Very simply, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are the ashes from palms saved from Palm Sunday the previous year, which have been burned.

We invite you to share in our communal celebration of Ash Wednesday in a special way. We ask you to bring old palms from your home and deposit them in the baskets which will be available. These palms will then be burned at our Mardi Gras celebration on February 28th and used as ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 1st.

Please join in this meaningful gesture of community and solidarity as together we embark on our Lenten disciplines.



Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Following the Novena prayers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place. The evening concludes with veneration of a relic of St. Catherine Laboure. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

**Monday, February 20—No Devotions
due to President's Day**

Monday, February 27—7:00 p.m.

**Monday, March 6—6:30 p.m.
due to the Parish Mission**

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS FOR LENT ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please take home a *Little Black Book* which contains daily reflections for the Lenten season. This book, following on the *Little Blue Book* which was so popular for Advent, will provide the opportunity for prayerful sacred reading for every day of Lent. Let God speak to you during this special and holy time of the liturgical year by taking a few minutes for quiet reflection using the *Little Black Book*.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK
2017

Six-minute reflections
on the Passion according to John

ASH WEDNESDAY



March 1 ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES

6:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.—Mass

4:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.—Word Service

7:30 p.m. — Mass

OLPH MUSIC MINISTRY CONCERT



3rd Annual

Ryan Barrett Memorial Concert
Sunday, February 26 - 3:00 p.m.
Sisters of St. Dominic Motherhouse
555 Albany Avenue, Amityville

Featuring: Erin Barrett (flute), Jim Kendall (piano)
and the OLPH Youth Schola under the direction of Amy Keller

Free-will offering to benefit the Sisters of St. Dominic

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross

Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24
& April 7
at 7:30 p.m. in the Church

We are continuing the custom of having different groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross on the Friday nights during Lent as a great way to highlight the traditional Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

March 3: led by the Parish Liturgy Committee

The format will be

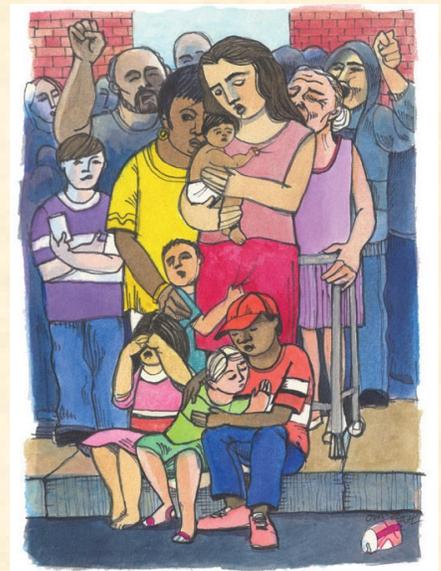
A Light for My Path

Praying the Psalms

on the Way of the Cross

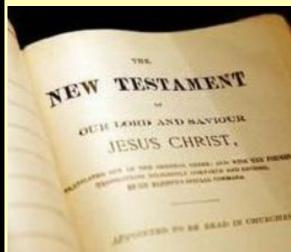
*My spirit is faint, my heart despairs,
I stretch out my hands to you.*

—Based on Psalm 143:4, 6a



During this Lenten season, offer yourself the opportunity to meditate on the Way of the Cross in a different way. You are invited to reflect on Jesus' Way of the Cross by using the same prayers he used in his life: the Book of Psalms. Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 3 will journey through the traditional fourteen Stations of the Cross while providing time for personal reflection, an examination of conscience, and the communal singing of the psalms.

2017 ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASS



Basic Course: New Testament

To introduce participants to the structure, content and themes of the major books of the New Testament, the participants will become acquainted with the variety of writings which comprise the Christian Scriptures and experience the Scriptures as the living Word of God in which we encounter the risen Christ. The participants will understand the origin, development and purpose of the Gospels as well as the message of Saint Paul's writings.

Instructor: April Kleinlaut

Coordinator of Faith Formation

Thursdays: March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Time: 7:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m. Place: Room 18

*To register, contact the Parish Office at 631.226.7725, e-mail to AKleinlaut@oloph.org.
or return the form below to the rectory.*

Yes, please, sign me up!
New Testament

Name _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____@_____

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

As required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation — are to be celebrated in the home parish of the child. Therefore, all families of OLPH with children celebrating First Communion and Confirmation are to have their children celebrate those sacraments at OLPH. As Catholics, our faith identity is centered in our Eucharistic identity, namely, the Sunday worshipping community we belong to (where we celebrate Mass Sunday after Sunday). That is our primary community and the community in which our faith is lived, day in and day out.

Because of this, and because each year of religious formation builds on the prior one, **all school-aged children who are parishioners of OLPH, regardless of where they attend school, must be registered with our Religious Education Office for all years of religious formation (not only for sacrament-preparation years).**

- Children **in all grades** who attend **public school** attend religion classes in our Religious Education Program, and they and their parents also participate in various non-classroom religious formation experiences.
- Children **in all grades** who attend a **Catholic elementary school** need not attend the Religious Education classes, but they must be registered with the Religious Education Office, and they and their parents must participate in all the non-classroom religious formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years.
- Children **in all grades** who are **homeschooled** must also be registered with the Religious Education Office; they may or may not be required to attend the Religious Education classes, depending on their homeschool curriculum, but regardless, the homeschooled children and their parents must attend the various non-classroom formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years.

If you are a parishioner with a child in a Catholic elementary school, or if you homeschool, and you are not yet on record with our Religious Education Office, please contact the office immediately. If you know of anyone who should be registered in the program, please let them know of this policy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Fasting: A Way to Turn to God

Kristopher W. Seaman

In the last five years, five weddings have occurred within my family: brothers, nieces, and a nephew have married. Each family was deeply grateful for the wedding, but remarked that the detailed preparations were demanding. Their preparations had to do with the ritual (the wedding ceremony) but also with processes that aimed to help the couple sustain a spiritual, holy, and deeply loving relationship.

You might wonder how preparing for a wedding relates to fasting.

When fasting is viewed as a preparation, it is seen in a more spiritual manner than simply “giving something up.” Some persons may view fasting as giving something up, and in a negative way, view the process as a trial. However, throughout the Church’s history, fasting has been a part of the preparation for both initiation (the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) as well as for repentance. Even today in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the elect (those persons who are seeking Christian initiation) join with the Christian community—or rather, we join them—in fasting during the liturgical season of Lent in preparation for their initiation at the Paschal Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Fasting in this regard has two characteristics: preparation and penitence.

During Lent the elect and those already baptized as Christian mark the period with fasting. This period prepares the elect for life as a Christian, and those already Christian are reminded that they, too, are always on the journey of conversion, that is, of turning away from all that is not of God, what we call sin, and turning toward God’s call and presence, which heals us of sin and brings us into a deeper life of holiness. In an ancient liturgical rite, this was ritually marked by the elect turning toward the west, the direction of sin, evil, the Devil, and spitting while renouncing these very things. Then, turning to the east, the rising sun, that is the Son, Christ Jesus, they would affirm their faith in God the Father, Christ Jesus, who rose to take away sin, and the Spirit, who cleanses us of



Fasting is part of a process to deepen our discipleship.

sins and brings us into deeper union with the Father through Christ Jesus.

Lent, then, is when the parish community, and those seeking to become disciples within the Church, begin a period of purifying themselves so that God might liberate them for a deeper union with God. At the same time, all of us are called to deepen our life of holiness, both within the Church and during our daily lives, to follow God’s invitation to be holy in the world.

When fasting is viewed in a fuller context of preparation, it is not simply giving something up, but rather, the turning away from all that fractures our relationships with God, the Church, our families, and all humankind. Through the spiritual practice of fasting, then, we express our desire not to be held under the power of things and turn our attention toward growing in God’s call to holiness. During this Lent, we can ask ourselves how our fasting connects to preparing ourselves for deeper holiness and as a way of repentance, of turning from sin toward God’s gracious and merciful presence.

Fasting, then, is part of our process for deepening our discipleship.

Kristopher W. Seaman, DMIN, is a doctoral student at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He is the former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. He earned a master of arts degree in liturgical studies from St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota, and a master of arts degree in systematic theology and a doctorate of ministry from Catholic Theological Union.

Art by Rita Corbin. © 2015 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 1-800-933-1800; www.LTP.org. *Pastoral Liturgy* magazine, January/February 2015, www.PastoralLiturgy.org.

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A WORD ABOUT LITURGICAL PRACTICES AND GOOD HEALTH

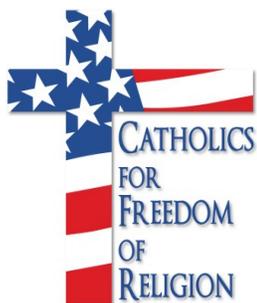
As we come to celebrate Mass together each week during these winter days, it's a good time to review some common-sense liturgical practices and issues, to help everyone stay healthy and to care for one another.

- **Holy Communion:** Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are especially encouraged to wash and sanitize their hands before Mass begins. If Communion ministers need to clean their hands during Mass, it must be done discreetly. The best way for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to clean their hands during Mass is to use a sanitizing liquid in the pew before coming into the sanctuary (sanitizing liquids have no place on the altar or among the Communion vessels and other sacred items on the credence table).
- **Communion from the Chalice:** The faithful should refrain from drinking from the chalice when one has a cold or is fearful of being infected.
- **Receiving on the Tongue:** Faithful who normally receive Holy Communion on the tongue should refrain from receiving on the tongue and instead receive in the hand when one has a cold or is otherwise contagious. Do not spread your saliva to the hand of the Communion minister if you are sick; receive Communion in the hand instead.
- **Greeting of Peace:** Use your own discretion and best judgment when invited to exchange the greeting of peace during the liturgy; limit physical contact with others if necessary. If a handshake is not advisable, a simple bow of the head is acceptable. Do not be insulted if someone prefers to avoid shaking your hand.

Mass Attendance: MOST IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO

MASS! There is no obligation to attend Mass if you are sick; it is not a sin to miss Mass for this reason. (Also, there is no need to go to Confession if you miss Mass because you are sick.) Personal prayer and reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings is encouraged; many people also enjoy viewing the Mass on television.

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



"In a world where various forms of modern tyranny seek to suppress religious freedom ... it is imperative that the followers of the various religious traditions join their voices in calling for peace (and) tolerance..." Pope Francis

Another American town responds:

Knightstown, IN - When residents learned that city officials had caved in to removing a large illuminated cross from the town's Christmas tree after the threat of a lawsuit, they decided to fight back by putting crosses in their windows and in their yards, letting the world know that they would not let "Christ" be taken out of Christmas.

"The Cross will come down but we can still light the town with crosses...instead of just one cross, we can now have hundreds, we can light them everywhere in town," said a local Facebook post. (lifesitenews.com, 12/20/16)

"Hall of Shame" 2016 report continued:

"We felt it was very important this year that we highlight three countries where religious discrimination and persecution are deemed unusual but have reached a certain threshold of concern. These are Mexico, Russia, and sadly, the United States," said International Christian Concern president, Jeff King.

"Christians in the U.S. are facing constant attacks in the media and are being marginalized through the law. The media portrays Christians as bigoted, racist, and close-minded."

The First Liberty Institute reports that attacks on religious liberty doubled between 2012-2015. (persecution.org, Hall of Shame report)

Compliments to:

- St. Therese of Lisieux, Montauk, for inviting Patricia Flynn, Treasurer and a Director of Catholics for Freedom of Religion, to speak about "Religious Freedom Day" during all Masses January 14-15. www.cffor.org

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE HOURS:

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

CONFIRMATION RETREAT Group A

Thank you to the Catholic Ministry Team
 for leading a fantastic retreat!



New Student Registration

Letters have been mailed to families with children who will be entering 1st grade in the 2017-18 year and were baptized at OLPH regarding registration for religious education. We encourage all families with students who have not yet begun religious education, who will be beginning 1st grade (or older), to register for religious education during our New Registration Week. We welcome anyone interested in registering or learning more about our program to come to our office.

Please remember that all new registered students—including those with siblings already in the program—**must have a copy of his/her Baptismal certificate.** New families **MUST make an appointment to register by calling or emailing us.**

Should you have any questions regarding religious education, registration for the 2017/18 year, or offering in our program, please contact our office.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Jerome Emiliani February 19th



St. Jerome Emiliani felt a special call to help the orphans who had no one to care for them. All the loved ones who would have protected them and comforted them had been taken by sickness or starvation.

He would become their family.

St. Jerome, pray for us!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

No Classes

Monday, February 20th—Winter Recess
Wednesday, February 22nd—Winter Recess
Saturday, February 25th—Winter Recess

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, February 26th at 3:00 p.m.
 (Group B: Rooms 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22)

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Marie Foster—631.592.1509—cffr@oloph.org
- † Community Meal: Gigi Gracey—631.943.0095—gigigracey1962@gmail.com—Deborah McDonald -516.662.2529—Dnk875@aol.com
- † Golden Age Society: Dolores Barone—631.957.3432
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631.921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Bernard League: Kristine Doyle—631.804.3466—Kristine Kelly—631-412-5629—stbernardleague@oloph.org
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Deborah Deasy—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Fran Grasso—631.956.3003—sixfingers13@gmail.com
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org—Caroline Grogan—631.225.7688—straightclaw@optonline.net

NEW Food Pantry List!

PASTA SAUCE
TUNA FISH
CANNED CHICKEN
COFFEE
CANNED FRUIT
CAKE MIX
DISH SOAP
SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
TOILET PAPER

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

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in Room 24 of the School

Use Parking Lot located
 on corner of Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon

1st & 3rd Saturdays: 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying: "You must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect."

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts and into our lives.

† A LIVING MEMORIAL



THANK YOU!!! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul OLPH Conference wishes to thank those who have supported our Living Memorial Card program. To date, your donations have amounted to over \$4,000 which is used to offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering within our parish.

Memorial donation envelopes are available on the pew ledges, in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. A beautiful memorial card acknowledging your donation is sent to the bereaved.

Please contact Janet Hume at the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for further information.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

HOMELESS MINISTRY

FOOD PREPARERS

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

DONATIONS

We are in need of the following items:

thermals - tops & bottoms (med to 3XL)
heavy sweat pants (med to 3XL)
hats (skull cap type)
heavy gloves

If it is easier, we can always use Kmart gift cards (and the like) or financial donations, and we'll do the shopping.

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office from 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. daily and 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. on the weekends.

MIDDLE AGES

*Are you in your late 40s, 50s, or early 60s?
 Are you looking to meet others your age for times of spirituality, socializing and social action?*

Our next gathering is

Tuesday, February 21
 Meeting

7:00 p.m. in Room 24

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

Senior Moments

*Give yourself a Challenge
 The Senior Moments Ministry is a committed spiritual family who meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.*

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, March 14
9:00 a.m. in Room 24

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE

It's NEW to YOU!



Our prices are the lowest around. Clothing, bags, dishes, decorative items, candles, shoes, New merchandise every week.

THE
*blue*door
BOUTIQUE

HOURS OF OPERATION

M, W, F 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 SAT. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

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

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



COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

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

Our next Community Meal is
Sunday, February 19th

Come and pray with us at the
12:00 p.m. Mass
& then join us for
"Sunday Dinner"
at
1:00 p.m.

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO ISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

El grupo de oración "Jesús es el camino la verdad y la vida" le invita a alabar y glorificar al PADRE, al HIJO, y al ESPIRITU SANTO, todos los jueves de 7:00 PM en adelante en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Le ofrecemos el cuidado de los niños, también les enseñamos la doctrina de la iglesia.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia. Familias interesadas favor llamar a Virginia Constantino al (631) 957-1149

Para información sobre los sacramentos de El bautizo, Matrimonio y servicios pastorales, tales como llevarle la Eucaristía los enfermos, la última unción de los enfermos.

Las charlas de bautizo se llevan a cabo cada segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, los padres interesados en bautizar a sus hijos deben atender a una serie de charlas. Estas charlas son cada primer y tercer lunes del mes

Para más información llamar a la rectoría (631) 226-7725. En español a Alejandro Campos teléfono (631) 671-9257 correo electrónico saitjoseph98@gmail.com

Lecturas del domingo 26 de Febrero del 2017

Ni vida ni muerte, ni presente ni futuro,
ni criatura alguna nos podrá separar
del amor de Dios nuestro Padre. Él nos ha mostrado su amor en Jesús.
Que el Señor, Jesucristo, esté siempre con ustedes.

Primera Lectura (Isaías 49,1-15): Dios Nunca Se Olvidará de Nosotros. El profeta Isaías le dice al pueblo desalentado: Dios ama y se preocupa. Nunca se olvidará de ti. El amor terrenal más grande es por lo general el de una madre para sus hijos, y para que entendamos el amor tan grande de Dios para nosotros. Hace esta comparación y dice aunque una Madre se olvidase del hijo de sus entrañas yo nunca me olvidare de ti.

Segunda Lectura (1 Corintios 4,1-5): **Los Ministros Son Siervos.** San Pablo se describe a sí mismo y a otros ministros como siervos de Cristo y de la comunidad. Confía haber sido fiel a su misión.

Evangelio (Mateo 6,24-34): **Dios Se Preocupa**

Si aprendemos a confiar en Dios y en su reino, seremos conscientes del valor relativo de nuestros afanes y preocupaciones. Mateo 6,33-34: *El Reino en primer lugar.* Jesús apunta dos criterios: "Buscar primero el Reino" y "No preocuparse por el día de mañana". Buscar en primer lugar el Reino y su justicia significa tratar de hacer la voluntad de Dios y permitir a Dios que reine en nuestra vida. La búsqueda de Dios se traduce concretamente en búsqueda de una convivencia fraterna y justa. Donde hay esta preocupación por el Reino, nace una vida comunitaria donde todos viven como hermanos y hermanas y nadie pasará más necesidad. Allí no habrá más preocupación con el día de mañana, esto es, no habrá más preocupación en acumular. El evangelio de hoy nos ayuda a revisar la relación con los bienes materiales y trata dos asuntos de distinto peso: nuestra relación con el dinero (Mt 6,24) y nuestra relación con la Providencia Divina (Mt 6,25-34). Los consejos dados por Jesús suscitan diversas preguntas de difícil respuesta. Por ejemplo, ¿cómo entender hoy la afirmación: "No puedes servir a Dios y al dinero" (Mt 6,24)? ¿Cómo entender la recomendación de no preocuparnos con la comida, la bebida y la ropa (Mt 6,25)?

En todas nuestras preocupaciones e inquietudes se nos pide poner nuestra confianza en Dios, para estar seguros del Señor, no mañana, sino hoy mismo, porque Dios no puede olvidarse de nosotros; valemos muchísimo a sus ojos y él nos ama profundamente. Por tanto, ¿por qué tendríamos que preocuparnos? --- En esta eucaristía confiémosnos, con Jesús, al cuidado amoroso del Padre.

Líbranos, Señor, de todas las ansiedades que nos abruman y de todas las necesidades inútiles que nos mantienen lejos de ti y de los hermanos. Líbranos del pecado ayúdanos a buscarte a ti y a tu reino, mientras nos preparamos, alegres y esperanzados, para la segunda venida gloriosa de tu Hijo, nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo.

Señor Dios y Padre nuestro: En esta eucaristía nos has asegurado que conoces lo que necesitamos mejor que nosotros mismos, y de que permaneces con nosotros por medio de tu Hijo Jesús.

Ayúdanos a olvidar nuestras preocupaciones -que son hechura nuestra- y que Jesús nos dé el valor y fortaleza para trabajar por tu reino de bondad y misericordia, de integridad y de justicia comprometida; porque sólo entonces estaremos seguros de que tú nos vas a dar todo "lo demás" por medio de Jesucristo nuestro Señor.

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 Announcement:

***Salvatore Falsitta & Christine Gerbino
Keith Palmisano & Jennifer D'Agostino***

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

Dylan James Zee

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

WE REMEMBER

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

***Margaret LeMier
Annunziata Zoccali***

"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."

MASS MEMORIALS

A beautiful way to remember a loved one!
Memorials used during the Masses for week of
February 19-25:

Altar Bread

In Memory of

Henry & Eleanor Zuber

Requested by

Donald

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

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Giugliano Salmi</i>	<i>Erin Stanton</i>
<i>Ron Higgins</i>	<i>Charles Cascio</i>
<i>Fran Higgins</i>	<i>Bernadette Sinnott</i>
<i>Theresa Paolo</i>	<i>Ester Darrigo</i>
<i>Rosemary Curr</i>	<i>Laura Fischer</i>
<i>Mary Elizabeth Setti</i>	<i>Ann DeVito</i>
<i>Mary Doran</i>	<i>Nora McMahan</i>
<i>Bunnie Rieger</i>	<i>Eileen McCauley</i>
<i>Richard Rieger</i>	<i>Patricia &</i>
<i>John Jordan</i>	<i>Richard Kleczkowski</i>
<i>Amelia Jean Connolly</i>	<i>Ann Power</i>
<i>Annmarie Levy</i>	<i>Theresa Lisio</i>
<i>Lisa Ruggiero</i>	<i>Kathy Cunningham</i>
<i>Taylor Paige Crosby</i>	<i>Susan Murphy</i>
<i>Anthony Blasie</i>	<i>Therese Gigante</i>
<i>James Byrne Jr.</i>	<i>Jean Wilutis</i>
<i>Alyssa Drenkalo</i>	

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



BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE

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

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 20—
Weekday

6:30 Charlie Coyne

12:15 Denise Maranzano

TUESDAY, February 21—
Weekday
(Saint Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

6:30 Steven L. Mikle

12:15 Filomena Makris

WEDNESDAY, February 22—
The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

6:30 Richard McClintock

12:15 George Wagner

THURSDAY, February 23—
Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

6:30 Louis Ricciardi

12:15 Kaylin Zimms

FRIDAY, February 24—
Weekday

6:30 Joseph Marino

12:15 Franny Keller Levesque

SATURDAY, February 25—
Weekday

8:00 Beth Mehm & Tommy Fountain

Vigil for
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 Frank Denzel

Sunday, February 26
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 Patty Keane

10:00 Dominick DeGirolamo

12:00 Neil Graganao

5:00 For the People of the Parish

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, February 20, 2016

**ALL PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED
AND ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED
DUE TO PRESIDENTS' DAY**

7:00 p.m. *NO DEVOTIONS* Church

Tuesday, February 21, 2016

6:45 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Middle Ages Room 24

7:00 p.m. Diocesan Liturgy Workshop Room 18

7:30 p.m. Family Life Ministry Meeting Room 12

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2016

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

12:45 p.m. Exposition Church

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

6:00 p.m. Van Run Room 10

Thursday, February 23, 2016

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

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting St. Lucy

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous Room 24

Friday, February 24, 2016

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

Saturday, February 25, 2016

1:00 p.m. CYO Basketball Auditorium

4:00 p.m. Confessions Church

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Church

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

Sunday, February 26, 2017

10:00 a.m. RCIC Room 18

12:00 p.m. Blessing of Pre-Cana Couples Church

1:00 p.m. Junior Legion of Mary Room 24

2:00 p.m. Baptisms Church

3:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat Auditorium

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat at Mass Church

5:00 p.m. RCIA Church

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Church

8:00 p.m. Alcohol Anonymous Meeting Cafeteria

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Patti Chavis, Parish Secretary	212	pchavis@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
Martin Kenny, Business Manager	204	mkenny@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Alice White at 631-201-9184 or e-mail at Alicem9@icloud.com to begin the process.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults who have been baptized Catholic and who have received Holy Communion but who still need the Sacrament of Confirmation should enroll in our Adult Confirmation Classes. Please contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to rabecker@optimum.net at the Parish Office.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jean Bjork
Tricia Buckley (Chair)
Lori Byron
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Marie Foster
Greg Guido
Sonia Hansen
John Keller
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
Christina Taparata
James Totino
Pete Triolo

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

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

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

OFFERING UPDATE February 11/12, 2017

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	336	123	\$3,055.00
8:00 a.m.	255	96	2,825.00
10:00 a.m.	384	113	3,007.00
12:00 pm.	445	109	2,967.00
5:00 p.m.	325	50	1,566.50
Total coin:			16.48
Mail-ins:			378.00
Children's Env.		20	49.02
Faith Direct			2,338.50
TOTAL	1,745	511	\$16,202.50
2016 total	1,680	542	\$15,856.68
Candles			\$749.03
Poor Box			\$194.74



We are called to go forth and spread the good news. Our parish's many ministries are examples of how many of you answer that call. Our ministries require not only gifts of time and talent, but also of financial help. Please prayerfully consider supporting Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish with electronic donations through Faith Direct.

You can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church *code NY286* or mail in an enrollment form from the parish office.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Msgr. Joe

MONDAY, February 20th

All parish offices will be closed
and all activities cancelled.
Weekday 6:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Masses will be celebrated as usual.
However, the Monday night Devotions
will not be held.

THANK YOU FOR NOT BLOCKING THE PRIEST GARAGES!

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



DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

February 26—passed
March 5—February 24
March 12—March 3

Thank you for your cooperation.

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 and 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.

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, February 26, 2017—EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given you besides.*

Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself."

Matthew 6:33-34a

Isaiah 49:14-15

This short but magnificent selection from the Book of Isaiah is one of the most tender expressions of God's love in the entire Old Testament. It was written to comfort the defeated people of Israel who were living in captivity in Babylon yet longing to return to their homeland. After enduring that for decades, they were crying "the Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." Yet Isaiah gives them a word of supreme comfort. "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you," says the Lord. God loves his chosen people with a love even deeper than the strongest human love which is that of a mother for her child.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Today we hear the last of seven weekly readings from Paul's letter to the church at Corinth regarding how they should regard themselves. In previous readings, he condemned factions that had formed within the church as unbecoming a community that belongs to God in Christ. He also preached divine rather than human wisdom as true wisdom: those who were "wise" in the ways of the world were foolish in the sight of God. As such, members of a Christian church should be unconcerned about being judged by human standards or the cultural values of the day for the only judgment that matters is when the Lord comes and judges hearts by his standards. Therefore, Christians should be "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God," setting their eyes on the things of above.

Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount in today's reading by talking about priorities. "No one can serve two masters." Either we must serve God or serve the things of this world. We must "seek first the kingdom of God." All else is not as important. One of the many benefits of prioritizing our life this way is that the anxieties of this world, such as for food and clothing, while real, do not consume us. If God can take care of the flowers of the field and the birds of the air, will he not more so take care of us? Being concerned about basic needs is part of being human but excessive concern implies lack of trust in God. Those who love God wholeheartedly as their top priority have faith in divine providence.

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, February 20, 2017:

Sirach 1:1-10 + Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday, February 21, 2017:

Sirach 2:1-11 + Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday, February 22, 2017:

1 Peter 5:1-4 + Mark 16:13-19

Thursday, February 23, 2017:

Sirach 5:1-8 + Mark 9:41-50

Friday, February 24, 2017:

Sirach 6:5-17 + Mark 10:1-12

Saturday, February 25, 2017:

Sirach 17:1-15 + Mark 10:13-16

Sunday, February 26, 2017:

Isaiah 49:14-15

+ 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

+ Matthew 6:24-34

Gospel Reflection Questions....

After reading next Sunday's Gospel take some time to pray on it before you come to Mass. Use the questions below to aid your reflection.

1. John Shea, STD, suggests that the Gospel offers two scenarios: "(1) understand and inhabit your life as an anxious project for future physical survival or (2) understand and inhabit your life as a present gift sustained by God prior to any human activity to secure it." What happens to the concerns of (1) if you choose (2)?

2. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis says that Jesus asked us to contemplate the lilies of the field and the birds. If every person and creature has something to say to us, what do you learn from the lilies and birds when you really look at them?

"We are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next, which accepts each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full. Jesus taught us this attitude when he invited us to contemplate the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, or when seeing the rich young man and knowing his restlessness, 'he looked at him with love' (Mark 10:21).

He was completely present to everyone and to everything, and in this way he showed us the way to overcome that unhealthy anxiety which makes us superficial, aggressive and compulsive consumers."

*Encyclical Letter **Laudato Si** of the Holy Father Francis, #226, May 24, 2015*

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE:** The loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation is one of life's most traumatic experiences, often resulting in feelings of loneliness and grief. When these feelings remain, they can become overwhelming and hard to move forward. The **Beginning Experience** is a grace-filled time to focus on you: to be understood by peers and to experience a sense of peace and renewed hope for the future. The next weekend will take place on **February 24—26 at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore**. For more information and reservations, call Mary at 516-413-6029, Jim at 718-474-3779 or John at 516-822-0635.
- **Seminary Library: Book Talk Schedule Winter-Spring 2017. February 26**, Msgr. Charles Fink on "*The Expansive Mind of John Henry Newman*." Talks are in the 4th floor library on Sundays, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Free admission. No reservations required. Refreshments served.
- **Part-Time Sacristan Position – St. Joseph Parish** in Babylon is seeking to fill two separate part-time sacristan positions immediately: *Weekday 'On-Call' Sacristan*: this position would be "On-Call" from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Responsibilities include setting up and serving at funerals, locking up the Church, assisting clergy where necessary. *Weekend Sacristan*; Saturday and Sunday. Total 19-21 hours. Responsibilities include setting up for Masses, assisting clergy, setting up and serving at funerals when needed, setting up for weddings, some light cleaning/maintenance, locking up the Church, and other various tasks throughout the liturgical seasons. Availability at other times throughout the year for other parish events in the Church a plus. All qualified and interested persons are asked to call St. Joseph Parish business office at (631) 669-0068 x105 and leave your contact information. Experience preferred.
- **Volunteers needed: Catholic Charities'** Immigration Department is seeking Bi-Lingual (Spanish, Polish, French/Creole and Arabic) to be mentors for our program clients in: Resume preparation, one-to-one ESL instruction, basic orientation (taking public transportation, reporting an emergency, registering at public library, etc.) Also seeking clerical support in our Amityville location and translation/interpretation assistance. Days & times flexible. Call Mary Ellen Kwiecinski—Volunteer Intern Coordinator at 516-733-7044.
- **Kellenberg Memorial Alumni Communion Breakfast:** All Kellenberg Memorial High School alumni and their families are invited to celebrate Mass on Sunday, **March 12, 2017**, at 9:00 a.m., which will be immediately followed by breakfast. The speaker at the communion breakfast will be Fr. Philip Eichner, S.M., who is celebrating his 50th year of school administration. The Alumni Communion Breakfast is the perfect way to catch up with former teachers, reconnect with fellow alums, and see all the beautiful changes that have taken place on campus. You will be able to indicate whom you would like to sit with on the registration form. You may also request to sit with one of your old teachers! Registration is \$12 per person. Children ten years of age and under are \$6. If you have any questions, please contact Alumni Director Mr. Thomas Huggard at (516) 292-0200 x375 or alumni@kellenberg.org. Please visit www.kellenberg.org/alumni to register online.
- **Part-Time opportunity** to be part of God's plan to care for and assist God's people at Parish Social Ministry at St. Mary, East Islip: Outreach is seeking a compassionate, confidential person with great organizational skills and secretarial skills. Must be computer savvy and creative. 25 hours a week, Monday—Friday. Call Sr. Camille 631-581-4266 X 128 for an interview appointment.
- **Elementary school secretary** needed for West Islip Catholic school. Must be professional, friendly, able to meet and greet parents, solve simple issues, be computer literate and willing to train on our systems, must multi-task, and like kids! This is an hourly position with varied responsibilities. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. school days. Begins immediately, will train. Please contact principal, Mrs. Krol lkrol@ollschool.org
- **Contemplative Prayer Retreat, March 24-26** at Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ. This retreat is intended for those interested in a contemplative prayer experience. First-timers as well as those who are familiar with this type of retreat are welcomed. Time will be filled with prayer, quiet personal time, special liturgies and daily Eucharist. Cost: \$135/pp. Call Anthony Fucci, Center Director at 609-884-3829. www.capemaymarianists.org.

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Dear Friends,

Pope Francis ended the 2016 *Catholic Jubilee Year of Mercy* with a stirring request that while his special Holy Year may now be over, that people around the world leave open *"the doors of reconciliation and pardon"* in order to give hope and opportunities to others. He reminds us to continue to be a mission Church supporting the global mission of mercy.

The **2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)** extends to all of us an opportunity to be part of the Church's mission to the poor and others in need. The CMA funds religious education, vocations, housing for the disadvantaged, food distribution programs, outreach ministries to the sick, the homeless and the homebound, and all kinds of other parish and diocesan ministries.

Last year, because of your support our ministries were able to:

- deliver or serve more than 500,000 meals to senior citizens and young families in need.
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- educate and form our future priests and lay leaders.

bring the Word of God to more than 50,000 students in secular colleges across Long Island.

There are so many ministries which take place on Long Island because of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. The presence of these ministries connects our parish with the entire Catholic Church on Long Island, while giving us an opportunity to be the vehicle or mercy for so many in our community. In addition, our parish benefits financially by your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Once we reach our goal, 20% of all we raise comes back to use here in our own parish.

Let us join together and continue to give hope and opportunity to others, by prayerfully considering a gift to the 2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal. I also ask that you join me in extending the warmest welcome to our new Bishop, Most Reverend John Barres!

I am grateful for your thoughtful generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

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