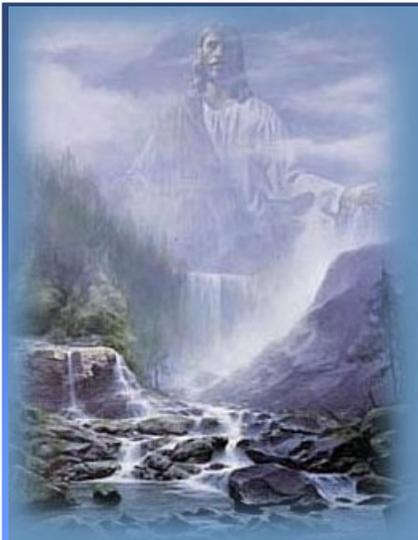


Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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 to her, "Whoever drinks the water
I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

John 4:14

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 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. Frank Pokorney

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.

MASS WITH OUR NEW BISHOP, BISHOP JOHN BARRES

Bishop Barres is visiting the Deaneries of the Diocese
(a Deanery is a cluster of parishes in the same area)
in order to meet the people of his new diocese.

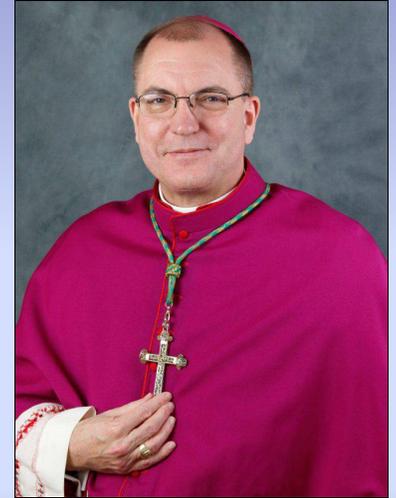
COME JOIN IN MASS WITH BISHOP BARRES

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017
5:00 p.m.

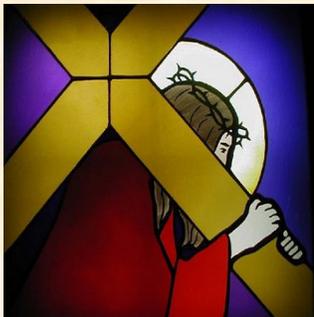
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH
455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip

All parishioners are welcome!

It will be a great way to meet and greet our new Bishop!
Let's have a great showing from OLPH—"the place to be!"



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross Friday March 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 24:
led by Holy Name Society
& OLPH Ushers**

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFFREY GAAB

On Sunday, March 12, Jeffrey Gaab was officially accepted at the Call to Continuing Conversion as a candidate to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church and to receive Confirmation and Eucharist this Easter Time. Pictured here with Msgr. Joe after the liturgy are, in the center, Jeffrey, and to the immediate right, Tara, his wife and sponsor; and RCIA Team members Angela DeClerk, Alice White and Pete Tapinis. Congratulations, Jeffrey, and we look forward to the day this Easter Time when you will be received into the Catholic Church!





Passion, Praise and Paschal Mystery:

An Evening of Music and Reflection on Christ's Passion

Friday

March 31, 2017

6:00 p.m. - Soup Supper

7:30 p.m. - Prayer and Reflection



On this Friday of Lent, we'll gather for a night of fellowship, music and reflection. The evening begins with a Soup Supper in the Auditorium where we will share a simple meal, mindful of the hunger of so many, and a reminder of our desire to grow closer to God.

Following the Supper, we will gather in the Church for a night of prayer led by our parish music ministry. Using St. Matthew's Gospel, we will seek to discover the many ways the message of Christ's death and resurrection can transform our lives right here in Lindenhurst.

SUPPORTING OUR FOOD PANTRY

We ask all who are attending the soup supper and/or the prayer service to bring a food item for our parish's food pantry.



Are you a good soup maker?

We are seeking donations of meatless soups and bread for the soup-supper, as well as set-up, serving and clean-up help. Contact Chris Volpe at 516-238-2717 or email cvolpe664@gmail.com or Mary Ellen Barrett at mombarr@optonline.net.

To see photos and to keep up on other ministries check out the OLPH Facebook page.



PASTOR'S PAGE

Third Sunday of Lent

In our Gospel today for the Third Sunday of Lent we heard the first of three great stories in St. John's Gospel that together form a powerful movement sweeping us along these weeks of Lent toward its conclusion. The baptismal imagery in the reading is obvious, and the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is filled with meaning. Notice how through the course of the conversation Jesus identifies himself with one of the "I am" statements that will also occur in the Gospel accounts for the next two Sundays. Jesus becomes a source of new life for the woman, and she becomes an evangelist, bearing the good news that she has found the Messiah. In our journey of Lenten conversion, we are called to acknowledge how we are thirsting for the water that only Jesus can bring, and how we long for the fulfillment and eternal life that comes only from the Messiah.

The Mass prayers for this Third Sunday of Lent continue to highlight for us our Lenten journey of conversion and renewal. In the Collect (Opening Prayer), we petitioned God that *"we who are bowed down by our conscience may always be lifted up by your mercy."* Notice how clearly the prayer reminds us that God always runs to meet us with His forgiveness, lifting us up out of sin, when we are weighed down by our wrongdoing. God's grace is stronger than our sin, and God's power to bring us back is stronger than our waywardness when we stray from Him.

The Prayer over the Offerings reminded us of an important aspect of receiving God's forgiveness: that as recipients of forgiveness and mercy, we must also then become, in turn, agents who bestow that same mercy and forgiveness on others; in that prayer we prayed, *"Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbor."* In order to rightly bring our "sacrificial offerings" — i.e., to celebrate Mass worthily — means we must be reconciled with our brothers and sisters with whom we celebrate. We who have been forgiven must in turn forgive others.

This mercy and forgiveness of God, and the sharing of that mercy and forgiveness with others, leads to new life, now and in the life to come. We can never forget that the Eucharist is always a pledge of the life to come; thus, in the Prayer after Communion we prayed, *"As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we*

humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion." The Eucharist we celebrate here on earth is always a foretaste of the eternal banquet of which we hope to partake one day in heaven.

As always, there are so many rich spiritual themes to be derived from reflecting on and praying over the readings and prayers we use at Mass!

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Monday, March 20, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred from March 19). The day is an important one and is given the rank of Solemnity in the liturgical calendar, which means that the day takes precedence over the Lenten day; its importance is further highlighted by the fact that it is transferred to Monday, since March 19 falls on a Sunday. The *Glory to God in the highest* returns to Mass, and the Creed is said, too. All these liturgical elements mark for us the prominence of this day that celebrates the saint who is the Patron of the Universal Church and the patron of workers, of carpenters, and of fathers.

St. Joseph was the foster-father of Jesus, entrusted with Jesus' care and upbringing. We celebrate St. Joseph as, to use the words of the Mass for that day, that *"just man"* given by God *"as spouse to the Virgin Mother of God and set as a wise and faithful servant"* in charge of the Holy Family, *"to watch like a father"* over God's Only Begotten Son. The model of humility and quiet service given to us by St. Joseph is something to ponder deeply.

Of course, let's not forget another important part of St. Joseph's Day—THE PASTRIES!!! As we have announced elsewhere in the bulletin, we are inviting those who come to the 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. weekday Masses on St. Joseph's Day to bring bread and pastries from their St. Joseph's table to be blessed. St. Joseph's Day is a great day for Italians to celebrate and be proud of their Italian heritage, since we know, of course, that St. Joseph was Italian(!).

May your St. Joseph's Day be a holy and festive one!

Offer to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday

Please note our announcement that we are looking for people to offer to have their feet washed at our Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. We need and want YOU to offer to do this as a

beautiful gift you would give to the parish at that Mass. Don't be shy or embarrassed about this; there are many spiritual blessings that come your way by participating in the Mass in this manner.

We always try to get a good cross-representation of parishioners, so we're looking for young and old, boys and girls, men and women, actively-involved and not-so-actively-involved... you name it! You can respond by returning the response coupon found elsewhere in this bulletin. Keep in mind that since we always try to have a cross-representation of the parish, you may not get called this year because we want to balance out our representation of ages, gender, parish involvements, *etc.* If you're not asked this year, don't worry, and please don't be insulted; we will hold on to your name and keep it in the "pool" to be called in a future year.

Please give prayerful consideration to this as a great spiritual offering to your parish.

"Let's Pay Off the New Boilers" Collection

So, you have heard my appeal at Mass this weekend for all of us to join in and to try to pay off the new boilers, so that we are not strapped with this responsibility. In speaking at all the Masses this weekend I wanted to be totally up-front and lay everything out for you, in keeping with my policy of openness and transparency. I cannot emphasize enough how much it would help our finances and our cash flow to take down and even get rid of this debt, and therefore also take down the interest payments—the sooner we pay off the boilers, the less interest we pay. Let's make the most of this chance to retire this burden as soon as possible.

Believe me, I wish I did not have to ask you for money. I understand and appreciate that all of you have things you have to pay for, but I ask you to remember that I am responsible for this parish, and I would be remiss if I did not attend to finances; I thank you for your understanding. All monies raised will go directly to paying off the new boilers, and for nothing else. If we raise more than we need for the boilers, then any overage will go directly toward costs for other repairs and maintenance of our physical plant, and I am giving the Finance Committee oversight of this as a double-assurance, in addition to my word, that this is what the money will be used for, and only this. I ask you to prayerfully consider how much you can give, and I ask you to mention this "Let's Pay Off the New Boilers" Appeal to others, to help spread the word and to get not just parishioners, but other friends of OLPH on board.

Together, I know we can do this, and that's the key: we're all in this together. I am giving to this appeal, and I ask you to also. Thank you for your generosity.

New Altar Servers wanted and needed!

We are in active recruiting mode for new altar servers; see the information elsewhere in this bulletin. Girls and boys 4th grade and older are invited and encouraged to sign up; moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, encourage the kids to become involved and make this great offering of service to the parish! It's a great way for them, and the entire family, to grow close to Jesus and His Church. Notice, though, that we have a firm deadline of March 28 for sign-ups, since training sessions will begin shortly after that. I look forward to working with all our new servers!

Meeting for those who are already Altar Servers

Meanwhile, all current altar servers are reminded to attend the important meeting we will be having this week on Thursday, March 23. We will go over the assignments for Palm Sunday, the Sacred Paschal Triduum, and First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses. All altar servers are expected to attend, with a parent.

Deanery Mass with Bishop Barres

Finally, take note of the Mass which Bishop Barres will be celebrating with our Deanery (the cluster of parishes in this area) tomorrow, Monday, March 20 at 5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip. Let's have a great turnout from OLPH! All the priests of OLPH will be there to concelebrate.

In conclusion...

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

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

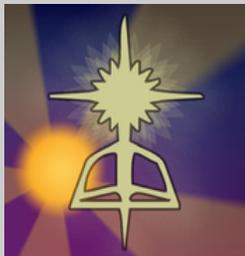
Sincerely,



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Evening Prayer

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



So come and pray...

**Saturdays
and Sundays**

After the 5:00 p.m. Mass

“The Liturgy of the Hours is intended to become the prayer of the whole People of God. In it Christ himself ‘continues his priestly work through his Church....Pastors of souls should see to it that the principal hours, especially Vespers (Evening Prayer) are celebrated in common in church on Sundays and on the more solemn feasts.’”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1175



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, March 20—6:30 p.m.

(due to Level 8 Penance Service)

Monday, March 27—7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 3—7:00 p.m.

ABSTINENCE AND FASTING

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from the Good Friday fast and abstinence.

PERPETUAL HELP MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017 5:00 P.M. MASS

Ruth Nolan	Requested by Deacon Robert & Carmel Becker
Patricia Archer	Requested by Dianne Bendernagel
Paul Anzalone	Requested by Vera & Anthony Anzalone
Catherine Castaldo	Requested by Tricia Castaldo
In Thanksgiving for Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Requested by Nadege Auguste

SPECIAL PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULES:

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES FOR THESE DAYS



Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 8:
5:00 p.m. Vigil
with Solemn Procession
Sunday, April 9:
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
12:00 Noon & 5:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 15:
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 p.m. only
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass)
Sunday, April 16:
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday)

Confessions

Monday—Friday:
following the 12:15 p.m. Mass
Saturdays:
March 25 & April 1
4:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.



CHANGE IN TIME FOR SATURDAY CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 8 (SATURDAY BEFORE PALM SUNDAY)

Confessions on **Saturday, April 8** will be held from **3:00—4:00 p.m.** This time change is necessary due to the special Palm Sunday Vigil Mass Procession which we will be celebrating on Saturday night, April 8.

HOLY WEEK

Monday of Holy Week, April 10: 3:00—9:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday, April 15: 3:00—5:00 p.m.

REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

Please remember that we are supposed to observe a Communion Fast before receiving Holy Communion. This means we do not eat any foods or drink any liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion, the only exception being water or medicine. This also means that we are not to chew gum during Mass, and certainly not while we are coming forward to receive Holy Communion. Let's be sure we are appropriately prepared to receive Holy Communion by observing this important rule of the Church.

GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS

Gluten-free hosts are available for those with Celiac Disease who cannot receive Holy Communion using the usual bread. If you need to receive Holy Communion using a gluten-free host, please stop in the sacristy before Mass to discuss this with the priest. We will be happy to accommodate you.



BRINGING

FORWARD

THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD

AND WINE



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

PRAYER & WORSHIP

On Friday, March 10, through the voices of children, we journeyed with Jesus in the Way of the Cross, sponsored by the OLPH Youth Choir and Family Life Ministry.



BLESSING OF BREAD AND PASTRIES ON ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

Monday, March 20 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred from March 19 this year because March 19 is a Sunday in Lent). It is traditional to bless bread, pastries, and other food and to give a portion of it to the poor. Therefore, we will be offering a blessing of bread, pastries (and any other St. Joseph's foods traditional to your family) at our two weekday Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Monday, March 20. Join in marking St. Joseph's Day in this way by bringing your breads and pastries to be blessed!

MEETING FOR ALL ALTAR SERVERS

All Altar Servers are required to attend an important meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 4:30 p.m. in the church. Among other items we will discuss assignments for Holy Week, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and First Communion and Confirmation. All servers are expected to attend. If you cannot be there, you must contact Msgr. Joe as soon as possible. Thank you.

(Note: this meeting applies only to the young people who serve; it does not apply to the adults who serve at weekday Masses and funerals.)

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARISHIONERS TO OFFER TO HAVE THEIR FEET WASHED ON HOLY THURSDAY

The Washing of Feet is one of the most beautiful and powerful moments in the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. The action ritualizes the humble service of Jesus who came to serve and to lay down his life for us. The rite is also a powerful reminder of Jesus' command for us to imitate his humble service, and to wash each other's feet through acts of generous, self-emptying love.

Each year we select twelve (12) parishioners to have their feet washed, and we try to represent a good cross-section of the parish. **We would like to ask you to step forward and offer to have your feet washed at our Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper this year, on April 13.** This is a great opportunity for you to offer to be part of our Sacred Paschal Triduum in a very powerful way. Don't be shy about nominating yourself or someone else! It's OK for more than one member of the same family to be included! It's a great offering you would be giving to OLPH. If you are interested, simply return the response coupon below.

Young or old; long-time parishioner or new; male or female; involved in the parish or not-so-involved—we want to get a good cross-representation, and so we want YOU to come forward and offer yourself. Because we are trying to have a representative balance among the twelve, please do not worry or be insulted if you submit your name but are not called this year—we'll hold on to your name for future years! Return the response form today!

YES! I would like to have my name included among those willing to have my feet washed on Holy Thursday, either this year or in a future year.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Age _____ (needed so we can include a variety of ages)

If more than one member of your family would like to offer, you can make a copy of this or send in the information on your own paper



MEMORIALS AVAILABLE

This Easter, we are offering a memorial opportunity for the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the Light of Christ that is lit from the Easter fire and remains lit for all liturgies during Easter Time. It is also lit throughout the year at baptisms and funerals. The offering to memorialize the candle is \$500.



We have ordered two new vestments that are available to be memorialized. The purple cope is worn by the priest or deacon outside of Mass for special liturgies like Advent Lessons and Carols, Ash Wednesday Prayer Services and Stations of the Cross. The red cope will be used at the Palm Sunday Procession and on Good Friday. The donation for each vestment is \$600, and a label, marking the memorial, can be placed inside.



If you would like to remember a loved one who has died or mark a special anniversary or other occasion by making a memorial, please contact Chris Ferraro at the rectory at 631-226-7725 X 210 or email cferraro@oloph.org.

**BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER:
ATTENTION BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE PARISH, FOURTH GRADE AND OLDER**

We are in the process of **recruiting new Altar Servers!** Being an altar server is a great way to be involved at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. You make an important contribution to the life of the parish and you perform an important ministry. Besides, it's fun!!! You serve at weekend Masses and other special events, attend some meetings throughout the year, and have fun parties!

Why not become an altar server? We would love to have you, and we will provide plenty of training — no prior experience is necessary!! If you are a boy or a girl who is in the **4th grade or older (it's o.k. if you are in 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, or even older!)**, you are invited to become an altar server. Parents, why not mention it to your daughter or son to get them interested? Training will start soon, so sign up now. If you are interested, **mail or drop off the coupon below to Monsignor Joe at the Rectory, 210 South Wellwood Avenue.** *No phone calls, please; you must let me know in writing! It's OK to scan this page and send it electronically with all the info to msgjrjoe@oloph.org.*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, RESPOND BEFORE TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017, SINCE THE FIRST TRAINING MEETING WILL BE SOON AFTER THAT (you will receive a letter giving you specific information).

Sorry...no responses can be accepted after March 28!

We hope to hear from YOU!!!

Yes, I am interested in becoming an Altar Server! **RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE MAR. 28**

Name _____

Address _____

Town/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____@_____

Date of Birth (month/day/year) _____/_____/_____

Family Envelope/Registration Number _____

*****Required: Your family must be registered parishioners of OLPH.**

Year You Received First Holy Communion _____

Grade you are in right now _____

Check one:

_____ I go to public school; Name of School _____

_____ I go to Catholic school; Name of School _____



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 says: “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.”

Through your almsgiving you are doing the will of the Father and finishing the work of Jesus. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins place by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

† **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:

heavy sweat pants (large 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, March 21
St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Party
At a member's house

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, April 11
9:00 a.m. in Room 24

BLUR DOOR BOUTIQUE

END OF SEASON CLEARANCE



**\$5 BAG OF CLOTHING, BOGO PURSES,
 1/2 PRICE SHOES & BOOTS!**

Special Sunday Sale

April 2, 2017 ONLY

THE
bluedoor
BOUTIQUE

HOURS OF OPERATION

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



Life Center of Long Island
Saving Lives by Changing Hearts

**These are the Life Center's
 2016 yearend statistics.**

Because of you, we were able to provide the following:

- Total Guests served: **3,562** (297 average guests/month)
- Crisis Positive Pregnancy Test Kits: **173**
- Crisis Negative Pregnancy Test Kits: **102**
- Will Carry Positive Test Kits: **212**
- Life Center Education: **17,165** people learned about our mission through speaking engagements (vs. 5,792 prior year 2015)
- Post Abortion Counseling: **32** women and men
- Baby Essentials: **2,906** guests were assisted with baby items that amounted to the work and distribution of **\$841,000** of baby items!!
- **BABIES SAVED FROM ABORTION in 2016: 83 !**

PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP MINISTRY

WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

DO YOU LOVE YOUR JOB?

ARE YOU FULFILLING
YOUR CAREER DREAMS?

Would you like to help others go after their hopes and dreams?

If you enjoy helping people and mentoring others, it will be rewarding to share your professional knowledge and success. Come and join our Professional Mentorship Ministry and together let's help others find their purpose in life.

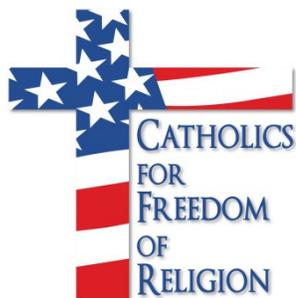
If you are interested in sharing your knowledge call OLPH Church at (631) 226-7725 or email PMM@oloph.org



**LET'S HELP EACH OTHER
FIND OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE**



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

President Ronald Reagan

Religious Liberty Loses Case:

Washington State: Florist Barronelle Stutzman, age 72, sued by the state and the ACLU for declining to design and provide flowers for a same-sex wedding, lost her appeal at the state's Supreme Court in February. She had declined to serve a long-time customers' wedding because of her Christian beliefs but instead recommended 3 florists who would gladly create the floral pieces.

"What the court decided was now the government has the power to separate me from my livelihood and faith," said Mrs. Stutzman. "They're trying to compel me to design something that goes totally against my personal conscience."

The Washington Supreme Court ruled she is also liable for fines and legal costs estimated at over \$2 million. Mrs. Stutzman said, "It's not just my freedom, it's everybody's freedom, whether you're religious or not, that is at stake." (CNA/EWTNnews, 2/19/17; patheos.com, 2/19/17)

USCCB urges President to protect religious liberty:

Saying "religious freedom in America has suffered years of unprecedented erosion," the USCCB posted an online letter for citizens to send that urges Pres. Trump to sign a religious freedom executive order.

The letter, found at <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/49640/Respond> says the president can "restore the federal government's respect for religious freedom of individuals and organizations" with a "government-wide initiative to respect religious freedom."

(catholicreview.org, 2/17/17; todayscatholicnews.org, 2/17/17)

"Let us preserve freedom. Let us cherish freedom. Freedom of conscience, religious freedom, the freedom of each person ..." Pope Francis

ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

OLPH Christian Mothers & Guild

Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Saturday, April 8th, 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, April 9th, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. Mass

Delicious Home Baked Goodies

**Cakes, Cookies, Muffins, Brownies
Chocolate Lollipops**

*Help Support Our Parish
& enjoy the Goodies!*



CYO TRACK

2017 OLPH CYO Spring Track REGISTRATION

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION
NOW AVAILABLE:
www.leaguelineup.com/olphcyo

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION:

Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:00PM-5:00PM
@ OLPH School Cafeteria
240 S Wellwood Ave, Lindenhurst
Enter on High St.



SPRING TRACK Boys & Girls Grades 1-8

Check our Facebook Page:
OLPH CYO, Lindenhurst



Register On Line:

[https://
ourladyofperpetualhelpcatholicyouthorganiza-
tion.sply.com/site/](https://ourladyofperpetualhelpcatholicyouthorganization.sply.com/site/)



Or see the OLPH Sunday Church Bulletin



THE LEGION OF MARY ACIES

THE LEGION OF MARY ACIES

*“I am all yours,
My Queen, My Mother,
and all that I have is yours.”*

March 26

*All Active and Auxiliary
members and guests are invited
to attend the Acies ceremony at*

***The Montfort Spiritual Center
26 South Saxon Ave., Bay Shore
631-666-7500***

*The Acies is a sacred and solemn ceremony in which
members of the Legion of Mary individually and col-
lectively renew their consecration to the
Blessed Virgin Mary. The Acies will take place
during the 3:00 p.m. Mass – everyone is invited!*

Driving Directions from Lindenhurst:

***Sunrise Highway East (Route 27 East) to Exit 44 ,
continue on the Service Road .8 mi, to the 1st light, turn
right onto Saxon Ave. Go 1 mile to Montfort Spiritual
Center***

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 Marzo del 2017

Primera Lectura (Hechos 9,26-31): Los Comienzos Dificiles de un Apóstol

De fanático perseguidor, Pablo se convierte en un celoso apóstol. Al comienzo, la gente no se fía de él. Bernabé responde por él y Pablo es aceptado, pero aun entonces provoca controversia.

Segunda Lectura (1 Juan 3,18-24): Fe en Jesús y Amor Mutuo

Estamos seguros de que Dios está presente en nosotros y de que estamos unidos a él si creemos en Jesucristo y nos amamos unos a otros con un amor auténtico y activo.

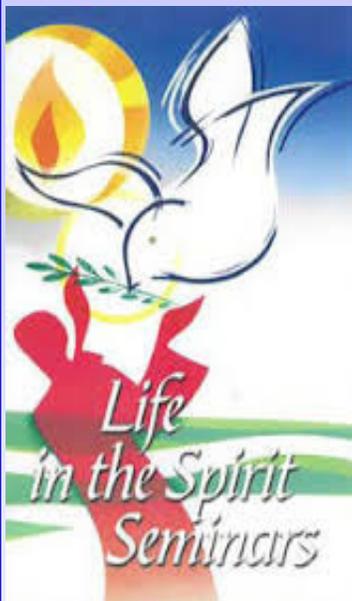
Evangelio (Juan 15,1-8): Yo Soy la Vid, Ustedes los Sarmientos

Sólo cuando estamos unidos con Jesús con fe y amor, como sarmientos de una misma vid, pueden nuestras vidas producir fruto y Dios nos dará todo lo bueno.

Señor Jesús, vid en la que vivimos, permanece siempre con nosotros, guárdanos siempre unidos contigo y con los hermanos, y danos la gracia de producir fruto que permanezca, ahora y por los siglos de los siglos.

Importante recordar que dice la palabra que el árbol que no de fruto será arrancado y echado al fuego.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SENINARS



*Deacon Frank Odin & The Community of Praise
are hosting*

"Life in the Spirit Seminars"

Tuesdays: April 4 – May 16, 2017

Room 16 in the school

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Life in the Spirit Seminars are available for everyone. You can take steps to allow Jesus Christ to establish, restore or deepen a relationship with you. If you have experienced the sacramental graces, Jesus will give you a new and fuller relationship with him. You can learn more about living daily in the Holy Spirit.

To register call:

Sandy or Vito (631) 412-3794 Jackie or Jimmy (631) 957-4703

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

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

Second Announcement:

*James Hodder & Kayla Walz
Sean Tumulty & Dawn Marino
Peter Mayo & Maria Sarcona*

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



Ryan Edward Bloch

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.

“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
March 19-25:

Altar Bread & Wine

In Memory of

Donald J. DeLeo

Requested by

Liz & Agostino Pecoraro

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>Charles Cascio</i>	<i>Michael Basile</i>
<i>Ester Darrigo</i>	<i>Theresa Ferrara</i>
<i>Laura Fischer</i>	<i>Thomas Marino</i>
<i>Ann DeVito</i>	<i>Erin Stanton</i>
<i>Nora McMahon</i>	<i>Larry Bell</i>
<i>Eileen McCauley</i>	<i>Glenn Cording</i>
<i>Patricia &</i>	<i>Barbara Kuebel</i>
<i>Richard Kleczkowski</i>	<i>Lisa Ruggiero</i>
<i>Ann Power</i>	<i>Catherine Tamburino</i>
<i>Theresa Lisio</i>	<i>Lawrence Pancamo</i>
<i>Kathy Cunningham</i>	<i>James (Jimmy) Fava</i>
<i>Susan Murphy</i>	<i>Rosalie DiPretoro</i>
<i>Therese Gigante</i>	<i>Anthony Minichello</i>
<i>Jean Wilutis</i>	<i>Ethan M. Knezevich</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.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks.

PASTORAL CARE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

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

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



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 20—
Saint Joseph, Spouse of
the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30	Ann Porzio
12:15	Helen Connor

TUESDAY, March 21—
Lenten Weekday

6:30	Mildred Sredniawski
12:15	Melchior Cucchiara

WEDNESDAY, March 22—
Lenten Weekday

6:30	Rosemarie Giglio
12:15	Alton Salgado

THURSDAY, March 23—
Lenten Weekday
(Saint Turbicus of Mogrovejo, Bishop)

6:30	John & Vincent Treanor
12:15	Mary Martinelli & Helen Mischke

FRIDAY, March 24—
Lenten Weekday
(Blessed Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr)

6:30	Barbara Meador
12:15	Myron Spinella

SATURDAY, March 25—
The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00	Renee Williams
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Vigil for
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00	Carol Ann Marmo
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Sunday, March 26
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00	Jolanta Zieba (Living)
10:00	For the Living & Deceased Members of the Keller Family
12:00	For the People of the Parish
5:00	Michael Strazza

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, March 20, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry	Room 24
6:30 p.m.	Devotions	Church
7:30 p.m.	Level 8 Classes Penance Service	School Church

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

5:45 p.m.	Pastoral Staff Meeting	St. Lucy
6:45 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Middle Ages	Room 24
8:00 p.m.	Community of Praise	Room 16

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry	Room 24
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary Business Meeting	Room 24
5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
6:00 p.m.	Van Run	Room 10
7:30 p.m.	Level 7 Penance Service Level 7 Classes	Church School

Thursday, March 23, 2017

1–5 p.m.	Church closed for cleaning	Church
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Room 16
4:30 p.m.	Altar Server Meeting	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24

Friday, March 24, 2017

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry	Room 24
7:00 p.m.	Knights Movie Night	Auditorium
7:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church

Saturday, March 25, 2017

8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.	Level 1-5 Classes	School
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
3:00 p.m.	Wedding	Church
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
7:30 p.m.	Alcohol Anonymous Meeting	Cafeteria

Sunday, March 26, 2017

10:00 a.m.	RCIC	Room 18
11:00 a.m.	Families in Service	Cafeteria
11:00 a.m.	VBC Preview	Auditorium
12:00 p.m.	RCIA	Church
1:00 p.m.	CYO Track Registration	Cafeteria
1:00 p.m.	Junior Legion of Mary	Room 24
2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	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
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Frank Pokorney, Business Manager	204	fpokorney@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
Bob Meade
Frank Pokorney
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 March 11/12, 2017

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	364	159	\$3,710.00
8:00 a.m.	234	94	2,693.00
10:00 a.m.	386	124	2,846.00
12:00 pm.	507	144	4,043.00
5:00 p.m.	236	56	1,401.50
Total coin:			27.57
Mail-ins:			1,162.76
Children's Env.		17	61.84
Faith Direct			2,024.50
TOTAL	1,727	594	\$17,970.17
2016 total	1,741	599	\$17,064.28
Candles			\$897.00
Poor Box			\$244.79

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.

March 26—passed

April 2—March 24

April 9—March 31 (due to printer deadlines)

Thank you for your cooperation.



Catholic Relief Services Collection March 26, 2017

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



Use Your IRA for
Your Gift Now
and/or for
Your Estate Gift!

If you would like to make a gift now using your IRA and if:

1. You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
2. Your IRA is a traditional or Roth
3. You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions

You will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

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

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

If you would like to make an Estate gift: You can make your Parish a beneficiary of your IRA and your loved ones will not have to pay income tax on their proceeds.

PREPARING FOR

Sunday, March 26, 2017—FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*The Lord said to Samuel, “Not as man sees does God see,
because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.”*

1 Samuel 16:7

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Our three readings today speak about seeing. In particular, they stress that we must see as God sees and not as the world does. This first reading tells the story of how the prophet Samuel was called to anoint a new king of Israel since Saul, the first king, was rejected by God for disobedience. God sends Samuel to find another among the sons of Jesse in Bethlehem. Jesse presents his six oldest sons to Samuel for approval but none of these finds divine favor. Although they are strong and good-looking God tells Samuel that he looks past external appearances and into the heart. He chooses the youngest son, David, who was still out shepherding at the time. Once anointed as king, the Spirit of God rushes upon him. This should remind us that if God chooses you to do something then God will give you the strength and power to do it.

Ephesians 5:8-14

The Letter to the Ephesians takes as its theme the universal church and its unity in Christ. All members, Jews and non-Jews alike, are part of one body that is united to Jesus through baptism. In this reading we hear that living with Jesus is living in the light whereas to live without him is to live in darkness. When we live in the dark we live in spiritual blindness and cannot see our way. When we accept the light, as we did at our baptism, we are called to “live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.” We have to renew our commitment to living in the light every day.

John 9:1-41

In the Gospel reading we hear more about seeing in a very concrete way. A man was born blind and Jesus heals his eyes so that he can see. What must that have felt like – to see for the very first time! It’s hard to imagine but perhaps by recounting this story in great detail John is trying to make a deeper point about Jesus’ actions. Jesus says “I am the light of the world” before healing the man. The first thing the man must have seen when healed would have been Jesus’ face. Truly Jesus was the light of the world to him. Is he to us? Do we look to Jesus for light in our lives or do we persist, as the Pharisees did, in refusing to see as God sees? Are we struck by external appearances and stuck in our own view of the world? This would be spiritual blindness, having sight but not really seeing. Fortunately, by our baptism we do have Jesus for our light and can rely on him every day if we but open our eyes.

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. In the beginning of the Gospel, the blind man was simply a man on the street. By the end of the Gospel he was thrown out of the synagogue for defending Jesus. What changed him into a disciple? Which of these titles fits you: passer-by, believer, confessor, challenger or disciple?

2. Pope Francis tracks the blind man’s path below from spiritual blindness to light. Can you relate to your own spiritual blindness slowly turning to light in your life?

The path of the blind man ... is a gradual process that begins with knowing Jesus’ name. He does not know anything else about him. In fact, he says: “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes” (John 9:11). In response to the pressing questions of the doctors of the law he first says that Jesus is a prophet (John 9:17) and then a man close to God (John 9:31). After he is thrown out of the Temple, excluded from society, Jesus finds him again and “opens his eyes” a second time, revealing to him his (Jesus’) true identity: “I am the Messiah,” he tells him. At this point, the man who was blind exclaims: “I believe, Lord!” (9:38), and prostrates himself before Jesus.

This is a passage of the Gospel that gives us a glimpse of the drama of the interior blindness of many people. And we glimpse our own interior blindness too because we sometimes have moments of such blindness. ... Let us open ourselves to the light of the Lord. He awaits us always in order to enable us to see better, to give us more light, to forgive us. Let us not forget this!

Pope Francis, Daily Homily, March 30, 2014

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, March 20, 2017:

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14, 16
+ Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
+ Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Tuesday, March 21, 2017:

Daniel 3:25, 34-43
+ Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 22, 2017:

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
+ Matthew 5:17-1

Thursday, March 23, 2017:

Jeremiah 7:23-28 + Luke 11:14-23

Friday, March 24, 2017:

Hosea 14:2-10 + Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, March 25, 2017:

Isiah 7:10-14, 8:10
+ Hebrews 10:4-10
+ Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, March 26, 2017:

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
+ Ephesians 5:8-14 + John 9:1-41

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Bereavement Conference 2017 Journeying Together in Times of Pain and Loss. Keynote Address – The Health Effects of Bereavement Dr. Kerriane Page MD HMDC, Chief Medical Officer for Hospice, Palliative Care, & Home Care Services and Senior Vice President of Clinical Effectiveness for Catholic Health Services of Long Island. The Conference will be held on Saturday, **March 25**, at St. Joseph's Parish, Babylon from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the DRVC-Office of Faith Formation and Catholic Cemeteries.

"Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia ("The Joy of Love") One Year Later" with Msgr. Strynkowski. Join Msgr. John Strynkowski for this talk in the library at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, **March 26th**, at 2:00 p.m. This lecture will ask: What have been the commentaries and controversies flowing from this document? No registration is required and refreshments will be served. Library at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception (on the fourth floor), 440 West Neck Road, Huntington (3 miles North of Main Street). Call or email for more information: 631-423-0483 ext. 141 libraryweb@icseminary.edu

Pasta Dinner/Chinese auction to benefit the *Life Center of Long Island*. Sunday, **April 2** from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. at the Fr. Patrick Shanahan Hall, Our Lady of Grace Parish, West Babylon. Tickets: \$15 pp includes dinner, beer, wine & soda. Guest speaker Msgr. James Vlaun. Call Carmine Soldano 631-586-0883 or Nancy Harding 516-983-1205.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is hosting a weekend in April, right after Easter, a great time to renew and refresh our marriages. The weekend begins Friday, April 28th and concludes with Mass Sunday the 30th @ Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, 440 W Neck Rd. Huntington. For information and reservations call 1-877-697-9963 or go to www.wvme.org.

Camp Veritas 2017: a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens 7th—12th grades. **July 16-22** at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY; **July 23-29** at Summit Lake Camp, Emmitsburg, MD and **August 13-19** at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment price: \$450 per camper per week; \$400 if paid by 4/1/17. Volunteers over 18 are needed. For details go to www.campveritas.com.



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5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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Saturday, April 8, 2017
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Linda Carter



Ellen W. Rieger



Doris
Tecuanhuey-Alvarez

Linda Carter is both mother and high school principal. Linda has spent many fruitful years as a member of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish. She and her recently deceased husband dedicated themselves to building up parish life. Now as Linda continues her life journey she finds inspiration and comfort from the community.

Ellen W. Rieger is a stay-at-home mom with four daughters and a husband who is a deacon. They are members of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Centerport. Ellen's life is richly blessed both by being wife and mother, and also by having the opportunity to share her life with many volunteer groups.

Doris Tecuanhuey-Alvarez is a mother and secretary. Doris is a member of Most Holy Trinity Parish in East Hampton where she witnesses to her faith as a catechist, lector and member of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. She studied at San Mateo and is a PFI graduate. She is grateful to God's many blessings in her life.

We look forward to hearing everyone's story!

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Please allow me to begin this letter by thanking you for the warm and gracious welcome you have extended to me since I arrived in this wonderful diocese. I am also very grateful for your support for both your Parish and the good works of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Your commitment and partnership in this work gives us the opportunity to improve and expand our services to the underserved and disadvantaged, while we encourage and support vocations, enhance our children's religious and academic educations, strengthen all levels of faith formation and sustain our vital ministries which assist thousands of people every year.

Please prayerfully consider joining with me this year, as **One Faith, Family and Community**, by making a gift to the 2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Thank you again for all that you do and please know that I keep you and your families in my prayers and Masses.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
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