

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, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

Do you believe this?'

John 11:25-26

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

April 2, 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.

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 Procession**Sunday, April 9:**8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
12:00 Noon & 5:00 p.m.**Easter Sunday****Saturday, April 15:**

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)**PALM SUNDAY VIGIL PROCESSION****Special Procession to Commemorate
the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem
SATURDAY, APRIL 8 – 5:00 P.M. MASS**

On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. This is always such a great celebration for the parish!

At the 5:00 p.m. Mass Saturday, April 8, we will celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion with a special Solemn Procession.

For Saturday, April 8, please note:

- ◆ Confession time on Saturday, April 8 is earlier – 3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
- ◆ We are closing the Church to all but the handicapped; people will be directed to the auditorium
- ◆ 5:00 p.m. Mass begins in the auditorium, continues with the Procession, and continues in the church
- ◆ In case of inclement weather, we will begin in the church.

Even if you do not usually attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, consider attending as together we begin the celebration of Holy Week.



PASTOR'S PAGE

Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Fifth Sunday of Lent is in many ways a turning point in our Lenten journey as we enter into the final days of this liturgical season; there are less than two weeks left before we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum. We have a visual reminder that we have reached this point in Lent: the statues and images in church have been covered or removed. We are starkly aware that the celebration of the Lord's Passion is rapidly approaching.

As evidence of that celebration drawing near, the Collect (Opening Prayer) for today's Mass specifically mentions how the Son of God "*handed himself over to death.*" Along with remembering that act of perfect love, the prayer asks that we may "*walk eagerly in that same charity.*" In other words, Jesus' death on the cross as an offering of love cannot remain some remote and disconnected example for us, but rather, it must be the actual pattern of living that we imitate daily. When we hear about "the teachings of the Christian faith" in the Prayer over the Offerings, we should again think of a whole way of life that follows Christ's example of self-emptying. Additionally, this life of self-emptying in imitation of Christ is never something that we live in isolation; rather, we live it as members of the Christian community, the Body of Christ. Therefore, the Prayer after Communion prays "*that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion.*"

The Gospel reading at Mass today is the story of the raising of Lazarus, and it draws us into the human grief of a family and of Jesus Himself. The story has several layers of purpose and meaning. First, it is a prelude to the death and resurrection of Jesus Himself. Second, it includes another of the "I am" statements of Jesus found in St. John's Gospel, statements that are a declaration by Jesus of His identity: "I am the resurrection and the life." Third, Jesus affirms that those who believe in Him will also rise to new life; death does not sever the bonds of relationship between Jesus and those He loves. We are reminded of this in the words of the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer (before the

Holy, Holy) when we will proclaim that Jesus "*...leads us by sacred mysteries to new life.*"

Ponder the meaning of these Mass texts during this fifth week of Lent as we draw closer to our holiest days of the year, when we celebrate so powerfully and in such a focused way the Paschal Mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord.

"Let's Pay Off the New Boilers!"

Allow me to express my deep, deep gratitude to all who have contributed to our "Let's Pay Off the New Boilers" collection. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! You can see the total collected so far elsewhere in the bulletin. I really, really hope we can make it to the \$119,000 amount; it would be so, so great to be free of this debt hanging over our heads! If you have not made your contribution, please do so soon, and please spread the word along to others outside the parish who might be willing to help us.

Palm Sunday Vigil Procession Next Week

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday! The formal liturgical title for the day is "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord." "On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery." (*Roman Missal*) With this day we enter into Holy Week, a week which culminates in the Great Three Days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

As has become our custom, we will celebrate a special Procession for Palm Sunday at the 5:00 p.m. Mass this coming Saturday, April 8. Now, don't be grumpy about this. I would like everyone to stretch themselves a little bit and be willing to participate in the procession. Sure, it requires a little extra effort on our part, but since liturgy is the most important thing we do, and since Holy Week is our most important week, we should make the extra effort. So, there is to be no grumbling at the 5:00 Mass next Saturday about the extra effort of starting in the auditorium and then joining in the procession! Please note the following details related to our Palm Sunday Vigil Procession:

- On Saturday, April 8, Confessions will be held at a special time, **3:00-4:00 p.m., and will end promptly at 4:00 p.m.**

- At 4:00 p.m., the doors of the church will be locked. Everyone attending the 5:00 Mass will gather in the school auditorium, where we will assemble for the **Procession**. Ushers will assist in directing people to the auditorium.

- The handicapped and others who would have difficulty walking will be allowed to enter the church, and they will wait there for the Procession to arrive. Please: this is for only the truly handicapped — not just because you don't want to walk in procession!

- **Mass begins in the auditorium with Entrance Rites particular to this Sunday.** Then, after those rites, **we process in song** from the auditorium, along Wellwood Avenue, into the church.

- Mass then continues in the church.

- In case of inclement weather, we will simply gather in the church as usual.

Those who have participated in this Procession know how beautiful it is to mark Palm Sunday this way. The Church gives us a special gift by asking us to include this Procession at a principal Mass. What a beautiful expression of prayer it is to pray with our bodies as we walk the journey of entering into Jerusalem with the Lord! What a powerful way to mark our entry into this holiest of weeks!

Even if you don't usually come to the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays, why not do so next week for Palm Sunday? You'll be glad you did! I hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to enter Holy Week by joining in this beautiful special liturgy.

Be kind to folks the next two weeks!

Once again, let's all remember in Christian charity to be kind to the folks who come to Mass only at special times such as Palm Sunday and Easter! We "regulars" must show our Christian faith-in-action by not resenting their presence. It is up to us to provide a warm welcome and a sense of hospitality. Let's all stay calm; OLPH is always such a very welcoming parish, so let's continue to show it. You may just entice someone to come back more frequently! Bishop Barres issued the challenge to us to invite someone who no longer goes to Mass to come

back to Mass with us; part of that invitation is being kind to folks when they do come! What can be said for sure is that someone definitely will not come back if they are greeted with rudeness, so let's all do our best to be patient and kind.

Special schedule for Easter Sunday

Please note that there is a special schedule for the Masses on Easter Sunday. The schedule for Easter Sunday is printed elsewhere in this bulletin, is posted on signs at all the church entrances, and is printed in the leaflet mailed out some time ago. (The schedule of Masses on Palm Sunday is the same as our usual weekend Mass schedule.)

Easter Spiritual Bouquet Cards

Finally, allow me to remind you that Easter Spiritual Bouquet cards are now available throughout the church and at the rectory. As is our custom, all the Masses on Easter Sunday will be for the intentions of the Easter Spiritual Bouquet Cards. If you would like to participate in this and to have your intentions prayed for at Easter Sunday Masses, please use the cards and envelopes available and be sure to return them before Easter Sunday to the rectory.

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,



CONFESSIONS

Confessions

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

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 p.m.—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 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday, April 15:
3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.



PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING OFFERINGS FOR THE POOR ON HOLY THURSDAY

All who attend the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper are asked to bring an offering of food and other items for the poor and homeless. Insofar as one of the principal mysteries commemorated on Holy Thursday is the Lord's command to love one another, as also ritualized in the Washing of Feet, this ritual expression of bringing offerings for the poor reminds us that "where true charity is dwelling, God is present there." Check the shopping list for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry printed elsewhere in this bulletin and the list of items needed for our Ministry to the Homeless and bring one or more of those items. **REMEMBER, THOUGH: DO NOT BRING YOUR GIFT TO THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY BEFORE MASS BEGINS! HOLD ONTO IT — YOU WILL CARRY IT UP IN PROCESSION AT THE USUAL TIME OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS, AS DIRECTED BY THE USHERS.** This offering for the poor is the "collection" for that Mass. Thus, these offerings for the poor and the bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist will powerfully symbolize the offerings of ourselves and of our love for one another as we participate in the offering of the Mass.



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...

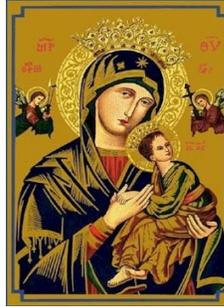
**Saturdays and Sundays
After the 5:00 p.m. Mass**

Prayer for Peace

Please join us for a special Holy Hour devoted to praying for world peace within our own country and throughout the world. **This Holy Hour for Peace, with prayers focusing on the intention of peace, will be held on the second, third and fourth Sunday evenings of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The Holy Hour of Reparation which has been held on the first Sunday of the month will continue every first Sunday evening as usual, with the prayers that are usually said for that first Sunday Holy Hour.



*Lord Jesus Christ,
who are called the Prince of Peace,
Who are yourself our peace
and our reconciliation,
Who so often said 'Peace to you',
Grant us peace!
Make all men and women witnesses
of truth, justice and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts
whatever might endanger peace.
Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee
and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples of the earth
become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth
and reign always over us all. AMEN
Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!
(Pope Saint John XXIII)*



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, April 3—7:00 p.m.
**Monday, April 10—No Devotions
due to the special Penance hours**
Monday, April 17—7:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY

*All are invited to come and pray with our parish
community.*

**First Friday
Devotions** will take
place **April 7** after the
6:30 a.m. and 12:15
p.m. Masses.



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.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP



Stations of the Cross Friday 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.

Led by: Religious Education Catechists & Middle Ages Ministry

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 call contact Chris Ferraro at the rectory, or email cferraro@oloph.org.

EASTER SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS

Easter Spiritual Bouquet cards are now available throughout the church. These cards are a meaningful way for you to have your intentions prayed for in the Masses of Easter Sunday.

Take an envelope, fill out your prayer intention, and return the envelope with your donation. Envelopes may be returned either in the collection basket or at the



rectory. Keep the card to send as an expression of your prayer. All the Masses offered on Easter Sunday will be for the intentions of the Easter Spiritual Bouquet.

LENTE ENVIRONMENT: COVERING STATUES AND IMAGES

We have taken the opportunity to observe the custom of covering (or removing, where possible) crosses and images throughout the church, a practice permitted starting the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Crosses will remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. Since the environment perceived by our senses is an important part of our worship, we hope this custom facilitates your entrance into and spiritual participation in these last days of Lent, as we approach the Sacred Paschal Triduum and the fifty days of Easter Time.



Why Are Feet Washed on Holy Thursday?

Kristopher W. Seaman

During a very blustery winter, my family and I were carefully trying not to slip on the ice as we made our way through a crowded parking lot to the church. Upon entering the worship space, the pastoral associate and pastor asked me to fill in for a person who was frightened to leave the house during the snow storm. I responded with enthusiasm, "I would love to help out! What do you need?" The priest said, "Someone to have their feet washed." Later on, I remember myself being the one inviting people to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday. One person I asked, because of her profound sense of service on behalf of the parish, responded by saying, "Oh! I don't know. I would gladly wash people's feet, because I know how to serve others. I am not very good at people doing things for me." Both stories embody a sense of service, helping out others by invitation.

The biblical basis for the washing of the feet occurs in the Last Supper narrative, and is only found in the Gospel according to John. At the moment when we expect Jesus to take bread and wine and transform them, as he does in the Gospel accounts of Mark, Matthew, and Luke, Jesus in John's Gospel account gets up and begins to wash feet. Peter first refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet; it should be, as Peter reasoned it, Peter washing Jesus's feet. Jesus rebukes Peter: "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:12-15).

Jesus serves his disciples, and then instructs them to imitate his practice of washing feet. There is a sense of humility. A disciple is to serve others. Because of the context of the washing of the feet in John's Gospel, there is also a sense of transformation. As disciples, our model, *par excellence*, is Jesus Christ. His practices in scripture provide a model for our



practices as disciples. Jesus knew he was going to be crucified, and gave this practice as a sign for disciples to serve one another. Pope Francis has been receiving a lot of press since his election, and part of this is his profound sense of humble service to all people. He models service in his daily actions.

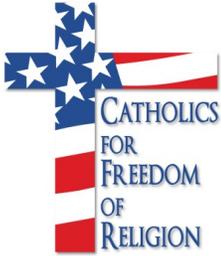
During his Homily on Holy Thursday evening, Pope Francis remarked that this rite is "a caress of Jesus." Feet stink, feet were callused and blistered from long walks. In Jesus's day proper hospitality required the servants to wash the guests' feet. Jesus, as the host, turns this practice upside down. He bends low and washes the feet of the lowly. He caresses, an act of love. True service wells up from a profound love and faith that seeks to help others daily. The rite of washing feet is called

the *mandatum*, Latin for "commandment." Jesus summed up the law by saying there are two fundamental commandments: Love God and love one's neighbor. Loving the neighbor is acting humbly and in service.

Jesus, in John's Gospel account, offers a meaning of Eucharist: The encounter with Christ Jesus has implications in one's life. What Jesus did and does for us, we are to do for one another. As Pope Francis remarked: "because this is the real reason why Jesus came: to serve, to help us."

KRISTOPHER W. SEAMAN, DMIN, is a doctoral student at King's College, University of London. He is the former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. He earned an MA in liturgical studies from Saint John's University (Collegeville), and an MA in systematic theology and a DMIN from Catholic Theological Union (CTU).

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



If lay people don't love their ... faith enough to struggle for it in the public square, nothing the (religious leaders) do will finally matter." Archbishop Chaput, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Facts About Religious Rights in the Workplace:

Lack of awareness of religious liberty in the workplace has led to violations of the lawful rights of citizens who merely want to peacefully live out their religious beliefs as they earn a living. Attorneys at law firm First Liberty have compiled the following facts:

1. The Supreme Court recognized, in 2014, that all Americans, including **business owners**, have **freedom of conscience rights** to live and work according to their beliefs without the fear of government compelling them to violate their beliefs.
2. **Employers cannot discriminate on the basis of religion** and have an affirmative duty to accommodate an employee's religious practices in the workplace, unless this practice imposes undue hardship on the employer.
3. **Employers may run their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs.** An employer does not discriminate on the basis of religion by affirming the faith of its owners in business objectives. However, the employer may not give the perception that employees should acquiesce to these religious beliefs.
4. **Employers and employees may engage in religious speech in the workplace.** Both may not engage in uninvited proselytizing. As with spoken religious speech, employers can share their religious beliefs with their employees in print form such as pamphlets, books, and newsletters.
5. **Employers and employees may have prayer meetings and Bible studies** in the workplace as long it is clear attendance is voluntary and not required.
6. **Employers may have employee training based on Bible principles.** However, employees cannot be required to undergo religious training, services, activities, or engage in behavior that would violate their own sincerely-held religious beliefs. (firstliberty.org, 1/27/16)

"We will not allow Caesar to re-define our faith or banish us, our Church, or other faiths, from the public square, to the shadows of our cities, or walled gardens of our inner selves."

Bishop William Murphy, Diocese of Rockville Centre

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

We will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday morning, April 15 at 9:30 a.m., immediately following Morning Prayer. We would love to have lots of folks come on down to pitch in. Why not join the fun and come down to help? It should not take much longer than an hour or so. What a great way for your family to share in the joy of Easter! We appreciate whatever help you can give us.



THANK YOU CAROLYN AND BOB DOBRES

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 794 114th Anniversary Banquet Honoring



Bob and Carolyn Dobres

Join us, as we gather to honor and thank Bob and Carolyn for all they have done for our Council, our Parish and our Community

Included is salad, buffet dinner, dessert, coffee, open bar and music

Cost: \$35.00 per Ticket

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Location: American Legion Hall, 80 Herbert Ave. Lindenhurst NY 11757

For Tickets call: Jim Barthelmes 516-639-3399,

Ann Marie Perullo 631-835-9982 or Mike Hearney 631-888-5579

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

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

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Catechist Brunch and Scripture Workshop



Thanks to all who came!
 Catechists, save the date:
 our end-of-year celebration
 is Saturday, May 20th!

Important and Upcoming Dates:

Make-Up Class

Monday, April 3rd (tomorrow!) at 5:30 p.m.
 ALL students missing 6 or more classes must come
 to this class to complete the year.

Make-Up Final Exam

Wednesday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m.
 Anyone missing the final exam must come to this.

Levels 6, 7, 8, and Teens:

Workbooks are now OVERDUE!

Registration Is Now OPEN



Letters have now been mailed to all families with students in our program with details about re-registration. Registration for returning families begins April 3rd. After June 15th, there will be a \$25 late fee for ALL registrations.

We continue to 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. We welcome anyone interested in registering or learning more about our program to make a "New Family" appointment or call us for any information.

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 your time as a catechist or hall monitor in our program, please contact our office. We can't wait to meet you!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Mary of Egypt, April 2nd
Patron of chastity and temptation

When the monk Zosimus found Mary in the desert, she told him she had been an actress and singer and was repenting from her sins. Legend tells that Mary had converted before an icon of the Virgin Mary and resolved to live in the desert thereafter. She taught Zosimus many holy things. He returned the following year at the same time, bringing her the Eucharist. The year after, he found her dead, buried her, and wrote down the story of her life. *St. Mary, pray for us!*

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!

PORK AND BEANS
CANNED SOUP
TOMATO SAUCE
SHELF STABLE MILK
COFFEE

*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.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 brings joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness
 to the hurting hearts of the poor. Thank you for
 your continued generosity.**

† 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.

**Hear
 the Cry of
 the Poor**



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:

Jeans

Men's underwear - XL, XXL

Men's sweat pants - XXL, XXXL

Shampoo - 3-5 oz

Thank you for response to our need for *shopping bags*. We have enough - NO MORE PLEASE!

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, April 4

Easter Project

7:00 p.m. in Room 24

Friday, April 7th: Hosting Stations of the Cross

7:30 p.m. in the Church

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

BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE

END OF SEASON
CLEARANCE



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

Special Sunday Sale

April 2, 2017 ONLY

9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

THE
bluedoor
BOUTIQUE

HOURS OF OPERATION

M, W, F:

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

SAT: 1:30-3:00 p.m.

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



COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

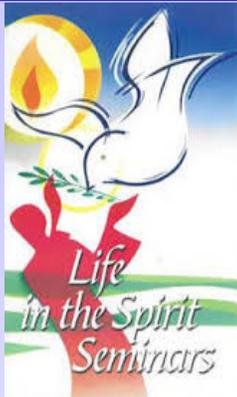
OLPH's Community Meal Ministry has served hundreds of meals to members of our parish community. Generally held on the 1st Sunday of each month, the Community Meal seeks to provide a place of good food, good fellowship and good times for all who come!

*Our next Community Meal is
Sunday, April 2*

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

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR



Deacon Frank Odin & The Community of Praise are hosting a "Life in the Spirit Seminar"

OLPH School
240 SOUTH WELLWOOD AVE.
LINDENHURST NY 11757

Tuesdays
April 4 – May 16, 2017
Room 16
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY



The Junior Legion of Mary

PARENTS:

Do you have Children between the ages of 8 & 18 years of age?

The Junior Legion of Mary is the perfect blend of prayer, doing acts of mercy and socializing to lead your children to become moral Christian adults. You are welcome to attend a meeting to see what we are all about. The Junior Legion meets Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Room 24 of the School.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Need of Adult & Kids
★★★ USED or NEW ★★★
SOCCER CLEATS & BALLS

Are you a soccer coach? Are you a gym teacher?
Do you know someone who is?
Do you or your kids play on a soccer team?

These items that sit in our garages, attics, and closets collecting dust, are regarded as treasures to the children in the poor region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

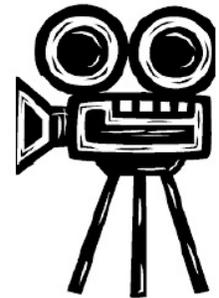
DROP OFF ITEMS

in the boxes located by the front door of the OLHP School Building and at the Religious Ed. Office
Father Ignace, formerly of OLHP,
Thanks YOU!

Contact Maria at KicksForTheCongo@gmail.com for more info



OLPH K of C Presents Movie Night



April 21, 2017
OLPH School Auditorium
Doors Open at 6:30p.m.

\$10 Donation

Proceeds to help support Charity Drive

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 de Ramos - Ciclo C 4/9/17

Lea las lecturas en su Biblia y luego reflexione con nosotros

Cercana ya la Noche Santa de la Pascua, después de habernos preparado con nuestra penitencia y obras de caridad, nos disponemos hoy a entrar en los misterios de la Semana. Mayor, misterios que empezaron con la entrada de Jesús en Jerusalén, entre voces de júbilo: *¡Hosanna! ¡Viva el Hijo de David! ¡Bendito el que viene en nombre del Señor!* Pero luego —como veremos en la lectura de la Pasión— se escuchó aquel tremendo grito de la muchedumbre: *¡Crucificalo!* Cada uno de nosotros cabe entre estas dos palabras: «Hosanna» y «Crucificalo»

Primera Lectura (Isaías 50,4-7): Dios Vendrá en Mi Ayuda

El Siervo de Dios, Sufriente, permanece fiel a su misión, incluso cuando es perseguido, ya que confía plenamente en Dios.

Segunda Lectura (Filipenses 2,6-11): Jesús se Humilló a Sí Mismo y así Llegó a Ser Señor Nuestro. El Hijo de Dios se humilló a sí mismo para hacerse uno de nosotros y para servirnos. Por eso Dios lo resucitó y le hizo Señor de todo.

Proclamación de la Pasión (Mateo 26,14-27,66, o más breve: 27,11-54): Jesús, el Siervo Sufriente de Dios. En su pasión y muerte Jesús es el Salvador anunciado por las Escrituras. Su muerte vencerá a la muerte y traerá vida a todos. Pidámosle hoy al Señor que nos conceda un poco de amor y un poco de tiempo para acompañarlo en estos días santos lo más cerca posible. Uno con Jesús en el Sufrimiento y en el Triunfo

La celebración de hoy es la obertura del drama de la Semana Santa. Enfoca a dos actos centrales que nos trajeron perdón y nueva vida: La muerte y la resurrección de Jesús. Cuando agitamos nuestros ramos, aclamamos a Jesús como nuestro rey victorioso, porque en Pascua vencerá al pecado y a la muerte. Pero para conquistar esa victoria, optó voluntariamente por someterse al sufrimiento y a la muerte, como se nos dice en la historia de su pasión. Seamos uno con Jesús en su sufrimiento, para compartir también su victoria.

1. En primer lugar dejo que la Palabra siga haciendo “ruido” en mí interior, para poder meditar en profundidad este misterio de la pasión de nuestro Señor. 2. ¿En qué momentos de mi vida soy como este pueblo de Jerusalén, que un día aplaude al Señor y al otro día lo crucifica? 3. ¿Qué significan para mí estas palabras de Jesús sobre el pan y el vino? ¿Comprendo esta manera tan particular de estar presente en medio nuestro? ¿Me acerco a este sacramento? ¿Soy consciente que las palabras de la consagración son las palabras de Jesús? 4. ¿Me acerco en la oración como lo hace Jesús en cada momento de su vida? ¿O solo me acerco ante el peligro y la necesidad? ¿Pido por los demás, o pienso solo en mí? ¿Pido e intento cumplir su voluntad, y no la mía? 5. ¿Qué significa para mí la Pasión y muerte de nuestro Señor? ¿Qué siento, que experimento ante este “drama”? ¿Miro la situación como espectador o como protagonista? ¿Entro en la escena? 6. ¿Comprendo que la muerte de Jesús, es por mí y es por todos? ¿O pierdo la noción de este hecho, y vivo el relato de la pasión como un hecho histórico y nada más? 7. ¿Por último, comprendo que la muerte de Jesús (y la muerte en sí), es el camino hacia una nueva vida.



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.

First Announcement:

*Dominick Marcello & Lisa Koulis
David Fitzgerald & Stephanie Bucema
Lewis Jimenez & Corinne Janczewski*

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Patricia & Richard Kleczkowski Ann Power Theresa Lisio Kathy Cunningham Susan Murphy Therese Gigante Michael Basile Theresa Ferrara Thomas Marino Erin Stanton Larry Bell Glenn Cording</i>	<i>Barbara Kuebel Catherine Tamburino Lawrence Pancamo James (Jimmy) Fava Rosalie DiPreto Anthony Minichello Ethan M. Knezevich Lisa Ruggiero Dolores Otten Clara Stancati Michelle Barann Theresa Paolo Ryan Starace</i>
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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

*Emily Jewel Atkinson
Lorenzo Louis Bovenzi
Grayson Jesse Butler
Avery Marie Wright*



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

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 depending upon space.

WE REMEMBER

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

Jean Wilutis

“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

April 2-8:

Altar Bread & Wine

In Memory of

Mellisa Ann Falco Dumas

Requested by

Mary Santiago

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

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, April 3—

Lenten Weekday

6:30 John Kraft

12:15 John Sureau, Sr.

TUESDAY, April 4—

Lenten Weekday

(Saint Isidor, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

6:30 Nives Lozito

12:15 Dennis Fabrizzi

WEDNESDAY, April 5—

Lenten Weekday

(Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest)

6:30 Anthony Susinno

12:15 Alton Salgado

THURSDAY, April 6—

Lenten Weekday

6:30 John Ventimiglia

12:15 John Sureau, Sr.

FRIDAY, April 7—

Lenten Weekday

(Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest)

6:30 Margaret Mehm

12:15 Janet Connor

SATURDAY, April 8—

Lenten Weekday

8:00 Russo & Treanor Families

Vigil for PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5:00 For the People of the Parish

Sunday, April 9 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8:00 Edna Caldararo

10:00 Fran Keller Levesque

12:00 Michele Strazza

5:00 Anna & Bohdan Zalewscy

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, April 3, 2017

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

7:00 p.m. Devotions Church

7:00 p.m. Level 8 Classes School

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

4:15 p.m. Altar Server Training Church

6:45 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Middle Ages Room 24

7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation St. Mark

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

Wednesday, April 5, 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 Classes School

Thursday, April 6, 2017

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

4:15 p.m. Altar Server Training Church

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal Room 16

6:00 p.m. Respect Life Meeting Room 18

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group Cafeteria

7:30 p.m. Baptismal Prep Class for Parents Room 16

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous Room 24

Friday, April 7, 2017

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

7:30 p.m. CFFR Room 18

7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross Church

Saturday, April 8, 2017

8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m. Levels 1-5 Classes School

3:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Bake Sale Garages

3:00 p.m. Confessions Church

5:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Procession Auditorium

6:00 p.m. NO Evening Prayer due to the Procession Church

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

Sunday, April 9, 2017

8:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Bake Sale Garages

2:00 p.m. Baptisms Church

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Church

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

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Cafeteria

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Patti Chavis, Parish Secretary	212	pchavis@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
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 25/26, 2017

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	326	129	\$3,128.00
8:00 a.m.	285	114	3,077.00
10:00 a.m.	461	154	4,323.00
12:00 pm.	492	126	3,263.00
5:00 p.m.	220	57	1,490.50
Total coin:			23.91
Mail-ins:			670.00
Children's Env.		23	72.00
Faith Direct			2,079.50
TOTAL	1,784	603	\$18,126.91
2016 total	March 27/28, 2016 was Easter Weekend		
Candles			\$1901.85
Poor Box			\$240.80
Catholic Relief			\$1905.00

"LET'S PAY OFF THE NEW BOILERS" COLLECTION

Total needed to pay off the Loan Completely:
\$119,516.00

Total collected as of March 27:
\$55,280.16



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.

April 9—passed
April 16—April 7
April 23—April 14
Thank you for your cooperation.

DIOCESAN HAPPENING



The Diocese
of Rockville Centre

Golden Wedding Celebration

Sunday,
April 30, 2017
Church of St. James, Seaford
Mass will begin at 2:30 pm.

Registration forms are available at the rectory and must be returned to the Office of Worship by *April 21*.

For more information call:
516-678-5800 X 207.



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.

**PREPARING FOR Sunday, April 9, 2017—
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

*“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.”*

Matthew 21:9

Isaiah 50:4-7

This selection from Isaiah is the third of four poems usually called the “Servant Songs,” all of which we will hear throughout Holy Week. This “Servant of the Lord” (also known as the “Suffering Servant”) who is speaking is sent by God to proclaim to the Israelites who were exiled to Babylon a message of hope and deliverance despite the desperate nature of their present circumstances. He is rejected but undeterred, even though he is grossly mistreated. God has given him the word and he must deliver it, even at the cost of personal suffering, and he is confident that God will eventually prove him right.

Philippians 2:6-11

Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi, thirty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, incorporates an early church hymn that we hear today. When he wrote this letter, Paul was in prison, perhaps facing death for preaching about Jesus. He exhorts the church then, and us today, to follow the example of Jesus’ passage through death to greater life, despite any difficulties that we face. Imagine that – Jesus did not cling being in the form of God but stooped down to our level so that he could rescue us from the fall of Adam. Truly, every tongue should confess that “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!”

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Today we hear Matthew’s telling of the Passion and Death of Jesus, a truly moving account of how great God’s love is for us. Matthew, writing to early Jewish Christians, was concerned to show them that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures. We hear how he was Isaiah’s Suffering Servant who offered himself up to be beaten on our behalf. We hear how he was mocked for claiming to be the Son of God and the Christ (Messiah) that he really was. We hear how he was betrayed and deserted by all his friends, especially Peter who denied he knew Jesus three times. Why did Jesus do all this? He tells us at the Last Supper: he allowed his blood to be “shed on behalf of the many for the forgiveness of sins.” That means all the disciples who deserted him could be forgiven. Peter could be forgiven. And yes, we can be forgiven. What good news!

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. Jesus endured abandonment by the one he loved most, his Abba. He chose to experience all of humanity’s worst suffering. What does this tell us? Even though he couldn’t access their love, do you think the Father and the Spirit were there with Jesus on the cross?
2. At the World Youth Day in 2013 Pope Francis addressed how the Cross of Christ contains all the love and mercy of God. Given that this is immeasurable love, how do you respond to it?

The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: “Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life” (cf. John 3:16). ...

You see, it gives us a treasure that no one else can give: the certainty of the faithful love which God has for us. A love so great that it enters into our sin and forgives it, enters into our suffering and gives us the strength to bear it. It is a love which enters into death to conquer it and to save us. The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God; there we find his immeasurable mercy. This is a love in which we can place all our trust, in which we can believe.

*The Way of the Cross with Young People
Waterfront of Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro
Friday, July 26, 2013*

Readings for the Week

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

Monday, April 3, 2017:

Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
+ John 8:1-11

Tuesday, April 4, 2017:

Numbers 21:4-9 + John 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 5, 2017:

Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
+ John 8:31-42

Thursday, April 6, 2017:

Genesis 17:3-9 + John 8:51-59

Friday, April 7, 2017:

Jeremiah 20:10-13 + John 10:31-42

Saturday, April 8, 2017:

Ezekiel 37:21-28
+ John 11:45-56

Sunday, April 9, 2017:

Matthew 21:1-11 + Isaiah 50:4-7
+ Philippians 2:6-11
+ Matthew 26:14—27:66

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

The Institute for the Study of Religion of St. Joseph's College, 155 West Roe Blvd. Patchogue, is sponsoring talks by Catholic moral theologian James Alison on Thursday, **April 6**. "Beyond us and Them: Can We Learn to Discuss Issues in the Polarized World?" at 1:00 p.m. in the Pless Center; and at 7:00 p.m. "What Have We Learned About Scapegoating? From Romulus to Jesus" at the McGann Center. Free 631-689-6564 for info.

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 28** 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.wwme.org.

Benefits & Resources Fair for Veterans & Seniors, Saturday, **April 29**, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at the Long Island State Veterans Home, 100 Patriots Road, Stony Brook. Free health & dental screenings, blood pressure, cholesterol & glucose checks. Please call 631-444-8606 or email www.listateveteranshome.org.

Molloy College—Spring Open House: Sunday, **April 30**, at 1:00 p.m. Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY. Call 516-323-4000.

Our Lady of Mercy School community invites you to join our school community for the 2017-2018 school year and beyond. Nursery—Grade 8 programs are offered. Tours are available during school hours, evenings, and weekends by appointment. Our Lady of Mercy School, 520 South Oyster Bay Road, Hicksville, NY 11801. Please contact us for a tour. (516-433-7040 or jharrigan@olmshicks.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. Volunteers over 18 are needed. For details go to www.campveritas.com.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK
IN THE CHASE PARKING LOT
DURING THE DAY ON GOOD FRIDAY**

For those who will be coming to liturgies on Good Friday during the day (9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, 12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross, 3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Passion) please do NOT park in the Chase Bank parking lot on the north side of the church. It is not right for us to take up their parking spaces during business hours, and we want to be a good neighbor to them. Please do not use those Chase Bank parking spaces on the north side of the church. Your cooperation is appreciated.





5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Voice of Catholic Women

Saturday, April 8, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743



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!

Join Us For:
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ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

OLPH Christian Mothers & Guild

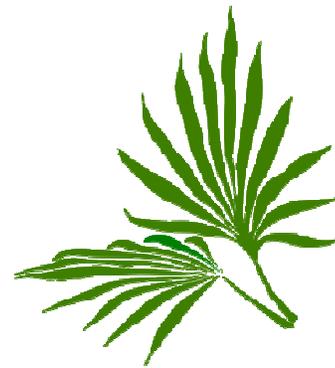
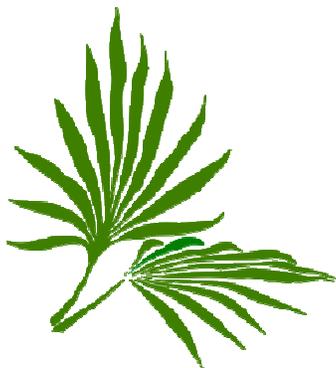
Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale

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

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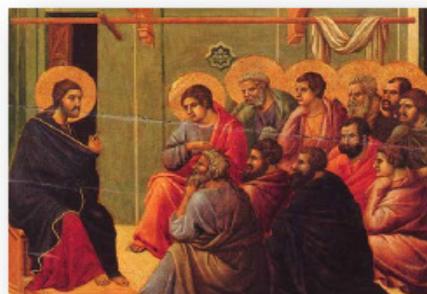
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