

**P A R I S H   S T A F F**

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR ADMINISTRATION**  
Deacon Donald A. Stamm

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 226-2384**  
**Director of Religious Education:** Thomas J. Acemoglu

**RCIA / Adult Formation:** Deacon Douglas G. Smith

**Baptismal Prep:** Deacon William Crosby

**YOUTH MINISTRY 226-6239**  
**Youth Ministry Coordinators**  
Brittany Marie Evans & Thomas Schaefer

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
James R. Kendall

**SACRISTAN**  
Mark Costantino

**PLANT MAINTENANCE**  
Vito Cudia

**SPECIAL MINISTRIES**  
**St. Vincent de Paul 225-5531**  
**President:** Joseph Illuminato

**Catholic Youth Organization : olphcyophil@optonline.net**  
**Program Coordinator:** Phil Amico  
516-732-8520

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**JUNE 10- CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY**

- 6:30 Mass for the People of the Parish
- 8:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
- 9:30 Hugo Mascari
- 11:00 Book of the Faithful Departed
- 12:30 John Gennardo
- 5:00 Vito Salentino
- 6:30 Polish Mass

**MONDAY: JUNE 11- ST. BARNABAS, APOSTLE**

- 8:00 Cyro Watson
- 12:00 Lucretia & Dominick Colucci
- 7:00 William Tammone
- 7:30 Devotions (Novena)

**TUESDAY: JUNE 12- WEEKDAY**

- 8:00 Maria Gomes
- 12:00 Petra Perez
- 7:00 12th Ann.—John W. Stohr

**WEDNESDAY: JUNE 13- St. Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor of the Church**

- 8:00 Fr. Tom Bertone—31st Ann. of Ordination
- 12:00 Emily Marchetti (for the Living)
- 7:00 Minnie Dellaria

**THURSDAY: JUNE 14-WEEKDAY**

- 8:00 St. Adrienne Marie Amato
- 12:00 Paul Grandinette
- 7:00 Dominick DeGirolamo

**FRIDAY: JUNE 15-THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

- 8:00 Frances Aiello
- 12:00 Bertha Wagner
- 7:00 8th Grade Graduation Mass

**SATURDAY: JUNE 16- The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- 8:00 Manuel Otera
- 9:00 Raymond Ronner

**VIGIL MASS -**

- 5:00 Frank Guerriero

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*



*Mission Statement*

“Trusting in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and, motivated by Christ’s Life, Death and Resurrection, we, the people of God, under the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accept as our mission, the evangelization of our parishioners both active and inactive. We accept the call to bring all to a personal, Covenant relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior, to live the Paschal Mystery and to promote the spiritual health and growth of everyone in our parish community.”

*- The OLPH Pastoral Council*





**From the Pastor's Desk** - This weekend I want to continue sharing with you the following information regarding "Religious Liberty" and the deep concern we must all have about how this liberty is being threatened within our own country. As I said in last week's bulletin, "We must all increase our knowledge of this subject, it's affect on our Catholic Faith and the implications that must be considered as we prepare to vote this coming November.

### Our Christian Teaching

During the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, Americans shone the light of the Gospel on a dark history of slavery, segregation, and racial bigotry. The civil rights movement was an essentially religious movement, a call to awaken consciences, not only an appeal to the Constitution for America to honor its heritage of liberty.

In his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in 1963, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. boldly said, "The goal of America is freedom." As a Christian pastor, he argued that to call America to the full measure of that freedom was the specific contribution Christians are obliged to make. He rooted his legal and constitutional arguments about justice in the long Christian tradition:

I would agree with Saint Augustine that "An unjust law is no law at all." Now what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of Saint Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.

It is a sobering thing to contemplate our government enacting an unjust law. An unjust law cannot be obeyed. In the face of an unjust law, an accommodation is not to be sought, especially by resorting to equivocal words and deceptive practices. If we face today the prospect of unjust laws, then Catholics in America, in solidarity with our fellow citizens, must have the courage not to obey them. No American desires this. No Catholic welcomes it. But if it should fall upon us, we must discharge it as a duty of citizenship and an obligation of faith.

It is essential to understand the distinction between conscientious objection and an unjust law. Conscientious objection permits some relief to those who object to a just law for reasons of conscience—conscription being the most well-known example. An unjust law is "no law at all." It cannot be obeyed, and therefore one does not seek relief from it, but rather its repeal.

The Christian church does not ask for special treatment, simply the rights of religious freedom for all citizens. Rev. King also explained that the church is neither the master nor the servant of the state, but its conscience, guide, and critic.

As Catholics, we know that our history has shadows too in terms of religious liberty, when we did not extend to others the proper respect for this first freedom. But the teaching of the Church is absolutely clear about religious liberty:

The human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that in matters religious no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs ... whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits. . . . This right of the human person to religious freedom is to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed. Thus it is to become a civil right.

As Catholics, we are obliged to defend the right to religious liberty for ourselves and for others. We are happily joined in this by our fellow Christians and believers of other faiths.

A recent letter to President Obama from some sixty religious leaders, including Christians of many denominations and Jews, argued that "it is emphatically not only Catholics who deeply object to the requirement that health plans they purchase must provide coverage of contraceptives that include some that are abortifacients."

More comprehensively, a theologically rich and politically prudent declaration from Evangelicals and Catholics Together made a powerful case for greater vigilance in defense of religious freedom, precisely as a united witness animated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their declaration makes it clear that as Christians of various traditions we object to a "naked public square," stripped of religious arguments and religious believers. We do not seek a "sacred public square" either, which gives special privileges and benefits to religious citizens. Rather, we seek a civil public square, where all citizens can make their contribution to the common good. At our best, we might call this an American public square.

The Lord Jesus came to liberate us from the dominion of sin. Political liberties are one part of that liberation, and religious liberty is the first of those liberties. Together with our fellow Christians, joined by our Jewish brethren, and in partnership with Americans of other religious traditions, we affirm that our faith requires us to defend the religious liberty granted us by God, and protected in our Constitution.

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Please continue listening to the details of this Religious Liberty issue. It is a threat to the Church and to all Christian and people of ALL FAITHS. Individuals in government, Federal, State and City are attempting to control people's lives, destroy Religious Liberties and Beliefs (morals and ethics) and remove God from the Public Square so that Civil Legislation will replace Religious Liberty and Civil Law will replace Divine, Moral and Natural Law. This strategy succeeded in Europe and Asia and Pope Paul VI predicted this outcome (Humane Vitae) with the legalization of abortion and the introduction of contraceptives into the lives of men and women. He predicted the destruction of family, sexuality, womanhood and manhood. He was on target and we need to PRAY SINCERELY and accept the challenge before us NOW... FOR "WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE."

*May God +bless you, and yours, today and forever. - Father Anthony*

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

**Third Time:**

*Joseph Passanante & Tina Faulhaber  
Frank DiFranco & Nancy McGowan (Both of OLPH)*

**Second Time:**

*Salvatore Falcone (OLPH) & Jacquelyn Birkel*

**First Time:**

*Michael Pinto & Ann Marie Romeo  
Patrick Tennent & Megan Meade (OLPH)  
Robert Kalinowski & Monika Kosakowska*



**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

*Connie Bulzomi  
Herb Otten*



*Dear God,  
We place our worries in Your hands and  
ask that You restore Your servant to health again.*

**PRAY FOR THE DEAD**

*Mary Bradley Barbara L. Parker  
Pauline Gerbino Josephine Cori  
Maria Ruggieri*



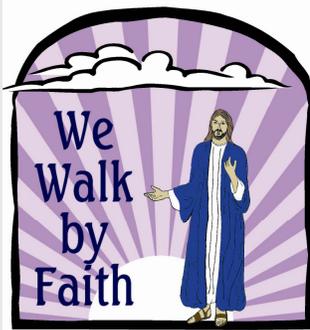
*We ask you, O God,  
to be our quiet strength and consolation*

**As Christian Stewards in Today's World, We "Walk by Faith."**

**June 10, 2012 — Corpus Christi Sunday**

**The Bishop's Stewardship Pastoral asks, "And what do Christians bring to the Eucharistic celebration and join there with Jesus' offering?" The answer: "Their lives as Christian disciples; their personal vocations and the stewardship they have exercised regarding them..."**

*We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who seek to use their gift of time wisely by taking-a-step, reprioritizing and planning for a little more time in those areas which they consider important such as weekly Eucharist.*



**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

Your Parish Finance Council has suggested that this simple bar graph be added to our weekly bulletin to illustrate the gap between the Sunday collection and the amount needed to achieve a balanced parish budget. Since the beginning of our fiscal year, September 1, 2011, we have experienced a weekly shortfall in collections. It is urgent that we begin to reverse this trend.

**OUR PARISH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH  
DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY**

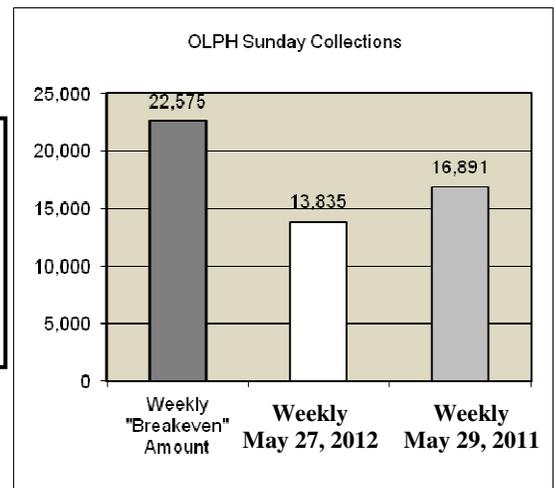
*All envelopes must have your account number and offering amount indicated in order for your account to be credited (for taxes) those weekly and special donations. Separate checks in each envelopes, please.*

*The account number, after the #267, is located under the date. Remember you must be registered (filled out an information card) in the parish in order to receive envelopes. Thank you.*

**PLEASE HELP CLOSE THE GAP!**

**JOIN FAITH DIRECT**

**WHERE YOUR DESIGNATED OFFERING IS MADE AUTOMATICALLY!**



### PARISH NEWS

- **Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>, United States Bill of Rights Rosary:** Please support the *Holy Name Society's Patriotic Rosary on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, "The Solemnity of The Sacred Heart of Jesus"*. We pray for Freedom of Religion and all other natural rights and personal freedoms our constitution guarantees. We will meet at **11am in the Lindenhurst Village Square**; rain or shine. Please bring a chair. Immediately following the Rosary, there will be coffee and buns in the Convent. All are welcome.
- **Knights of Fatima—7th Annual Pilgrimage—BLUE ARMY SHRINE** in Washington, New Jersey, **June 13**, Bus departs 8am So. 1st Street behind Linden Florist. \$30 pp—bring lunch—picnic grounds & snack bar on premise. For info call George at 226-3575.
- **Applications for Catholic Sports Camp** to be held at OLPH **July 23-27**, from 9am—1pm, can be picked up at the rectory. The Sports Camp is open to all Elementary School children in Kindergarten & up. Contact: Terry Hirten 631-957-6069 for more information.
- **The OLPH Community of Praise Prayer Group** meets Tuesday evenings at 7:45pm in the Convent Meeting Room. Please enter through the front Convent door. *All are welcome.*
- Please be sure to read page 7 of the bulletin for details on Life Teen's ongoing food drive for the poor.

Congratulations to our **June "1000 Club"** winners:

\$1000—**Ronald A. Higgins**  
 \$250—**Lillian & Patrick Pigott**  
 \$150—**Mr. & Mrs. Jack Riolo**  
 \$100—**Frank Landers**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HEALING MASS** at the *Immaculate Conception Center*, Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston. Tuesday, **June 12** at 7pm. Rosary, Mass & Healing service celebrated by Fr. Augustine Fernando. For more info call: 718-229-8001.
- **American Polish Council of Long Island** will hold its Annual "*Polish Day Picnic*" **June 17th**, at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow from 9am until dusk at the Cherry Section, parking lot 5. *Admission and parking is free!*
- **Our Lady of Consolation** in West Islip, a 450-bed Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Facility, is in need of Eucharistic Ministers to help distribute communion to our bed-bound residents each day. If anyone wishes to volunteer or has any questions please contact the Pastoral Care Department at 631-587-1600 X 8297.
- **Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy**—provided by NYS licensed therapists available to our parish and 102 other parishes. Services provided by Catholic Counseling Center. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments: call Dr. Giuliani 631-243-2503 or go to our website [thecatholiccounselingcenter.com](http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com).
- **THE 2013 MASS BOOK WILL OPEN ON OR ABOUT JULY 10— THE EXACT DATE WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE APPROVAL OF OUR NEW PASTOR.**

**Readings for the Week—June 10—June 16 2012:**

**Sunday, June 10:** Ex 24:3-8, Heb 9:11-15/ Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

**Monday, June 11:** Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/ Mt 5:1-12

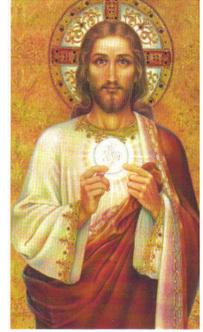
**Tuesday, June 12** 1 Kings 17:7-16/ Mt 5:13-16

**Wednesday, June 13** 1 Kings 18:20-39/ Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday, June 14:** 1 Kings 18:41-46/ Mt 5:20-26

**Friday, June 15:** Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9/ Jn 19:31-37

**Saturday, June 16** 1 Kings 19:19-21/ Lk 2:41-51



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul : “WE HELP PEOPLE”**

CANNED TUNA, CANNED MEATS, PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, COFFEE, CANNED MEALS/SOUPS WITH MEAT, PORK & BEANS, CANNED PEAS, CARROTS, CANNED FRUIT, PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP, CAKE MIXES, DESSERTS, ANY PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, TOOTHPASTE, SHAMPOOS, SOAPS, TOILET TISSUE, PAPER TOWELS.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!**

*Today as we celebrate the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ let us pray for those who are hungry, malnourished and starving.*

***Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help those who are hungry.***

The office is open: *Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am—12 noon.* Call 631-225-5531.

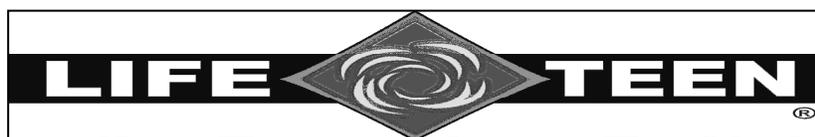
**REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS**

In order to insure the safety of our young people, all on our parish staff along with all who volunteer in any way at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish must first complete VIRTUS training and are required to submit to a criminal background check.

The purpose of this Diocesan and Parish policy is to provide a universal vigilance. We seek to provide an environment in which all are aware of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, an environment in which all recognize potential danger signs and unhealthy situations and an environment in which all know the proper course of action to take when something is wrong and when something raises concern. The VIRTUS training is designed to help us recognize potentially dangerous situations so that no one is harmed.

**It is important to note that VIRTUS training is mandatory. If a parish volunteer, whether they work with children or not, does not complete VIRTUS training, they will not be permitted to serve in any volunteer capacity at Our Lady of Perpetual Help or at any other parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.**

We thank all who have cooperated with this Diocesan and Parish policy. All who are interested in being a volunteer on any level at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish are expected to complete these requirements before they begin their volunteer service. The time and places for VIRTUS training are listed each week in The Long Island Catholic. The Criminal Background Check form may be obtained from the Parish Office. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this very important process.



## Leading Teens Closer To Christ

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

- Romans 2:12

**SENIOR SEND OFF/ SUMMER KICK OFF PARTY TONIGHT!!!**

Join us in the Life Teen office from 6-9

Tons of food, games, and FUN!!

Congrats to all of our Seniors!! Good Luck and God Bless!!!

June 24th- THE RETURN OF LIVE THE LIGHT 6:30-8 at the Life Teen Office



Stay tuned for more events [www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com](http://www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com)

Are you in 8th - 12th grade? Bored on Sunday nights? Come to the Life Teen mass and our Life Night that starts at 6:15 in the convent basement. You won't be sorry, we have a group of 25-30 teens each week growing closer to Christ and making tons of friends along the way. Each week we have a different activity and theme, Summer BBQ's, and a retreat every year. Come once and I guarantee you will be hooked! Contact Brittany or Tom at [OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com](mailto:OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com)

Are you an adult 20-35 interested in leading our teens closer to Christ and being an active part in our community here at OLPH? We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to apply please contact Brittany or Tom at [OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com](mailto:OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com)

Life Teen is currently running a food drive for the poor. If you are interested in donating please drop off items at the 5pm Mass, there will be an announcement or to the Life Teen Office on Sunday afternoon between 4pm-6:30pm you can leave it outside the blue Life Teen door.

Items most appreciated:

**PEANUT BUTTER; Rice (1-5lb packages) ; black, red, Kidney, Pinto BEANS**

**Canned fruit; CANNED VEGETABLES; Cake mixes; Tuna FISH OR OTHER CANNED FISH OR MEATS; Cereal; Baby food or diapers; COFFEE OR TEA**



The Edge is for all middle school age kids—no matter where you go to school—this is the place for you! We meet in the basement of the Convent. Look for the blue door on the south side of the Convent. We meet from 7:30 til 8:45 pm. It's a great place to come, hang out, play great games and learn about our faith. **Just come on down**, no need to sign up!

**NEXT EDGE DATE: Tuesday, June 12**

Any 5th graders who would like to join us are also invited to come to Edge! Open to anyone in 6th, 7th and 8th grade! No cost! Just let us know you'll be here so we can plan food!

Email [olphedge@gmail.com](mailto:olphedge@gmail.com) or call 226-6239 and leave message to let us know you'll be here!

Any questions call and leave a message for Peggy.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

Registration for public-school students who will participate in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Religious Education Program for the 2012-2013 academic year will be held on:

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Monday, June 11</b>    | <b>9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday, June 12</b>   | <b>9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday, June 13</b> | <b>4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.</b>  |
| <b>Thursday, June 14</b>  | <b>9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.</b>  |
| <b>Saturday, June 16</b>  | <b>9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.</b> |

**The Religious Education Office is located at 260 South Wellwood Avenue.**

Parents with a child who will be in the first grade in September 2012 should register the child for religious instruction at this time.

All students entering first grade in any of the Lindenhurst Public Schools and residing within the parish boundaries who wish to make First Communion at the regular time in the second grade must be registered on one of the dates mentioned above and must regularly attend both the first and second grade of the Religious Education Program. Students entering grades 2-8 who did not attend the OLPH program in the past academic year (2011-2012) must also register on the above dates.

Parents registering their children for the first time must bring the original copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate as a requirement for registration, unless the child was baptized in OLPH Church.

For further information, please call the OLPH **Religious Education Office** at **226-2384**.

*Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Wednesdays from 4:30 to 8:30 P.M.*



Upcoming Activities for Family Life: ***Fathers Day, June 19***  
We invite all Dad's, Grandfathers and Godfathers to join us at the 9:30 a.m. Family Mass. At the conclusion of the Mass we will be giving out vegetable plants.

**July:** We begin our "*No Vacation for the Hungry*".

**August:** *Back to School Time* Collection.

### PARISH SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

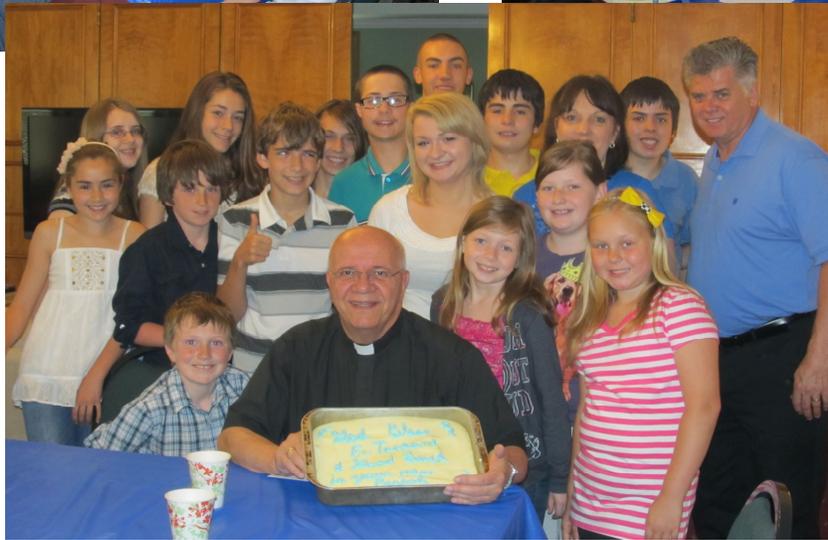
**MONTH 3 – Developing Baby -- "I can suck my thumb!"**

Your baby is quite active in the womb now -although her mother won't feel her for another couple of months. If her mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move her tongue. She can make a tight fist if you touch her palm. She is breathing amniotic fluid which continues until birth, although she obtains the oxygen her body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs one ounce.



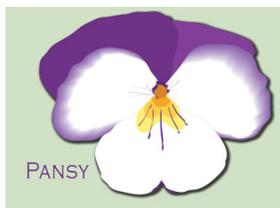
A word from Pope John Paul II to those suffering because of abortion:  
*"Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope... The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."*  
*(The Gospel of Life, no. 99)*

In appreciation for their dedication & service to Our Lord & Parish the Altar Servers were treated to a special breakfast prepared by Deacon Bill, Debbie, Lori & Robin. Also, a special thank you to Fr. Trapani, Deacon Bill & parents for their support & guidance & Lori Byron for cleaning all the Altar Server Albs.



God Bless all!

**Thank you** to the following people who answered the call to help with the planting of flowers; *Laurie Gregg, Rosaleen Walters, Jenine Jimenez-Spina, & children Steven Lingerfelt, Jacqueline & Amada Rattigan.* Thank you to the *Graham family* for the donation of tiger lilies, *Jemenez-Spina & McDonough family* for the donation of the impatiens flowers.



**Your time & generosity was greatly appreciated.**  
Debbie McDonough

**Haitian-American Apostolate Ministry (HAAM)  
Diocese of Rockville Centre (DRVC)**



**Save the Date!!! Nap tann ou !!!**

**Samedi 23 Juin 2012/Saturday, Juin 23, 2012 - 7:00pm**

**Sanctuaire Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours - Lindenhurst**

**Shrine of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help"**

**210 S WELLWOOD AVE,  
LINDENHURST, NY 11757  
TEL: 631-226-7725**

**Celebration of the Eucharist In Honor of the Patroness of Haiti,  
"Our Lady of Perpetual Help"**

**Selebrasyon Ekaristik nan okazyon fèt Patwòn Peyi DAYITI,  
"Manman Pepetyèl Sekou"  
(7:00pm.)**

**Presider/Celebrant: Most Rev. Bishop John C. Dunne, D.D.  
Homilist: Father Eden Jean Baptiste**

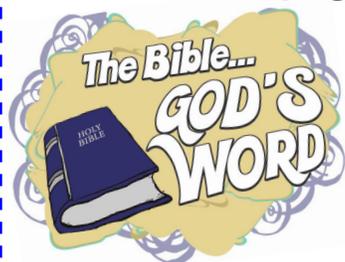
**Choir: "La Lumiere du Monde" from St Boniface, Elmont**

**Candles w/ Holders for street procession will be available for \$1.00 Donation.**

**For Information/ pou enfòmasyon Call: 516-678-5800 xs/233/407 or**

**email: [HAAM@drvc.org](mailto:HAAM@drvc.org)**

# RELIGIOUS ED NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



**TO TEACH ALL GRADES  
(EXCEPT GRADE 2)  
AND ALL SESSIONS**

**And Student Assistant Teachers  
(ages 13-18)**

PLEASE CALL THE *Rel. Ed. Office*—631 226-2384



## June 10, 2012 – The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Ex 24:3-8; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26



Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ, the Eucharist – the source and summit of the Church's life. It is a central mystery of our Faith, vital to who we are as Catholics, for in the Eucharist Christ left us Himself – body, blood, soul, and divinity – and He invites us to consume Him, to literally put His body into our own and in so doing to become one with Him in a very intimate unique and grace-filled manner. It is an astounding privilege and a blessing whose affect is unfathomable.

We celebrate the Eucharistic meal every week. Together as a Church family, we gather around the table of the altar and we break bread together. The meal element of the Eucharist is probably the most obvious to our human eyes, as we eat it at Mass every week. But the element of this heaven-meets-earth miracle that today's readings emphasize is the sacrificial element. Sacrifice is an aspect of our Eucharistic banquet that is easy for us to overlook as we sit in

Mass together (although if we carefully listen to the prayers and pay attention to what is taking place on the altar we will notice that sacrifice is very much a part of our Eucharistic celebration.)

Christ is the sacrificial lamb whose blood was shed for the many, for the salvation of the world. We hear these words and many others like them during Mass each week, and today's scripture readings remind us just how important the realities of which they speak are to our Faith, to our participation in the Eucharistic feast, and to what the Eucharist is in its very nature.

In the Gospel Jesus tells us, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many," a statement that directly correlates with the story we find in the first reading. Moses sacrifices a young bull as a sign of the Israelites response to God's covenant: "we will do everything that the Lord has told us."

It was custom whenever a covenant (a type of treaty made between two people or nations) was made for an animal's blood to be shed. It was a sign of the finality of the covenant. The blood was then sprinkled on the people, signifying their participation in the covenant, their own offering of themselves as it were.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of His own blood as the blood of the covenant. Through Christ, God is making a new covenant with His people, one through which we become co-heirs with Jesus to the life of grace, to the Heavenly kingdom. And in order to make that possible, Christ is both priest, the one offering the sacrifice to the Father, and victim, the sacrificial lamb whose blood is being shed.

But it is not just Christ's sacrifice. He invites us to share in it as well, and as His disciples it is our responsibility to offer ourselves to the Father, wholeheartedly affirming, "We will do everything the Lord has told us." we give Him ourselves – our time, our talents, our treasure, our very lives – as a participation in the sacrifice of Christ.

At Mass, the priest stands as "alter Christus" (another Christ) as He offers the Eucharistic sacrifice to the Father. And so, it is Christ who, through the priest, offers Himself as the sacrificial Lamb re-presenting the sacrifice that took place once and for all on the cross. And then, we step forward and partake of that blood. Like the Israelites who were sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice, we consume the body and blood, and in so doing, we give of ourselves, we participate in Christ's sacrifice, and we proclaim, "All that the Lord has said, we will heed and do" (first reading).

So, as we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist and then step forward to receive Christ's body and blood into our own, let us make the extra effort to understand what it is we are doing, what it is we are consuming – the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Savior. Let us consciously participate in Christ's sacrifice, offering Him all that we are as His disciples, and proclaim "Amen" from the bottom of our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI

"OLPH School 7th and 8th grade students proudly wear their Confirmation name on their mantles for their school Mass. They researched their Saint's name and pray the Holy Spirit will guide them to remember this saint during their life's journey."



**Ministry of Praise**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**

June 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Nothing is too difficult for me.” (Jeremiah 32:27).

Bold faith is the faith that will not waver, even when tested. Those who have this kind of faith are not easily discouraged. In spite of sickness, they are able to say, “God is able.” In spite of financial hardship, they know that God is faithful. As they come up against those situations that would knock them down and take away their peace of mind, they are confident that God goes with them, even into the jaws of death. That’s bold faith.

Our God is always there. He’s only a prayer away. God loves us and wants us to put our trust in him. There is no situation that is too hard for God.

Bold faith stares adversity and hardship in the face and doesn’t back down. Bold faith perseveres and endures, even in times of trial. Don’t give up, and don’t give in. We serve a loving, miracle-making God who is mighty and able to deliver.

He’s only a prayer away. That I believe is the key to bold faith.

Our desire to serve God and be that person of bold faith can be had. The Holy Spirit will give us boldness and confidence to trust in God. We need to ask.

There was a time when I didn’t want the gift of boldness. I was afraid I would have to go around preaching and talking about God all the time and that frightened me. I came to understand that was not bold faith. God never makes us do what we don’t want to do, like the saying, “God doesn’t send us to Africa until He puts Africa in our heart”. That is really very comforting and reassuring for me. I can trust in God’s love and be at peace knowing He wants the best for me and He is always with me.

My mom at 90 years of age had become afraid of dying. This surprised me since we often talked about dying and heaven. When I asked her why she was suddenly afraid, “fear of the unknown.” is what she said. I reminded her of the scripture passages that talked about heaven: “I go before you to prepare the way”, “There are many rooms in my father’s house”, and I mentioned the stories of people having outer body experiences. Then on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday Msgr. Hamilton came and gave her the anointing of the sick. All these things helped her to feel at peace and know God was with her.

We need to have others pray for us especially when we are struggling. For some people at these times it is difficult for them to pray. When Frank was in the hospital for surgery, he couldn’t pray even though he had all the time in the world. At that time friends and relatives prayed for him. We need all the prayers we can get. Life isn’t easy and sometimes it’s not a bowl of cherries. That’s why we ask you to pray for the needs of the parish.

This month we will be getting a new pastor in exchange for Fr. Trapani who will be leaving. Please pray for Fr. Trapani and his new journey with the Lord and pray for our new pastor, Msgr. DeGrocco, that he will feel welcomed and excited about his new assignment.

May God’s peace fill you and encourage you to seek the gift of bold faith for your life.

Your sister in Christ,  
**Barbara**  
Barbara Odin

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

understanding the basics ▪ defending a right

## ***Speaking for the Church: Our Shepherds (6 of 7)***

Our Catholic faith is clear: Christ is present in his Church. What seems to many a mere institution is in fact a holy people. It is a mystical body that has Christ as its head. It is a pilgrim people that journeys to the Father. By baptism, it is us. And by Christ's design, it is hierarchically ordered. This order, like any good order, ensures unity, vitality, and growth. Out of love, the Lord Jesus gave us, his body, overseers to teach, govern, and sanctify. Striving to be faithful imitators of Christ the Good Shepherd, those overseers, the bishops, lay down their lives in service so that God's people may be built up and Christ proclaimed.

This basic teaching of our faith is important to remember amid the current conversation surrounding the HHS mandate. After all, there are many voices in the debate, even in the Catholic fold, and the tendency today is to treat the voice of the bishops as one among many. To do so though is to forget their Christ-given place among us. Bishop Murphy reminds us that the bishops speak for the Church. "There are many opinions among Catholics," he says, "but if you want to know what the Church teaches and what her faith demands, ask the bishops who, alone as the successors of the apostles in union with the pope, are the ones who can be trusted to offer, not an opinion, but the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church."

To assist them in their role as shepherds of the flock, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops formed an Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty in September 2011. The committee was charged with identifying threats made towards religious freedom and addressing the profound impact those threats would have on the faithful. Archbishop-designate William Lori of Baltimore was named as chair. Under his leadership, its members have worked closely with national organizations, charities, ecumenical and interreligious partners, and scholars to form a united and forceful front in defense of religious freedom for every American. Since January 2012 the committee has clearly articulated the specific ways in which the HHS mandate poses serious threats to America's heritage of religious freedom and has shown how the mandate's regulations impact Catholic institutions.

Recognizing the importance of educating the faithful in this matter, the committee has provided on its website various resources and legislative updates to help Catholics around the country stay informed. Most recently, the committee has issued a guiding document entitled *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty*. In that statement, the overall sentiment is made clear in the opening lines: "We are Catholics. We are Americans. We are proud to be both... To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other."

For further information visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org)

*"As a community of faith, we must commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice may prevail and religious liberty may be restored."*

**Bishop William Murphy**

## **PRAYER**

*Almighty God, Father of all nations, for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1).*

*We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good. Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties; By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.*

*We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*