

# 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](http://www.olphlindenhurst.com) + Facebook: Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid;  
for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy  
that will be for all the people.  
For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you  
who is Christ and Lord."*

Luke 2:10-11

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2022

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Pastor:** Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

**Parochial Vicars:** Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero, Reverend Emmanuel Okonkwo

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

**Business Manager:** Ms. Jill Marie Delano

**Director of Faith Formation:** Mrs. April Kleinlaut

**Music Director:** Mr. Christopher Reilly

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

### COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open **each day until 6:30 p.m.**,  
except on Thursdays (closed after the  
12:15 p.m. Mass, for cleaning)  
and on holidays (closed after the 12:15 p.m. Mass).

*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 Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):** 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday Masses:**

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (live-streamed), 12:00 p.m.

**Special Needs Mass:**

First Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m.  
in the auditorium (Sunday Anticipated Mass)

**Holy Days of Obligation:** Consult the bulletin

### LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer communally, in person,  
each Saturday in the church immediately following  
the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Each Sunday, we pray Morning  
Prayer at 9:15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.  
on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link  
on the home page of our website.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

*Also available by individual appointment  
with one of the priests.*

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Wednesdays:** 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**First Saturdays:** 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### DEVOTIONS

**OLPH Novena:** Mondays following 12:15 p.m. Mass

**Rosary:** Weekdays following 6:30 a.m. Mass

Saturdays and Sundays following 8:00 a.m. Mass

**The Holy Face of Jesus:** Tuesdays following  
12:15 p.m. Mass

**First Fridays and First Saturdays:**

As announced in bulletin

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Thursday:** 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Friday:** 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# DOWNLOAD THE OLPH APP

## Catholic Life Every Day

with the Our Lady of Perpetual Help App

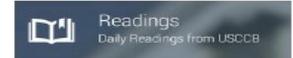
Text **App** to **55321**  
to download  
our parish app

- 1) Download **myParish App**
- 2) Select our Parish after opening



[myparishapp.com/appstore](http://myparishapp.com/appstore)

Made with ❤️ by Diocesan



*New number to download  
the Parish App!  
Text to 55321*

*The old number 88202 is no longer in effect!  
Cards are available on the pew ledges as long  
as supply lasts.*



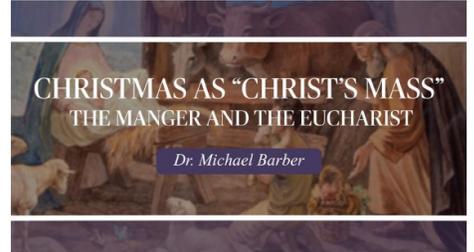
# FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

## WATCH

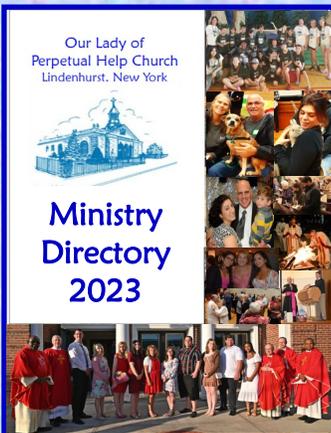
## LEARN

## LISTEN



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

### LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED? CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIRECTORY!



*Watch for the updated  
2023 Ministry Directory  
available on  
our OLPH website  
[www.olphlindenhurst.com](http://www.olphlindenhurst.com)  
and on the OLPH App!*

## PASTOR'S PAGE



Christmas, 2022

### *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church*

210 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, New York 11757-4989  
Phone: 631-226-7725 -Fax: 631-225-9597 - Website: [olphlindenhurst.com](http://olphlindenhurst.com)

**Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco**  
Pastor

Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish,

### **GRACE, PEACE AND BLESSINGS TO YOU ON THIS BEAUTIFUL SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD — CHRISTMAS!**

In my letter accompanying this year's Christmas schedule, which was mailed to all parishioners several weeks ago, I quoted the words of one of the prayers for the Mass of Christmas Day: *"O God...grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."*

I reflected on and prayed over those words throughout all of Advent, and now they have special meaning for me; I hope they will have special meaning for you this Christmas.

God became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ, born for our salvation, so that we might share in the very life of God. In this truth of the Incarnation (God made flesh), we see the fulfillment of God's promise to always be with us, to always be close to us, and to invite us into His life. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have the ultimate proof that God's life is stronger than anything, and that God wants us to live with Him forever. Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, is alive and present to us here and now, sharing His life with us through the power of His Holy Spirit, most especially at each and every Mass.

This nearness of God is the great gift of Christmas. It's no wonder that Christmas fills us with such great joy! Through our faith, we must allow Jesus, who desires to be near to us and who calls us to Himself, to enter our life, to illumine our minds, to rekindle our trust, and to revive our hope.

To all our parishioners who consistently give so much to OLPH through your gifts, your talents, your presence and your financial support, I say with so much gratitude: **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.** You make OLPH **"the place to be."** With much warmth I also offer a sincere **WELCOME** to our parishioners who have not been with us for a while. To our parishioners who have returned home, I say **WELCOME HOME**, and to family members and friends of our parishioners who are visiting us, we're very happy to welcome you!

We have so much to rejoice about here at OLPH! Be sure to be a part of it all.  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Sincerely,

Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco  
Pastor



## BLESSINGS TO USE AT HOME

### Blessing of a Christmas Tree

*All make the sign of the cross to begin, and then the Leader continues with this greeting:*

**Leader: Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.**

*All respond: Amen.*

**Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.**

*Then someone proclaims the reading:*

**Reader: Listen to the words of the letter of St. Paul to Titus: But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The word of the Lord.**

*All respond: Thanks be to God.*

**Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord. Our response will be: Lord, give light to our hearts.**

**That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R/.**

**That the joy of Christmas may always be in our home, let us pray to the Lord. R/.**

**That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/**

*Then the Leader continues: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The lights of the tree are now illuminated. Then the Leader concludes:*

**Leader: May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.**

*All respond: Amen.*

*The blessing concludes with a verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:*

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer**

**Our spirits by thine advent here;**

**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night**

**And death's dark shadow put to flight.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**shall come to thee, O Israel.**



## Blessing of a Manger/Nativity Scene

*The manger scene is blessed each year on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. All make the sign of the cross and the Leader begins: **Our help is in the name of the Lord.***

*All respond: **Who made heaven and earth.***

*Then someone proclaims the reading:*

**Reader: Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The Gospel of the Lord.**

*All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Christmas songs and carols may be sung, for example, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.*



## JANUARY 1 — SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule:

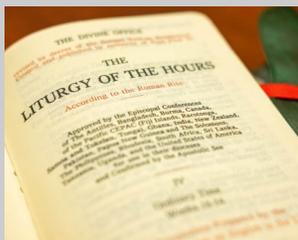
Eve of the Solemnity,  
Saturday, December 31, 2022:  
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023:  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (live-streamed)  
and 12:00 Noon

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### Evening Prayer

We pray Evening Prayer communally, in person, each Saturday in the church immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Each Sunday, we pray Morning Prayer at 9:15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link on the home page of our website.



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

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1175



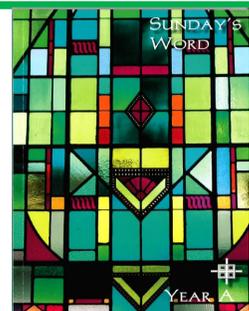
### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The Monday Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help has been a longstanding OLPH tradition. 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. The ritual concludes with veneration of a relic of St. Catherine Labouré. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

**Every Monday at 12:45 p.m.**  
*Unless otherwise noted.*

## NEW SUNDAY'S WORD BOOKS AVAILABLE

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the new liturgical year (Cycle A) which started the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, are now available at the rectory for purchase, for \$5.00.



## SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

*Mass for all People  
With Special Needs*

*All are welcome to  
come celebrate Mass with us  
the first Saturday of each month!*

*Next Mass:*  
**Saturday, January 7**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**in the School Auditorium**

Please join us at our Special Needs Mass,  
a Mass for those who have Special Needs  
and for those who care for them.

After Mass we have hospitality  
to introduce the ministry members  
to the people who attend the Mass.

*We can use some help in preparing for our monthly  
Mass and other special needs events. How about you?  
Contact Jessica Paolo at 631-226-7725 X 252 or  
email to [jbecker@oloph.org](mailto:jbecker@oloph.org)*

## FIRST FRIDAY

AND

## SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

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

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

**First Saturday Devotions**—in honor of Our  
Lady of Fatima—will be conducted Saturday,  
**January 7** beginning with the Rosary at 7:40  
a.m., Mass at 8:00 a.m. and continued  
devotion following Mass.

Each month, all are invited to join the  
members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society  
for Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 6:30  
p.m. Reflecting the diverse community present  
at OLPH, each hour of the evening is  
celebrated in different languages (English,  
Spanish, Polish). The evening concludes with  
Benediction at 9:30 p.m.

## FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

### LIVE-STREAM MASS

We live-stream the **10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass** each week.

You can join us virtually using one of the following:

- The link at the top of the OLPH website:  
[www.olphlindenhurst.com](http://www.olphlindenhurst.com)
- OLPH Facebook page: @olphlindenhurst
- OLPH YouTube Channel: OLPH Church Lindenhurst



## FR. FIDELIS HAS A YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Hear Fr. Fidelis give weekly reflections and more  
on his YouTube channel!

You can go to YouTube and search for **FADA PRINCE**  
(with the logo at left) and click on the **SUBSCRIBE** button.



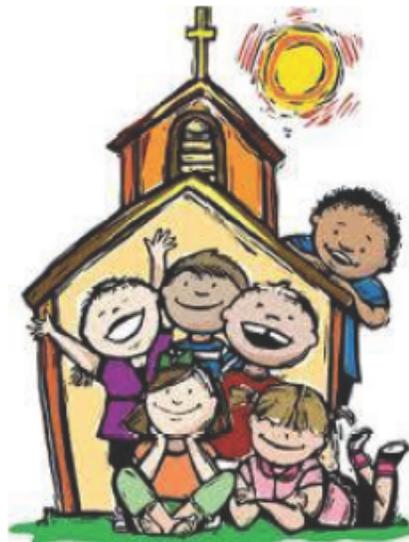
## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

**EVERY FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY WE HOLD THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD AT THE 10:00 A.M. MASS. ON OTHER WEEKS WE POST A SPECIAL CHILDREN'S HOMILY ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE.**



Participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to teach children how to participate in Mass, since they do the same things that are being done in the main body of the church



### **NEW BOXES OF CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

The new boxes of **Children's Envelopes** for the upcoming liturgical year are now available! Children should use these envelopes to make their offering in the weekly collection basket at Mass, in addition to their family's offering.

The purpose of the envelopes is not a money-raising one, but rather to provide parents a tool to reinforce in their children the idea of stewardship for their Church and responsible giving toward others. It's a great way to teach children the value of being thankful for the gifts God gives us and the importance of sharing the abundance of those gifts with others. Ideally, the money — whatever amount is placed in the envelope (there is no minimum or maximum!) — comes from the children themselves, *e.g.*, out of their allowance, rather than being just handed to them from the parents. In this way, Christian attitudes are nourished in the children, and this can be yet another avenue for parents and children to discuss responsible Christian living.

**New boxed sets of Children's Envelopes for the entire new liturgical year (which started with Advent 2022) are available in baskets throughout the church.** Families who wish to use them should simply take a box which contains envelopes for the entire year, with the children then returning one envelope each week, dropping it in the collection basket at Mass. The envelope should have the child's name and amount of the offering written on it. The design on the envelope may be colored in and decorated in other ways if desired. The amount collected in the children's envelopes is published in the bulletin each week. As with the usual collection offerings, the money will go toward supporting the mission of and programs at OLPH.

Encourage your children to use these envelopes as a way of growing in Christian stewardship and responsibility!

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

### NEW CATHOLICS WANTED and NEEDED!

*What about you? Do you want to be baptized?  
Are you already baptized in another Christian Church  
and want to become Catholic?  
What are you waiting for?*



We offer a beautiful and life-giving process to join the Catholic Church and would love for you to be a part of it! You will join with other women and men interested in becoming part of the Catholic faith. Together, led by members of our parish community, you will discover God's call for you!

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 Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at [jsg375@gmail.com](mailto:jsg375@gmail.com) to begin the process.

For information about becoming part of our children's process, contact the Religious Education office at 631-226-7725 x 251 or e-mail to [religioused@oloph.org](mailto:religioused@oloph.org).

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

OLPH regularly offers Adult Faith Formation classes. These courses are wonderful opportunities for adults to grow in their faith and deepen their knowledge of Catholicism. Topics covered include the Bible, Sacraments, Worship, Morality, Christology and Church.

Watch future bulletins for info on specific upcoming courses or contact Deacon Robert Becker at [DeaconRobert@oloph.org](mailto:DeaconRobert@oloph.org).



### REMINDER: CHILDREN'S BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE 10:00 a.m. MASS EACH WEEK

Remember that we have Children's Bulletins available at the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass each week! These special Children's Bulletins are handed out at the end of the 10:00 a.m. Mass, or you can ask one of the Ushers for one. There are two bulletins for children, corresponding to two different age groups: one bulletin is for younger children, aged 3-6, and the other is for older children, aged 7-12. The idea is to take the bulletin home to reinforce the message of the Gospel. Ideally, after the child completes the bulletin, the family can talk about it together, as a way of bringing home the Gospel message and connecting our liturgical celebration in church with your family's faith life at home.

# LIVING THE EUCHARIST

## A GIFT IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE NEW YEAR: PARISH LENTEN MISSION 2023

“THE EUCHARIST IS THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE”  
——*Lumen Gentium* (Light to the Nations)



**February 21 – March 28**

Join a **Living the Eucharist** small group during Lent. Participation will enrich your life in subtle and amazing ways.

During the six-week program you will:

- Gain a better understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist
- Participate more fully in Sunday Mass
- Leave Mass in a renewed zeal to let the light of Christ shine
- Nourish your spiritual life by enhancing your relationship with Jesus Christ.

See the sign-up sheet in our upcoming bulletins.  
For more information, contact Jim Totino at [jtotino01@gmail.com](mailto:jtotino01@gmail.com)

**Deadline to join is February 5, 2023**

### *Living the Eucharist 2023* LENTEN SIGN-UP FORM

To be completed by each participant.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE (if under 21): \_\_\_\_\_



**Six Weekly Small Group Gatherings:**  
**Dates: Tuesdays - February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28**  
**Location: School building (classrooms to be assigned)**  
**Time: 7:00–8:30 p.m.**

Yes, I will attend the six sessions \_\_\_\_\_

No, I cannot attend but am interested in participating in the program \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Rectory. **The material will be distributed on the first day of Class.**

View the introductory video for *Living the Eucharist* at <https://www.pemdc.org/programs/living-the-eucharist/>  
Thank you for your prayerful consideration and may the Lord bless you on this journey!

# A LETTER FROM BISHOP BARRES



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2022

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In union with our Holy Father Pope Francis, and in a non-judgmental spirit of mercy, humility and charity, I invite everyone who will be present at our Christmas Masses, or watching our Christmas Masses via the Catholic Faith Network or CBS, or not present at all: If your life has been far from the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist, I invite you with Pope Francis to return.

I invite you to experience the power and liberation of Christ's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and to cross the bridge into the full practice of your Catholic Faith through a radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and an ever-deepening love for the Holy Eucharist.

Perhaps you are not a Catholic and yet have some mysterious attraction to the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist.

You are not alone! Many saints – I think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the pioneering American Catholic educator and convert – had the same experience and were drawn to enter the Church through their intuitive experience of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in our parish churches! Be open to the Eucharistic movement of the Holy Spirit in your life!

Our celebration of Christmas 2022 occurs this year as every Catholic diocese, every Catholic parish, every Catholic hospital, university, and institution in the United States is engaged in an evangelizing ***Eucharistic Revival***.

What do we mean by the phrase “Eucharistic Revival” and why is it so important for our celebration of Christmas?

What does a love for the Eucharist and an openness to being a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Eucharistic missionary have to do with our celebration of Christmas 2022?

Pope Francis points out the relationship between the Birth of Christ and the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. The very word Bethlehem means “house of Bread.”

Pope Francis states: “Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a *manger*. It is as if he wanted to say: ‘Here I am, as your food.’ He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: ‘Take and eat. This is my body.’ (Matthew 26:26) The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life,

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

we can be *reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the ‘house of bread,’ Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God’s family, brothers and sisters to our neighbors. Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity. The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Revelation 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life.”<sup>1</sup>

Eucharistic Revival, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of “Eucharistic Amazement” and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means that we understand deeply that every Mass has a cosmic significance, and every Mass is celebrated on the Altar of the world – the Altar of Ukraine and every war torn and injustice-ridden area of our world.

Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival in our Catholic schools means the cultivation of a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass on the part of our teachers, our staff and our families.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI’s insight that every period of Church reform and effective Catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.<sup>2</sup>

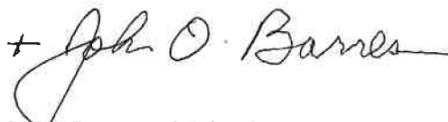
As we celebrate the birth of Christ and his rebirth in our hearts and families at Christmas, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ’s Eucharistic presence.

We pray that each of us could be Divine Mercy instruments of bringing many, many people back to a full fidelity to the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are being called to be intentional, compassionate, understanding and listening Eucharistic missionaries.

Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the love of the Christ child and the love of the Holy Family light your remaining steps on earth and light your path to Heaven and Eternal Life.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis Homily for Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> See Pope Benedict XVI’s 2017 Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* 6: “Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord’s eucharistic presence among his people.”



**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**

Located in the Rectory  
 Phone # 631.226.7725 x. 253  
 Email: [religioused@oloph.org](mailto:religioused@oloph.org)  
 Director: Mrs. April Kleinlaut  
 (@akleinlaut@oloph.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Friday: CLOSED  
 Saturday: By Appointment

**LEVELS 6-8**

There is no class on  
 Wednesday, December 28,  
 due to your Christmas break. Be sure to go  
 to Mass for January 1, to celebrate the  
 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of  
 God! Take the time to complete your  
 Confirmation Workbook projects and Mass  
 Reflections. Have a blessed New Year!

**LEVELS 1-5 and SPECIAL ED**

There is no class on  
 Saturday, December 31 — it's New Year's  
 Eve. Be sure to go to Mass for January 1,  
 to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary,  
 the Holy Mother of God!  
 Have a blessed and happy New Year!

**Happy Saint of the Day!**

**St. Christopher's name is a title that means "Christ bearer." He was a very strong man who wished to serve the most powerful man in the world. Eventually he found his way to helping people cross a very strong river. A boy came to him and asked to cross the river. He picked up the child, but the current grew stronger halfway and the child grew heavier as he slowly made his way across. When they got to the other side, he asked the child why he was so heavy. The child said, "I am Christ and you carried me and the weight of the world that I carry on my shoulders." Then he disappeared!**



# Family Life Ministry

OLPH has a strong tradition of an active and vibrant Family Life Ministry. Over the past years, hundreds of families have been impacted by the events and efforts of our Family Life Ministry.

Family Life Ministry works to serve the parish community by:

- ✝ Connecting families to the life of the parish community and the Church.
- ✝ Building community among families.
- ✝ Providing and increasing family spirituality among families in the parish.

In the past, Family Life has created, developed and organized such parish events as the Pumpkin Patch, Families in Service, the Christmas Pageant and much more! The ministry meets approximately once a month throughout the year.

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW OFFERERS TO  
SHARE THEIR GIFTS WITH THIS MINISTRY!!!!**

## What about you?

If you're interested, see one of the members of the Family Life Ministry, fill out the form below or contact Jenine Jimenez-Spina at 631-226-0317 or e-mail to je91971@gmail.com.

YES!!! I would like to know more about how I can become part of the Family Life Ministry!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

“...it is very important to reaffirm the family, which remains the essential cell of society and the Church; young people, who are the face of the Church's future; women, who play a fundamental role in passing on the faith and who are a daily source of strength in a society that carries this faith forward and renews it.”

- Pope Francis



# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631-592-1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631-561-5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631-225-9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631-226-2709—rmuir11@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—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631-226-7725 x 234
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631-226-6175—jbecker@oloph.org

## NEW Food Pantry List!

**RICE**  
**SHELF STABLE MILK**  
**BAKED BEANS**  
**TUNA**  
**CANNED CHICKEN**  
**MEAL SOUPS**  
**PASTA**  
**PASTA SAUCE**  
**INSTANT POTATOES**  
**TOILET PAPER**

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

## 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.**

Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, hearing the words of the angel, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy." Today and throughout the new year, may we take care of our suffering brothers and sisters, bringing hope, not fear.

**In the month of November, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the spirit of Christmas to those who are suffering, assisting 206 adults, 141 children, and 28 seniors, for a total of 121 families. Thank you!**

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

### † AN EXPANSION OF OUR MEMORIAL CARD PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is happy to announce an expansion of our Memorial Card program. In addition to updated *Living Memorial* cards, we are now able to offer *Special Occasion* cards. These are a great way to commemorate a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, get well, thank you, holiday, etc.) while supporting SVDP's efforts to provide not just food, but also financial, material and spiritual aid to our neighbors.

*Memorial/Special Occasion card* envelopes are available in the SVDP Food Pantry (M-W-F, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.) or at the Rectory. The Memorial or Special Occasion Card acknowledging your donation will be sent to the person/family indicated on the form.

Please contact the SVDP Office at 631-226-7725 X 234 for more information.



**PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY  
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**



The Life Center of Long Island  
sincerely thanks OLPH Parish  
for their donation to  
the baby bottle campaign.  
May God bless you for your support of life!

*Please remember to return any empty bottles too!*

**FR. FIDELIS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**



FOUNDED 2015

**MOVE AROUND WITH US INCORPORATED  
(MAWUI)**

A Not-for-Profit Organization that promotes better life for the  
Physically Challenged Persons

Registered in New York, U.S.A.



***Move Around With Us, Inc.***

A non-profit organization created by Fr. Fidelis to help young Nigerians who are in desperate need of large wheeled wheelchairs but cannot afford such luxuries. **You can help!** If you have (in good condition) and no longer need such items please contact Fr. Fidelis at the rectory who, with the Pastor's permission, will collect and arrange for the items' transport overseas.

*(Charitable donation tax letter available upon request)*

<http://www.movearoundwithus.org>

**SUPPORT OLPH THROUGH AMAZON.COM**



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support OLPH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OLPH.

Use our custom link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-1797184>.

**Support  
Our Lady of Perpetual  
Help Church.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



## PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

### REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

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

### **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.

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

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

### **BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE**



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



### **GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS**

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

## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



**“Here I am!”**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED BABY!**

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - - nine months after her mother conceived her. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. She is no different now than before birth except that she breathes and eats differently. She is truly a miracle. She began as a 46-chromosome cell and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies and their mothers for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth “so that they might have life and have it to the full!”

# 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
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Jill Marie Delano, Business Manager	204	jdelano@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo, Associate Pastor	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
Christopher Reilly, Director of Music	210	creilly@oloph.org
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 Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at jsg375@gmail.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 DeaconRobert@oloph.org.

### THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

### YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Eileen Corticchia  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Jeffrey Gaab  
Gregory Guido  
Sonia Hansen  
Joselyn Kalt  
Mary Leon  
Rachelle Louis-Jacques  
Carlton Mitchell  
James Totino

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

### YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel  
Gerry Chille

### YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett  
Bill Bendernagel  
Gerry Chille (Chair)  
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Jill Marie Delano  
Marie Gagneron  
Kenneth Hale  
Bob Meade  
Bob Mehm  
John Reynolds  
Kevin Sabella, Sr.

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

### YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste  
Deacon Robert Becker  
Mark Costantino  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Kenneth Hale  
Jenine Jimenez-Spina  
Denise Martinez  
Barbara McPhail  
Chris Reilly  
Deacon Doug Smith  
Mike Williams  
Fr. Frank Zero

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

# PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* Matthew 5:4

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, the support of your Catholic faith community should be a source of comfort and strength. A bereavement group run by trained facilitators helps grieving people learn skills for navigating their loss and opportunities to share their stories of loss. The **Bereavement Support Group** is a parish-based ministry responding to the needs of the recently bereaved by offering emotional, and sometimes practical, support as they learn to cope with their loss.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to know more about the **OLPH Support Group Program**, please contact Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or Forubabe77@aol.com for information.



## WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

<i>Sylvana Picinich</i>	<i>Catherine Fucci</i>
<i>Rachel Lohr</i>	<i>Gail Tonnessen</i>
<i>Baby George Elefterion</i>	<i>Diane Wilmarth</i>
<i>Ann-Marie Giarratano</i>	<i>Pat Bendernagel</i>
<i>Mary Ann Trigg</i>	<i>John Caliendo</i>
<i>John Jordan</i>	<i>Tommy Langan</i>
<i>Linda Arpino</i>	<i>Catherine Fucci</i>
<i>Bob Mehm</i>	<i>Megan Kelly</i>
<i>Jack Mazalatis</i>	<i>John &amp; Pat Hosey</i>

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. Please call the Parish Office to have the name of the person added to the list. **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 four weeks **and will be announced at Mass the first week only.** You don't need to make the request again until after the name is removed from the list.

## WE REMEMBER

*We remember those who have died in our parish.*

*Angelo G. Chiappardi*                      *Tommy Langan*

*"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 the week of  
December 25—31:

**The Altar Candles**

*In Memory of*

**Frank Guadiso**

*Requested by*

**Marie Guadiso**

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

## **MASS MEMORIALS**

A beautiful way to remember a loved one!  
Memorials used during the Masses for week of  
January 1-7, 2023:

**Altar Bread & Wine**

*In Memory of*

**Thomas W. Bast**

*Requested by*

**Linda Coppola**

**& Josephine Vagelatos**

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

# EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

## EL MINISTERIO HISPANO 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 p.m. 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](mailto:saitjoseph98@gmail.com).

### CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

#### Reflexiones de las lecturas del 12/25/22

#### **¡Y EL VERBO SE HIZO HOMBRE!**

*En nuestro propio tiempo Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su propio Hijo-luz radiante de la gloria de Dios-, por medio del cual hizo todas las cosas.*

*Que este Hijo, Jesucristo el Señor, esté siempre con ustedes.*

#### **Primera Lectura (Isaías 52,7-10): La Buena Noticia de Liberación**

*Dios anuncia la liberación a su pueblo cautivo. Esta liberación nos alcanza a nosotros hoy medio de Jesús.*

#### **Segunda Lectura (hebreos 1,1-6): Ahora Dios nos Habla por medio de su Hijo**

*Dios ha hablado con frecuencia al pueblo, pero desde la venida de su Hijo a la tierra, él nos habla su palabra definitiva, Jesús. En él apreciamos lo que significa Dios y quién es Dios.*

#### **Evangelio (Juan 1,1-18): Y el Verbo se Hizo Hombre**

*El evangelista Juan nos habla del misterio de Jesús: Él es la imagen del Padre, su Palabra se hizo hombre, su luz disipa nuestra oscuridad, Dios vive entre nosotros. ¿Le aceptamos nosotros como él es?*

*Hoy Dios nos dice algo muy importante sobre el sentido y significado de nuestra fe cristiana. Nuestra fe nos es precisa y solamente una doctrina en la que creemos. La Palabra de Dios no es una doctrina, sino una persona: Jesús. En él la Palabra de Dios y sus promesas se vuelven vivas. El Hijo de Dios se hace nuestro hermano y centro de nuestras vidas. En Jesús, Dios Padre nos revela quién es él: un Dios que ama, un Dios que salva, cercano a su pueblo. Por medio de Jesús, Dios nos vincula a sí mismo y él se vincula a nosotros.: comparte plenamente nuestra vida. Por medio de y con Jesús podemos responder al amor de Dios en fiel entrega a Dios y los unos a los otros. Celebremos todo esto con Jesús.*

*\*\* Dios acababa de dar a la tierra un Salvador y en los brazos de María en éxtasis, los Ángeles adoran al Verbo encarnado. ¡Que lección para nuestra fe! El tiempo no disminuye la profundidad del misterio; los siglos pasan, por delante de este pesebre bendito: el cual nos conserva, y nos transmite el recuerdo del nacimiento de Jesucristo. ¡Sublime y encantadora prueba del amor de Dios hacia nosotros!*



Porque un niño nos a nacido, un hijo se nos a dado, y el principado sobre sus hombros. Se llamará su nombre “Admirable consejero”, “Dios fuerte”, Padre eterno, “Príncipe de paz”

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MONDAY, December 26—**

**Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

6:30	Katherine Henkel
12:15	Living & Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 794

**TUESDAY, December 27—**

**Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

6:30	Daniel Vilardi
12:15	Robert Dobres

**WEDNESDAY, December 28—**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

6:30	Neal Ferrara
12:15	Robert Dobres

**THURSDAY, December 29—**

**Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

6:30	Rocco Parente
12:15	Frank Gaudio

**FRIDAY, December 30—**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

6:30	Rocco Parente
12:15	Robert Dobres

**SATURDAY, December 31—**

**Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
*(Saint Sylvester I, Pope)*

8:00	Lawrence McMahon
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**Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

5:00	For the People of the Parish
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**Sunday, January 1—**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

8:00	Sue Kania
10:00	Virginia Repetti
12:00	Anthony Gerrato

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Monday, December 26, 2022**

**ALL RECTORY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICES ARE CLOSED AND, EXCEPT FOR MASSES, ALL ACTIVITIES REMAIN CANCELLED MONDAY. OFFICE HOURS BEGIN TUESDAY 9:00 A.M.**

**Tuesday, December 27, 2022**

6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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**Wednesday, December 28, 2022**

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831)	Off Campus

**Thursday, December 29, 2022**

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria

**Friday, December 30, 2022**

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12

**Saturday, December 31, 2022**

12:30 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

**Monday, January 2, 2023**

**ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES EXCEPT FOR MASSES ARE CANCELLED FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. OFFICE HOURS RESUME TUESDAY AT 9:00 A.M.**



### Important Diocese of Rockville Centre Information

Information regarding a new deadline to file proofs of claim for victims of sexual abuse who were over 18 or older when the alleged conduct occurred, and the forms to use, can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page: <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

**OFFERING UPDATE**

Mass			
5:00			
8:00			
10:00			
12:00			
Total			
Faith			
Children			
Mail-in			
TOTAL			
2021			
Candles			
Poor Box			

*Due to earlier printer deadlines the collection totals for last weekend and Christmas will be printed at a later date. Thank you for your understanding.*

**UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS AND EARLY CLOSING:**

*Please note our upcoming special office hours:*

- Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day—CLOSED
- Monday, December 26—CLOSED
- Tuesday, December 27—9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 28—9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 29—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (No Evening Hours)
- Friday, December 30—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 31—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 1—CLOSED
- Monday, January 2—CLOSED
- Tuesday, January 3—Normal Weekly Hours Resume

**2023 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS**

Tax letters for the 2022 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address and envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

**2022 OLPH GOAL:** # of pledges: **451**  
**\$114,600** Total payments: **\$109,597.35**  
**Total pledges:** % of Goal: **98.04%**  
**\$112,355.35** as of 12/15/22



Please remember that all **CMA** pledges must be completed by **January 31, 2023**.

**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 as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at [cbecker@oloph.org](mailto:cbecker@oloph.org) no later than the dates listed below. *Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.*

- January 1—deadline passed
- January 8—December 30 deadline
- January 15—January 6 deadline



Hope. Love. Joy. Peace.

These are the gifts of the Advent season. The gifts you help share here in our community, throughout the year, with your thoughtful stewardship.

Advent is a meaningful time to reflect on your generosity. One special way to give is eGiving. It can simplify your stewardship and provide steady, consistent support to the parish – so we can be ready with programs, services, and ministries for church families and those in our community. Your recurring gifts will sustain our parish, even if you need to miss a Sunday service.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Visit [faith.direct/NY286](http://faith.direct/NY286)
- Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757
- Text 'Enroll' to (631) 201-5664.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

*Msgr. Joe*

## PREPARING FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*

Luke 2:19

#### **Numbers 6:22-27**

The Book of Numbers is so called because it contains two accounts of “numbering” the Hebrew tribes as they wandered through the wilderness on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Today’s reading contains a familiar and beloved blessing which is a priestly prayer to be used at the end of an act of ritual worship by Aaron and his sons. In the Old Testament, a blessing is understood to convey some kind of power to the hearer, often the power to give or sustain life. Because the sole source of the blessing is God, this power comes from him and is reliable, permanent, and effective.

#### **Galatians 4:4-7**

Paul wrote Galatians perhaps twenty-five years after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, at a time when the new Christian movement still had some conflicting interpretations of who Jesus was. His purpose in composing the letter was to clarify his views of Jesus and defend them against some of his opponents. In this reading, Paul teaches that Jesus was both human and divine as he writes “God sent his Son, born of a woman.” Jesus, the Messiah, came to free those bound by the ritualistic requirements of the Law of Moses and offer a relationship with God which is more like that of a family. Through Jesus, we become sons and daughters of God. We can call on him with affection just as Jesus did: “Abba, Father!”

#### **Luke 2:16-21**

Today’s Gospel begins by drawing to a close Luke’s account of the shepherds’ response to the message of the angels about the birth of Jesus. Luke stresses their joyful response to such Good News which is hopefully the same as our response today. When they tell Mary what they heard from the angels, she responds by accepting it even if she cannot understand it fully at the moment. She reflected on their words “in her heart.” Mary surrendered to God, as told to her by the angel Gabriel, and now she is receiving confirmation of those words from a most unlikely source: a band of shepherds, people considered as unclean sinners at the time. Still, she continues to hold these words in her heart, trusting even when she cannot fully know. She names her son Jesus, as foretold by the angel, a name which means “God saves.” In time, the meaning of that powerful name and the deeper identity of her son will become revealed to her. We hear today that God has come in Jesus to save us, turning first of all to the lowly, the poor, the outcast, and the despised, including women and sinners.

## Readings for the Week

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

#### **Monday, December 26, 2022:**

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59  
+ Matthew 10:17-22

#### **Tuesday, December 27, 2022:**

1 John 1:1-4  
+ John 20:1a, 2-8

#### **Wednesday, December 28, 2022:**

1 John 1:5—2:2  
+ Matthew 2:13-18

#### **Thursday, December 29, 2022:**

1 John 2:3-11  
+ Luke 2:22-35

#### **Friday, December 30, 2022:**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
+ Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

#### **Saturday, December 31, 2022:**

1 John 2:18-21+ John 1:1-18

#### **Sunday, January 1, 2023:**

Numbers 6:22-27  
+ Galatians 4:4-7  
+ Luke 2:16-21

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# SUPER 72

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**MONTHLY DRAWINGS  
FROM DECEMBER 2022  
THROUGH MAY 2023**

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**QCDs taken from your traditional IRA counts as a distribution for the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules. Therefore, you can donate all or part of your RMD that you would otherwise be forced to receive and pay taxes on.**

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

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

*Bill has a \$125,000 in a traditional IRA and would like to contribute \$5,000 to his parish. Upon hearing of the **Charitable IRA Rollover** opportunity, he directs the custodian of his IRA to transfer this amount not later than December 31, 2022 directly to the Parish as the family's 2022 gift. He gets to exclude the IRA distribution given to charity from income.*

**This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice.**

**For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.**

## OLPH LEGACY GIVING

**“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL ALSO BE”**



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IRA's and Retirement Plans

### ***AN OPPORTUNITY OF WHAT A LEGACY MEANS TO YOUR CHURCH!***

We want to bring to your attention different ways that parishioners can financially support OLPH. The parish can be named as a beneficiary to different types of financial products such as life Insurance policies, IRAs, and gift annuities, to name a few. There are also ways to give to the parish in the form of appreciated stock, where you can avoid or reduce your own Income tax bill while also providing for the parish. These types of approaches are generally referred to as "Planned Giving" or "Legacy Giving." You have worked hard during your working years, and you saved and invested wisely so that your loved ones can have a secure financial future via your will and estate planning. We'd like to ask you to consider having your estate planning include OLPH, so that all of the great work that has been ongoing here for over 150 years can continue long into the future. Planned Giving can make that happen. You can assist the parish in a significant way by including OLPH as a beneficiary in your planning. If you are interested in learning more about Planned Giving, your tax accountant, your lawyer, or your financial advisor will be familiar with this topic. You may also call the rectory and ask to speak to the Parish Business Manager, Jill Delano. Thank you for supporting OLPH in this way!

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