

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue + Lindenhurst, New York 11757 +

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

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



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Daily Readings - Parish Updates - Weekly Bulletin & more!

Download instructions on page 2



*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, 2023

### 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, Deacon James Totino

**Business Manager:** Mr. Gerry Chille

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

**Music Director:** Miss Erin Barrett

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., 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<sup>®</sup>

PICK OF THE WEEK

## WATCH

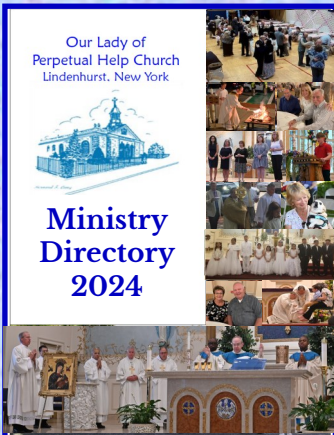
## LEARN

## 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  
2024 Ministry Directory  
available on  
our OLPH website  
[www.olphlindenhurst.com](http://www.olphlindenhurst.com)  
and on the OLPH App!*

## CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR, MSGR. JOE



*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

Christmas, 2023

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!**

*“O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light...” “Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us...” “...as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word...”*

Those are just some of the words of prayer we might hear at Christmas Mass, and the imagery is obvious: Christmas is all about God’s Light coming into the world! It’s no secret that we experience much darkness in our lives. World events and difficulties in society seem to cast long shadows that affect us deeply. In our personal lives, struggles and illnesses and the loss of loved ones create darkness, too. All of this reminds us of our need for Jesus Christ, the True Light of the world, born for our salvation!

How blessed we are that 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 Jesus, God’s special gift to us, who died and rose from the dead, and who is alive and with us, we have the ultimate proof that God’s life is stronger than anything, and that God wants us to live with Him forever.

This Light of the 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! **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.*



**CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN O. BARRES**

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2023

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

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In recent years at Christmas, I have meditated on the relationship between the Nativity of the Prince of Peace and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

I have been especially inspired by Pope Francis' analysis of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the second chapter of his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. It is powerful and provocative, and I would recommend it for your mental prayer.

The short phrase in the Christmas Gospel narrative in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke reads: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"No room for them in the inn." No Good Samaritan stepped up to help the Holy Family. They were ignored and treated perfunctorily and impatiently. Some passed them by. Some pretended not to notice their plight.

Remember too that in the Parable of the Good Samaritan an "inn" is also mentioned. Luke 10 reads: "But a Good Samaritan while traveling came near him, and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The inn that the Holy Family approaches on the way to Bethlehem is a sign of rejection and indifference.

The inn in the Parable of the Good Samaritan is a sign of the Good Samaritan's compassion and commitment to go the extra mile and to make sure that the wounded man is taken care of until he is completely healed.

Contemporary literary criticism might very well emphasize that the use of "inn" by the Gospel writer in both the Nativity in Luke 2 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is not by accident.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

In a sense, the phrase “there was no room at the inn” in the Nativity foreshadows and connects with the phrase in the Parable of the Good Samaritan describing the callous indifference of both the priest and the Levite toward the wounded man on the side of the road: “[H]e passed by on the other side.”

As Pope Francis says in *Fratelli Tutti*: “Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Lady, St. Joseph and the unborn Christ Child experienced the reality of people who decided to be indifferent bystanders.

The Christmas Gospel narrative from Luke 2 poses a question which is posed again later in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

Will we be Good Samaritans?

Or will we be indifferent bystanders?

As the Holy Father reminds us, we make that choice every day.

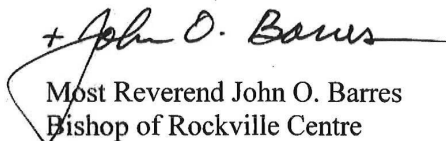
May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Nativity Mystery. May the Good Samaritan Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness and peace unite us in solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and all war-ravaged areas of the world.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit on this Christmas night and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+ John O. Barres  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>1</sup> Francis, encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, October 4, 2020: AAS 112 (11) 969-1074, at no. 70.

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



### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

#### Mass Schedule:

**Monday, January 1, 2024:**

**10:00 a.m.**

**and 12:15 p.m.**

*(No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 31)*

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

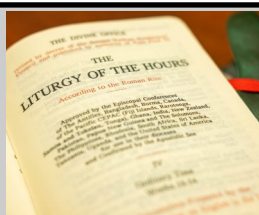
### Evening Prayer

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

The new *Sunday's Word* books for the new liturgical year (Cycle B) which started with the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, are now available at the rectory for purchase, for \$5.00.



### **FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION**

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.



## 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 6  
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 Becker 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 5** 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 6** 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 THOSE WITH CELIAC DISEASE

Special hosts are available for those with Celiac Disease who cannot receive Holy Communion using the usual bread. These hosts contain less than 0.001% gluten content and are approved for the Roman Catholic Church by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. If you need to receive Holy Communion using one of these hosts, please stop in the sacristy before Mass begins to discuss this with the priest. We will be happy to accommodate you.



## BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE

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



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children 1st Grade and older can join in the Children's Liturgy of the Word every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.



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 began with Advent 2023) are now 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!

### **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.

## 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?*

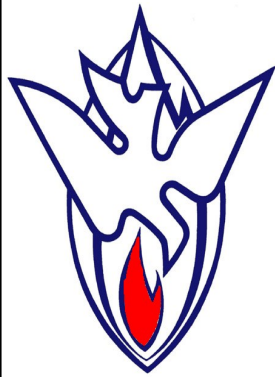


We offer a beautiful and life-giving process to join the Catholic Church and would love for you to be a part of it! You will join with other women and men interested in becoming part of the Catholic faith. Together, led by members of our parish community, you will discover God's call for you!

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 CONFIRMATION



### CONFIRMATION

*Are you an adult interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?*

If you are a baptized Catholic, and have received first Holy Communion but still need Confirmation, we offer a process for you.

*For adults who desire more information*, contact the Rectory at 631-226-7725 to leave your name and number for Deacon Robert Becker or e-mail him at [DeaconRobert@oloph.org](mailto:DeaconRobert@oloph.org).

*For teenagers and their families who desire more information*, contact the Faith Formation 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).



# LIVING THE EUCHARIST

## A GIFT IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE NEW YEAR: PARISH LENTEN MISSION 2024

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



**February 13 – March 19, 2024**  
**Tuesday evenings**  
**7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**

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.

For more information, contact Deacon Jim Totino at [DeaconJimOLPH@gmail.com](mailto:DeaconJimOLPH@gmail.com)

**Deadline to join is January 24, 2024**

### *Living the Eucharist 2024* 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 13—March 19**

**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!

# ♪ MUSIC MINISTRY ♪

## Can you share your musical gifts?

Perhaps God is calling you to become a part of the music ministry at OLPH. If so, read below to see which ensemble might suit your gifts. Pray about it and then give a call. We need you!



### Adult Choir

The Adult Choir sings at the 12:00 p.m. Mass most Sundays (September to June) and for other special liturgies during the year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the church. Members are high school aged or older. Reading music is not a requirement, just the ability to carry a tune. Please call in advance if you would like more information. Audition required.

Contact: Erin Barrett  
(631) 226-7725, ext. 210  
ebarrett@oloph.org

### Youth Choir

The Youth Choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass three times a month (September to June) and at other special liturgies during the year. Rehearsals are held on Monday afternoons from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the church choir loft. Members are in grades 3 through 12.

Contact: Erin Barrett  
(631) 226-7725, ext. 210  
ebarrett@oloph.org

# FRIENDS OF MUSIC

“The musical tradition of the universal Church  
is a treasure of inestimable value,  
greater even than that of any other art.”  
- *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #112*

The *Friends of Music* is an initiative to help support the music ministry here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Through the generosity of our *Friends*, we are able to continue to offer beautiful music for our liturgies and concerts and special programs throughout the year. Please consider supporting the *Friends of Music* at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for the 2023 season.

Contributions will be used to directly support the music program at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church including Advent Lessons and Carols, concerts, additional brass, woodwind and string instruments for special liturgies for Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Acknowledgments are made in programs for our concerts and special musical offerings throughout the year as well as in our parish bulletin. Contributions can be given at any of the following levels:

- St. Cecilia (\$350 or more)
- St. Gregory the Great (\$200 to \$349)
- St. Augustine (\$100 to \$199)
- St. Ambrose (\$50 to \$99)
- St. Hildegard of Bingen (up to \$49)

It will be primarily through the support of the *Friends of Music* that we will be able to continue to produce high-quality music in our majestic church for the praise and glory of God. To make a contribution by mail, simply send a check made payable to OLPH to:

*OLPH Friends of Music  
210 South Wellwood Avenue  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757*

If your contribution will be in memory of someone or in honor of an occasion such as an anniversary, birthday, etc., please make note of the event and/or person(s) name(s).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Barrett at [ebarrett@oloph.org](mailto:ebarrett@oloph.org) or (631) 226-7725 ext. 210. Thank you for your support of our Music Ministry.

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP FRIENDS OF MUSIC

I wish to support the *Friends of Music* by making a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

(please make checks payable to OLPH)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

This donation is:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Anonymous



**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](mailto:akleinlaut@oloph.org))

**OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION**

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday: 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday: CLOSED  
Saturday: By Appointment Only



**ALL LEVELS**

There will be **NO CLASSES**  
Wednesday, December 27,  
and Saturday, December 30,  
due to the Christmas break!

**LEVELS 6, 7 and 8**

Make sure to take the time over the  
Christmas break to make finishing  
touches to your Workbooks and to  
your Mass Journals!



**Need Service Hours?**

**Join the Service Corps!**

Participants in 6th grade through college  
are welcome to join in the fun and better  
your community. How does it work?  
It's simple! Just e-mail April at  
[akleinlaut@oloph.org](mailto:akleinlaut@oloph.org) and give her your  
name, grade, and e-mail. As events pop up,  
e-mails requesting your service will go out!

**Our first official registration week is  
in the first week of February 2024**

Monday, Feb. 5, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Weds., Feb. 7, 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Thurs., Feb. 8, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Our office is closed on Fridays!**

**New Registration 2024/25 Year**

New registrants may begin registering **January 8, 2024**. This includes all students who will be in 1st grade in September 2024, all students in grades 1-7 who wish to begin religious instruction, and all homeschooled or Catholic school students who have not registered with the Office (they must receive their sacraments at their home parish of OLPH). **New registrants MUST make an appointment to register, and a baptismal certificate is required at the time of registration, with no exceptions.**

**Returning Families:**

Families wishing to continue their child's religious education will be sent a letter in March 2024 regarding registration, which will begin in April.  
Please call our office for more information on re-registering.



# 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](mailto: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
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631.226.6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Respect Life Ministry: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Valerie Baxter—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

## **NEW Food Pantry List!**

REGULAR COFFEE  
 JELLY/JAM  
 Hot Chocolate  
 Pancake mix & SYRUP  
 Shelf stable milk  
 Fruit juice  
 Crackers, Cookies and Snacks  
 Toothpaste  
**TOOTH BRUSHES**  
 Shampoo  
 Bath soap  
 Thank you  
 for your continued generosity.

Cut out this list and bring it with you  
 when you go shopping!

**THE ITEMS IN CAPITAL LETTERS  
 ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!**

## **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 101 adults, 57 children, and 15 seniors, for a total of 56 families. Thank you!

## **FR. FIDELIS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**



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 (MAWU)**

**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>

# 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
Erin Barrett, Director of Music	210	ebarrett@oloph.org
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Gerry Chille, Business Manager	204	gchille@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgjrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

### PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the 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  
Deacon 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  
Bob Meade

### **YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

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

### **YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE**

Fauvette Auguste  
Erin Barrett  
Deacon Robert Becker  
Mark Costantino  
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
Kenneth Hale  
Jenine Jimenez-Spina  
Denise Martinez  
Barbara McPhail  
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.

Our **Spring Bereavement** will start up on **March 16 to May 18 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Registration required. Please call Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or email forubabe77@ [gmail.com](mailto:forubabe77@gmail.com).



## **WE REMEMBER**

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

## **WE BELIEVE**

We pray for the sick of our parish...

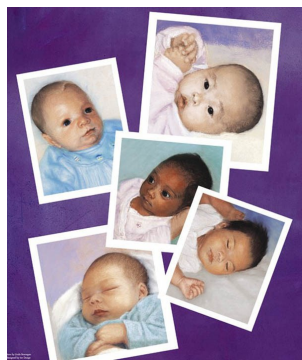
- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Christopher DePalma</i> | <i>Roseanne Koch</i>                   |
| <i>John Leyden</i>         | <i>Alex Betti</i>                      |
| <i>Sandra McGuckin</i>     | <i>Roseann Koch</i>                    |
| <i>Anthony Pastore</i>     | <i>Joan Baffa</i>                      |
| <i>Winter Pastore</i>      | <i>Baby Liam Michael Bentley</i>       |
| <i>Henry Batz</i>          | <i>Bill Stysiack</i>                   |
| <i>Jack Brzozinski</i>     | <i>Robert Shields</i>                  |
| <i>Laurell Desner</i>      | <i>Nora McMahon</i>                    |
| <i>Vincent Crisotomo</i>   | <i>Patricia &amp; Robert Kozkowski</i> |
| <i>Ken Brijlall</i>        | <i>Diane Schneider</i>                 |
| <i>Jan Blake</i>           | <i>Grace Germano</i>                   |
| <i>Megan Kelly</i>         | <i>Rose Colonna</i>                    |
| <i>Ed Loges</i>            | <i>Bindy Lavorata</i>                  |
| <i>Joseph Abbamonte</i>    | <i>Christine Ajello-Larsen</i>         |
| <i>Rosemary Curr</i>       | <i>Gus Garofalo</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.

## **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!”

**UPCOMING OFFICE HOURS AND EARLY CLOSING:***Please note our upcoming special office hours:*

- Monday, December 25, Christmas Day—CLOSED
- Tuesday, December 26—9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 27—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 28—9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 29—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 30—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 31—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 1—CLOSED
- Tuesday, January 2—Normal Weekly Hours Resume, except for Thursday, January 4—Office closes at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4.

**DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS**

*St. Agnes of Assisi – The Secular Franciscan Order:* Would you like to give more time to God, but wonder how to do that when your life is so busy? Do you long for holiness, and feel a need for support in growing spiritually? Perhaps your heart has been moved by stories of St. Francis of Assisi, or the Peace Prayer attributed to him, and you are seeking that same holy simplicity, true peace and perfect joy? If so, Christ may be calling you to explore the Secular Franciscan life. We invite you to join our monthly meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip at 2:00 pm. Please e-mail any questions or comments to Jackie Totino [jtotino02@gmail.com](mailto:jtotino02@gmail.com).

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**

**2023 OLPH GOAL:**  
**\$114,600**

**Total pledges: \$102,314.00**  
**# of pledges: 408**  
**Total payments: \$99,637.00**  
**As of 12/12/23**

**2023**  
**CATHOLIC**  
**MINISTRIES**  
**A P P E A L**  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*One Family - Journeying together in  
Communion, Participation and Mission*



To donate, you can also visit [drvc.org/CMA](http://drvc.org/CMA) or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296. Thank You!

Please remember that all **CMA** pledges must be completed by **January 31, 2024**.

**2023 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS**

Tax letters for the 2023 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.

# Super 72

**MONTHLY DRAWINGS  
FROM DECEMBER 2023  
THROUGH MAY 2024**

**\$40 Per Ticket**

**\$80 for 3 Tickets**

**SPECIAL BONUS:**

**\$100 for 5 tickets**

**Extra \$250 Drawing at  
Christmas and  
\$150 Drawing in the  
New Year!**

**It's time to get your  
new tickets!**

**Mail back the parish  
portion of the ticket with your  
check payable to "OLPH SUPER  
72" or drop it in the collection  
basket.**



**1st Prize:**

**\$1,000**

**2nd Prize:**

**\$250**

**3rd-6th**

**Prizes: \$100**

**Tickets and  
envelopes are also  
available at the  
Rectory.**

*Raffle Tickets Courtesy of Johnstons' Wellwood Funeral Home. "OLPH is a Section 501 © 3 nonprofit. Please consult with your tax advisor to determine if your contribution is deductible."*



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A teacher/catechist for over 2 decades.  
Joe.perrone@coldwellbanker.com

Law Office of **RICHARD LAVORATA, JR.**  
General Practice  
101 N. Wellwood Ave., Ste 1  
Lindenhurst  
rlavorataesq@gmail.com  
631-376-1301

**The Little Flower Shop**  
226-0030  
437 N. Wellwood Ave.

**Lindenhurst Funeral Home**  
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Thomas A. Brennan, Jr. Director

Vincent Ayers Director

John Terzo Director

Eileen Roque Director



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**GOT PRO-LIFE INFO? CHECK OUT ProlifeED.org**

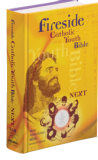


**Fireside Catholic Youth Bible (NEXT Edition)**

*New American Bible Revised Edition*  
The Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT Edition was written to enable Catholic youth to grow emotionally and spiritually in their Catholic faith. There are 21 topics addressed through five comprehensive sections. Your Decision/Your Reward; What Does the Bible say About; Roots of Our Faith; Saints Relate; and 1 on 1 with Christ.

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• Celebration of the Eucharist

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Enclosed please find check/money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of \_\_\_\_ (quantity) copies of the Fireside Family Bible, to be shipped post paid to:  
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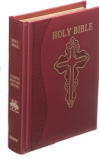
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