

Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help Church  
Lindenhurst, New York



**Ministry  
Directory  
2021**





# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco  
Pastor

Dear Fellow Parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish,

## GRACE, PEACE AND BLESSINGS FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

It is my pleasure to present to you this booklet which describes all of the many different ministries, organizations and societies here at OLPH. We have compiled this information for one important purpose: the purpose of making it as easy as possible for everyone to become fully and actively engaged in the life of the parish. We need you and we want you to be actively involved in the parish family of OLPH!

In his own inimitable style, Pope Francis described the Church as a family and not a private club, a garden rather than a museum, and a field hospital in the midst of the human family. As such, it is the parish that is the heart of the Church; it is in the local parish where it all happens! Pope Francis has also said that the key role of a Catholic parish is practicing closeness to its people by working to provide for their needs and to always show God's love for all.

So it's the parish is where the Church lives! Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life.

It is in that spirit that we give this booklet to you. Read through it in its entirety. Get a feel for the many different opportunities for participation and service that are present at OLPH. Find the ones that appeal to you and then, most importantly, take the step of getting involved. Use the contact information provided and give yourself the gift of belonging more deeply to the life of OLPH. You'll be glad you did!

Together, let's aim high in Christ. Together, let's bring out the best in each other. Together, let's be the best we can be in Christ. And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,

Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco  
Pastor



# Our Pastoral Staff

**Pastor:** Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

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

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

**Business Manager:** Mr. Thomas Crennan

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

**Music Director:** Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

## OFFERER OR VOLUNTEER?

At Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we do not have “volunteers,” we have OFFERERS. What’s the difference?

- A volunteer does things at one’s own convenience; an OFFERER does things as an offering, as a gift.
- A volunteer does something as long as it does not interfere with other things; an OFFERER is willing to stay with something, even if it means letting other things go.
- A volunteer often looks for praise or recognition; an OFFERER stays on even if no one notices at all.
- A volunteer gets initiative from oneself, because what is done is one’s own idea; an OFFERER gets initiative from being baptized, because what is done flows from the mission one is given at baptism.
- A volunteer is a person who does things; an OFFERER is a disciple following Christ.
- A volunteer does a job; an OFFERER does a ministry.
- A volunteer can do something that does not touch one’s heart; an OFFERER makes an offering of oneself, out of love.
- A volunteer does something and looks for results; an OFFERER does something simply as a way of joining the OFFERING of one’s life to the OFFERING of Jesus Christ.
- A volunteer’s work begins and ends with oneself; an OFFERER’S work comes from and flows back to the OFFERING one makes at Sunday Eucharist.
- A volunteer does something in his or her own name; an OFFERER does something in the name of Jesus Christ, who OFFERED Himself completely for us.



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“Nevertheless the liturgy is the summit toward which is the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.”

- *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*



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## MINISTRIES OF WORSHIP

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### ALTAR SERVERS

Altar servers serve at Masses and other liturgies by assisting the priest by carrying out various duties such as carrying the cross, holding books, serving at the altar and performing various other functions. Boys and girls in fourth grade and older are eligible.

Contact: Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
631-226-7725 ext. 206  
msgroje@oloph.org

### ALTAR SOCIETY

The Altar Society meets once a week, on Friday after the 6:30 a.m. Mass to clean and dust the main altar as well as the two side altars. We also change all of the altar cloths, taking them home to wash and iron them. We launder and maintain the purificators and corporals (the linens and cloths used at Mass) as well. We welcome anyone who would like to help and we are always in need of people with sewing skills to help make new linens when the need arises.

Contact: Mary Ellen Barrett  
631-884-2960  
bonnybluehouse@gmail.com

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word meets with children in first grade and older at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday to share the Scripture Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Reading, Profession of Faith and Prayer of the Faithful. The Children's Liturgy of the Word is led by a Prayer Leader or Homilist who is assisted by Shepherds, all of whom are Virtus-trained. A Junior Reader reads from the Children's Lectionary and a Cantor leads the children in song. Children's Liturgy is in session from October through June every year.

Contact: Jenine Jimenez-Spina  
516-376-5146  
je91971@gmail.com

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are parishioners who assist in distributing the Eucharist at Sunday and weekday Masses. Ministers with additional training also bring the Eucharist to the homebound and those in nursing homes. Initial training is provided by the diocese; however, EMHC's meet periodically during the year for further training and ongoing formation. All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine. Becoming an Extraordinary Minister will enhance your spiritual life!

Contact: Barbara McPhail  
917-623-7014  
gospa254@gmail.com

### JUNIOR READERS

Junior Readers, who are middle-school-aged or older, assist during the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Junior Readers are trained to read from the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* every Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass when Children's Liturgy of the Word is in session from October-June. Training is provided. We hope that our Junior Readers will then continue on in the ministry of Reader as adults!

Contact: Anne Korber  
631-884-0354  
anne\_1229@Hotmail.com

### LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

This ministry is responsible for the care of the plants in the church and for decorating the church for the various liturgical seasons. Primary among its goals is the harmony of the liturgical environment with the celebration of the Eucharist. Members care for the live plants in the church building, and also contribute ideas and time toward the decoration of the church building, particularly for the Christmas and

Easter seasons.

Contact: Denise Martinez

631-575-9519

countrydee02@gmail.com

### MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

The Ministry of Consolation assists families who have suffered the loss of a loved one. In addition to providing presence and comfort in a time of need, we help guide the mourning family with the selection of readings, music and other choices for the Funeral Mass. We also attend the Mass to hand out prayer booklets and seat the mourners. On occasion, we serve as Readers and as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. We also bake cakes for the families and have prayer buddies who pray for them. Members are involved in whichever one (or more) of the above aspects in which they are interested. You don't have to be involved in all of it!

Contact: MaryAnn Haas

631-957-8846

hosta7@yahoo.com

### MUSIC MINISTRY - ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir sings at the 12:00 p.m. Mass most Sundays from September to June, and for other special liturgies during the year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 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.

Contact: Christopher Ferraro

631-226-7725 ext. 210

cferraro@oloph.org

### MUSIC MINISTRY - YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass three times a month from September to June, and at other special liturgies during the year. Rehearsals are held on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the school building. Members are in grades 3 through 12.

Contact: Amy Keller

631-226-0438

mrs.amykeller@yahoo.com

### MUSIC MINISTRY - YOUTH SCHOLA

The Youth Schola consists of a select group of young singers who lead the music once a month at Sunday Mass and joins with the Adult Choir and Youth Choir for special musical events throughout the year. Rehearsals are called as needed. Singers in 7th grade through college age are invited to audition.

Contact: Christopher Ferraro

631-226-7725 ext. 210

cferraro@oloph.org

### READERS

Readers participate in the liturgy on weekdays, holy days and Sundays by proclaiming Scripture from the Lectionary. Readers may also participate in other events by offering their time to read Scripture or other religious texts. Readers should expect to be scheduled to read for two Masses each month. Materials are supplied to help all readers prepare for their role in the liturgy. Junior readers must be at least 12 years old while adult readers should be at least 16 years old. Readers must attend both a diocesan training and a parish training before they can serve.

Contact: Deacon Robert Becker

631-226-6175

DeaconRobert@oloph.org

### USHERS

Ushers help to make worship a comforting, peaceful and safe experience. Ushers serve at Masses on Sunday and holy days of obligation. Ushers are also asked to serve at other times throughout the year at special parish occasions and liturgies. In addition to collecting the money offerings and distributing church bulletins after Mass, ushers are responsible for welcoming, guiding, assisting and directing the parishioners. The Usher Ministry is open to anyone old enough to do it, and is a great ministry for an entire family to do together. Ushers are required to attend two meetings a



“Charity, justice, and evangelization are thus the normal consequences of liturgical celebration. Particularly inspired by sung participation, the body of the Word Incarnate goes forth to spread the Gospel with full force and compassion. In this way, the Church leads men and women “to the faith, freedom and peace of Christ by the example of its life and teaching, by the sacraments and other means of grace. Its aim is to open up for all a free and sure path to full participation in the mystery of Christ.”

- Sing to the Lord:  
Music in Divine  
Worship





"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew."

- Pope Francis,  
*Evangelii Gaudium*



year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Contact: Michael Williams  
631-884-2717  
olphushersministry@gmail.com

#### **WEDDING REHEARSAL**

The goal of this ministry is to assist couples in rehearsing their wedding Mass or ceremony. Rehearsals are typically conducted on Thursday or Friday nights, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., and usually take around 45 minutes to complete. This ministry is best suited for teams, particularly married couples, working together. Training is provided. There are usually about 40 weddings per year which are divided among the teams in the ministry.

Contact: Mike Connolly  
631-225-0072  
Jtriplem@aol.com

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## **MINISTRIES OF FAITH FORMATION**

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#### **ADULT CONFIRMATION**

The sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation provide those who receive them with full initiation into the Catholic Church. Occasionally, adults will have received Baptism and Holy Communion but have never received Confirmation. Those who are over the age of eighteen who have received both Baptism and Holy Communion may attend a program of instruction and faith formation at OLPH to receive Confirmation and thereby become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Classes are formed every spring, usually meeting once a week for an hour each meeting, for the period of ten weeks ending before Pentecost. A nominal fee may be charged to cover the cost of materials.

Contact: Deacon Robert Becker  
631-226-6175  
DeaconRobert@oloph.org

#### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

Discipleship in Jesus calls for us to continually develop ourselves. The Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH provides opportunities throughout the year to enter into a classroom environment for the purpose of developing knowledge and understanding of all the different areas of the Catholic faith such as the Bible, Church, Sacraments and worship and morality. Classes are taught by members of the Pastoral Staff who hold advanced degrees. Fees are charged to cover the cost of materials. Participants should expect to attend ten hours of instruction for each course that is offered. There is no minimum education level for taking Adult Faith Formation courses. Parishioners only need the desire to learn.

Contact: Deacon Robert Becker  
631-226-6175

DeaconRobert@oloph.org

#### **BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

Members of the Baptismal Preparation Team prepare parents of soon-to-be baptized children for their child's upcoming baptism. These sessions, held at regular intervals throughout the year, are required for parents before the baptism of their child.

Contact: Deacon William Crosby  
631-988-3068

crosbywilliam50@gmail.com

#### **PRE-CANA**

Pre-Cana teams provide marriage preparation to engaged couples seeking to marry in the Church. Through a series of approximately six meetings, some taking place in the home of a married couple and some at the church, we seek to give practical guidance in areas such as communication, spirituality, and conflict resolution in marriage to help couples build strong, lasting, and holy marriages. Being part of the Pre-Cana ministry can be a rewarding experience, not only for the engaged couples, but for the married couples

ministering to them.

Contact: Dan and Christine Volpe  
516-238-2717  
cvolpe664@gmail.com

### **RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

Members of the RCIA Team meet with and provide spiritual formation for adults who are unbaptized or who are baptized in another Christian tradition who wish to become Catholic, or for adult Catholics who were baptized but have never received First Holy Communion and Confirmation and who now wish to complete their Sacraments of Initiation. The team meets with candidates bi-weekly for catechesis, and on most Sundays for Mass and discussion of the readings of the day and faith sharing. Commitment: one hour every other week on a mutually agreed week night, and an additional hour on alternate Saturdays or Sundays for Mass and faith-sharing with the candidates as needed. A similar process, although in a separate group, is followed for children over the age of reason (approximately age 8 and older) who are either unbaptized or baptized in another Christian tradition.

Contact: Jeffrey Gaab  
631-965-0076  
jsg375@gmail.com

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The mission of Religious Education is to create an atmosphere of faith and love in helping our children become the disciples each of us is called to be through baptism. It is truly a team effort to make sure the children get exactly what they need to live out their faith. Our ministry depends on many offerers to help serve as catechists (teachers), assistants and hall monitors. Our program involves the parents/guardians in the program so the whole family is part of this great team.

Contact: April Kleinlaut  
631-226-7725 ext. 257  
akleinlaut@oloph.org

### **VACATION BIBLE CAMP**

Vacation Bible Camp is a one-week long half-day program for children from grades Pre-K through 8. Each day, campers are treated to three hours of games, music and crafts, all centered around the Word of God, the Bible teaching of the day. One of the wonderful aspects of this ministry is its inclusiveness of all ages. Once campers age out of our middle-school program, many return to be leaders. We have helpers from young adults through seniors. Our ministry needs anyone with a love for children, art skills, musical talents, or just a longing to participate in a lively and vibrant ministry that instills a love of Jesus into the hearts of our children who are the future of the Church. Members of the ministry assist through a variety of roles including teaching, arts and crafts and drama arts.

Contact: April Kleinlaut  
631-226-7725 ext. 257  
akleinlaut@oloph.org

### **YOUNG ADULT CONFIRMATION**

Parishioners who are attending high school but who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation may enroll in the Young Adult Confirmation program through the Religious Education Office. Young people who have experienced gaps in their instruction in the Catholic faith join with their peers in a program of instruction and faith formation leading to their receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at Pentecost.

Contact: Deacon Robert Becker  
631-226-6175  
DeaconRobert@oloph.org

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## **MINISTRIES OF SERVICE**

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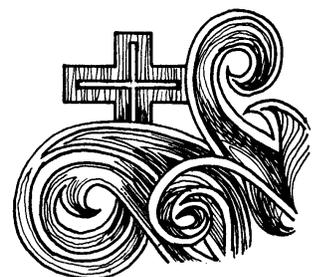
### **ADVENT GIVING TREE**

The Advent Giving Tree Ministry organizes the donation of various items to numerous charities during



“But what the Lord preached that one time, or what was wrought in Him for the saving of the human race, must be spread abroad and published to the ends of the earth, beginning from Jerusalem, so that what He accomplished at that one time for the salvation of all, may in the course of time come to achieve its effect in all.”

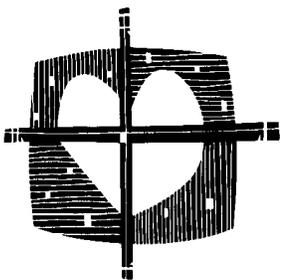
-Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church





“One of the most encouraging signs of the gospel at work in our midst is the vitality and quality of social justice ministries in our parishes. Across the country, countless local communities of faith are serving those in need, working for justice, and sharing our social teaching as never before. Millions of parishioners are applying the gospel and church teaching in their own families, work, and communities. More and more, the social justice dimensions of our faith are moving from the fringes of parishes to become an integral part of local Catholic life.”

*- Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*



Advent. We set up the parish “Giving Tree” with tags requesting donated items and then we coordinate with different groups to deliver the presents before Christmas.

Contact: Jennifer Ryan  
516-314-1411  
jennx@optonline.net

#### **BAPTISMAL BIB TEAM**

One of the three symbols imparted to newly-baptized Catholics is the white baptismal garment, a sign that the child or young person has “put on Christ” in her or his life. Infants and very young children receive this garment as a “bib” placed over their heads during the baptism ceremony. We sew and embroider bibs as the white garment used in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Contact: Christine Ferris  
631-957-2321  
Slwwhl52@optonline.net

#### **BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**

The Bereavement Ministry assists anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one by helping the grieving person grow through her or his grief. The OLPH Bereavement Support Group, guided by trained facilitators, helps grieving persons strengthen their faith in themselves and in God. Through reading, self-discovery, and group discussions, members find a new and meaningful way to cope with their losses.

Contact: Linda Arpino  
631-592-1062  
Forubabe77@aol.com

#### **BLUE DOOR BOUTIQUE**

The Blue Door is OLPH's thrift boutique where new or gently-used clothing and household items are offered for sale to the general public. Working in conjunction with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Van Ministry to the Homeless, our mission is to serve the poor and vulnerable in our community by providing a dignified shopping experience.

Contact: Tricia Buckley

631-561-5790

triciasheppardbuckley@gmail.com

#### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

Our ministry works in conjunction with the Van Ministry to the Homeless to provide a warm meal cooked and served by offerers in a restaurant-style setting in the OLPH cafeteria from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to sit and enjoy a meal and conversation with our guests and offerers. Ministry members prepare the food and the setting, and also clean up after the meal.

Contact: Mary Leon  
631-792-3685  
mleon719@yahoo.com

#### **EXTERIOR CHURCH DECORATING**

Our ministry is dedicated to the beautification of the exterior of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church during Advent, Christmas Time and Easter Time. During Advent, a team of dedicated parishioners gathers to adorn the exterior of the church with lights, wreaths, roping and seasonal ribbons as well as to help to assemble the manger set and Advent wreath. This same team gathers to take down the decorations in January. Immediately prior to Easter, the decorating team places seasonal silk floral arrangements on the exterior pillars and fencing and taking down these decorations at the conclusion of Easter Time.

Contact: Dominick Scuro  
516-647-5457  
dscuro@outlook.com

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND**

The faithful who are ill are often deprived of access to the Eucharist. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have received proper training can provide sick persons with the faith and charity of the whole community by bringing Holy Communion in the context of a Liturgy of the Word conducted in the sick

person's home. This ministry requires home visits to our parishioners who are aged or ill. Ministers must be able to provide their own transportation.

Contact: Karen Golden  
631-946-2458  
goldenparalegal1@aol.com

### **HOSPITAL VISITATION**

This ministry touches the lives of OLPH parishioners who are in Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip by visiting parishioners whose health has caused them to be admitted to the hospital for a period of time. The primary goal of the ministry is to "extend the boundaries" of OLPH at a time of need by providing companionship and spiritual support. Training for this ministry is required and provided once a year.

Contact: Peter O'Neill  
631-226-6340  
oneillp@optonline.net

### **HOSPITALITY**

We sponsor and support various events during the year including the wedding anniversaries reception, receptions after choir concerts, and receptions for departing priests. We coordinate events with other parish ministries to create and sustain a welcoming atmosphere in our parish. We also provide baked goods and refreshments as support for events conducted by other ministries.

Contact: Christine Ferris  
631-957-2321  
Slwwhl52@optonline.net

### **NURSING MINISTRY**

The Nursing Ministry is comprised of a group of nurses who work to assist OLPH parishioners with their health care needs. At times the ministry provides individual advice to parishioners in need of guidance in health care matters. The ministry coordinates educational programs and health care programs such as blood drives and flu clinics. The ministry also offers advice to the parish on AEDs and first aid concerns.

Contact: Regina Muir  
631-226-2709  
rmuir11@aol.com

### **RESPECT LIFE**

Our Respect Life mission is to promote the Catholic belief/principle that human life, at all stages from conception to natural death, is a gift from God, worthy of respect and protection. The Respect Life Ministry involves more than opposition to abortion; it includes end-of-life issues (physician assisted suicide, care of seniors, health care proxies), the environment, the death penalty and innumerable issues affecting life and the dignity of life. We educate our parishioners and the public on a personal level and at public Village gatherings. We educate our governmental representatives and advocate with them. We organize and participate in prayer services and we support groups which offer aid and support to those contemplating abortion and are involved in peaceful protests. We provide spiritual care for women with problems related to pregnancy, for all who have been involved in abortion, for those who are disabled, sick, and dying, and their families and caregivers. We also provide spiritual care for those who have lost loved ones to violent crime, and for those in prison sentenced to death. We meet monthly (except in July and August).

Contact: Louise Perrotta  
631-572-2772  
louiseperrotta@optonline.net

### **SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international organization whose mission is to assist the poor, the needy and the disadvantaged by providing them with material aid, emotional support, and spiritual comfort to empower them to become self-sufficient again. Offerers work once every three weeks on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9:00 a.m.-



"If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

- John 13:15





“The Church must be present in these groups through her children, who dwell among them or who are sent to them. For all Christians, wherever they live, are bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of the word, that new person put on at baptism and that power of the Holy Spirit by which they have been strengthened at Confirmation.”

*-Decree on the Ministry Activity of the Church*



12:00 p.m. or on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 1:30-3:00 p.m. We meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Contact: Bill Stysiack, President  
631-226-7725 ext. 234  
stvincentdepaul@oloph.org

### **SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

The Special Needs Ministry hosts a monthly celebration of the Eucharist in an intimate setting designed to provide a fulfilling worship experience for individuals who may be uncomfortable or inattentive in a larger setting. Members of this ministry assume various responsibilities as greeters, hospitality, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and as readers. Additionally, members assist in setting up the worship environment and in ensuring that all aspects of the Mass are satisfying to worshippers. We celebrate Mass together on the first Saturday of every month. At present, we don't have a ramp for wheelchairs. Those requiring a gluten-free host should inform one of the ministry members before the Mass begins.

Contact: Jessica Becker-Paolo  
631-226-7725 ext. 252  
jbecker@oloph.org

### **SQUIRES**

The Squires Program is a young Catholic youth fraternal organization, for boys aged 10-17 years old. We do different fund raising activities for the community. We are always looking for members age 10-17.

Contact: Thomas Romano  
631-412-3797  
tomonli@aol.com

### **VAN MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS**

Embracing the belief that Jesus is present in the face of everyone we encounter, the OLPH Van Ministry to the Homeless exists to provide help, hope and support to men and women experiencing homelessness on an individual level. We provide tangible

help through food and clothing. We partner with other resources to assist with emergency housing when we go out on our weekly van runs to areas where the unhoused are known to stay. We utilize a network of agencies and organizations to assist the homeless to move forward in their pursuit of permanent housing. We strive to include other parishioners in the support of the homeless. We have created opportunities for others to make a personal difference in the lives of the people. Finally, our ministry serves the needy through individual interactions while on the van runs and through donations of food, supplies or small cash assistance.

Contact: Regina Muir and Peggy Pannullo  
631-226-2709  
rmuir11@aol.com

### **WELCOME AMBASSADORS**

Welcome Ambassadors provide a personal welcome and follow-up to parishioners who newly-register in the parish. Functioning as a kind of “welcome wagon,” this ministry lets new parishioners know that OLPH is a friendly place where we are interested in helping new people become involved in the life of the parish. Contact is made with new parishioners, and a “welcome bag” of parish-related items is left with them.

Contact: Eileen Corticchia  
631-412-3903  
kencort36@gmail.com

### **YOUTH SERVICE CORPS**

The mission of the Youth Service Corps is to serve the parish community as well as our local community. Students in middle and high school can sign up for the email chain that supplies the students with various service opportunities. Our ministry instills the Christian duty of service in our young people with the goal that their commitment to service will continue as they grow in faith into adulthood.

Contact: April Kleinlaut  
631-226-7725 ext. 257  
akleinlaut@oloph.org

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## MINISTRIES OF WITNESS

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### **CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION**

Catholics For Freedom of Religion is a group of concerned parishioners who work to educate our fellow parishioners and empower them to practice and preserve their First Amendment religious rights. We are organized under a diocesan-wide CFFR, providing us with a unified purpose and service to Catholics in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. We plan and implement events such as movies and Rosary Rallies. We meet every other month on the first Friday of the month, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Contact: Kathleen Feldman  
631-225-9864  
cdfeldman@optonline.net

### **CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS AND GUILD**

Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Guild is one of the oldest and most established ministries in the parish, having been formed in the early 1900's. Our activities include fund raising for the parish, including our annual cake and candy sale and helping with projects identified by the Pastor. To promote our spiritual growth, we invite religious and informative guest speakers to address our members during the year. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month in the cafeteria, except in July and August. Women 18 years of age and older, married or single, are welcome.

Contact: Mary Ann Bodt, President  
631-793-5920  
buzymom337@aol.com

### **CYO (CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION)**

OLPH CYO is an organized athletic program focused on promoting sportsmanship, developing trust between peers, and living a happy life in a positive, Christian manner. Current offerings are Spring and Fall Track for grades 1-8, and Basketball for grades 1-

12. Those who offer their time to this organization can serve as coaches and referees and in various support roles. Refer to our website for additional information:

[www.leaguelineup.com/olphcyo](http://www.leaguelineup.com/olphcyo)  
Contact: Luke Farrell  
516-343-5434  
olphcyo11757@gmail.com

### **FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY**

Family Life Ministry serves the parish community with grace by integrating families into the life of the parish community and the Church. We build and strengthen community among families. We strive to guide and increase family spirituality through such events as Getting Ready for Advent, Paint Nights, Mardi Gras, Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Patch and many more exciting events. Family Life Ministry meets approximately once a month during the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons to develop and plan life enriching events aligned with the entire liturgical year.

Contact: Eileen Corticchia  
631-412-3903  
kencort36@gmail.com

### **HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

The Holy Name Society is an organization that has been active for over 700 years, founded by Blessed John of Vercelli. The Society promotes reverence for the Sacred Name of God and Jesus Christ, and the personal holiness of its members. Members are called to contribute time and effort to the general mission of the Church. We are also called to assist in parish ministries by performing corporal acts of mercy. In this regard we hold an annual Turkey Raffle that provides the funds to that end. In the past, the Holy Name Society has provided support to our local Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to the Community Meal ministry, and to the Van Ministry to the Homeless. With the Knights of Columbus, we co-sponsor an annual Christmas poster contest. We meet on the second



“When we pray, we are not to pray for ourselves alone. We do not say, “My Father, who art in heaven” or, “Give me this day my daily bread”; we do not ask for our own trespasses alone to be forgiven; and when we pray that we may be delivered from evil, we are not praying only for ourselves either.

Our prayer is for the general good, for the common good. When we pray, we do not pray for our own single selves; we pray for all God's people, because they and we are one.”

- Cyprian of Carthage,  
Third Century





"There are as many ways to pray as there are moments in life. Sometimes we seek out a quiet spot and want to be alone, sometimes we look for a friend and want to be together. Sometimes we look for a book, sometimes we prefer music. Sometimes we want to sing out with hundreds, sometimes only whisper with a few. Sometimes we want to say it with words, sometimes in deep silence.

In these moments, we gradually make our hearts our lives more of a prayer and we open our hands to be led by God even to places we would rather not go."

- Henri Nouwen



Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 p.m. in the school.

Contact: Frank Odin III

631-988-2054

fr\_odin@yahoo.com

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 794**

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization for men. We are a Catholic men's organization doing charitable work. Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects, from international charitable partnerships with Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity, to our own Food for Families and Coats for Kids projects and other local charities. The opportunity to work together with fellow Knights and their families is virtually endless. Also available are the Ladies Auxiliary and Squires (young men's organization).

Contact: Stephen Strigaro, Grand Knight

631-225-0928

sdcjn@optonline.net

Michele Crosby, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary

631-226-3711

michelecrosby01@gmail.com

#### **LEGION OF MARY**

The Legion of Mary was begun in 1921 by Frank Duff in Ireland. Today the Legion is active in approximately 170 countries. There are two levels of membership. Active members must attend a weekly meeting, must perform two hours of apostolic work each week, and say the rosary and the prayers in the Tessera daily. We meet on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the school. Auxiliary members are our prayer partners. They are only required to say the rosary and the prayers in the Tessera daily.

Contact: Louise Perrotta, President

631-572-2772

louiseperrotta@optonline.net

#### **MIDDLE AGES**

Are you looking to meet other women your age who have interests in

spirituality, socializing and social action? This is a group for women who are not yet seniors (40 +) and who are looking to enrich their lives by enjoying fun experiences and a new-found community spirit. Group members plan and participate in a wide range of activities, including charitable projects (with special focus on the needs of veterans, Van Ministry and community outreach), dinners/BBQ's and parish offerer work. Meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesdays in Room 24 of the new school building, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Contact: Gail Tonnessen

631-957-1449

gtonness@optonline.net

#### **PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP MINISTRY**

Our vision is to build a network of people with professional skills in the parish community, who have the vocation to mentor and help others in their professional development. Our mission is to assist those in our community who feel unfulfilled in their professional life, by leveraging our own professional knowledge and experience in conjunction with a structured mentoring and enablement program, to help others identify and maximize their gifts in order to achieve their personal potential. The Professional Mentorship Ministry seeks to attract new members to the church and engage dormant members, motivating them to eventually become active parishioners and contributors. In addition, we hope to replicate this ministry in other parishes so that the Professional Mentorship Ministry Network extends beyond individual communities. This extended Professional Mentorship Ministry Network will reflect the makeup of each community and leverage a greater reach in knowledge and experience.

Contact: Julian Barrios,

*John Reynolds, Kevin Sabella*  
631-226-7725  
*pmm@oloph.org*

### **SENIOR MOMENTS**

Senior Moments is a ministry of parishioners who gather together to share ideas and reflect on books we read. The books we read are inspirational and thought-provoking, while our ministry is a very caring and welcoming group whose members share life's experiences. Our mission is to build upon our Catholic faith and spiritual life through readings and sharing life's experiences. Senior Moments meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the school.

*Contact: Ginny Beyrer*  
631-226-6635  
*vebeyrer@optonline.net*

### **SPANISH PRAYER GROUP**

The Spanish Prayer Group meets to praise the Lord every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria through prayer, music and witness talks. All are welcome!

#### **GRUPO DE ORACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL**

Para alabar a Dios, nos reunimos en la cafetería todos los Jueves a las 7:00 p.m. Bienvenidos todos!

*Contact: Sonia Hansen*  
516-504-5468  
*mrsclump@aol.com*

### **STRENGTHS TRAINING PROVIDERS**

Every individual plays a role in shaping the Church. But how do we know what role we are meant to play? For many parishioners the answer can be found through the experience of the Clifton Strengths Finder, a Gallup instrument that reveals our unique God-given strengths. OLPH Strengths Training Providers assist parishioners who have taken the instrument in understanding and applying their personal strengths. Persons who seek to become trainers must take the instrument, read the companion book, and satisfy members of the existing team with their ability to present information to a small

group. Time commitments will vary widely with this ministry, but generally should involve about five hours per month. A nominal fee will be charged to anyone taking the Clifton Strengths Finder to cover the costs charged to the parish.

*Contact: Brian Legerlotz*  
516-497-5228  
*fishsundance@aol.com*

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## **MINISTRIES OF ADMINISTRATION**

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### **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA)**

Parishioners come together at various times throughout the Catholic Ministries Appeal year (February 1 - January 31) to help raise awareness of the many programs that are made possible through the financial contributions gathered by the CMA. These programs include Catholic Charities, public school religious education programs, and faith formation. CMA also serves as a major fund raiser for the parish. Members of the ministry assist throughout the year in various fundraising efforts.

*Contact: Bob Mehm*  
631-225-1638  
*Indymehmrs@aol.com*

### **COUNTERS**

Counters count the offerings of money taken in the collection at all weekend and Holy Day Masses. New members are recruited by invitation of the Pastor. Commitment is weekly, Monday mornings for approximately 2-3 hours.

*Contact: Tom Crennan*  
631-226-7725 ext. 204  
*tcrennan@oloph.org*

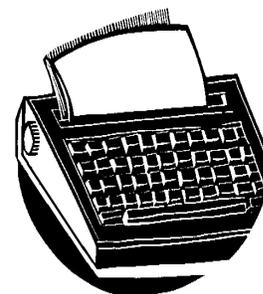
### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

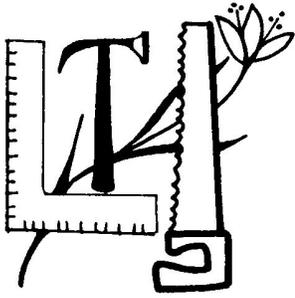
The Finance Committee assists the Pastor in the financial administration of the parish. Members provide advice and counsel to the Pastor



*"Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well."*

- 1 Peter 4: 10





“For the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.”

-2 Corinthians 9:12



concerning the parish budget, income, expenses, fund raising and other financial matters. Membership is by invitation of the Pastor based on the recommendation of current committee members. The committee is open to new members as need arises, but not on a regular or ongoing basis.

*Contact: Msgr. Joe DeGrocco or Mr. Gerry Chille  
631-226-7725 ext. 206  
msgjrjoe@oloph.org*

#### **LITURGY COMMITTEE**

The Liturgy Committee directs the liturgical life of the parish by overseeing the preparation and enactment of all liturgies throughout the liturgical year, especially the major and special celebrations of the year and in the life of the parish. Members work hands-on in a variety of ways and in a variety of roles to ensure the proper and reverent celebration of liturgy. Membership is by invitation of the Pastor based on the recommendation of current committee members.

*Contact: Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
631-226-7725 ext. 206  
msgjrjoe@oloph.org*

#### **LIVE-STREAM TEAM**

Members of this ministry assist with live-streaming our Sunday and holy-day Masses, and other special occasions throughout the year.

*Contact: Christopher Ferraro  
631-226-7725 ext. 210  
cferraro@oloph.org*

#### **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The Pastoral Council offers advice and counsel to the Pastor concerning the overall pastoral, ministerial and communal life of the parish. The Council facilitates the process of pastoral planning and decision-making in light of the vision and overall direction of the parish. Meetings take place roughly bi-monthly from September through June. Membership is by invitation of the Pastor based on the recommendation of current

committee members. Members serve on terms, and names for new members are surfaced by committee members when terms are expiring.

*Contact: Msgr. Joe DeGrocco  
631-226-7725 ext. 206  
msgjrjoe@oloph.org*

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY MINISTRY**

In this digital age, the photography ministry assists in maintaining visual records of important parish liturgies and events. Those who assist this ministry use their own digital camera and equipment and supply the parish with photographs to be used in the bulletin and our various social media platforms.

*Contact: Christopher Ferraro  
631-226-7725 ext. 210  
cferraro@oloph.org*

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE MINISTRY**

The Social Media/Website Ministry is responsible for developing and maintaining the parish's official website. This responsibility includes updating the calendar of events on a daily basis, as well as posting the weekly bulletin, other notices, summaries and photographs that document events that have occurred in the life of the parish. The website seeks to evangelize all by proclaiming Christ's message in a format that is a place of real encounter. The OLPH website serves as the homepage of the parish and as the hub of all vital and important communication in the life of the parish. Competence in social media platforms is highly desirable.

*Contact: Joselyn Kalt  
718-781-5022  
socialmedia@oloph.org*

# A Welcoming Body of Christ

Christina Spahn



It's 10 AM on Sunday at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Community in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Martha, Rick, and their two children file into the third row of chairs under the cross. A few minutes later Joe and Anna move into the row behind them. An older couple, they are

visiting Albuquerque to attend to Joe's mother, who is in the final stages of terminal cancer. Jack arrives. A longtime parishioner, he has just been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. He is followed by the Sanchez family, whose youngest son, Jordan, is celebrating his sixth birthday, and Marie and Allen, who have decided it is time to return to the faith of their childhood and are coming to Mass for the first time in many years. Recent arrivals in Albuquerque, the six members of the Miller family are seated. They have come from a vibrant parish in the Denver area and have heard that Holy Rosary might be a good community to check out. Finally, Laura and Bob come rushing in and sit in the fourth row. They have spent the morning serving the weekly breakfast in Rosario Hall and now look forward to joining the community in prayer.

This imaginary configuration of people is repeated throughout the entire Church—at every Eucharist. In every row of every church, individuals filling the pews carry a range of emotions and experiences. Some hearts are filled with joy and gratitude; others are crushed with grief and pain; while the majority hold emotions somewhere in between. Whether individuals leave the church restored and ready to face another week depends, of course, on how well the liturgy is celebrated and on their active participation in the rite. But their experience is also influenced by how they feel welcomed and included. The Mass is, after all, a communal prayer, and people need to feel part of the community. How is that achieved?

In every row of every church are people carrying a range of emotions and experiences. We honor each person with hospitality.

In many parishes, hospitality ministers formally welcome people as they enter the church. In some, visitors or newly registered parishioners are acknowledged before the liturgy begins. Some parishes invite people to introduce themselves to those seated around them. These are useful

practices and certainly aid in creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. But most important is each parishioner's awareness that he/she is a member of a faith community that welcomes others and has a commitment to doing just that. This commitment is expressed in many ways: a smile, willingness to move down the row to accommodate a person or family newly arriving, an inquiry about how the week has been, or a comment about the weather, the news, or anything else that comes to mind. Community is about relationships and relationships are built as people communicate with each other.

Being a welcoming faith community involves much more than just what occurs inside the church. It also involves graciousness and generosity in the parking lot and multimedia communications that respond to the needs and preferences of all members of the community. It involves pastoral sensitivity to those approaching the parish office and heartfelt thanks to the Sunday 10:15 AM altar servers. It involves an invitation to a new parishioner to consider participating in a ministry and counseling an overwhelmed catechist that it might be time to take a couple of months off. It involves warmly greeting the long-time parishioner and being just as welcoming to the homeless person. It involves shared laughter and shared tears. In short, being a welcoming faith community involves individuals and groups meeting people where they are, recognizing them as comembers of the Body of Christ, and treating them with the love and respect with which they would like to be treated.

# Are You Ready to Choose?

By now, you realize that the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is dynamic and thriving. But you still might feel uncertain about where you will fit in. Or maybe you're overwhelmed by the number of ministries available for you to join, and are reluctant to commit to one that you won't enjoy. The solution to both of these dilemmas is to gain an understanding of how your particular strengths fit with specific ministries.

OLPH offers parishioners the opportunity to gain that insight through the use of the Clifton Strengths Finder and the companion work *Living Your Strengths*. Through the assessment instrument and two workshops, individuals learn how to identify and affirm their strengths, and how to use them for growth and service. For example, individuals who find their strength as harmonizers flourish in the Ministry of Consolation as they restore order to families in the midst of their grief. While that may seem easy to predict, you may be surprised to find that nearly all those individuals who serve the Reader Ministry have influencing strengths. Or that the strength of "Command" which identifies individuals who feel comfortable imposing their views on others is so rare among those serving in parish ministries that it can be said to be non-existent.

The greatest benefit of knowing our strengths, however, comes in learning how to recognize the person we are. By learning our God-given strengths, we can more easily find the orientation and path God intends for us to follow to grow in our love for and service of others. The Body of Christ on earth is a community of believers. Knowing how to be a vibrant part of that community opens us to increase our love for God and our fellow humans.

Strengths Training occurs regularly throughout the year. Watch for announcements of training sessions in the weekly bulletin. Find your strength and find the ministry that will help you to grow as a Christian.





Creator God,  
Life is your gift to me.  
Through Baptism,  
you invite me to share the gift of my life  
in service to others.  
Be with me  
as I choose each day  
to show your Presence in our world.  
Give me the courage and generosity  
to respond to your love, to your call.  
I pray especially for those  
who serve you in ministry  
throughout the parishes of Long Island.  
May we bring the Good News  
to those in need.  
Keep us close to you.  
Open the minds and hearts  
of many others  
-- men, women, and young people --  
that they may accept your challenge  
to build the Kingdom in our parish.  
Amen.



“In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.”

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* #28

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## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

210 South Wellwood Avenue

Lindenhurst, New York 11757

(631) 226-7725

[www.olphlindenhurst.com](http://www.olphlindenhurst.com)

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