

February 3, 2019

The Gift of the Mass

The greatest **gift** Jesus keeps giving us every day is **the Mass**, including **the Eucharist**. The Mass is the most important celebration of our Catholic Faith. Every Mass provides an encounter with Jesus Christ. As I have said many times, the Mass is **Heaven on Earth**. We all tend to take the mysteries of the Mass for granted and as part of the proposed **spiritual renewal** for our parish, we have just decided to focus our six weeks of **Lent** (from Ash Wednesday March 5 through Palm Sunday April 14) on one single theme: seeking for every parishioner to have a **better understanding of the Mass and a more meaningful participation** (Scriptures, Prayers, Gift of the Eucharist, Role of Community).

This decision is based on a thorough review of the feedback received from many of you, including: 50 participants to **The Gift** (our major spiritual formation program given last Fall over six weeks focusing on **The Holy Spirit**), 40 participants from the discussion of the book "**HOPE**" on January 17, all members of our Parish Council, our entire staff and a large number of our volunteers.

The time has come to share the dates/framework of the main spiritual formation program for our Lenten journey entitled "**The Gift of the Mass**" (more detail on the content in the coming days! Stay tuned!):

- All six weekly sessions: 7 pm Thursdays and 10 am Saturdays (you choose one)
- Session duration: 1.5 hours
- Baby sitting available for each session
- No costs to participants
- First session: Thursday March 7 or Saturday March 9 (you choose one).
- Last session: Thursday April 11 or Saturday April 13 (you choose one).

The format of each session is similar to the successful one of **The Gift** of last Fall: Fellowship, Prayer, Praise and Glory singing, Video, and Small Group Discussions. We are asking Deacon Rich to be the overall coordinator as he was for **the Gift** while Mike Spurgeon will be leading the design and teaching of this new Lenten program.

We encourage everyone to consider participating in this six-week Lenten journey. This year we will not have a 3-day Lenten Mission given by an outside speaker. The **Gift of the Mass** will be our parish Lenten Mission, totally prepared and organized by OLHOC members. Your participation will give more meaning to key themes of Lent: Pray, Sacrifice, and Encounter with Christ. Please mark your calendars. To help us plan this major event, we would appreciate it if you could let our Office (office@olhoc.org) know if you intend to participate.

As for **the Gift**, which was done successfully, we need volunteers to assist with logistics (food, audio, set-up tables) and/or to be considered as potential leaders of the small group discussions. If interested, please contact Deacon Rich or Mike Spurgeon directly.

I am excited that this Lent, we are able to provide a new spiritual formation program focused on the Mass. We have established a Steering Committee (including leaders of our on-going faith/spiritual formation activities) that will facilitate the detailed design of this new program and its delivery. I plan to be closely associated in the deliberations of this Committee. I also plan to be present at all weekly Lenten sessions. I fully enjoyed **The Gift** sessions last Fall and am looking forward to those of **the Gift of the Mass**.



May the **Holy Spirit** continue to guide our Spiritual Renewal at OLHOC!

Let us continue to pray daily to the **Holy Spirit!**

Come Holy Spirit, guide me and console me. Tell me what I must do.

Inspire me with what I must say.

I promise to submit myself to You in all that You ask of me.

Let me only know Your will and do Your will. Amen!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Religious Education

Important Dates:

Feb. 3/4- CCD Classes

Feb. 10/11 CCD Classes

Feb. 17/18- CCD Classes

Feb. 24/25- YOUTH MASS and ALL YOUTH NIGHT activities (Fiat/Edge/Life teen)



***Attention Sacramental Preparation Families (CCD and Catholic School Families):** Workshop dates for First Reconciliation/Communion (10 am) and Confirmation Year 1 and 2 (2:30pm): Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, & Apr 28. Questions? Please contact Therese Thiedeman, DRE

FIAT: Children in Elementary

EDGE: Middle School Youth

Life Teen: High School Youth



Youth Worship

For most current Youth and Evangelization events, please see our website: www.olhoc.org

Your Church: The Lord's House

Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and refrain from taking any food or beverage into the Church. If your children need food or beverages, please use the cry room. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as footrests.

New! -Faith Based Counseling Services

We are proud to announce a new Catholic based counseling service available to all parishioners. This service is for individuals, couples, families, and children (ages 3 and up). Sessions are held either in person at St. Jerome's in Hyattsville, or securely via the internet. The hours are generally Tuesday – Saturday 2pm – 8pm. Counseling sessions can assist with depression, anxiety, grief & loss, marital issues, separation & divorce, addictions, family dysfunction, parenting issues, behavioral issues, anger management and life transitions. Eligible for insurance reimbursement and a sliding scale fee is available. To book an appointment or if you have any additional questions contact Rebecca Mullan

rmullan@stjeromes.org <<mailto:rmullan@stjeromes.org>>

> [301-927-6684](tel:301-927-6684) x13

Still not sure if counseling is for you? Have a specific question or concern? Call for a free 20 minute consultation! Rebecca Mullan is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Maryland. Ms. Mullan first studied psychology at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and went on to complete her Master in Clinical Counseling at Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Mullan has worked with various ages, populations, and clinical issues for over six years; first with the Pro Bono Counseling Project in Baltimore Maryland, and then providing in parish counseling for the Archdiocese of Washington in Montgomery County. Ms. Mullan has special training and certification in Play Therapy, pornography addiction, and Family Systems.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Preschool openings (3 and 4 year olds) at OLHOC! Full and half-day programs. We include children's chapel services and many opportunities for family involvement!



For more information send an email to preschool@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

OLHOC Community Outreach

Our next Shepherd's Table will be held on February 21, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church on Smallwood.

Our next Outreach Committee meeting will be on February 6, at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Friday Faith & Fellowship Group

Join the group every 2nd Friday of the month for

Movie Night (watch for update)

and for bible study and music each 3rd, 4th, and occasional 5th Friday. 7:00 PM

Angel's Watch Assistance

Angel's Watch Shelter in Waldorf is in need of assistance of food donations for meals. We are in need of meats, produce, and non-perishable items (such as rice, beans, canned goods, etc.) to assist with meals. We are also looking for someone with experience and who might be interested in cooking for a large group on a continued basis. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Clark at (301) 274-0680, or email her at Kathy.Clark@CatholicCharitiesDC.org.

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Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Ernest Mack, James Wiltz, Adele Alvey, Dorothy Neal, Dunny Proctor, K.D. Dillard, Josephina Knapp, Bill Cooke, Maria Townsend, Crystal Beauregard, Sheryl Carter, Alex Leon, Sharketer Butler, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

Please notify the office if any names should be added or deleted from this list. After three months, names will be removed unless notified.



Mass Intentions this Week

Sunday, February 3, 8:30 AM: MaryAnn Sessa Murry (+)
Sunday, February 3, 10:00 AM: Rita and Joseph Virgadamo (+)
Sunday, February 3, 11:30 AM: Dominic Saltaformaggio (+)
Sunday, February 3, 7:00 PM: Odiel and Lester Chatelain (+)
Monday, February 4, 9:00 AM: Steven Dubicki
Tuesday, February 5, 9:00 AM: Timothy Dubicki
Wednesday, February 6, 9:00 AM: Jennifer Dubicki
Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 PM: Phyllis LeSesne (+)
Thursday, February 7, 9:00 AM: Devon Dubicki
Friday, February 8, 9:00 AM: Father Alain
Saturday, February 9, 9:00 AM: Kenneth LeSesne (+)
Saturday, February 9, 5:00 PM: Therese Thiedeman

Tax Statements 2018

Please call or stop by the office if you are in need of a tax statement from your 2018 donations. We can email the information to you, or you can pick it up in the office.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is having a general meeting on Sunday, 10 Feb, at 1:00 pm, in the newly renovated Father Martin Hall. All members are encouraged to attend as well as anyone interested in finding out more about our ministry. Come - you are welcome, here!

Mass Readings for February 10, 2019

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

***Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11, or
15:3-8,11*

***Gospel**

Luke 5:1-11

www.usccb.org



Upcoming Youth Events:

Parish-Wide Super Bowl Party

Join us as we continue celebrating the opening of the new Fr Martin Hall on Sunday February 3rd for a parish-wide Super Bowl Party. For more details please go to the website www.olhoc.org/ymevents Bring some friends!

Quo Vadis Shadow Day

On Friday, February 15, 2019, juniors and seniors in high school are invited to join the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington for a special Quo Vadis "Shadow Day" at Saint John Paul II Seminary and the Catholic University of America. You will be able to experience a "day in the life" of a seminarian by joining them for Mass, Adoration, meals, class, sports and just hanging out. This day is a great opportunity to come and see what a day in the life of a seminarian is like. For more information visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents

ADW High School Rally & (Confirmation Year 2 Retreat)

Join us on Saturday, March 2nd for the High School Rally at Catholic University of America. The day will be packed with inspirational talks on how to live our Catholic faith in the world today including a special session for those preparing for Confirmation in the spring. Adoration, praise and worship music, fun and games will also be a part of the day. Attention Confirmation Year 2 Students, this is your required retreat for Confirmation. Please visit the website for more details and to register.

Don't miss out on the many wonderful opportunities we have for our youth of all ages. We have spots available for the Steubenville Youth Conference, Camp Covecrest in Georgia, and many more upcoming events. Please visit www.olhoc.org/ym or contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org



www.FaithDirect.net

Faith Direct provides our parishioners with the ability to give electronically. To simplify your Sunday mornings, visit Faith Direct and consider enrolling using our **parish code: MD614**.

Applications can also be found in the narthex. Thank you for your kind donations and to all those already enrolled in this cost effective measure for our church.

Assistance for those effected by the Government shutdown

For OLHOC parishioners affected by the Government Shutdown, support and assistance is available. Contact Larry Sutton via email at:

olhocgovshutdown@gmail.com.

Preschool Announcement

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration opens to the public on February 4! Parishioners, please share this information with families you know who may be looking for Catholic Preschool for their child or grandchild, and be sure you have registered your child for fall. For info or to register: email the preschool director, Nieda, at preschool@olhoc.org or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.