

GIVE, AND GIFTS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU!

"Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you!" (Luke 6:37-38). This is the promise that Jesus gives us: if we give to others unconditionally, God will give us even more. If we are generous with others, including our enemies, we will benefit from the immense generosity of God. Every time we pray the **Our Father**, the most beautiful and best-known prayer given to us by Jesus himself (Luke 11:4, Mathew 6:12), we are asking God our Father to forgive us in the same way we forgive others. So, we are not surprised by Jesus' saying "Forgive and you will be forgiven", meaning: **"Forgive others and God will forgive you!"** However, here in Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (Luke 17-49), which we hear at Sunday Mass once every three years (Year of Luke), Jesus adds a new dimension on how God will respond to our actions: **"Give to others, and God will give to you!"** This is the message we all heard in last week-end's Gospel, and I would like to invite everyone to reflect on how this simple and powerful message applies to our own individual ways of interacting with those we encounter in our daily lives: family members, friends, co-workers, fellow parishioners, strangers...

This is all about the **power of giving freely and unconditionally**. None of us can fully imitate Jesus, who as a man displayed such power while on earth. Jesus is man but He is also God and we are humble human beings. However, Jesus invites all of us to get out of our comfort zone, and to strive for excellence: Be Holy! Be merciful as the Father is! We are all called to **holiness**! Be perfect as the Father is! Be generous as the Father is! Love everyone! Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you! To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well! **Give to everyone who asks of you!** From the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back! Stop judging and you will not be judged! In this amazing Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6), Jesus is raising the bar for his followers by going against the culture of his time! Jesus' teachings are as counter-cultural today as they were 2,000 years ago. **Jesus' promise is also as powerful as 2,000 years ago: If you follow me... your reward will be great and you will be children of the most high!**

Think about an experience of **joy** in your life. In many instances, it may be related to that **power of giving to others**. For many mothers, it may be the day of **giving**

life: The Joy of giving birth! For many of us, it may be a time when we were able to **help out someone in need**! For others, it may be when we were able to forgive others who have hurt us.

As we enter into the Lenten Season this Wednesday (March 6), we will all be reminded when receiving the ashes on our foreheads: **"Repent and believe in the Gospel!"** Our Lord Jesus Christ **gives** us the **good new, the joy of the Gospel!** At the Last Supper, Jesus promises us the **Gift of the Eucharist: His Body and Blood!** Then, after his Passion, Death and Resurrection, and just before he ascends into Heaven, he promises us that he will never leave us alone: he promises us the **gift of the Holy Spirit, the power of the Holy Spirit!** The Holy Spirit is at work not only in the seven sacraments, including the **Eucharist at Mass**, but also in every moment of our daily lives. The Holy Spirit **gives us the power to give generously and unconditionally**.

The theme of our Lenten Season is **The Gift of the Mass**. The Gift of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is the greatest gift we can receive! Many of you have already signed up to participate in the series **The Gift of the Mass** beginning this Thursday, March 7 (7 PM,) or this Saturday March 9th (10 AM). If you have not yet done so, you can still register online: www.olhoc.org/Mass.

Come Holy Spirit! Help us to forgive others, and to give generously to all we encounter! Come Holy Spirit, help us to enter into this Lenten Journey of Spiritual Renewal. Come Holy Spirit! Help us to be renewed through a deeper appreciation of the Gift of the Mass: The Eucharist!



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

Eight Sunday of Ordinary Time

Religious Education

Important Dates

March 3/4 CCD Classes

March 10/11 CCD Classes

March 17/18 Classes

March 24/25- YOUTH NIGHT SUN-

DAY. (NO regular Classes).. ALL Sunday and Monday families are encouraged to attend Sunday's 4pm

***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



Youth Worship

FIAT: Children in Elementary

EDGE: Middle School Youth

Life Teen: High School Youth

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

Youth News

Shrove or Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner - March 5th - 6:00

pm- 8:00 pm We invite you to join us for a feast and fellowship on Shrove Tuesday before fasting for Lent. Delicious pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit and beverages will be served by our youth. Tickets are \$5 each (under 2 eat free) and will be available after all Masses or can be purchased in the office. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Fund.

Attention EDGE (middle school) & Life Teen (high school): Join us as a cast or crew member for this year's Living Stations of the Cross.

We will need youth for roles as Jesus, Mary, soldiers, Simon, Veronica, weeping women..... You don't have to memorize any lines! We will have a series of rehearsals and then perform for the CCD students on Sunday, April 7th & Monday, April 8th. The presentation for the parish will be on Friday, April 12th. Please visit www.olhoc.org/stations to sign up.

For more Youth Events or questions contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org or visit: www.olhoc.org/ym

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun. 5-6:30 pm: March 10, 17, 31; Apr 7, 28; & May 5; Dinner Provided.)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly on All Youth Night - March. 24)

FIAT: elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly on All Youth Night - Feb. 24)

2019 Annual Jubilarian Mass

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held Sunday, June 23, 2019 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call the parish office, names need to be turned in by Friday, April 26

Preschool Announcement

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration is open! 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

Healing Mass

St. Mary Church, Newport's monthly Healing Masses are held the first Thursday of each month, in honor of St. John Vianney. The Litany of St. John Vianney will be recited after Communion and Fr. Michael Briesse will offer prayers of healing for body and soul. Please help us share this information with a friend, neighbor, or relative about our Masses with Healing Prayers. All are welcome and encouraged to come. Confessions begin at 6:00 p.m. (and continue throughout Mass). Mass begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by Healing Prayers. Location: St. Mary Church, Newport, 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. For additional information, please call the parish office at [301-934-8825](tel:301-934-8825)

Join us for Mass

Thursday March 7, at 7:30 am

the Body of Christ Farm

3325 Martha's Place in Waldorf

Catholic College and Vocations Fair

If you have students in high school or you just enjoy listening to great Catholic speakers, plan on attending the Catholic College and Vocations Fair on Saturday, March 9th from 11am-3pm at St. John's Parish in Hollywood, MD. Eucharistic Adoration and Mass (9:00-11:00am) will precede the fair. A dozen of the top colleges from the Newman Guide to Catholic Colleges will be present along with many religious orders. Dr. John Cuddaback, professor of philosophy at Christendom College and Mr. Brent Johnson, V.P. of Enrollment at Ave Maria University are the keynote speakers this year. The event is open to all and there is no admission charge. Food will be available for purchase. More information can be found online

at www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com/CCVF.

2019 Annual Appeal

There is still time to donate to the Annual Appeal. Envelopes are in the Narthex. Please give generously.

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Vicky Welch, Naomi Lilly, Sterling Greene, Aleli Puzon, Shirley Ehman, Dennis Wick, Vivian Truxon, Kenny Lindsay, Dorian Webster Sr., Dionne Gause, Pat Fisher, Christ Goldhammer, Melody Hudson, Ernest Mack, James Wiltz, Adele Alvey, Dorothy Neal, Dunny Proctor, K.D. Dillard, Josephina Knapp, 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

Saturday, March 2, 9:00 AM: Victims of Abuse by Clergy Members
Saturday, March 2, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, March 3, 8:30 AM: Puzon Family
Sunday, March 3, 10:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd (+)
Sunday, March 3, 11:30 AM: Addie Mack (+)
Sunday, March 3, 7:00 PM: Naomi Lilly
Monday, March 4, 9:00 AM: David Paradi (+)
Tuesday, March 5, 9:00 AM: George Nejme (+)
Wednesday, March 6, 9:00 AM: David and Pat Viets
Wednesday, March 6, 12 noon: Edwin Dutton (+)
Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 PM: Puzon Family
Thursday, March 7, 9:00 AM: Beatrice and Godfrey Egbufoama (+)
Friday, March 8, 9:00 AM: Kathleen Cassil

Ash Wednesday– March 6

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

***The Way* Retreat for Survivors of Abuse**

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring retreats for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a men's retreat on April 5-7, 2019, and a women's retreat on April 12-14, 2019 for survivors. These retreats are an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and to register, go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/> or call Deborah McDonald at (301) 853-4466

Mass Readings for March 10th.

First Sunday of Lent



***First Reading**

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

***Second Reading**

Romans 10:8-13

***Gospel**

Matthew 4:4b

www.usccb.org

The GIFT of the MASS

March 7 - April 14, 2019



This Lent, commit to a sacrifice of time, and invest in your spiritual life.
Be renewed through a more comprehensive understanding of the Holy Mass.

Join fellow parishioners by signing up today: www.olhoc.org/Mass

In English, select:
Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 pm or
Saturday mornings, 10-11:30 am

Childcare will be provided,
so all adults AND teens in the family
can participate in this Lenten offering
for spiritual renewal.

In Spanish, select:
Sunday evenings
after 7 pm Mass



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.

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

Shrove Tuesday

Help support our Youth Ministry by attending
our Pancake dinner on March 5 from 6-8 PM.
Food, Fun and A magic show, all for only \$5.00!

Lent at OLHOC

Ash Wednesday– Masses at 9am, 12 noon, and 7 pm. Ashes disturbed during Mass.

Gift of the Mass– begins Thursday March 7, or Saturday March 9 for six weeks

The Light is on for you (Every Wednesday during Lent) Confessions and Adoration beginning at 6 PM, Mass at 7 PM, Confession and Adoration 7:45–8:30 PM

Stations of the Cross (Fridays during Lent)- 2:30 PM and 7 PM (after 7 PM Stations, also Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration).

Outreach News

Over 60 people enjoyed a Shepherd's Table of good food and fellowship last February 21st. Many thanks to our menu coordinator Delores Cacciaglia and our many hard-working volunteers. Thank you also to Panera Bread of Waldorf for the generous donation of bread. Our next Shepherd's Table will be on April 18, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.