

REFLECTING ON OUR BAPTISM

As we just celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I am inviting each one of us to reflect on our own baptism and what baptism means for our Christian Life. Most people do not remember the date of their baptism. Many do not know the place of their baptism (city and name of church). Others cannot recall the names of their godparents. We all know our own birthday (and birthplace) and most people celebrate them every year. Does that mean that "baptism" is less important than natural "birth"? Do we understand the teaching of the Catholic Church that "BAPTISM IS BIRTH INTO THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST"? (CCC # 1277).

St. Paul eloquently explains the importance of baptism: *"Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life"*. Do we believe that we are baptized in Jesus Christ, that we die (all our sins, including original sin) with him in the waters of baptism and that we emerge as a NEW PERSON out of the waters of baptism?

Let us go back to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), which expands on the central fact that IN BAPTISM WE ARE BORN INTO A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST..., WE ARE BORN AGAIN! "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the GATEWAY to LIFE IN THE SPIRIT, and the DOOR which gives access to the OTHER SACRAMENTS. Through baptism we are freed from sin and REBORN AS SONS OF GOD; we are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission (CCC # 1213). Baptism is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism (CCC# 1277)". Maybe we do not focus our attention on baptism as most of us were baptized as infants. However, most of us have received the Sacrament of Confirmation at a much later age and we are told, "Confirmation gives us more of the graces, more of the Holy Spirit already received at baptism".

I like IMAGES. Images open our imagination. Thanks to the generosity of the Levasseur family (in memory of their deceased parents, long-time parishioners at OLHOC), we do have since last year a "BEAUTIFUL IMAGE of the HOLY SPIRIT" "in our own church.

When you leave the church, before entering into the Narthex LOOK UP! You will see a stained glass window similar to one at St Peter's Church in Rome representing the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. It has been placed above our baptistry, as a reminder of Jesus' own baptism in the Jordan: *"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the HEAVENS WERE OPENED FOR HIM and he saw THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE...and a voice came from the heavens, saying THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, with whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3:16-17).

This week, when you look up to the stained glass window of the HOLY SPIRIT, remember that your own baptism is similar to that of Jesus. At baptism, all of us too became BELOVED SONS AND DAUGHTERS of GOD, and the Holy Spirit also descended upon us, and since then He has never left us, He is always within us, at the inner core of our being. We may not feel His presence, but we should keep asking for His help. He is a constant reminder that GOD LOVES EACH OF US!

It is always a great joy for me to baptize children (throughout the year) and adults (at Paschal Vigil). We are blessed at OLHOC to have over 70 to 80 baptisms a year. Every baptism appears different. However, the same Holy Spirit is at work. Every baby/child or adult at baptism is transformed into a new life by the same Holy Spirit, becomes a full member of the same Church (Body of Christ) and can be truly called "beloved son or daughter of the same Father in Heaven".

At most baptisms, I am asking parents to keep celebrating the baptism of their children by lighting their baptism candle every year on the anniversary date ...If you have not done so, it is not too late to begin this tradition with your children. They may not have kept their baptism candles. Buy one for them and have it blessed on Sunday February 2nd (the Presentation of the Lord in the temple) when we will have the traditional blessing of candles (Candlemas).

Come Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts with Your Love! Guide all our steps and decisions!

One in Christ,
Father Alain



CCD Class Schedule

Jan.19/20- No CCD Classes

Jan. 26/27 – Sacramental Prep & All Youth Night (no regular classes). All Sunday & Monday families are encouraged to attend Sunday's 4 pm Youth Mass and All Youth night activities. (Fiat/Edge/Life team)

Feb. 2/3- CCD Classes

Feb 9/10- CCD Classes

Community Outreach

The next Outreach meeting will be on February 5, 2020 in the Fr. MARTIN Hall at 7p.m. Meetings last just one hour and all are welcome!

The next Shepherd's Table will be on February 20, 2020, at Good Shepherd Church. If you would like to volunteer please call the office.

Bible Study

We all need some encouragement during trying times. Paul's letter of thanks and encouragement to the Philippians is his letter to you. With his words and the example of his life, Paul exhorts the Philippians to have the mind of Christ, to live a life worthy of the Gospel, and, by God's grace, to gain Christ. Come join in on this new 6-week study on Philippians, which began Sunday, Jan 5, in the Divine Mercy Room, at 9:30 am. All are welcome!

REDISCOVER THE SAINTS

Book Discussion

The book *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly was handed out during the Christmas Masses December 24/25.

Join us on Thursday January 30, 2020 at 7 PM for a discussion of the book.

*If you need a copy, please call the office. We have re-ordered a limited amount, first come first served.

~Pre-school News~

Fall 2020 registration opens to parishioners January 6! Children must be confidently potty trained and at least three years old by Dec. 31, 2020, in order to start school in September. We have a half day and a full day program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Please call the office and ask for Nieda, or email preschool@olhoc.org.

OLLC participates in Amazon Smile. Please click through the following link so that we will receive a contribution from your qualifying purchases:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0341419>

2019 Tax Statements

If you would like a copy of your donations to OLHOC for 2019, please email the office at office@olhoc.org, or call (301)645-7112. Statements will be generated at the end of January.

Sick and Homebound Eucharistic Ministers NEEDED!

If you are interested in helping bring communion to those who cannot come to Mass, please leave your name with the office. There is a need within our parish.

Thank you!

Phase 3 of our Capital Campaign begins this week!



We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 Doris Chesley
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Vicky Welch
 Naomi Lilly
 Sterling Greene
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Rosano Wheeler
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Pat Fisher
 Christ Goldhammer
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr

Dunnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 K.D. Dillard
 Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathly Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Mary Dooley
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Marie Bottorf
 Joy Cooper
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause

Patricia Sutton
 Trenia Price
 Michael Sofield Jr.
 Norm Green
 Mary A. Dyson
 Jim Lavish
 The Dixons
 Grace dAlbrittain

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.
Please let us know if any names should be removed from the list.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, January 18, 9:00AM: Gerturde Hammett (+)
Saturday, January 18, 5:00 PM: Colleen Joffee
Sunday, January 19, 8:30 AM: Rose Willingham
Sunday, January 19, 10:00 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, January 19, 11:30 AM: Lawrence Stopper (+)
Sunday, January 19, 1:00 PM: Daniel Andrews
Sunday, January 19, 7:00 PM: Naomi Lily
Monday, January 20, 9:00 AM: Gertude Hammett (+)
Tuesday, January 21, 5:00 PM: Jim Chambers (+)
Wednesday, January 22, 9:00 AM: MaryLou Cooke
Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 AM: MaryLou Cooke
Thursday, January 23, 9:00 AM: Rose Sharmich
Friday, January 24, 9:00 AM: Gertrude Hammett (+)

If you would like to have a Mass said for yourself or a loved one, for intentions or in memory, please call the office.

Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Wednesday Scripture Study— The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass

First Friday— The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is said in Latin. This Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood.

First Saturday—Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy— Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

Mass Readings for January 26, 2020

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

***Gospel**

Matthew 4:12-23





YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation Year 1 & Year 2 - Sunday, January 26th from 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm. This is the parish sacramental preparation for Confirmation for students(who are in catholic school, public school or homeschooled), parent(s), and mentors, (sponsors are always welcome). This includes the 4 pm Mass followed by dinner and All Youth Night activities. Questions, visit www.olhoc.com/faq or contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Youth Ministry: Questions, please contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (meets most Sundays 5-6:30 pm, check website for dates)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

FIAT: Faith in Action Team elementary school ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

For more info and an updated list of our events please visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents

Tickets Available for the Youth Rally & March for Life - Friday, January 24th

Join thousands of youth from all over the USA in the nation's capital as we Stand for Life. We will take a bus from OLHOC to the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capital One Arena and then join the March down Constitution Ave to the Supreme Court. Limited tickets available, more info./register please visit www.olhoc.org/ym

Next All Youth Night - Sunday, January 26th

Join us for 4 pm Mass followed by pizza, faith, fellowship & fun for children in Elementary (FIAT), youth in Middle School (EDGE) & youth in High School (Life Teen) from 5-6:30 pm. Bring some friends, ALL are welcome!

Time to Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 2-8, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia

For more details and a video on this transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith visit www.olhoc.org/camp2020 Questions, please contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

To Join Our Youth Core & Support Team, please visit our website or talk to Marlen Coles. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ!

**SOUTHERN MD
PRO-LIFE MASS
1-24-20**

**DOORS OPEN
7AM**

BENEDICTION 7:30AM

**MASS 8AM-FR.
AARON QURESHI, HOMILIST**

**KEYNOTE
ADDRESS
CLAIRE
CULWELL
9AM**

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church
201 St. Marys Avenue LaPlata, MD**