

November 29, 2020

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD. COME LORD JESUS!

As we are celebrating THANKSGIVING Day this week, we can be GRATEFUL for all the blessings that God has poured upon each one of us, our families, our workplaces, and our parish in the last 12 months. Everything good we have in our lives comes from God. We have to be GRATEFUL to God, at all times, not only on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of our lives.

Should we be also grateful to God for what does not go so well in our lives ? The last six months have been challenging. Many people have suffered and are still suffering. God does not want us to suffer. HE has given us a free will. We believe that by accepting our suffering for GOD's Glory, we can be transformed and get closer to Him. I remember that I felt angry when last March we had no choice but to close our doors to all of you. This was painful for all of us. As six months have now passed, we see that we achieved many goals: we completed our CCD classes successfully, and Bishop Dorsonville came and confirmed all our candidates, a total of 35. Also 50 of our children received their First Communion. By September with the installation of a new steeple, all the planned works of our 3-year Capital Campaign had been completed successfully. It was also a joy to have Archbishop Gregory to join us in the final celebration of our 40th anniversary in mid-September. I am also grateful to God for the help of each one of you as together we have been able to handle our challenging financial situation, cutting expenditures through greater use of volunteers and maintaining sufficient weekly revenues despite reduced Mass attendance. Thanks to many of you as volunteers, we have also reopened our church with new protocols in place to safely resume in person Mass. The good news is that we have accepted this challenging situation, most of us have been able to move from Fear to Faith, and we have survived the temptations of despair, hopelessness, loneliness and isolation. The other good news is that God willing an effective vaccine will be available in the next few weeks. We can see the Light at the end of the tunnel...

This weekend, we celebrate the FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Our church looks different with the four banners of Advent: HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE, anticipating each of the four weeks before Christmas. Our hearts should also look different. They should be renewed and opened to the Coming of Jesus. This Advent, we have chosen as parish theme: "PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD. COME LORD JESUS!" We will reflect on this theme of preparation, of readiness, of anticipation of Jesus' coming at each of the nine consecutive Masses before Christmas (see poster in Narthex). Advent is a TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS CHRIST! After having meditated the last few weeks about the Second Coming of Christ, the Final Judgment, the End of Times, we are now entering a new beginning, a time to PRAY, a time to REPENT, a time to go to CONFESSION (see expanded schedule of individual confessions over the next two weeks), a time to be RECONCILED with God, a time to CONVERT, a time to BE READY for the coming of baby Jesus at Christmas.

This week-end, St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians (1:9): "God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." GOD is faithful. HE never abandons us. HE is our refuge. HE is our Light and Salvation. HE is our HOPE. HE LOVES us so much that he sends us HIS SON to give us eternal life. Through His Son we are called to return to God the Father. Do you truly desire to be close to Jesus? Is Jesus your best friend? Is Jesus your daily guide? Is Jesus your mentor? Do you desire to follow Jesus? Is your greatest desire to be in union with Jesus now on earth and forever in heaven? Are you keeping your eyes fixed on heaven? Are you prepared to receive Jesus in your hearts? Together this Advent Season let us prepare to welcome Baby Jesus at Christmas! Let us prepare to welcome the newborn King! Let us welcome Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass. Let us anticipate the JOY of Christmas! Let us open our hearts to welcoming Jesus with great hope and love! Let us together prepare for Christmas as it were our first Christmas!

Let us pray together: "COME LORD JESUS!"

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain



Religious Education News

We are already 1/3 of the way into CCD! Please continue your online classes. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

Community Outreach

The “Holiday House” remains in the Narthex for monetary donations to our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We also are collecting food for these baskets- stuffing, gravy, boxed potatoes, canned corn and green beans, yams and cranberry sauce. Thank you, in advance, to all OLHOC parishioners who have always been so generous!

Our next Outreach meeting will be December 2nd at 7 p. m.

Thank you for volunteering to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to those less fortunate.

REMINDER**

-Sanitize your hands before coming into church

-Masks are mandatory

-Maintain at least a 6 ft distance

-If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on www.olhoc.com -10 am on Sundays

Please pray for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory

~Pre-school News~

OLLC gives preschoolers a beginning in their Catholic education. Many families need financial assistance to attend our pre-school. If you are in a position to donate, please make your check payable to Our Lady’s Little Christians Preschool, or for online instructions, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org

CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

We hope you will join us!

The Youth Support Team is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events (hospitality, chaperones, fundraisers, prayer team..), confirmation mentors, or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website www.olhoc.org/ymteam or talk to Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

Save the Date!

Christmas Novena Masses

December 15-23 at 7 PM

“Prepare the Way of the Lord. Come Lord Jesus”

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Bariantos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittian
 Sid and Suzanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dunnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Lorrin Green

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trenia Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

The Dixons
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 Gloria Snyder
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson
 Kevin Viel Sr.

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, November 28, 9:00AM: Patricia Williams
 Saturday, November 28, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
 Sunday, November 29, 8:30 AM: Steven Craig Breiner (+)
 Sunday, November 29, 10:00 AM: Officer Jacobs Hancher (+)
 Sunday, November 29, 11:30 AM: Pat Viets
 Sunday, November 29, 7:00 PM: Lucca J. Galvan
 Monday, November 30, 9:00 AM: John Henehan
 Tuesday, December 1, 9:00 AM: Samantha LeSesne
 Wednesday, December 2, 9:00 AM: Lorrin Green
 Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 PM: Claire Trainque (+)
 Thursday, December 3, 9:00 AM: Krystal Keith
 Friday, December 4, 9:00 AM: Sophia and Giddeon Stewart
 Friday, December 4, 7:00 PM: Tara Geks

Mass intentions

If you would like to have a Mass said in 2021, the calendar is open in the office. Sign up for the Mass you would like so as to assure the date you want is available. Suggested stipend is \$10

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

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

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.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for December 6, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

***First Reading**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

***Second Reading**

2 Peter 3:8-14

***Gospel**

Mark 1:1-8

www.usccb.org

