

December 20, 2020

INSPIRED BY THE JOY OF MARY AND JOSEPH AT CHRISTMAS!

Are you ready to celebrate the JOY OF CHRISTMAS 2020? While we still have a few days to enter into that Joy, I would like to share some reflections about the JOY OF MARY AND JOSEPH at Christmas and how this most Holy Couple can inspire us.

Like both Mary and Joseph before Jesus's birth, we have many FEARS in our daily lives. We are afraid of the unknown. We are afraid of accepting God's will as it may go against our own will. Wouldn't you be afraid if a messenger of God, an angel, were to appear to you and begin to talk and tell you what to do?

The Angel Gabriel told Mary: "*DO NOT BE AFRAID MARY, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him JESUS. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.*" (Luke 1: 31-32). Joseph, learning Mary was pregnant before living with him, had decided to divorce her quietly when suddenly the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said: "*JOSEPH, son of David, DO NOT BE AFRAID to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the HOLY SPIRIT that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him JESUS, because he will save his people from their sins.*" (Matthew 1: 20-21). In both instances, Mary and Joseph through GRACE and FAITH overcame their fears and said "YES" to God.

We too like Mary and Joseph can surrender to God and be OBEDIENT. God is fully in charge. We are nothing without Him. With Him, everything is possible. God will give us the GRACE to believe and to obey. God will make us strong and take away our fears, including the fear of dying. Without fears, we can find PEACE. With Peace in our hearts, we can find JOY, that everlasting sense of unity with God.

This has been a most difficult year for most of us. The pandemic has now been going on for ten long months. Most of our traditional plans for a Joyful Christmas celebration are being challenged: restricted traveling with quarantines, home gatherings reduced to minimum, safe distancing, limited use of church capacity, restrictions on congregational singing etc... The good news about approval of vaccines has come too late to alleviate those restrictions for the full celebration of Christmas.

We should be prepared for the unknown. We should expect the unexpected without any anxiety. Like Mary, we all have found favor with God, and we should trust in HIS LOVE. We may feel that we are walking in unknown territory, that all is dark around us. But WALKING with the FAITH of Mary and Joseph, their HOPE, their HUMILITY and SELFISH-LESS LOVE, we believe that soon we will SEE A GREAT LIGHT, the Light of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us enter into these last few days of Advent with a renewed confidence in God's Love for each of us. Let us continue participate in the nine Masses before Christmas that began last Tuesday December 15 and will end on Wednesday December 23. Let us join in the Joy of the first few days of the new Year of St Joseph, especially let us imitate his humility, obedience, hope and self-less love. Let us also avail ourselves of the plenary indulgences granted by Pope Francis during the special Year of St Joseph (see Decree of Apostolic Penitentiary of the Vatican issued December 8, 2020). Though we can receive many plenary indulgences within the next 12 months (ending December 8, 2021), I suggest that as a parish we focus on those obtained on THREE MAJOR FEAST DAYS: 1. THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, and JOSEPH (Sunday December 27, 2020), 2. SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Friday March 19, 2021) and 3. SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER (Saturday May 1st, 2021).

Let us pray together through the intercession of St Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary: "*O Lord, infant Jesus, take away all our fears, give us the gift of Faith, bring us the Hope that saves, move us to forgive others as you forgive us, inspire us to be repulsed by sin, inspire in us Your self-less Love, keep us from temptation, make us holy, give us Your Peace, may Your Holy Will be done in our lives, FILL US WITH JOY THIS CHRISTMAS!*"

May you and your family have a most blessed and joyful Christmas! COME LORD JESUS!

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain



### Religious Education News

There are no new online classes this week, or next. Please continue to work on any classes you have missed. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

### Community Outreach

As we begin to put the Christmas food baskets together, the OLHOC Outreach would like to once again say thank you to all those who contributed cash and or food to our efforts. Christmas will be a little brighter for 50 families receiving the baskets thanks to the generosity of OLHOC parishioners!

The next OLHOC meeting is Jan 6, 2021

**From Father Alain,  
Father Ben, and the  
entire staff at OLHOC:**

**We wish you all a very Merry  
Christmas! May God bless  
you and keep you safe!**

**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](http://www.olhoc.org/ymteam) or talk to Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)



## Are you a lost sheep?

If you miss some of the things happening at Our Lady Help of Christians, you might be missing out of flocknotes.

Flocknotes is an online tool we use to communicate with all our parishioners. You can read Father Alain's weekly column, find out Mass times, or any current events happening in our parish. The information is always up-to-date.

Flocknotes comes directly to your email inbox on Fridays. Never miss any more news at OLHOC!

Sign up on our webpage (just look for the lamb) [www.olhoc.com](http://www.olhoc.com), or call the office and someone will assist you to get the latest information.

## Christmas Mass Volunteers sign-up online

*Please sign up to volunteer for the Mass you would like to attend on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-mass31>

Mass sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-christmas>

The office will be closed December 24-25, and December 31– January 1 so our staff can celebrate Christmas season with their families.

### \*\*\*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](http://www.olhoc.com) -10 am on Sundays**

**Help decorate our  
Church for Christmas!**



*Sunday, December 20 following the 11:30 am Mass, we will set up the church for our Christmas Season. Won't you come and be part of this wonderful gift of your time for the Glory of God!*

**We are asked to pray for:**

Julissa Barientos  
 Brandon Mack  
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar  
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina  
 James Thompson  
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch  
 Joseph Albrittain  
 Sid and Suszanna Marcus  
 Aleli Puzon  
 Patricia Delgado  
 Ann Marie Hobart  
 Larry McGraw  
 Ilene Custer  
 Derrick Webster  
 Julie Davis  
 David DeMarr  
 Dinnie Proctor  
 Amelia Vinceguerra  
 Lorraine Celijewski  
 Cren Wolden

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  
 Trena Price  
 Erick M. Knapp  
 Norm Green

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

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

*Please let us know if any names should be removed from this list.*



**Mass Intentions this Week**

Saturday, December 19, 9:00AM: Zophia Galvan  
 Saturday, December 19, 5:00 PM: Bobbie & Patrick Zalewski  
 Sunday, December 20, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners  
 Sunday, December 20, 10:00 AM: Arthur & Pauline Jaulbert (+)  
 Sunday, December 20, 11:30 AM: Father Richard  
 Sunday, December 20, 7:00 PM: Diana Medel  
 Monday, December 21, 9:00 AM: Andy Coles  
 Tuesday, December 22, 9:00 AM: Joanne Ouedrago (+)  
 Wednesday, December 23, 9:00 AM: Abigail Strawberry  
 Wednesday, December 23, 7:00 PM: Orlando Strawberry (+)  
 Thursday, December 24, 2:30 PM: Pat & David Viets  
 Thursday, December 24, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Youth  
 Thursday, December 24, 8:00 PM: Peter Nikoli (+)  
 Thursday, December 24, 9:30 PM: Glenda Nova  
 Friday, December 25, Midnight: Henry Ballesteros & Family  
 Friday, December 25, 8:30 AM: Delia Lagman (+)  
 Friday, December 25, 10:00 AM: AnnaMarie & Jose Gonzales & family  
 Friday, December 25, 11:30 AM: Kenney Cronin (+)

**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](mailto:office@olhoc.org).

**Mass Readings for December 27, 2020**

*The Holy Family*

**\*First Reading**

**Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3**

**\*Second Reading**

**Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

**\*Gospel**

**Luke 2:22-40**



[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)