

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Reminding us of the two greatest commandments of LOVE: "LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART ...AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF", Jesus invites us today to reflect on a key question: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Jesus is teaching us a major lesson through the powerful PARABLE of the GOOD SAMARITAN. A scholar of the law is testing Jesus: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" This encounter leads Jesus to tell the story of a man falling victim to robbers as he was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho: they stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest, then a Levite when seeing him passed on the opposite side of the road. A third person, a Samaritan traveler was moved with compassion and took care of the victim pouring "oil and wine" over his wounds. He then took him to an inn and cared for him...

Jesus gives the major lesson of this parable by asking the scholar of the law: WHO IN YOUR OPINION WAS NEIGHBOR TO THE ROBBER'S VICTIM? The scholar answered: "THE ONE WHO TREATED HIM WITH MERCY." Jesus approves this answer: "GO AND DO LIKEWISE."

I invite you to read slowly the entire Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and ask yourself the following questions: WHO IS JESUS IN THIS PARABLE? Is HE the GOOD SAMARITAN, or is HE the VICTIM TO ROBBERS? WHERE AM I? What is Jesus' personal message for me TODAY given the current challenges I face?

In one of his homilies, ORIGEN, one of the early Scripture Scholars (third century) comments on the following interpretation: "*The man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho is ADAM. JERUSALEM is PARADISE, and JERICHO is the world. The robbers are hostile powers. The priest is the Law, the Levite is the prophets, and the SAMARITAN IS CHRIST. The wounds are disobedience...the inn, which accepts all who wish to enter, is the Church... The inn's manager is the head of the Church, to whom its care has been entrusted. And the fact that the Samaritan promises he will return represents the Savior's second coming ...*" Origen can be at times controversial but his commentaries on Scriptures can generate good discussion.

I am not a Scripture scholar and will never be. I firmly believe that through the Scriptures, God gives us personal messages, especially in the four Gospels as we can all relate to Jesus in a very personal way. Over the last 30 years, I have been involved in Scripture Prayer Groups, like the ones we have in our parish on Tuesday mornings after 9 am Mass and Friday evenings (7 pm online).

Our Tuesday meeting this week focused entirely on the Gospel of the Good Samaritan, and the HOLY SPIRIT helped each participant to relate personally to this Gospel. One conclusion at the end of our one-hour meditation/discussion was that OUR NEIGHBOR IS JESUS HIMSELF! HE IS THE GOOD SAMARITAN who always treats us with MERCY: HE IS DIVINE MERCY! INFINITE MERCY. But JESUS Is also the robbers' victim.

May God the Father grant all of us the grace to imitate Jesus the Good Samaritan!

May the Holy Spirit help all of us to show mercy and love to everyone we encounter, especially those most in need.

May Jesus help all of us to see him in the faces of all our neighbors!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain



***We are asked to pray for:**

Loretta McKenzie
Josephina Knapp
Johnné Webster
Dévaugh Webster

David Mesler
Demico Theodore Hall
Jeanne Berry
Lorrin Green

Tiffany Brianna Chase
Wendell Thomas
Derrick Webster
Theresa Ambol

Names will be removed after 3 months.



Mass Intentions this Week

<p>Saturday, July 9, 9:00 AM: Rigo Jansen (+) 5:00 PM: Knights of Columbus</p> <p>Sunday, July 10, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners 10:00AM: Manuel & Theresa Gomes (+) 11:30 AM: Franciso Funes (+) 7:00PM: Gerardo Guardado</p> <p>Monday, July 11, 7:00AM: OLHOC Preschool 9:00 AM: Chris Storey (+)</p>	<p>Tuesday, July 12, 9:00AM: Mike & Diane Spurgeon</p> <p>Wednesday, July 13, 9:00 AM: Malick Diarra 7:00PM: Padma</p> <p>Thursday, July 14, 9:00 AM: Valerie Ita</p> <p>Friday, July 15, 7:00 AM: Carlos Lam 9:00 AM: Carlos Joaquin</p>
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Kathleen Winters 1943-2022

We ask your prayers for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Winters. Kathleen (Kathy) has been a parishioner at OLHOC since 1994. She attended the 11:30 am Mass with her sister, Louise Holmes for many years. Her viewing will be at 10:30 am on Tuesday, July 12. A funeral Mass will be at noon, immediately followed by her burial in Trinity Memorial.

May the soul of Kathy rest in peace!

Susan Ritchie 1955-2022

Susan died suddenly on Sunday, July 2. She and her husband James were long time parishioners until they moved to Georgia before the pandemic. We will celebrate her life with a Memorial Mass on Wednesday, July 13th at 7 pm. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

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 July 17, 2022

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**
Genesis 18:1-10a

***Second Reading**
Colossians 1:24-28

***Gospel**

Luke 10:38-42

www.usccb.org



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Consequences of Being Wrong!

Any reasonable person considers the possibility that he (or she) could be wrong regarding any important position they take.

If the pro-life movement is wrong, then we are guilty of trying to deny women a so-called right to privacy (which has never been part of our Constitution).

But, if the pro-abortion side is wrong, then they are indisputably and directly responsible for the slaughter and mass murder of millions of innocent children----three and a half thousand a day in the United States.

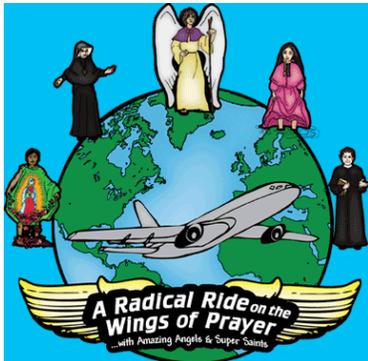
So, the question is, would it be better to be pro-life and wrong, or pro-choice and wrong? The answer is very clear! *Pro-Life Articles*

RCIA & CATHOLICISM FOR ADULTS

Interested in joining & learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation)? Want to learn and understand your Catholic Faith better? The rite of Christian initiation is designed for adults who seek to know about God and desire to enter the Christian faith. Please see Deacon Rich after Mass, or call the office.

CCD

Registration is now open (www.olhoc.com/re) for the 2022/2023 Religious Education. The program encourages the children to learn Catholic doctrines, prayers, scripture stories, traditions, and practices in order to become disciples of Jesus Christ. The program strives to connect the teachings of Christ and the Church with the students' life experience in living out the Christian life.



Who: kids ages 4 to 11 years old

Where: Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church

When: August 8 – 12, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Cost: \$ 35.00/child

To Register:

<https://www.olhoc.com/vbs22reg>

WE NEED ADULT VOLUNTEERS TO HELP! PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE

CCD

Share your love of GOD with our children!

Please consider being a Catechist for our CCD program for the 2022-2023 school year.

Requirements include being in full communion with the teachings of the Catholic faith, passing a background check, and Virtus compliant. Please speak to Sister Rosario or Father Alain if interested.

May God continue to bless our CCD program!

POST COVID, “NEW NORMAL”, AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

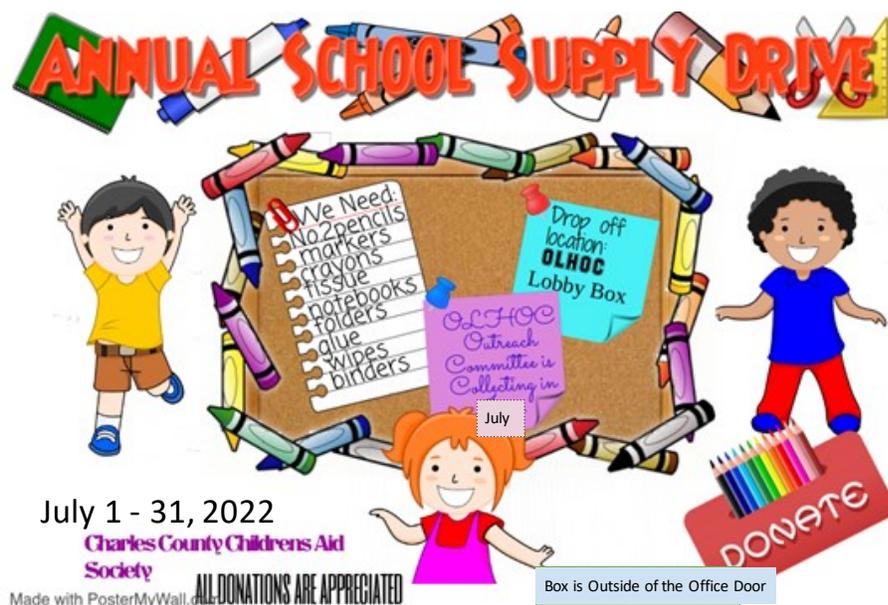
Dear brothers and sisters, as we are ending the year of our Eucharistic Renewal **we focus on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in the Church that is His body.** He makes Himself present in our midst when we gather and invoke His name. The Church is a sacramental reality, and the Sacraments are His visible and tangible presence among us. Therefore, watching Mass online does not in any way come close to celebrating it, let alone participating in it. **Hence, in this post COVID “new normal”, we have stopped livestreaming our masses, and we will rebuild our homebound ministry,** in order to be able to be truly present to those who for reasons of age or health (or other serious reasons) are unable to attend Mass. Hence, we ask that anyone who is unable to attend Mass in person please contact the office. We have a team of Eucharistic ministers who visit parishioners weekly. If you would like to see a priest, please let us know and we will come.

In this post COVID “new normal”, we no longer have the 1 pm Mass, and invite you to attend the Saturday 5 pm, or the 8:30 am Sunday, which are less crowded than 10 or 11:30 am Masses.

Good Bye Diane and Mike Spurgeon!

You might not know who the Spurgeon's are, but you have felt their presence at some time at OLHOC. Diane is responsible for the beautiful decorations in the church. Mike has been a major part of the live-streaming, and along with Diane has been the leader of many of our presentations about our faith. They are headed off in the sunset to Texas.

We wish them well, in their new home!



Outreach News

The next Shepherds Table will be August 18, 2022 and the next Outreach meeting will be September 14, 2022. See you in the fall!