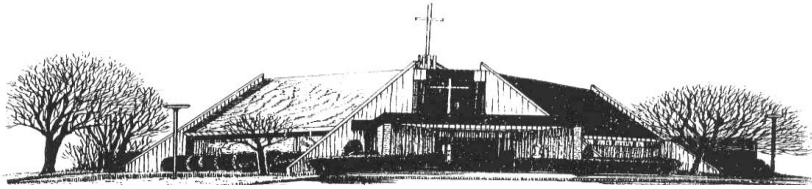


Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 2, 2020

*Celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family,
and World Day for Consecrated Life*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church



Josephite Fathers and Brothers

1600 Morris Road, SE Washington, DC 20020

Phone: 202-678-4999

Fax 202-610-3189

Emergency Telephone Number: 409-963-5633

Web Site: www.olphsedc.com

Email: info@olphsedc.com

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ, Pastor

Deacons: Ira Chase, Thomas Jones, and Timothy Tilghman

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Bernice Waller

Director of Religious Education: Ms. Cynthia Battle

Phone: 202-678-4999 Email: cdbattle@yahoo.com

Finance Council Chair: Mrs. Bonita Boulware

Phone 301-758-3768 Email: bhboul@aol.com

Pastoral Council Chair: Ms. Aletcia Whren

Phone 202-246-1960 Email: aletciawhren@gmail.com

Ministers of Music: Mr. Rawn Harbor,

Mr. Dehrric Richburg, Mr. George Stewart,

Ms. Debra Tidwell, Ms. Melanie Cobb

Mass Schedule

4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8:00 am and 11:00 am Sunday Masses

7:00 am Weekday Masses followed by Morning Prayer

Confessions

30 minutes before Mass or by appointment.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena/Communion Service

Mondays at 7:30 pm (All are welcome)

Novena to St. Joseph

Wednesdays after 7:00 am Mass

The Rosary

Recited at 4:00 pm on Saturday and 7:30 am and 10:30 am on Sunday.

BULLETIN ITEMS/INSERTS:

(ALL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PASTOR)

Email to Doris Savoy: dsavoy0642@aol.com or call 202-610-3751 **by MONDAY of the week prior to publication.**

Notify Doris Savoy of any printed flyers you want in the bulletin.

They must be received by Thursday morning.

Birthdays/Anniversaries submit two weeks before the 1st of the month in which the event falls.

Bereavement Newsletter (published for the first of each month): items are due **two weeks prior** to publication.

Sunday School

October-June

Sacraments

Baptism: Is celebrated periodically, but not during Lent. For information on Parent Information Sessions, contact the rectory for required attendance. Adults who desire Baptism receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil, following a period of participation in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Call 202-678-4999.

Confirmation: Available to our youth, thirteen years of age or older, through the religious education process with activities involving parents and sponsors. Adults are prepared through the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

First Communion: Preparation through the Sunday School Classes.

Funerals: Please contact the priest before confirming any arrangements with your funeral home.

Matrimony: Couples thinking about marriage should contact the parish priest prior to engagement or at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. The church desires to help couples prepare a good foundation for a lifelong commitment to this sacred marriage vocation.

NEWCOMERS & VISITORS: WELCOME TO "THE CHURCH ON THE HILL"!

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. May you be blessed with hope, joy, love and peace while here!
Should you want to join our parish family please contact a Minister of Hospitality, Priest,
or call the Rectory. Again, Welcome!*

OLPH History, Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values

Matthew 28:18-20:

The Commissioning of the Disciples

Then Jesus approached and said to them, *"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish has a rich, black cultural history. From its formation in 1920, the Black Catholics of Anacostia contributed to its development and growth through their sacrifices of time, talent, skills and funds to provide a parish plant of their own. Thus, the uniqueness of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish places it in a leadership position to interact with other Black and non-black parishes in utilizing the gifts of Black spirituality through music, dance, education, and special action.

MISSION STATEMENT: We, the people, of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, therefore, acknowledge that our Pastoral Mission is to **proclaim** Christ and **teach** the "Good News", to **worship** and **bear witness** in the community, to **love and serve** as Jesus commanded, and to **preserve and share** our rich Black heritage.

VISION STATEMENT: *"A Roman Catholic church that is actively visible in the Community, shares its spirituality through fellowship, and is committed to serving God."*

CORE VALUES

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: We will always speak the truth, respect the opinions and roles of all parishioners, and value each person, always maintaining Christian charity in all of our actions.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: We will seek to increase the understanding of our Catholic faith and expand our spiritual growth by participating in and supporting charitable and spiritual activities, in addition to attending Mass.

STEWARDSHIP: We will become involved in church activities and commit our time, talent and treasures.

INCLUSION: We will be open and inviting by extending ourselves to all by sharing in our parish life; thereby, reaffirming our vision of being actively visible in the community.

LEGACY: We will preserve our rich Black cultural history by respecting the past, continuing in service and faith in the present, and committing to the future of OLPH.

Mass Intentions for the Week

**Weekday Mass from 7 to 7:30 AM
followed by Morning Prayer.**

Mass Intentions are available for the faithful departed and the needs of the living. In addition, every weekend one Mass is offered for the parishioners of our parish. **Call the office to request a Mass intention.** An offering of \$10 is suggested. If you cannot afford the \$10, offer what you can.

Memorials are noted by: † Indicates **Deceased**
BD means **Birthday** **AD** means **Anniversary of Death**
Saturday (1st)

4:30 pm †AD James R. Grayson, Sr.
by daughter Lucie G. Shepherd
†AD James R. Grayson, Jr.
by sister Lucie G. Shepherd

Sunday (2nd)

8:00 am †AD Rev. William Danahy, SSJ (1st)
11:00 am For the People of OLPH

Monday (3rd)

7:00 am

Tuesday (4th)

7:00 am

Wednesday (5th)

7:00 am

Thursday (6th)

7:00 am

Friday (7th)

7:00 am

Saturday (8th)

4:30 pm For the People of OLPH

Sunday (9th)

8:00 am

11:00 am †AD Kenneth Ledbetter, by Dianna Ledbetter

The
WORD
by name is Jesus Christ

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 9, 2020

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Responsorial Psalm 112:4-9

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-16



**PLEASE NOTE: A FREE WILL OFFERING STILL MEANS
A FINANCIAL DONATION, even for children.**

January – Lectors

February – Ministers of Hospitality

The Week Ahead

CH: Church CHG: Church Grounds REC: Rectory
 1P/3P: First/Third Portable Building PR: Panorama
 Room PRF(S)(G): Panorama Room Field (Stage) (Grounds)
 WSG: Washington School for Girls

Sunday, February 2nd:

Regular 8 and 11 am Masses
 9:30 am Sunday School Staff Meeting – WSG
 9:30 am Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality Meeting – WSG
 9:30 am B.A.S.I.C. Ministry Meeting – WSG
 1:00 pm Perpetual Glory Rehearsal – CH

Monday, February 3rd:

7:00 pm Liturgy Meeting – Rectory

Tuesday, February 4th:

11:30 am OLPH Hilltoppers – PR
 12:30 Panorama Jammers Dance Group – PR
 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study – WSG

Wednesday, February 5th:

6:30 pm Youth Choir Practice – CH

Thursday, February 6th:

10:30 am LOC Food Pantry – 3P
 6:30 pm Baptismal Preparation Sessions – WSG

Friday, February 7th:

Saturday, February 8th:

8:30 am Voices of Praise Rehearsal – CH
 10:00 am St. Joseph's Ladies' Auxiliary #213

Sunday, February 9th:

Regular 8 and 11 am Masses
 9:30 am Sunday School – WSG
 1:00 pm Perpetual Glory Rehearsal – CH

PANORAMA ROOM BATHROOM RENNOVATIONS AND CLOSING OF THE HALL WILL BEGIN SOON!

Dates and times will be
 provided by Father Michael
 when everything is finalized.
 Use of the hall will then
 be noted.

IMPORTANT Announcements

February is Black History Month

We begin this weekend with praying the
Family Prayer at all Masses.
 On the weekend of February 22, 23
 you are invited to wear your
 African attire.

Monday, February 3, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR

Be a healing presence during this time of
 year, lots of us worry about coughs and
 colds. Well, we Catholics have a saint for
 that: Saint Blaise, the patron of throat
 ailments. Many churches offer special
 blessings of the throat on this day. Blaise
 was a healer of bodily and spiritual ailments.
 When he retreated to a cave to pray, people
 continued to seek him to be made well. He
 even healed sick animals who came to him.
 Are you the kind of person others turn to for
 caring? How can you help make others
 whole? *"They will lay hands on the sick, and
 they will recover."*

ATTENTION:

Altar Servers (KOTA), Lectors, Ushers, and
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
 If you are unable to fulfill your ministry obligation
 please remember to get a substitute. If it is your
 time to serve, please arrive timely to avoid last
 minute substitutions. Many thanks to those who
 already do this, it is very helpful.

ALERT: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
 Communion, although we are not serving on the
 Altar, we are still required to set up and clear the
 Credence Table after all Masses.

Study^{the} Bible with us

Tuesday Night Bible Study will be studying the Book of Leviticus at 7:00 pm in the WSG. All are welcome.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN (INFANT – 5 YEARS OLD)



Baptism Preparation sessions for children began **Thursday, January 30**. Remember you must contact Fr. Michael **before** attending. Parents, Godparents and Christian Witnesses must attend. For more information contact the rectory.

The **National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family** was created by Fr. James Goode, OFM in 1989. It is a day set aside to give special thanks to God for our families and place our every care in the arms of Jesus. The prayer will be recited at all Masses this weekend.

World Day for Consecrated Life

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life and it is celebrated in the Church this weekend. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Quote for the Week

"Those who refuse to persevere are destined to failure. The prize comes at the end of the race."

tithes & offering

Worship the Lord in Giving

January 26, 2020

Attendance: 260

Offertory: \$5,910.00

Operating Expenses:

\$15,000.00

Flowers for the Altars

Interested in remembering a loved one, living or deceased, with flowers for the **Altar of Sacrifice** or for the **Tabernacle/Eucharistic Altar**

If so, please contact the Rectory.

\$50.00 for the Altar of Sacrifice

\$35.00 each or \$70.00 for two for the Tabernacle

SPIRITUALITY

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Discuss with the family the persons of Simeon and Anna as they meet Jesus. (Luke 2: 25–40) Because Simeon and Anna lived lives of prayer and fasting in the Temple, they were filled with the Spirit of God. That is why they were able to identify Jesus as the Savior even though Jesus was only a baby.

To these two holy people, he was recognizable as the Redeemer who had been promised. Simeon described Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." We too are called to recognize Jesus as Lord. Together as a family discuss ways to recognize Jesus as Lord by praying and attending Mass, fasting, and serving others. As a family, decide on one specific sacrifice you can make in order to alleviate the suffering or need of someone you know.

PREPARING FOR MASS: Friendly Reminder!

We should read the Sunday Scriptures during the week before we come to Church. We should read them three times: **Once** for the head, **Once** for the heart, **Once** for the Holy Spirit to speak to our head and heart. Thus when we come to worship, we hear the **Word Proclaimed and Preached**. So is this your practice? Is it part of your spirituality as a Catholic believer in the Lord Jesus? Why not make it a family thing to do!



George and Mary Shearard 22nd on February 1st
Deacon Ira & Judy Chase 57th on February 8th
Bobby & Shelia Greene 20th on February 16th
Thomas & NewVelvet Washington 60th on February 20th

Marriage Encounter Weekend: Just as Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, present your marriage to the Lord. Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on **February 28 – March 1**. The weekend is in College Park, MD. Give your marriage a Valentine's gift you won't forget! Apply on moments4marriage.org. **Seats are still available.** Please apply as soon as possible. For more information leave a message at 301-541-7007.



FEBRUARY

4th Teresa Curry
5th LaJuan Alexander
6th DeAndre Hammitt
7th Maxine Hart
8th Jackson Graham
12th Nicole Graham Bernadette Waters
13th Nicole Shaw
16th Leia Conrad
17th Joseph Thomas
18th Pearl Baylor Jasmine Handon

URGENT REMINDER:

When names **can be removed** from any of the sick listings, please contact Doris Savoy or notify the Rectory.

Special Prayers For Those In Need

ENTERING THE HOSPITAL? Parishioners planning to enter the hospital are encouraged to receive the **Sacrament of the Sick** prior to admission. Because of privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify parishes of a parishioner's stay. **Please notify the Rectory** of the name of person, hospital and room number, also **when the person returns home**.

Parishioners who are sick or homebound and unable to attend Mass on Sunday may request to receive the Eucharist. Even if you are ill for a short period of time you are most welcome to receive a home visit. **Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.**

REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS as well as those in ****HOSPITALS and *NURSING/REHAB Facilities**.
*Sonnie Boulware, John Brown, Lorraine Brown,
*Margaret Edwardina Coleman, Shelia Conway, Agnes Dua, *Thomas "Phil" Ford, *Cordella Gough, Eleese Gravett, Jerome Hall, Alfred Harris, *Michael Holley, Ruth Holt, Hilda Kearney, *Geraldine Lee, Antoinette Reese, and Kobe Williams.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

There is nothing too great or too small for prayer!!
Carolyn Alston, Dawnielle Battle, Cynthia Battle, Michael Battle, Herb Baylor, Alice Bethea, Leora Bentley, Vincent Blalock, Carolyn Brown, Hilda Brown, Millicent Brown, Jasmine Campbell, Demarquis Carter, Terneara Carter, Patricia Chapman, Judy Chase, Margo Cooke, Patricia Cooke, Minnie Cooper, Judith Dean, Phyllis Delaney, Celina Dixon, *Sterling Doleman, George Dugue, Geraldine Edmonds (sister Louis Lloyd), Beverly Ford, Alyce (Micky) Foster, Toni Gaines, Barbara Glover, Edward Glover, Betty Graham, Calestard Gravett, Marjorie Hammitt, Roberta Harrod-Brooks, Agnes Maxine Hart, John Hawkins, Sr., Roslyn Holmes, Dorita Hughes (mother of Terneara Carter), Connie Jackson (sister James Jackson), James Jackson, Joan Jackson, Sharon Jackson-Taylor, Bettie Johnson, Damon Johnson, Janell Johnson,

*Michael Johnson, Vincent Jordan, Betty Lawson, Dianna Ledbetter, Edith Lee, Denise Leftwich, Fred Lewis, Charlotte Lewis, Marie Lucas, Angela Lyles, Crystal Martin, Katalina Masembwa, Vincent Matthews, Justine Middleton, Barbara Minnick, Danielle Mitchell, Elizabeth Moeller, Henrietta Moody, Yvonne Moody, Gloria A. Moore, Gloria V. Moore, Warren Newton, Very Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Marcia Marlene Oliver, Nathan Owens, Marilyn Proctor, Rose Quander-Nevedon, Audrey Robinson, Willie Mae Robinson (grandmother Dyllan Robinson), Shirley Samuels, Julia Scott, Bernadette Smith, Charles Smith, Dolores (Polly) Smith, Clementine Smith-Easley, Vivian Staples, Curtis Stephens, Tyrell Stewart, Mark C. Stone, Marianne Thompson, Reynaldo Thurston, Rose Thurston, Shirley Toye, Daryl Tucker, Dawn Washington, Errin Washington, Martina Washington, (daughter of NewVelvet Washington), NewVelvet Washington, Thomas Washington, Bernadette Waters, Jean Westray, Carolyn Wheeler, Francis Wheeler, Earline Wilkinson, Jacob Williams (husband of Josephine Williams), Katina Williams-Thomas.

*Military deployed to Poland.

UPCOMING Events

**JOIN OLPH BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY SODALITY'S TRIP TO
HARRINGTON RACES AND SLOTS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020
DEPARTING OLPH 10:00 AM
RETURNING 6:00 PM**

Donation \$40.00 (Includes a \$15.00 Casino
Rebate and \$7.00 towards Buffet)

Contacts:

Elzena Bijou 301-423-6723

Bernadette Smith 301-567-8044

Make checks payable to: OLPH Sodality
Proceeds will benefit the OLPH Sodality
Activities.

**REMBER: A Paid Seat is a Guaranteed
Seat!**

+++++

COME AND SEE

The Diaconate Formation Office is holding "Come and See" meetings for men to learn more about the permanent diaconate and the formation program, which will be conducting interviews for the Ordination Class of 2025. Men of prayer with a heart for service to the Church and the community, between the ages of 30 to 60 who are feeling called to learn more about deacons are encouraged to attend on **Wednesday, March 4, 7-9 PM** at the Church of the Incarnation, 880 Eastern Avenue N.E. Washington DC 20019. Men inquiring who are married are strongly encouraged to bring their wife to the "Come and See" meeting. Deacons and their wives will be at these meetings to answer questions and share their experiences. For more information, please visit the diaconate formation webpage on the Archdiocese of Washington website.

 **SAVE THIS DATE!**

Saturday, February 29, 2020

MINISTRY PRACTICUM

Especially For All Liturgical
Ministries, but everyone is invited!!
More Details Coming Soon.

+++++

School News

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2200 Callaway Street

Hillcrest Heights, MD 20748

Call 301-894-2323 for all inquiries

Please note that our OLPH Education Fund
Assessment 5% of our Sunday Collection
prescribed by the Archdiocese of Washington,
goes directly to Holy Family School.

+++++



February 2, 2020

As people of the 21st century, it is easy for us to take for granted the importance of light. Since Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb, we have had control over light. When night falls, or the days of winter grow shorter, we do not alter our plans, we simply flick a switch and our work, our recreation, our lives go on as usual.

This control of light is something new in human history. Before the discovery of fire, our earliest ancestors were totally dependent upon the sun and moon for light. When the sun set, life stopped. They slept and waited, often in fear, until a new day began. Even after the discovery of fire and the use of it in torches and lanterns and candles, the quality of light was still limited. Normal life could not continue until the sun rose again.

Our ancestors who knew the pressing reality of darkness could not but appreciate light. They understood that light brought with it two great gifts: the gift of knowledge and the gift of assurance. Without light we cannot see, but with light, we can recognize the world around us. We can know what our environment is. We can identify the people that we love, the realities which populate our world. Light brings us this knowledge, and with it comes assurance—assurance that we can see what is before us, that we can recognize the possibilities in our circumstances, that our action can make a difference.

Light brings with its knowledge and assurance, and our ancestors knew that immediately. But we, who take light for granted, do not recognize it as easily. This is why, when Simeon says today in the gospel that Jesus is the light to the nations, the light to the world, we must imagine what our ancestors heard in those words, so that we can truly understand their meaning.

When Simeon says that Jesus is the light, it is not some poetic embellishment to increase his stature. It is a statement that Jesus is necessary for life, that Jesus is the direct means for our knowledge of who God is for us and how God will be present to us. Jesus is essential for us to have that knowledge, and from that gift flows assurance—the assurance of God's presence in our life, God's reality in our midst.

Understanding that light brings knowledge and assurance is as important today as it ever was, because darkness continues in our world. The darkness of tragedy continues, as we have seen this weekend in the shuttle disaster. The darkness of fear remains as we anticipate the possible coming of war. The darkness of loss is present if we miss someone that we love and must deal with the end of a relationship. The darkness of pain is real, a pain resulting from misunderstanding, from alienation, or from mental or physical sickness. All of this darkness is still a part of our lives. Therefore, the proclamation that Christ is the light is needed to remind us who God is for us so that we might have the assurance that we will not face the darkness alone.

Christ then is our light, but that light is meant to be reflected. Simeon in the gospel today says that Jesus is the light. But in Matthew's gospel Jesus tells us that we are the light, we are the Light of the world. By that proclamation we are told that the knowledge and assurance which we have received from Jesus is the very light we should pass on to others. Our actions and our commitment to one another are meant to reflect the knowledge of who God is and how God loves us. We are to pass on the assurance, the comfort and the security that comes from God's presence in our lives.

Knowledge and assurance—two gifts of light. The more that we can appreciate these dimensions of light, the more clearly, we can see who Christ is for us and who we are called to be for one another.

Today is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Because this gospel in which Simeon proclaims Jesus as the light has always been read on this day, our ancestors chose this day to celebrate the reality of light. They chose to celebrate light in the way that light was most available to them, in the candles that they used to light their world. Today is also called Candlemas Day. It is the day on which the Church blesses candles and honors Christ as our light. Therefore, candles should be for us more than a mere decoration in our sanctuaries or homes. They should stand as a reminder of the essential quality of Christ's light which brings to us our knowledge of God and the assurance that flows from it.

Let us claim Christ as our light. Then let His light shine through us so that the knowledge of God and the assurance of God's love might brighten our darkened world.

(some commentary from Cleveland Institute for Religious Studies)