

Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday -- December 13, 2020

Centennial Theme: "Remembering, Rejoicing and Reaching in Faith"

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church



Josephite Fathers and Brothers

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PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ, Pastor

Deacons: Ira Chase, Thomas Jones, and Timothy Tilghman

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Bernice Waller

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Finance Council Chair: Mrs. Bonita Boulware

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Pastoral Council Chair: Ms. Aletcia Whren

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Ministers of Music: Mr. Rawn Harbor, Director

Mr. Dehrric Richburg, Mr. George Stewart,

Ms. Debra Tidwell, Ms. Melanie Cobb

Rejoice!



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 Rector. 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



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.

Memorials are noted by: † Indicates **Deceased**

BD means **Birthday** **AD** means **Anniversary of Death**

Sunday (13th)

10:00 am For the People of OLPH

Monday (14th)

8:00 am **BD** Joan Lewis

By her sister Pearl Baylor

Tuesday (15th)

8:00 am Ladies of Charity Deceased Members

By Charlene Hursey

Wednesday (16th)

8:00 am †Joyce Bell Thompson

By her son Dr. Charles Bell

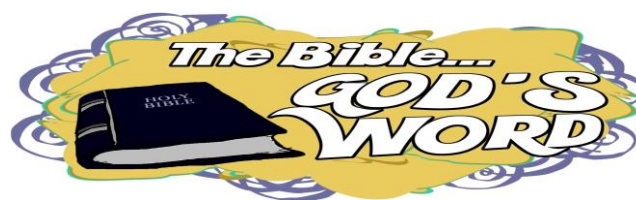
Thursday (17th)

8:00 am †**BD** Rita Pearl Stevenson

By her daughter Carolyn Brown

Sunday (20th)

10:00 am For the People of OLPH



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

Responsorial Psalm 89:2-5,27,29

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Quote for the Week

“Knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Jesus.”

This Week

Sunday, December 13th:

10:00 am Mass

12:00 pm-1:00 pm Virtual Sunday School Class

Monday, December 14th:

Saint John of the Cross, was a Spanish Catholic priest, mystic, and a Carmelite friar of converso origin. After joining the Carmelites in 1563, he joined forces with St. Teresa of Avila to carry out a reform of the order. He is a major figure of the Counter-Reformation in Spain, and he is one of the thirty-six Doctors of the Church. Saint John of the Cross is known especially for his writings. He was Beatified January 25, 1675 and Canonized December 27, 1726.

"Prayer of Peace" to calm your mind

(By St. John of the Cross)

O Blessed Jesus, grant me stillness of soul in Thee. Let Thy mighty calmness reign in me. Rule me, O thou King of gentleness, King of peace. Give me control, control over my words, thoughts and actions. From all irritability, want of meekness, want of gentleness, O dear Lord, deliver me. By thine own deep patience give me patience, stillness of soul in Thee. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like Thee. Amen.

Thursday, December 17th:

10:30 am LOC Food Pantry – 3P

Sunday, December 20th:

10:00 am Mass

12:00 pm-1:00 pm Virtual Sunday School Class

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

NOTE: This year, statements will only be issued if requested. To finalize December statements, funds must be submitted by December 27th or if done on-line by December 29th. A form is being created and will be available on the web or may be picked up from the Rectory. You will be notified when available. You will be able to start submitting requests by January 11, 2021. Forms **MUST BE** returned to Mrs. Bernice Waller.



Church News

MASSSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED ON THE OLPH WEBSITE OR GO TO
<https://facebook.com/OurLadyofPerpetualHelp.DC>
Sunday 10:00 am Monday-Thursday 8:00 am

Request your Mass Intention

8:00 am Weekday Masses are available for you to offer prayers for your family, friends and yourself. Contact the Rectory for available dates. **PLEASE NOTE:** Mass Intentions may **NOT** be made on Solemnity Days, Fridays, nor Saturdays, effective January 2021.

Remember ALL Sunday Masses are offered For the People of OLPH until further notice.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Collection Today: December 13, 2020

"Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. **Please be generous.**



Items Available in the Rectory

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Saint Joseph Sunday Missal for 2021 \$5.00

The Word Among Us \$1.00

The Living Faith \$1.00

Candles \$3.00

Lector's Handbooks Also Available \$5.00



Tuesday Night Class
Starts promptly at 6:30 pm
Virtual with Deacon Chase

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83343759396?pwd=TnFXT3JzdS9ZT0JqY0pjeTgvYWWhXZz09>

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Collections last week: \$9,010.00

Many thanks to all OLPH parishioners for sending in your tithes and offerings. You may continue to remit your offerings via mail (**Attention Mrs. Waller**), pay on-line, or dropped off at the office. **Your continued support of our parish is greatly appreciated.**
Thank you in advance.

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS
2019-nCoV
(coronavirus)

COVID-19
Safety Tips

- Wear a Mask**
- Wash hands frequently**
- Avoid touching your face**
- Cover mouth when you cough**
- Practice social distancing**
- Avoid contact (touching) others**
- Avoid non-essential travel**
- Clean & disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces**

JOURNEY OF FAITH



In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world. As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8, 19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us.





Michael & Sandra Hawkins 10th on December 18th
Darrell & Kelly Tucker 28th on December 26th



12th Mary Shearard Carolyn Simmons
13th Jasmine Campbell
19th John Washington, Jr.
20th Deloris Harrison
22nd Maurice Blassingame Margaret Short
24th Eva Galloway Robert Moody
Jennifer Tilghman
25th Hilda C. Brown Donne' Hawkins
26th Joseph Gant Stephanie Johnson
29th Julia Melva Scott
30th Theresa Green Cain
31st LeQuania Williams

PARISHIONER TIDBITS

We need your help!

Dear OLPH Parishioners,
In doing our **PARISH SURVEY** and **REGISTRATIONS** for Sunday School, we found that many addresses, phone numbers, and emails have been changed without notice to the Rectory. **PLEASE, PLEASE CONTACT the Rectory and UPDATE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION.** We need all three items: address, phone number(s) and emails.

Thank you.

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.**

FRIENDLY REMINDER

We would like to keep our LIST current.

Please contact Doris Savoy via email **dsavoy0642@aol.com.** or call the Rectory when a **request to add** as well as the **request to remove** a name.



Remembering Our Homebound Members

HOMEBOUND, **HOSPITALS and/or *NURSING/REHAB
Nettie Biscoe, *Sonnie Boulware, **Carolyn Brown, John Brown, Lorraine Brown, Shelia Conway, Roberta Dade-Young, Agnes Dua, *Cordella Gough, Elease Gravett, *Michael Holley, Ruth Holt, Hilda Kearney, *Geraldine Lee, Marie Lucas, Vincent Matthews, Antoinette Reese, Charles Smith, Delores Smith, **Reynaldo Thurston, and Kobe Williams.

Prayer Requests

Evelyn Akoto, Michelle Brookings-Cheek, Thomas Henry Brooks, Louis Carter, Brittany Chase, William Clemons, Sylvia Cofield, Margo Cooke, Steve Cooke, Calvin Fitzgerald, Toni Gaines, LaShawn Gaines, Karin Joy Hodge, Charles Jackson, James Jackson, Jessica King, Elizabeth Moeller, Yvonne Moody, Joan Morris, Teresa Naylor, Marcia Marlene Oliver, Mattie O'Neal, Charles Penny, Lillian Penny, Deidre Dorsey Point, Tamala Sappington, Amy Scroggins, Eric Scroggins, Edward Stoner, Kelly Tucker, Rose Thurston, and Bernadette Waters.



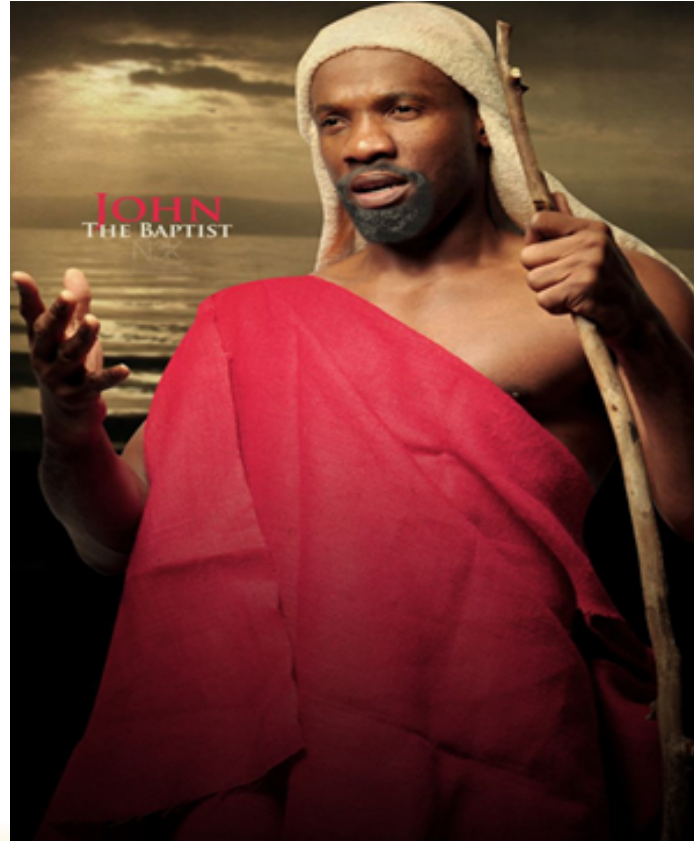
Patience and Hospitality

Mass Readings: Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 / John 1:6–8, 19–28

Learning from John the Baptist

The Old and the New: Last Sunday, we heard of Isaiah’s prophecy and Mark’s account of Saint John the Baptist. Like a good mother, the Church sometimes repeats herself. As such, we hear again from the Prophet Isaiah this Sunday, but we are given John’s account in the Gospel. As with every Sunday, we can see a rapport between the Old Testament and Gospel reading. The heavily messianic text of Isaiah 61 is presented, in which the Scriptures speak of anointing, being sent, and doing the works of the kingdom of God. In the Gospel passage, the Baptist engages in a back-and-forth with some Levites. He will not allow himself to be boxed in. He instead points his interlocutors to someone who is coming after him and who is greater than him.

Our Response: In the repeat introduction of John the Baptist, we can learn many lessons. In particular, the Baptist, as the last of the Old Testament prophets, is fulfilling his call by instructing us to wait and anticipate the coming of the Messiah. In many respects, Advent is the season of John the Baptist, not only because we are told so much about him, but because we are called to imitate him in his patience and in his openhearted hospitality to the coming of the anointed Savior. In the second reading, Saint Paul exhorts us to be “preserved blameless” as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. With this admonition in mind, how can we nurture the patience and hospitality of John the Baptist in our own hearts today?



Images: Adobe Stock

PRAYER

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.”

~ Luke 1:46



O long-awaited Messiah,
You come to us in our need.
You bless us. You raise us up.
Guide us as we wait for you.
Bless us with patience and hospitality,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR REFLECTION

Our fallen world tells us to live only for ourselves. The Prophet Isaiah proclaims that the Messiah will serve the poor and forgotten. John the Baptist modeled this way of life, as he prepared the way of the Lord. How can I make straight the way of the Lord in my life?

INSPIRATION FOR THE SEASON

Saint Lucy

December 13

Saint Lucy was a young Sicilian maiden who lived in the late third/early fourth century. Her father was of Roman nobility, but he died when she was young. Following a respected custom among Christian young woman at that time, Lucy patiently waited for the return of the Lord, and she consecrated her virginity to God. Hence, she distributed her wealth to the poor. Eventually she was accused of being a Christian, which was a capital crime in ancient Rome, was tortured, and killed. In her torture, Lucy's eyes were plucked out, but they were later miraculously restored. Because of this divine action, Lucy is the patron saint of eyes and of those with eye troubles. In our own faith, we can learn a lot from Lucy's perseverance, patient waiting, and bravery. This Advent season, we ask Saint Lucy to pray for us that God will open the eyes of our hearts as we wait for him.



Images: Adobe Stock

DAILY LIVING

“Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray.” ~ St. Louis de Montfort

FAMILY FOCUS

On this Third Sunday of Advent, the Church encourages us with the inspiring image of John the Baptist. The holy man called us to repentance and to preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Like him, we must nurture a patient waiting and open hospitality in our hearts. We are invited to have a joyful hope in our hearts. This is why the Church also calls today Gaudete Sunday, which refers to a Latin command that means, “Rejoice!” This special Rejoice Sunday marks the middle of the Advent season and a shift in focus. Now, as we rejoice, we turn from patient waiting to active kindness and hospitality.

Today we light a rose candle. The color rose represents hope and joy. As we light the third candle, let's think of the following:

- What greater acts of kindness can I show to my loved ones?
- How can I broaden my heart to be more hospitable to others?
- How can I imitate the witness of John the Baptist in my life?

CATECHISM CONNECTION

When the Church celebrates the *liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 524



“Make straight the way
of the Lord.”
— John 1:23

What are we doing for Advent?

Join the OLPH Parish in an

Advent/Christmas Paying Forward Community Project

Traditionally our Thanksgiving Collection has been donated to the Ladies of Charity Food Pantry. COVID has prevented us from worshipping together as we have become accustomed but doesn't stop us from continuing to support the Food Pantry. But this year it will be a little different.

We are asking that each family prepare a Food Box to be given to the pantry for distribution during the Christmas Season. All you need to do is:

- ✚ Decorate a cardboard box
- ✚ Put 1 item from the list below each day in your box
- ✚ Bring your filled box to the rectory on January 4, 5, or 6
(Official end of the Christmas Season)
- ✚ A personal note or card from your family to theirs

The boxes will be distributed from the pantry on January 7, 2021

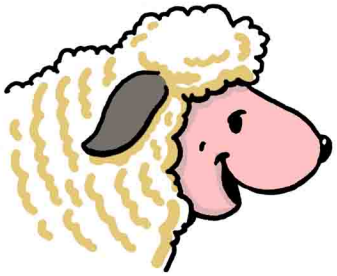
REVERSE **ADVENT CALENDAR**

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce
December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can corn
December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 23 - can carrots
December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM





The Pharisees questioned John, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ?" How did John answer?



Write the letter that is in the first word but not the second. Then fill in the blanks.

1. rate - tea = ____
2. meal - alm = ____
3. told - old = ____
4. trash - star = ____
5. moose - some = ____
6. beat - tea = ____
7. pint - tin = ____
8. time - met = ____
9. yarn - ran = ____
10. team - met = ____
11. zone - one = ____
12. waste - seat = ____
13. dune - den = ____
14. main - aim = ____
15. sand - and = ____
16. meager - eager = ____

"____ 8 ____ 6 ____ 10 ____ 7 ____ 3 ____ 8 ____ 11 ____ 2 ____ 12 ____ 8 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____
 ____ 12 ____ 10 ____ 3 ____ 2 ____ 1 ____ 5 ____ 4 ____ 14 ____ 15 ____ 10 ____ 8 ____
 "____ 6 ____ 13 ____ 3 ____ 10 ____ 16 ____ 5 ____ 14 ____ 9 ____ 5 ____ 13 ____
 ____ 15 ____ 3 ____ 10 ____ 14 ____ 15 ____ 5 ____ 14 ____ 2 ____ 9 ____ 5 ____ 13 ____
 d ____ n ____ k ____
 ____ 5 ____ 5 ____ 3 ____ 14 ____ 5 ____ 12 ____ 4 ____ 2 ____
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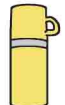





Ages 7+

December 13, 2020 • John 1:6-8, 19-28

Make Straight the Way of the Lord

This Scripture is about a man who came as a witness. Find out about him.

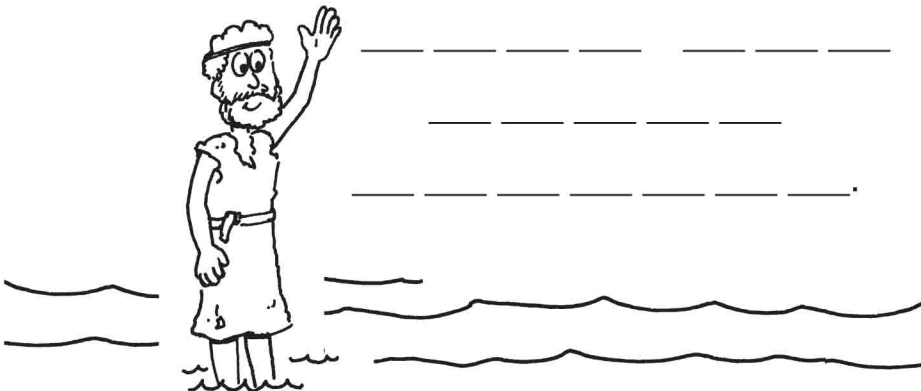
Name each picture. Write all the letters of each word in order on the blanks at the bottom.

- 1)  _____
- 2)  _____
- 3)  _____
- 4)  _____
- 5)  _____
- 6)  _____

____ e ____ a ____
 1 1 1 1 2 3 3 3
 ____ a ____ w ____ w ____ s ____ n ____
 1 4 6 4 2 4 6 3
 by G ____ d; hi ____ m ____
 1 5 6 5 4
 ____ a ____ Joh ____
 5 1 2


Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church
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Washington, DC 20020

Starting with the second letter, cross out every other letter and write the remaining letters on the lines below.

[illegible]

to ask John who he was.
What did John say?

Write the definition for
each description.
Then fill in the blanks.

[illegible]