

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY) DECEMBER 14, 2025

## *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church*



### **Josephite Fathers and Brothers**

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**Join us Live-Stream:** YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@OurLadyofPerpetualHelpSEDC>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofPerpetualHelp.DC>

### **PARISH STAFF**

***Very Rev. Cornelius K. Ejiogu, SSJ, Pastor***

**Deacons: Ira Chase and Thomas Jones**

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Bernice Waller

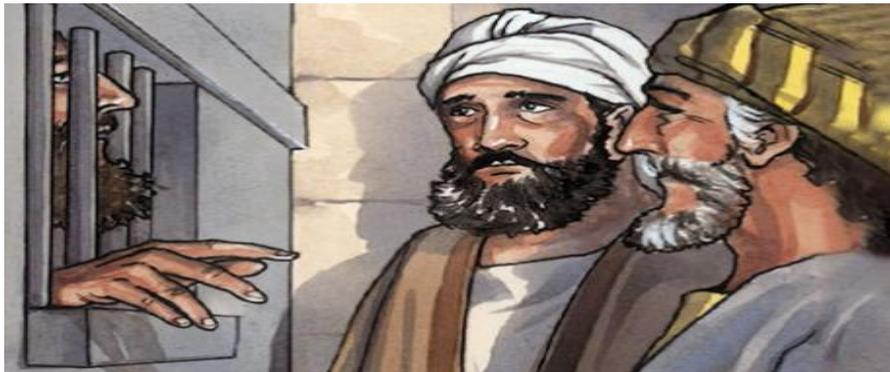
Director of Faith Formation: Ms. Cynthia Battle

Director of Music: Mr. Rawn Harbor

Youth Choir Director: Melanie Cobb

**Congratulations and Welcome Deacon Alexander Lema**

Welcome Seminarian: Lawrence Omatola



**When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him,  
*“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”***

The **Third Candle** is called the “**Shepard's Candle**”, and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for **JOY**. The third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

### **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 for a Registration Form. **Again, Welcome!**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm**  
 (Lunch Hour 12:30-1:30 pm)  
**OFFICE CLOSED: FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON THE  
 OLPH WEBSITE**

**Sunday 10:00 am Monday-Thursday 8:00 am**  
**Saturday 4:30 pm Mass not Live Streamed**

**Mass Intentions may not be made on  
 Solemnities, Fridays, Saturdays nor Sundays.  
 Mass Stipend Donation is \$10.00**

**Contact Doris Savoy in the Rectory, Ext. 2,  
 or email [dsavoy0642@aol.com](mailto:dsavoy0642@aol.com).**

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**SUNDAY DONUTS**

**Sunday fellowship with donuts and coffee  
 will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays ONLY.  
 Organizations and/or Ministries, please  
 contact Millicent Hawkins to advise when you  
 will be able to assist on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.**



Memorials are noted by + indicates deceased  
 BD means Birthday AD means Anniversary of death

**Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>)**  
 10:00 am For the People

**Monday (15<sup>th</sup>)**  
 8:00 am + Marvin Penny  
 By Gloria A. Lessington

**Tuesday (16<sup>th</sup>)**  
 8:00 am Children and Adults abducted in Nigeria  
 By Gloria A. Lessington

**Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup>)**  
 8:00 am Paul Kearney  
 By Sahon Palmer

**Thursday (18<sup>th</sup>)**  
 8:00 am Dallas Lewis

**Quote for the week**

*I am checking my baggage before boarding flight 2026,  
 to be sure that I am not carrying any negative, excess  
 or someone else's baggage into the New Year!*



**Tuesday Night Virtual Bible Study  
 with Deacon Ira Chase at 6:30 pm  
 Studying Matthew**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481398261?pwd=OHNBc2ZGdXh6WEtZcHVhS1pDZHg5UT09>  
**Meeting ID: 864 813 98261 Passcode: 509931**

**Wednesday Night Live Stream Bible Study  
 with Father Cornelius at 6:00 pm  
 Studying Habakkuk**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A  
 December 21, 2025**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10  
 Responsorial Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10  
 Second Reading: James 5:7-10  
 Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11**



**Collections Last Weekend Total \$8,526.00**

**Thanks** to all OLPH parishioners for sending in your  
 tithes and offerings. Please Note the amount  
 recorded here is from envelopes marked  
**“My Sacrificial Gift”** only.

Special envelopes are **not tithes**. The amount you  
 put into those envelopes is recorded and provided  
 to you in your Annual Contribution Statements.

**FYI:** If you send in envelopes for several months at a  
 time, please note we **cannot back date your tithes**.  
 They can only be recorded on the **actual date** you  
 submit them.

**FRIENDLY REMINDER:** Please only use black or  
 blue ballpoint pens when you write your checks.

**2026 BOXED ENVELOPES**

**Available for PICK-UP**  
**Boxes are in alphabetical order.**

**Reminder boxes CANNOT  
 be mailed.**

# Church Announcements

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>:

8:45 am Sunday School Classes

10:00 am Mass

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:

10:30-12:30 LOC Food Pantry

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>:

SHARE Pick-Up

LOC Christmas Project Distribution

4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>:

8:45 am Sunday School and OCIA Classes

10:00 am Mass

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 5:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10:00 AM**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS 5:00 PM**

**NEW YEAR' DAY MASS 10:00 AM**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

**December 24, 2025-January 2, 2026**

## Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

National Marriage Week (February 7–14, 2026) celebrates the gift of sacramental marriage. Join us at the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** to honor the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, **February 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. This Annual Mass is a celebration of the living vocation of **all** couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Couples, **please register with your parish office by February 6, 2026**, to attend the Mass and/or request a certificate in honor of their anniversary year. All married couples and their families are welcome, regardless of how long you have been married. Please contact your parish office to register. The Mass will be celebrated in English and Spanish. Contact Mrs. Bernice Waller with your information at her email: [bwaller@live.com](mailto:bwaller@live.com).



## HOMEBOUND, \*\*HOSPITAL, or \*NURSING/REHAB

\*Robert Barden, Carolyn Brown, Carla Coleman, Agnes Dua, Edward Glover, \*Cordella Gough, \*Agnes Maxine Hart, Deborah Ogarro Kelly, \*Edith Lee, Marie Lucas, \*Helene Matthews, David McNeill, Deborah McNeill, Gloria Ann Moore, \*Rose Quander-Nevedon, Antoinette Reese, \*Cynthia Salter-Stith, \*Amy Scroggins, George Shearard, Sudie Shelton, Augustine Thomas, New-Velvet Washington, and Kobe Williams



Clement Akoto, Evelyn Akoto, Lisa Alexander, Valarie Ashley, Frances Battle, Barbara Billings-Leftwich, Charlotte Blount-Lewis, John X. Briscoe, Sr., Michelle Brookings-Cheek, Thomas Henry Brooks, Hilda Brown, Selena Brown, Millicent Brown-Howard, Ronald Burton, Demarquis Carter, Dorita Carter, Louis Carter, Terneara Carter, Deacon Ira Chase, Judy Chase, William Clemons, Alberta Colbert, Margo Cooke, Roberta Dade-Young, Judith Dean, Sterling Dolman, Anne Donelson, Alvin Durham, Beverly Ford, Salim Franklin, Betty Franklin-Swammy, Toni Gaines, LaShawn Gaines, Sy Gaines, Eva Galloway, Bradley Gant, Dexter Goodwyn, Betty Graham, David Malcolm Greene, David Gross, Kathy Gross, Carlene Hawkins, Larry Holloway, Sr., Michael Howard, Lela Hagan, John Hawkins, Sr., Ken Houston, Crystal Jackson, Deacon Thomas Jones, Louis Jones, James King, Jessica King, Betty Lawson, Dianna Ledbetter, Crystal Marsh, Jeffrey Marshall, Shirel Marshall, Ngoki Masembwa, John Mason, Joseph Mason, Winifred Mason, Carolyn Matthews-Alston, Justine Middleton, Danielle Mitchell, Henrietta Moody, Maurice Moody, Yvonne Moody, Gloria V. Moore, Milton Morgan, Travia Neverdon-Stone, Dorethia Newby, Warren Newton, Marcia Marlene Oliver, Terrance Oxyner, Bettina Penny, Diane Penny, Lawrence (Lonnie) Penny, Marvin Penny, Pam Penny, Theresa Penny, Tina Penny, Yvonne Peterson, Deidre Dorsey Point, Brenda Price, Katalina Quander-Masembwa, Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, Brenda Robinson, Demetria Savoy, Julia Melva Scott, Madeline Scott, Bernadette Smith, Clementine Smith-Easley, Delores (Polly) Smith, Vivian Staples, Donna Stewart-Moore, Patricia Stewart-Brown, Michelle Stone, Kendra Tinsley, Joseph Thomas, Rose Thurston, Debra Tidwell-Peters, Juanita White, Nicky Wilkinson, Christal Williams, Brian Yeldell and Raymond Young





13<sup>th</sup> Jasmine Campbell  
19<sup>th</sup> Robert Waller  
20<sup>th</sup> Deloris Harrison



Darrell & Kelly Tucker 33<sup>rd</sup> on December 26<sup>th</sup>

In your prayers remember the souls of

**Evelyn Clarke** (DOD 12-4-25)

Aunt of James Jackson  
Funeral Services were held in  
Camden, South Carolina  
On Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Geraldine Elaine Butler** (DOD 12-4-25)

Sister of Lorraine Parker-Miller  
Funeral Services will be held at  
St. John Baptist de la Salle Catholic Church  
5706 Sargent Road Chillum, MD 20782  
Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Visitation 10 am Mass 11 am  
Interment: Washington National Cemetery

**Christine Wingfield Jenifer** (DOD 12-7-25)

Mother of Joseph Jenifer, Jr.  
Services will be here at OLPH  
Date not available at this time

**Catherine Proctor Thomas** (DOD 12-7-25)

Funeral Services will be held here at OLPH  
Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Visitation 10 am Mass 11 am  
Interment: Maryland National Cemetery  
No repast at OLPH

Please keep these families in your prayers.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful  
departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

## From the Pastor's Desk Rejoicing in the Cross

*“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” Matthew 11:4-6*

Suppose a priest came to your church to put on a parish mission, and during that mission he miraculously healed the blind, crippled, terminally ill, and deaf. What if he even raised the dead to life? How would you respond? Most likely with amazement! You'd contact everyone close to you and tell them about those miracles, encouraging them to attend the next session.

Though Jesus' ministry was filled with miracles, they were far from the most important part of His mission. His miracles healed bodies that would eventually die, but His preaching healed souls that would live forever because His preaching ultimately pointed to His greatest work—to suffer and die for the salvation of souls.

If we were to ask Jesus' first followers whether they would prefer to see Jesus perform miracles or suffer and die, most likely they would prefer the miracles. Such a question might have even left them confused. Why would anyone want to see a great prophet suffer and die? Yet, today, from a theological perspective, it is clear that Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection are the greatest acts in human history.

Imagine being our Blessed Mother who witnessed it all, stood by her Son as He endured His Cross, and rejoiced with Him when He rose. Unquestionably, if we asked our Blessed Mother whether she preferred to see a few miracles from her Son or to witness His perfect sacrifice that brought salvation to the world, her holy and sorrowful heart would choose the latter.

Reflect today on these questions within the context of your own life. When you pray, do you primarily ask for favors, blessings, or miracles? Or do you primarily pray for the Cross? Do you see greater value in having God remove some suffering from your life or in transforming your suffering by the power of His Cross? Ask for the grace to die with our Lord, to become a living sacrifice of love, and to have the strength to lay down your life for others. By choosing that which has eternal value, you choose the better part and will rejoice in that better part forever.



Jesus said that John the Baptist was more than a prophet. Jesus said that some words from scripture were written to describe John.

Use the graph to find the words.



1	A	E	H	M	P	U
2	B	F	I	N	R	W
3	D	G	L	O	S	Y
4	5	6	7	8	9	

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
 2,6    2,9 2,6    3,6    3,6

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 3,8 1,5    2,7    3,4    1,7    3,9

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 1,7    1,5    3,8    3,8    1,5    2,7    3,5    1,5    2,8

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 1,4    1,6    1,5    1,4    3,4    3,7    2,5

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 3,9    3,7    1,9    2,9 1,6    3,7    2,9    2,6    3,6    3,6

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 1,8    2,8    1,5    1,8    1,4    2,8    1,5    3,9    3,7    1,9    2,8

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 2,9    1,4    3,9    2,4    1,5    2,5    3,7    2,8    1,5

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 3,9    3,7    1,9

# John the Baptist and Jesus

John the Baptist was in prison. He sent his friends to ask Jesus a question.

Begin with the 2nd letter. Cross it out and then cross out every other letter. Write the remaining letters on the lines.

A Z R K E J Y I O H U G T F H  
 S C T O U M V E W O X R Y E  
 O X A P J E K C L T M S Z S E D O C N  
 R U E V L W S T E O S N Z H I  
 H M E F R O S O S E R O E R M P H I  
 O C E D E W D E W D E G L F D E W D E  
 S P S B E A W L H M O N W O A P N

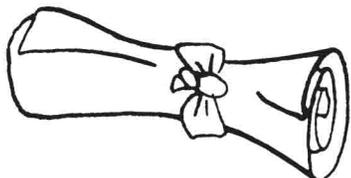
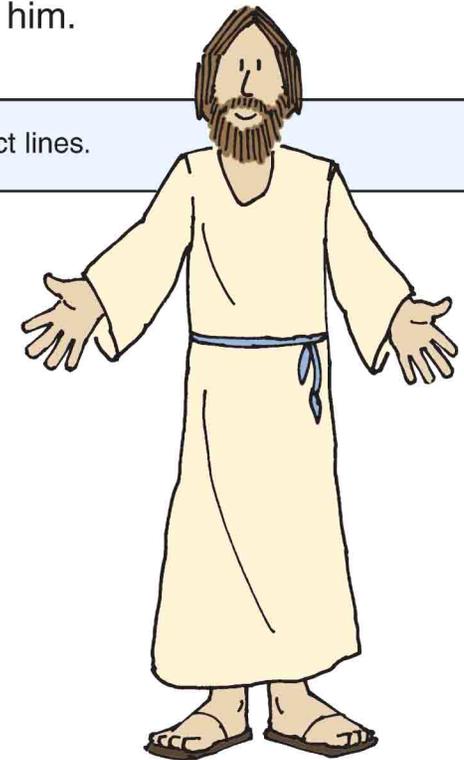
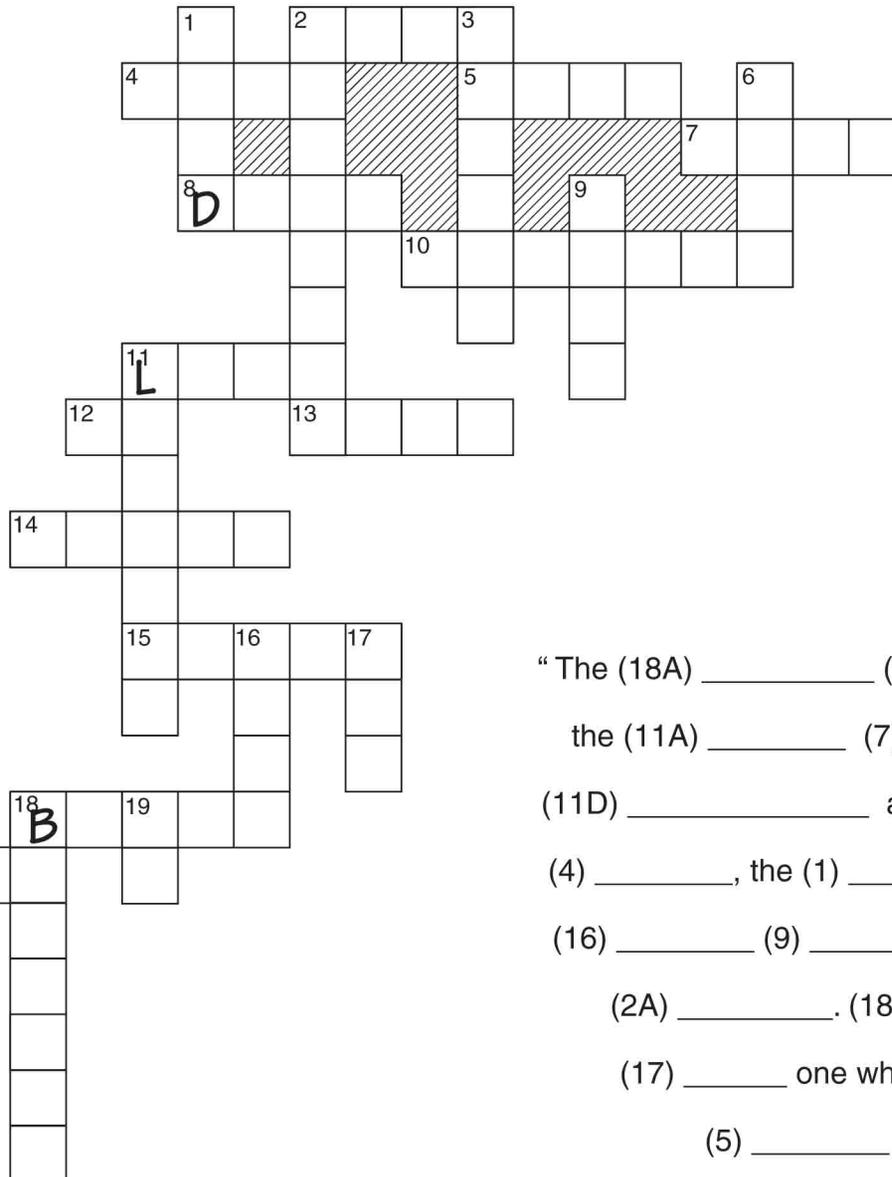
“ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_?”

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**1600 Morris Road, SE**  
**Washington, DC 20020**

Here is the answer Jesus told John's friends to deliver to him.

First, fit the words into the puzzle. Second, transfer the words to the correct lines.

- |      |          |
|------|----------|
| IS   | NEWS     |
| ME   | POOR     |
| THE  | WALK     |
| AWAY | BLIND    |
| DEAD | CURED    |
| DEAF | SIGHT    |
| DOES | RAISED   |
| FALL | BLESSED  |
| GOOD | RECEIVE  |
| HAVE | LEPROSY  |
| HEAR | PREACHED |
| LAME |          |



“The (18A) \_\_\_\_\_ (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (15) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 the (11A) \_\_\_\_\_ (7) \_\_\_\_\_, those who (6) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (11D) \_\_\_\_\_ are (14) \_\_\_\_\_, the (8) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (4) \_\_\_\_\_, the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ are (3) \_\_\_\_\_, and the  
 (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is (2D) \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
 (2A) \_\_\_\_\_. (18D) \_\_\_\_\_ (19) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (17) \_\_\_\_\_ one who (13) \_\_\_\_\_ not (20) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on account of (12) \_\_\_\_\_.”