



*Imitating Mary,  
you will not go astray.  
Praying to her,  
you will not despair.  
Thinking of her, you will not err.  
Supported by her, you will not fail...  
Embraced by her, you will be saved.  
~St. Bernard of Clairvaux*



#### PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev. Kyle V. Dave, Pastor**  
kdave@arch-no.org

**George "Ed" Merritt, Jr.,  
Deacon;** emerritt@arch-no.org

**Brittany Breaux,  
School Principal**  
bbreaux@olphbc.school.org

**Dawn Bassett,  
Administrative Assistant**

**Cecilia "CC" Merritt,  
Director of Religious Education  
and Adult Formation**  
cre@olphbc.org

**Angel Boyd, Receptionist**

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Director of Music Ministry**

**TJ Lejeune & Kenneth Pouwels  
Maintenance Supervisors**

**Rev. Gerard P. Stapleton  
Dean of Algiers/Plaquemines Deanery**

**OLPH SCHOOL**  
8970 Highway 23 • 504-394-0757

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION**  
8968 Highway 23 • 504-394-0314

**K.C. HALL**  
9016 Highway 23

#### MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 a.m. & Vigil 4:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
<b>Monday</b>	7:30 a.m. Communion Service
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (Rosary - 6:15 p.m. followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy; Novena - 6:50 p.m.)

**Wed., Thurs., Fri.** 7:30 a.m.  
*During the school year Wednesday's Mass, 8:30  
a.m. (No 7:30 a.m. Mass).*

**First Friday Adoration:** 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
**Holy Days:** Consult the bulletin.

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

<b>Tuesday</b>	5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

8968 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
504-394-0314 • Fax: 504-394-0376

Web: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org)  
Email: [churchoffice@olphbc.org](mailto:churchoffice@olphbc.org)

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Please call between these times for routine parish business.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, are a living and growing Catholic community of faith, striving to follow and serve Christ. We are an evangelizing community, and we welcome others to fullness of life in Christ. With Mary we say "Yes" to God's call to pray together, worship consciously, and serve joyfully.*





## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to a very friendly and enthusiastic community. Please fill out the information in the Binder on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or register at the Church Office. A Census Form can also be found on our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

### Sacraments



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Baptisms are usually celebrated after any weekend Mass. Currently we only schedule one family at a time. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar prior to the Baptism. The seminar is usually held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Chapel in Church. More information and required forms can be found on our website.

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION:** First Eucharist is celebrated the first Saturday of May for students in the 2nd grade or above. Children older than 2nd grade will be prepared on individual situations. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be celebrated prior to Communion.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. Candidates who attend Catholic high school or are enrolled in the High School of Religion program come together for Sacramental preparation. All candidates are asked to pre-register in their freshmen year and no later than December of their 10th grade year. Information and registration can be found on our website: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

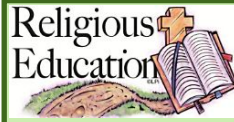
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

**For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact C.C. Merritt in the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).**



**VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Inform the Church Office when someone is sick, shut-in or hospitalized and unable to attend Mass.

**FUNERALS:** Inform the Church Office as soon as possible when someone in the family dies, preferably before contacting the funeral home.



### Religious Education

The mission of OLPH's Religious Education program is to bring the "Good News" of God's love to all children and their families and to call them to commit their lives to Christ. Religious Education is available for children in Kindergarten through adults. We encourage parents to be parishioners of OLPH when registering students for Religious Education classes. Census forms can be obtained from the Parish Office during regular business hours, in the gathering area of the church or you can register online. Call C.C. Merritt, 504-394-0314, or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org) for more information.

**SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Children in grades K-2nd are invited with a catechist during 11:00 a.m. Mass to the Day Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word for Children (September-May). A summary of the readings of the day is discussed on their level.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Our PSR program is divided in two parts. Family Faith Formation is the "academic" part with the textbook discussed at home as a family. Our Encountering Engaging Events are a chance to come together as a community to worship together, do crafts, or engage in traditional events like our Nativity Play and Living Way of the Cross.

**HIGH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Students in 9th through 12th grade not attending a Catholic High School are offered Faith Formation with academics at home, working at their own pace, but also some time to get together to discuss what they have learned with their peers about three times a year. It is intended to be an informal study with honest Catholic answers.

**RCIA:** Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or completing Sacraments? Please join our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We have a Year-Round RCIA process that you can enter into whenever you are ready. This is for you if you have never been baptized, if you have been baptized into another denomination and now want to become Catholic, or if you are an adult Catholic but have never been confirmed. Sessions will be held in person on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (day and time can be adjusted to personal schedules). For additional information and to register, contact C. C. Merritt in the Church Office or email at [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Safe Environment—** Refer to the Web Site: <http://www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment> for policies and procedures concerning safe environment and child protection

## Scripture Readings & Events this Week

**Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent; Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Dismissal, Church—11:00 a.m.  
2nd Collection—Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal

**Monday, December 11, Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26**

Communion Service, Church — 7:30 a.m.  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

**Tuesday, December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47**

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Confessions, Church— 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.  
Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church —6:50 p.m.  
Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 13, Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr; Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30**

Daily Mass, Church—8:30 a.m.  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
PSR Nativity Practice, Church—5:00 p.m.  
KC Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 14, Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15**

Daily Mass, Church — 7:30 a.m.  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Advent Presentation by Fr. Maestri, Church—6:00 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal, Church—7:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 15, Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19**  
**Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment**  
**Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.**

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 16, Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13**

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.  
Confessions, Church — 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent; Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Dismissal, Church—11:00 a.m.

## Mass Intentions

**12/9, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— Beverly Hebert, Ross Smith, Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Loralie Riggs, Eric Hansen, Junior LeBoeuf, Larry Avist, Sr., Peter "Trae" Vujnovich, III, Lynn Clement, Louise & Joseph Johnson, Francis Gainey, Myles Patureau, Jr., Lois Bono, Irwin Cooper, Jr., Ben Bologna, Mary V. Krebs

**12/10, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— for the Parishioners

**12/10, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**— Sylvia Templet Reed, Patrick J. Reed, Policar & Alzina Sponge, Wayne Perrin, David Cochiara, Myrna Schultheis, Eric Hansen, Lynn Clement, Eric Gaudet, Shirley Frank Cook, Gary Buras, Allyson Kirby, Fred Brown, Carla Brown, Deme Stavrides, Rose McKenna Simonson, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Hewitt John Gauthier, Sr.

**12/11, Monday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**12/12, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**12/12, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**— Junior LeBoeuf

**12/13, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.**— Junior LeBoeuf

**12/14, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

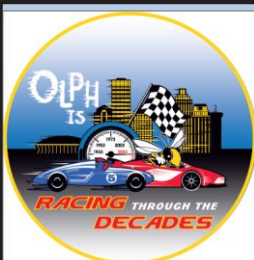
**12/15, Friday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**12/16, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**12/16, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— for the Parishioners

**12/17, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— Sally Allan, Cathy Mader, Nancy Meunier, Myrna Schultheis, Cecelia L. Yundt, Johnnie Pennison, Larry Talamo, Esther Brulley, Rennie Coludrovich, Jr.

**12/17, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**— Sylvia Templet Reed, Patrick J. Reed, Vincent & Belle Ladner, Germaine & Pat Curley, Irby "Sonny" Toups, Jr., Myrna Schultheis, Eric Hansen, Lynn Clement, Shirley Frank Cook, Gary Buras, Francis Gainey, Fred Brown, Carla Brown, Deme Stavrides, Rose McKenna Simonson, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Hewitt John Gauthier, Sr.



**The 2023 OLPH Fair held on September 29-October 1st was a huge success!!!**

Thanks to perfect weather and record breaking crowds all weekend, our Fair profited \$180,000! Checks were issued to OLPH school and Church for \$90,000 each. Thank you to everyone that made our Fair a success!

# PEACE



## OLPH School News

Adventure Quest Laser Tag family night was a blast. Students and parents had a blast while bonding with other families!!



A huge thank you to all of our wonderful students and families that donated to our FOOD DRIVE! All together we collected over 1800 items! That's an average of 350 meals that were donated to those in need. Discovery Studio students raised over 780 items, being the winners of the Chick-fil-A Party.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Year 2023

*December—For persons with disabilities*

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation."



### Bible Verses for the Year!

*KINDNESS - December*

**"...It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35**



## ADVENT PRESENTATION: *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!*

**DATES: Thursday, December 14th, 21st, and  
Friday, 22nd at 6:00 PM.**



Fr. William Maestri will present both the biblical and spiritual riches of the Nativity accounts of Jesus' birth on that "Holy Night". We pray in the Holy Spirit that the time offered to the Lord will enrich your preparation for entering into the great mystery "For today in the city of David a savior has been born

for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:11).

We invite and encourage you to bring your family and friends.

**Refreshments and finger sandwiches will be made available at 5:30 PM before the presentation. If you are a parent with small children and need a babysitter to be able to attend, please call the Church Office at 504-394-0314. We may be able to help.**



*"One mightier  
than I is coming  
after me."*

### Prepare the Way of the Lord

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a

thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (2 Peter 3:8). Because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God, but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3).

Tom Schmidt



## OLPH Angel Tree Program

Now through December 17th you are invited to participate in the Angel Tree Program benefitting Padua House, which is run by Catholic Charities. All are residents of Plaquemines Parish.

Simply select one or more angels found on the tree as you walk into the church. Gifts found on the back of the angels are for essentials that are needed to be replenished each year. Please return your unwrapped gift and place it in one of the boxes found under the tree. You are welcome to then select more angels, if you would like. Thanks to the OLPH school students for providing the colorful angels. Also, thanks in advance for your generosity.

## 2023 CHRISTMAS CANDLES



To assist with the expense of 12 Christmas Candles used at our 10 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Mass, we are accepting donations of \$15 per candle (this covers cost plus shipping expense) in memory of a deceased loved one. The memorials will be published in the bulletin. The candle will be labeled with your intention and you may take your candle after the 10 p.m. Mass.

If anyone is interested, please contact the Church Office at 504-394-0314.



## Christmas Flowers

We are accepting donations toward the Christmas Flowers. Donation envelopes are available on the information table. Please write clearly on the envelope so that the memorial may be published.



## CHRISTMAS TREES

If anyone is interested in donating one of the Christmas Trees used in church in memory of a loved one, please contact the Church Office at 504-394-0314.

The memorials will be published in the bulletin.



## Second Sunday in Advent Wreath Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.* <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-wreath-prayers.html>



## OUR LADY OF PILGRIMS December 10

Under this title Mary is venerated in Manila in the Philippines as patroness of pilgrims, travelers, expectant mothers, childless couples, midwives, the sick, and health workers. Her pilgrimage to visit her cousin Elizabeth is recalled in the straw hat that she wears and her wooden staff with a gourd of oil at the tip.

## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, appeared to native American Juan Diego in 1531, requesting that a church be built on the spot. When the bishop asked for a sign confirming the authenticity of the apparition, she responded by producing roses in December for Juan Diego to gather, and left an image of herself imprinted on Juan Diego's *tilma* or mantle.



## Newly Baptized In Christ

OLPH would like to welcome our new parishioners that were Baptized in November.

**Lillian Mea Williams**, child of Meagan and Corey Williams; **Liam Joseph Heurtin**, child of Jordan and Steven Heurtin; **Tyce Lincoln Turlich**, child of Kelly and Ryan Turlich; and **Trigg Luke Turlich**, child of Kelly and Ryan Turlich.

## Sponsor of the Week:



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## Next Sunday is Third Sunday of Advent

**Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11.** I exult for joy in the Lord.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.** May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 1:6-8, 19-28.** There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.



## Mass Cards

If you would like a Mass for a deceased person, please contact the Church Office. A beautiful Mass card with an image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be mailed to the person of your choice for an offering of \$5 per Mass. Send your \$5 donation to the Church Office, with the name of the Mass intention, name and address where the card is to be mailed, and who's making the request.



*The Sanctuary Light by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.*

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in loving memory of: **David Cochiara**, requested by Suzette Perrin; and **Irwin Cooper, Jr.**, requested by Carol Cooper.

*If you would like to have the Sanctuary Light burn in memory of a loved one, call the Church Office. The donation for the Sanctuary Light is \$10.*

## Stewardship

*All things are possible with God*



Devote Time

Share Talent



Give Treasure

A way of life

## Church Financials Fiscal Month Ending September 30, 2023

Total Income	\$
Total Expense	\$
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$

*Thank you to our parish family members who faithfully support our parish. May God bless you for your generosity!*

Online Giving Is Available on Our Website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) (click on Give Online), or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You can easily create your donation account online and make changes at any time.





## Second Sunday of Advent



### **Straight Talk** by: **Father William Maestri** **The Catholic Mind**

Among the many contributions of Pope Benedict XVI to the development of the Catholic mind, and thinking in general, was his rejection of EITHER/ OR THINKING (see his address at the University of Regensburg on Sept. 12, 2006) which impairs the minds' quest for truth. Such thinking, which is prevalent today and too often results in division and weakens dialogue, is a distortion of a mature Catholic mind. This type of thinking promotes a kind of mental straitjacket. In effect, one's creativity and imagination become restricted to the two options proposed for advancing knowledge. Even more destructive, dialectical thinking

(Either/ Or) hinders the development of community and communication essential for participating in learning and civic life.

To better understand the danger of Either/ Or thinking, consider this episode from the life of Jesus. The Pharisees sent their disciples and the Herodians (loyalists to Herod Antipas) to Jesus under the guise of settling a dispute concerning a tax issue, "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" (Mt. 22:17). The Pharisees did not object, while the Herodians did. Jesus recognizes the question for what it is - a trap! If Jesus answers no, he is labeled an enemy of Caesar. If Jesus answers yes, he is smeared as a dissident who undermines the religious authority of the Pharisees. No matter how Jesus answers, he incriminates himself and those who follow him. Such is the danger of Either/ Or thinking.

Jesus knows the malicious intent behind the question, for both groups are united in their desire to rid themselves of this troublesome messiah. However, Jesus refuses to put his neck in the noose. How does he escape? He brilliantly answers, "...repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God". (Mt. 22:21). His answer neutralizes the poison of the Either/ Or with the antidote of the Both/ And (analogically or integrative thinking). Jesus' response is one which acknowledges the claim of Caesar while affirming the proper justice claims of God. One can be both a good subject of Caesar as well as respecting religious law and authority.

Both/ And thinking has provided Christian theology with a fruitful way for a deeper way of understanding and teaching the mysteries of faith - Incarnation, Trinity, and Eucharist to name some of the essentials. A key expression of Catholic Both/ And thinking, specifically the union of faith and reason, is present in the enduring works of Saints Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. Augustine found his philosophical soulmate in Plato; for Aquinas it was Aristotle ("THE PHILOSOPHER"). This intellectual marriage serves as a reminder that Faith and modern science are not enemies but companions for the mind's journey to God and human fulfillment. For the more we understand the mysteries of creation, the deeper we are drawn into the Word (Logos) "through whom all came to be". (Jn 1:3).

Unfortunately, Both/ And thinking has lost its appeal in a time more comfortable on the battleground than common ground. The casualties are mounting - civility, community, compassion, and the common good. Our situation is not new. The Apostle Paul faced similar circumstances with the Christians at Corinth, a community he established in 51AD. Rivalries and divisions, secular and religious, were prevalent. His words to them serve as a distant mirror reflecting our image and turbulence: "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts...are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were baptized into one body, ...and we were all given to drink of one Spirit". (1Cor 12:12-13).

It is into the darkness of our fears and suspicion that the One who is Light and Life, and the one Spirit given to all, are such "that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, if one part is honored, all parts share its joy." (1Cor 12:25-26).



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