

FEAST OF THE *Holy Family*



*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

Rev. William F. Maestri,
Ministry of Sacraments & Education
George "Ed" Merritt, Jr., Deacon;
emerritt@arch-no.org

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Debbie Fagnano
Director of Music Ministry

TJ Lejeune & Kenneth Pouwels
Maintenance Supervisors

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

Saturday	7:30 a.m. & Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Monday	7:30 a.m. Communion Service
Tuesday	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

Tuesday	5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.
Saturday	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
Email: 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.

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.

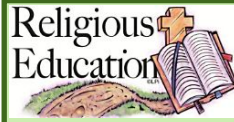
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact C.C. Merritt in the Church Office or email cre@olphbc.org.



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 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.

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 31, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2: 22-40

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Children's dismissal, Church—11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God; Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

New Year's Day Mass, Church — 9:00 a.m.

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2, Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church; 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.

Church Office Closed

Confessions, Church— 5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church —6:50 p.m.

Healing Mass, Church—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3, Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus; 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Thursday, January 4, Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious; 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Daily Mass, Church — 7:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

St. Vincent DePaul District Meeting, KC Hall—6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, Church—7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 5, Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop; 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.

1st Friday Adoration, Day Chapel—8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 6, Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious; 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

1st Saturday Mass, Church—7:30 a.m.

Confessions, Church —2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Children's dismissal, Church—11:00 a.m.

2nd Collection—Building & Maintenance Fund

Croatian Mass, Church—3:00 p.m.



**2024 New Year's Day Mass:
Monday, January 1st—9:00 AM
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

Mass Intentions

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

12/30, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— for the Parishioners

12/31, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— Nancy Meunier, Myrna Schultheis, Larry Talamo, Esther Bruley, Rennie Coludrovich, Jr., Vivian Hays

12/31, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.— Sylvia Templet Reed, Patrick J. Reed, Germaine & Pat Curley, Arlene Pizani Belsome, Myrna Schultheis, Eric Hansen, Lynn Clement, Shirley Frank Cook, Gary Buras, Fred Brown, Rose McKenna Simonson, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Hewitt John Gauthier, Sr., Edna Fagnano, Allyson Kirby, Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Rachel & Joseph Celental

1/1, Monday, 9:00 a.m.— Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson

1/2, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

1/2, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

1/3, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

1/4, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.— Johnnie Pennison

1/5, Friday, 7:30 a.m.— Irma Bernard Stockfleth

1/6, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

1/6, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— Jerry Pignuolo, Eric Hansen, Larry Avist, Sr., Peter "Trae" Vujnovich, III, Louise & Joseph Johnson, Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Rachel & Joseph Celental

1/7, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— for the Parishioners

1/7, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.— Gary Buras, Myrna Schultheis, Lynn Clement, Fred Brown, Rose McKenna Simonson, Wayne Perrin, Allyson Kirby, Jonathan Wallace, Vincent & Adrina Ladner, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Theresa L. Bossier, Rosebud L. Dumesnil

Eucharistic



Adoration

**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament**

January 5, 2024

(First Friday of the Month)

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Day Chapel)

For questions or to sign up, please call
the Church Office at 504-394-0314.

Pray as you like. Reading and meditation lead to communion with the Lord or just bask in the light of the Eucharist. Allow Christ to work on you and through you. Come before Christ in His entirety; His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to contemplate His awesomeness and to lovingly adore Him. Please join us in prayer!

OLPH School News

Our school crossing guards have been busy helping their fellow classmates get to their classrooms safely!



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION



8 WEEKS - 7TH GRADE

OPENS ONLINE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

SCHEDULE & TOUR



<https://school.olphbc.org/registration>

SCAN ME

The Birth of Jesus



You will find the baby
lying in a _____

Luke 2:12

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:12

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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**

Attention all 7th-12th Graders!!

Please join the
OLPH CYO
for a viewing of
**The Prince
of Egypt.**



Come and learn about Moses and his
many spiritual connections to Jesus.

WHEN: Monday, January 22, 2024



6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Snack will be served
starting at 6:15 PM.

WHERE: OLPH Church

If you are interested in attending, or
have questions, please call the
Church Office at 504-394-0314.



Beyond Biology: Embracing the Church as Family

The Feast of the Holy Family Year B invites us to a deeper contemplation of family, urging us to look beyond our biological connections. The Gospel of Luke (2:22-40) presents the Holy Family not merely as a model of domestic virtue, but as an icon of the larger spiritual family God calls us to be part of. This narrative, where Jesus is presented in the Temple, symbolizes the integration of the individual family into the broader religious community.

The Temple, as a place of gathering, teaching, and worship, prefigures the Church. In this light, the Church emerges not just as a place of worship, but as a familial space where we, like Jesus, are presented and nurtured in faith. The interaction with Simeon and Anna demonstrates this connectedness. This redefinition of family challenges us to see our relationship with the Church in a new, familial light.

As we celebrate this feast, it becomes imperative to nurture both our biological families and our spiritual family – the Church. Just as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived their lives centered around the Temple, signifying their commitment to the wider community of believers, we too are called to invest in our church community.

The Church is a place where spiritual bonds are not just formed but deeply nurtured, where we learn to live out the virtues of faith, hope, and love in community with others. By strengthening these bonds, we mirror the Holy Family's commitment to God's plan and become active participants in the manifestation of His love and mercy in the world. In this way, our celebration of the Holy Family extends beyond admiration of a holy household to active participation in the expansive, spiritual family of the Church.

<https://young-catholics.com/3090/the-feast-of-the-holy-family-year-b/#homilies>



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Remember, Reflect, Respond

This feast has had several names through history. Most recently, it was called the Feast of the Circumcision and then the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. The Church finally settled on a more ancient title, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It also has a secondary title of the Octave of Christmas, the secular title of New Years Day, and an honorary title of World Day of Prayer for Peace. Strangely, the title that is most confusing to non-Catholics is the official one.

When we call Mary the Mother of God, we are not saying that she somehow preceded God or is equal to God. We are simply recognizing that her human son Jesus is also the divine Son of God. We honor Mary because God honored her by choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. In her humble response of "let it be done to me," she agreed to be part of God's plan for our salvation. And so today's Gospel records one simple action of Mary: to keep these things in her heart.

Even in this simple sentence we are given a good example of being a disciple. Like Mary, we need to both keep, or remember, what God has done, and to reflect on what we remember. First, how much do we remember about what God has done for us? How well do we know the stories of salvation found in the scriptures? How well do we know God's actions in Church history? And how much do we remember of the personal graces given us by God? Do we recall the prayers God has answered, the guidance given, the love of God that others have shown us, the times God has forgiven us?

Second, how much do we reflect on what God has done? Even if we have many memories of God's goodness to us, we also need to pray over them and ask ourselves how we have changed because of what God has done. Am I more generous to others? Do I forgive hurts more readily? Do I share my faith with my family or friends? Do I support my parish with my time or offerings? Let us ask God's help to imitate Mary by remembering and reflecting.

Tom Schmidt



Archdiocesan Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration
will take place on
Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.,
in **Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, New Orleans.**

If you will be celebrating your 25th Wedding Anniversary in 2024 (married in the year 1999) or were married between 1994-1999 and wish to attend, please register with the parish office no later than Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Please note: This celebration is a **prayer service and not a Mass.** Attendance of Mass for Sunday obligation will have to be met within one's parish.



Confirmation Preparation Classes

The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred in the Junior year of high school (11th grade) in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. OLPH celebrates this sacrament in the Fall each year. There will be a **Parent/Student Meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the church** to go over all requirements for preparation for the sacrament. High school students in both Catholic and non-Catholic schools should attend and register for Confirmation as soon as possible. Registration can be done through our website at www.olphbc.org/hsr-forms. For more information check our website or contact C.C. Merritt at the parish office.



Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion Preparation

There will be a Parent Meeting for students who are in Second Grade or above who have not received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion and have been participating in a Catholic School or Catholic Religious Education Program. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the church. Registration for the sacraments and expectations for preparation will be discussed. The fee for the sacraments is \$60 (\$30 for Reconciliation and \$30 for Holy Communion). For more information, questions, or concerns please contact C.C. Merritt at 504-394-0314 or email cre@olphbc.org.

Sponsor of the Week:



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Next Sunday is The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6. The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

Matthew 2:1-12. We have come from the East to worship the king.



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: **Edna Fagnano**, requested by Debbie Fagnano.

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 October 31, 2023

Total Income	\$ 200,713
Total Expense	\$ 211,928
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 11,215

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 (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.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Straight Talk by: Father William Maestri Happy New Year-Twice!

The Christian is twice blessed. We are invited to celebrate the new year at the First Sunday of Advent, and again as we flip the calendar to face unafraid a new secular new year. The Sacred and the secular in their own way remind us of the importance of past and future for our present.

We are invited to face honestly what has been and whom we have become. We are a people of memory. We are to learn from the past without it being a deadbolt on the door of what is to be. We are also a people of hope which is the key that unlocks the door so we might participate in the great adventure of living and believing. We are beings in the thickness of time. As William Faulkner put it: "The past is never dead. It's not even past." As to the future, Robert Browning calls us to, "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."

The Sacred New Year is a time of vigil, waiting, and anticipation. Such is no easy task in our warp speed, microwaveable culture. We ask, "How does one wait?" Jesus answers, "Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mk 13: 33). This sounds ominous. It is, IF you are found "sleeping" (Mk 13: 37). Such slumber is not physical but spiritual (Mt 26: 40-45). We can become the walking dead who "live" (exist) each day on cruise control, oblivious to the wonder of grace all about and within. Worse still, existing with a self-absorption that blinds the eyes and numbs the soul to the cries of the poor and expendable.

On the other hand, IF we are alert to the Spirit, we will be "enriched in every way...not lacking in any spiritual gift.... He will keep you firm to the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Cor 1: 5-8). Hence, we need not despair of our past nor fear our future. All time and each soul is in God's hands: "...we are the clay and you [God] the potter: we are all the work of your hands." (Isa 64: 7). And the hands of God are not angry and oppressive, but "rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved" (Eph 2: 4-5).

The Bethlehem child and the Times Square child require our reflection. The Times Square child arrives as a worldwide media event. The madding crowd grows in size and intensity as the time for the sparkling ball to drop. In addition to the masses, there is an old man with a sickle representing the old year and the passage of time. Center stage is a baby clad with a diaper and a sash draping his torso signifying the new year. The song "Auld Lang Syne" is sung. The past is to give way to a new present and hopeful future. The Times Square baby's reign is short, but a year, and the winged chariot of time will have its way as the old man emerges more. Such is the cycle of all that is temporal.

By contrast, the Bethlehem baby comes in silence, obscurity, and poverty. There is no media feeding frenzy. A star appears and attracts the attention of the uncelebrated shepherds. The accommodations are such that the Red Roof Inn seems palatial. The baby's fellow occupants fit the atmosphere-loud, smelly, and uncouth. His crib is a food trough. He is bundled in swaddling clothes. The music in Bethlehem is supplied by a heavenly chorus. The lyrics- "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to those on whom his favor rests" -are not as popular as Berlin's "White Christmas".

The tale of two babies is significantly different in their endings. With the Times baby, the sparkling ball will be retired until next year, the crowd will disperse, the media will chase another breaking story, the clothing will change with the seasons, and the Times baby will become the new old man, joining those who have gone before. His time on history's stage is ended.

The Bethlehem baby is of time and eternity. The story of this baby is both a promise fulfilled and a COMMENCEMENT; a new going forth. The baby will go "down with them [Mary and Joseph] ...and was obedient to them.... And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and fame before God and man" (Lk 2: 51-52). The unfolding of his life seems to culminate on a hill, on a cross, between two thieves (Lk 23: 39-43). A borrowed tomb with a stone seal and guarded by soldiers seemed to culminate his short life and ministry (Mt 27: 62-66). Not so!

His culmination ("Jesus...breathed his last" (Mk 16: 37)) is at once a commencement. With the first Easter the women at the tomb are asked, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ...he has been raised" (Lk 24: 5-6). With this angelic message, a new mode of human existence, a new understanding of him breaks forth: "For to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born not of blood...of the flesh...of the will of man, but of God" (Jn 1: 12). With faith in Him is our rebirth in the Spirit, the commencement of our new life of loving God and serving others, and our destiny to be embraced by the Divine Love for all eternity. The blessings of this New Year to all. It's just the beginning!



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Greg West

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