



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic 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.

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
Brittany Breaux, School Principal
bbreaux@olphbcschool.org
Dawn Bassett, Administrative Assistant
Cecilia "CC" Merritt, Director of Religious Education and Adult Formation
cre@olphbc.org
Angel Boyd, Receptionist
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, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

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.
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.)
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. During the school year (7:30 a.m. when school is not in session)
Thursday	7:30 a.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m.
First Friday Adoration:	8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Holy Days:	Consult the bulletin.

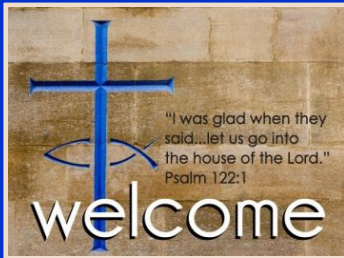
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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.

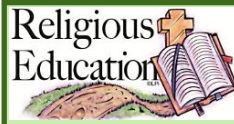
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

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, February 11, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 11:00 a.m. (Fr. M)
Children's dismissal, Church—11:00 a.m.
Legion of Mary Presentation—All Masses
Altar Society decorates Church—Noon

Monday, February 12, Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13

Daily Mass, Church — 7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Tuesday, February 13, Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Church Office Closed for Mardi Gras

Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday; Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Ash Wednesday Masses, Church—7:00 a.m. (Fr. K),
9:00 a.m. (Fr. K), 12:00 p.m. (Fr. M) and 7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)
Church Office Closed
KC Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal, Church—8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 15, Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25

Daily Mass, Church — 7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Friday, February 16, Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.
KC Lenten Fish Fry, Behind KC Hall—5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Daily Mass, Church—6:00 p.m. (Fr. K)
Stations of the Cross, Church—6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17, Memorial of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious; Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Confessions, Church — 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Sunday, February 18, First Sunday of Lent; Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22, Mt 4:4b; Mk 1:12-15

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 11:00 a.m. (Fr. K)
Children's dismissal, Church—11:00 a.m.
RCIA Rite of Election, Church—11:00 a.m.
Presentation on Vocations—All Masses

Mass Intentions

2/10, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— for the Parishioners

2/11, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— Philip Cossich, Cathy Madere, C.J. Malley, Barbara Jurisich, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Sally Allan, Rosella & Donald Bernard, Anne Fowler, Sr. Beryl June Mallaun, MSC

2/11, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.— Joyce Ehrhard, Eric Hansen, Ante & Marija Jurisic, Darlene Boudet, Lucille Bernard, Karen Cappiello, Allyson Kirby, Gary Buras, Mihovil & Mara Juricevic, Charles J. Newberry, III, Marie Louise "Susie" Newberry, Doris Sponge Wimberley, Joseph & Marija Slavic, for the intentions of Armando Baleron, Francis Gainey

2/12, Monday, 7:30 a.m.—for the intentions of the Priest

2/13, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

2/14, Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. — for the intentions of Armando Baleron

2/14, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. — for the Parishioners

2/14, Wednesday, 12:00 p.m. — Michael G. Tredinich

2/14, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. — for the intentions of the Priest

2/15, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

2/16, Friday, 7:30 a.m. — Kristo & Marija Murina

2/16, Friday, 6:00 p.m. — Darrell Roy

2/17, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

2/17, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— Jerry Pigniolo, Eric Hansen, Larry Avist, Sr., Peter "Trae" Vujnovich, III, Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Barbara Jurisich, Michelle Maria Machella, Karen Cappiello, Beverly Hebert, Ronald (Ronnie) Lemoine, Francis Gainey

2/18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— for the Parishioners

2/18, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.— Nolan Terrebonne, Eric Hansen, Adrijan Dekovic, Darlene Boudet, Lucille Bernard, Karen Cappiello, Pat Stakelum, Sr., Gary Buras, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Steven Ciblich, Christopher Lincoln, Charles J. Newberry, III, Marie Louise "Susie" Newberry, Doris Sponge Wimberley, Allyson Kirby

LOOKING AHEAD...

Six Tuesdays in LENT beginning February 20, 2024—7:45 p.m. (after Mass) in Church— Lenten Series: Death & Resurrection of Jesus the Christ— see Bulletin for details and Flyers on the Information Table

Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday)—beginning Friday, February 16th:

**6:00 p.m. Mass in Church, followed by
6:30 p.m. stations of the Cross**

KC Lenten Fish Fry: 5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

MASS SCHEDULE

7:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
Noon
& 7:00 p.m.

OLPH School News



Catholic Schools Week

Families attended Mass, followed by a gathering in the Cafeteria.



Congratulations to these students that recently received Academic Awards!



OLPH SUMMER camp

Registration Fee \$40 per Camper

Session 1

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

JUNE 3 - 14

\$350 First Camper

\$330 per additional Camper

Before Care 7:30AM to 8:30AM

\$100 per Camper

After Care 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

\$100 per Camper

Session 2

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

JUNE 17-28

\$350 First Camper

\$330 per additional Camper

Before Care 7:30AM to 8:30AM

\$100 per Camper

After Care 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

\$100 per Camper

Session 3

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

JULY 8 - 19

\$350 First Camper

\$330 per additional Camper

Before Care 7:30AM to 8:30AM

\$100 per Camper

After Care 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

\$100 per Camper

Sports, Karaoke, Snowballs, Arts & Crafts, Water Activities, Slime Making, Pony Rides, and Much More!

For All Sessions:

- LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
- Concessions for Purchase Available
- Must Be Registered, No Drop-Ins
- Camp Shirts MUST BE Worn Daily
- Sessions CANNOT Be Swapped

REGISTER ONLINE NOW & Get More Info
by Scanning the QR Code OR
Visiting <https://shorturl.at/DEJSV>



St. Valentine's Day



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Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Year 2024

February—For the Terminally Ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



Bible Verses for the Year!

KINDNESS - February

"All of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble." 1 Peter 3:8

Lenten Series:

Death & Resurrection of Jesus the Christ

Presenter: Fr. William Maestri

When: Six Tuesdays beginning February 20, 2024 and continuing February 27th, March 5th, March 12th, March 19th and March 26th.

Time: 7:45 PM (after Mass)

Where: OLPH Church

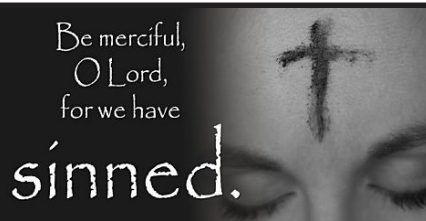


Travel with Jesus through Lent and prepare for the Resurrection of the Lord. For six weekly presentations, enter biblically and spiritually into the Paschal Mystery.

ALL are welcomed.

PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE.

Sponsored by OLPH, Educational Ministry.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount,

along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matthew 6:1-18), have been embraced by all the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! No wonder the Eastern Rite's "Lenten Announcement" sounds surprising: "Let us receive with joy, O faithful people, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent! The Lenten Spring shines forth! Begin the fast with joy! Let us fast from passions as well as food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love!" Saint John Chrysostom, whose feast is September 13, elaborates: "Do you fast? Give proof by your works. If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don't be jealous." A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent! —Peter Scagnelli



**Nothing
Frightens
Jesus
Away**

Two words in this Gospel are almost terrifying: Jesus "touched him."

We are so far removed from what

leprosy signified in biblical times, that this image of Jesus stretching out his hand to touch a person whose body was consumed by the disease has no effect on us.

Lepers were the walking dead who were banished to live outside towns in caves, tents, or garbage dumps. Even breathing the same air as a leper was thought to be dangerous, since leprosy was considered highly contagious. Leprosy consumed a person's body, leaving stumps where fingers, hands, feet, or noses had once been. The laws dictated that lepers were to maintain a twelve-step distance from others, cover their mouths with a cloth, and cry out "unclean, unclean" to announce their presence.

Most of us still have lingering memories of the fear we experienced with COVID-19, when being within six feet of another or breathing the same air conjured up the possibility of a painful death. We learned to stay away from others to protect ourselves and those we love.

Jesus, instead, "touched" the leper. He stepped over the imaginary line, entering into the danger zone of closeness with the leper. He got close enough to this man to smell the putrid odor of his decaying flesh. He could feel the man's foul breath on his face. He got closer still in order to touch the body of the leper, putting his fingers into the wounds of his oozing sores. He conveyed to this man that he wanted to heal him so much that he himself was willing to risk his life, to give his life. He was close enough to look directly into the eyes of a person whose face was horrifically disfigured and perhaps even unrecognizable. And Jesus touched him.

Sometimes we may feel that we have become disfigured, unrecognizable, because of the wounds we have received in our lives and the brokenness of our own sin. And Jesus touches us. We may consider certain people in our lives "lepers" in the sense that they think, speak, or act in ways that threaten us or walk outside the path of discipleship with the Lord Jesus. And Jesus touches them.

There is no leprosy that frightens Jesus away, no disfigurement that makes him draw back. One day, when thinking of certain people in my life, wondering how they could be at peace with what they were doing, I heard God say to me this: "I know. Only I know." Jesus touches each of us in the places of our leprosy. Each of us is known intimately and lovingly by a God unafraid to enter into our misery and walk with us on our journey to the Kingdom.

I invite you to ask yourself in a moment of prayer today: "Jesus, what does this say about you and about me?"

By Sr. Kathryn James Hermes

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15. I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

1 Peter 3:18-22. The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Mark 1:12-15. He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.



Paul the People Pleaser?

Last week we heard St. Paul saying that he was all things to all people. This week, we hear that he tried to please everyone. To modern ears, that sounds more like a people-pleaser. But that wasn't what Paul meant. The key to Paul's way of life is the last line of the second reading: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)

When Jesus spoke to Paul in his conversion, he asked why he was persecuting Jesus. Paul later began to understand that all Christians make up the body of Christ. As members of that body, we can show others what Jesus is like, by our example. That seems to be a two part process.

First, to show Christ, we have to know Christ. We can do that by reading the scriptures and praying with them. We can receive the sacraments regularly, especially Reconciliation, where we experience his forgiveness and love, and the Eucharist, where Jesus unites himself with us, so that we can become more like him.

The second part is acting like Jesus. Forgive people who hurt us, care for the sick, the dying, the poor. Don't be afraid to tell people what God has done for you; encourage others to be grateful for what God has done for them.

Paul obviously didn't please everyone, or he wouldn't have ended his life in prison. He was more interested in imitating Christ. If we can imitate Paul in that way, we can't go wrong.

Tom Schmidt

Sponsor of the Week:



Look to the back now! Look and remember to support these businesses when you need a product or service. Also, tell them "thank you" for their interest in Our Lady of Perpetual Help.



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 flowers in church this week were donated in loving memory of:

Nolan Terrebonne, requested by Donnie & Lettie Kennair; and **Karen Capiello**, requested by Dolly Roy.

Church Flowers—Anyone who wishes to donate the flowers in church in memory of a loved one for a particular weekend may call the church office. The donation is \$50 payable to the Altar Society.



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: **Cathy Madere**, requested by The Madere Family.

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 December 31, 2023

Total Income	\$ 399,000
Total Expense	\$ 323,000
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 76,000*

*includes Fair Net Proceeds of \$90,000

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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Straight Talk by: Father William Maestri AI: The Future is Now!

The latest technological comet to flash across the computer green skies is A I, Artificial Intelligence. The polarized camps are falling into place - the techno-cheerleaders versus the techno-prophets of doom. Before we enlist in one of these battalions, we might take a deferment, a temporary 4-F, to prudently assess. Sun Tzu in his classic work, *The Art of War*, advises the importance of knowing the adversary (proponents of the gospel of Progress without the sacred), as well as the ally (advocates of faith

seeking understanding, grounded in the natural moral law and transcendent truths about the human person).

The tremendous contributions of technology to the quality of life, the overall development of the individual and peoples in general, are clearly evident (agriculture, bio-medicine, labor practices and so on). Technology has provided man with increased means for exercising responsible stewardship in caring for the goods of creation. In so doing, we are able to "be more easily drawn to the worship and contemplation of the Creator". (Paul VI, Encyclical (*Populorum Progressio*, 41)). To advocate for putting the Techno-Genie back in the lamp is both absurd and cruel. The development of earthly existence through the use of technology, in the broadest sense (tools, machines, etc.), is at once a response to God's command to responsible stewardship for the earth (Gen 2:15), and an expression of our desire to reveal in creative freedom the deepest longing for oneness with God. The true development of all nations and peoples, guided by the moral law, and with deepest concern for the poor, is God's work in us and through us. President John Kennedy in his Inaugural Address, (January 20, 1961), offered the following: "...the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forefathers fought are still at issue around the globe - the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God... If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich... Now the trumpet summons us again - not as a call to bear arms, ...not as a call to battle, ...but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, '...rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation' (Rom 12:12) - a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself."

The acknowledgement of technology's splendid success must not blind us to fundamental and transcendent values concerning God, the human person, freedom, and moral foundation upon which true development rest. Consider the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "Technology is highly attractive because it draws us out of our physical limitations and broadens our horizon. But human freedom is authentic only when it responds to the fascination of technology with decisions that are the fruit of moral responsibility. Hence, the pressing need for formation in an ethically responsible use of technology." (*Charity in Truth*). Such a "responsible use of technology" requires that we engage, with humility and truth, the following: Does its use advance a deeper understanding and communion with God? Does its use protect and promote the sacredness of life, affirm human dignity, and strengthen the bonds of solidarity among the nations and peoples, especially the poor and oppressed? Does AI deepen our commitment to an integral humanism (body, mind, and soul together), or is AI, and all technology, simply used in a purely technical manner (efficiency, productivity, and the result of engineering principles detached from the spiritual and moral realities essential to human development)? The answers to these questions require human intelligence, wisdom, collaboration, and above all prayer for that guidance which transcends a logarithm.

Historically and culturally, ours is a less than brave new world. Ours is a techno-wired-world of high anxiety and deep uncertainty, "the old gods have died and the new have yet to appear" (Nietzsche). The Christian is part of such a world, yet if we are to keep our balance and not be fear driven, we must remember that we are not orphans (Jn 14:18). We journey forward in the Holy Spirit (Advocate, Jn 16:7-11). History unfolds "East of Eden" (Gen 3:23-24). We cannot return to some state of "original innocence" (John Paul II, *Theology of the Body*). But, we are not sojourners without provisions. Through the Spirit we go forward walking by faith (Heb 11:1), saved by hope (Rom 8:24), and perfected in love (1Jn 4:17-18).

Our rendezvous with destiny is not found in some techno-utopian world, nor is it in some created socio-political heaven on earth, all of which ends in disillusionment or totalitarian slavery. The final end and new beginning is made known in the Book of Revelation: "The former heaven and the former earth had passed away...the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them...the old order has passed away." (Rev 21:1-4). "Be not afraid!" (Mt 14:27).



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