



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
Suzette Perrin, Coordinator 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.
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

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

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANointing)

By appointment only

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.

To visit our church website scan the QR code below:





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.

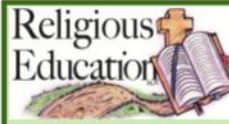
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact 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, on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or you can register online. Call the church office at (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 the Church Office or email 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, May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K)

2nd Collection—Building and Maintenance Fund

Outdoor Mass—11:00 a.m. (Fr. K), followed by Picnic

May Crowning—All Masses

Monday, May 6, Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)

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

Altar Society, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7, Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. 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.

Healing Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Wednesday, May 8, Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn 16:12-15

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)

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

Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.

Daily Mass, Church—2:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

PSR Closing Mass and May Crowning, Church—5:00 p.m.

KC Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9, Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)

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

HSR, Church—5:00 p.m.

Catholicism Class, KC Hall—7:00 p.m. (Fr. M)

Choir Rehearsal, Church—7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 10, Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)

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

Saturday, May 11, Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn 16:23b-28

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 p.m. (Fr. M)

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

Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Sunday, May 12, The Ascension of the Lord

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 11:00 a.m. (Fr. M)

Children's Dismissal—11:00 a.m.

Mass Intentions

5/4, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— for the Parishioners

5/5, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— Cathy Madere, Sally Allan, Anne Fowler, for the intentions of Dave & Sue Mallaun, for the intentions of Bob & Carol Cothorn, Rennie Coludrovich, Jr., Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Donald Folse, Sr.

5/5, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.— Gary Buras, Eric Hansen, Cristian Broussard, Theresa L. Bossier, Rosebud L. Dumesnil, Darlene Boudet, Lucille Bernard, Seth David Chedville, Karen Cappiello, Francis Gainey, Blaze St. Marie, Amanda P. Luneau

5/6, Monday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

5/7, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

5/7, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.— Blaze St. Marie

5/8, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.— Amanda P. Luneau

5/8, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

5/9, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

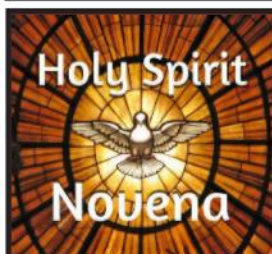
5/10, Friday, 7:30 a.m.— Blaze St. Marie

5/11, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.— for the intentions of the Priest

5/11, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— Jerry Pignuolo, Eric Hansen, Larry Avist, Sr., Peter "Trae Vujnovich III, Thomas George Whatley, Oliver & Margaret Koch, Beverly Hebert, Joyce Scorsone, Francis Gainey, Loyce Rousselle, Rosemary Arcement, Mildred Benoit, Blaze St. Marie, Mason Cappiello

5/12, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— For the Parishioners

5/12, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.— Johnnie Pennison, Wayne Perrin, Esther Belsom, Terry Esponge, Darlene Boudet, Lucille Bernard, Eric Hansen, June Moore Tredinich, Martha Nolan, Beverly Wilson, Ruby Pontiff Tredinich, Seth David Chedville, Steven Cibilich, Stipo & Anka Cibilich, Zorka Pavlovic, Peggy Walker, Gary Buras, Blaze St. Marie, Genevieve Duet, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson



Begins: Friday, May 10, 2024
Ends: Saturday, May 18, 2024

Devotion to the Holy Spirit is an inherent part of our faith and our prayer life. In preparation for the Feast of Pentecost (May 19, 2024), parishioners are encouraged to begin this novena of prayer and renewal. We pray that God

will give us a tremendous outpouring of His Holy Spirit in this time so that we can cooperate to bring about peace in our lives. **The Novena pamphlets are located on the information table at the back of Church.**



OLPH Outdoor Mass and Picnic
Sunday, May 5, 2024

Mass begins at 11:00 a.m. on the front lawn.

After Mass, the KC's are hosting a Parish picnic and will be serving Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and drinks. Please join us for Mass, food and fellowship. You are welcome to come to Mass dressed for the picnic. Bring your family, lawn chairs, and blankets. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite snacks & desserts to share. **NOTE:** We will be doing a procession of flowers to honor Mary for May Crowning. Please consider participating by bringing Spring flowers to place by the statue of Mary. Flowers from your garden are encouraged.



OLPH School News

Father-Daughter Neon Dance Party!! These sweet girls and their dads danced the night away. There was laughter and there was fun had by all!



OLPH SCHOOL IS
HIRING
24/25 SCHOOL YEAR

OPEN POSITION
4TH & 5TH GRADE TEACHER
& TEACHERS ASSISTANT



TO APPLY

SEND YOUR RESUME TO

BBREAUX@OLPHBCSCHOOL.ORG

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Year 2024



May—For the Formation of Religious and Seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.



Bible Verses for the Year!

May—KINDNESS

He has told you, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you; Only to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Mic 6:8

Catholicism: Faith Seeking Understanding

In this **year long** theological, biblical, spiritual, and moral adventure, the Truth, Beauty, and Goodness of the Catholic Tradition will unfold. This journey into the richness of Catholicism is open to ALL: those well-versed in Catholicism; the newly arrived; those returning to their home of Faith; and to those who are curious and skeptical.

Catholicism is a UNIVERSAL, ever-expanding Canopy under which faith and reason; the everyday and the eternal; and the mystery and revelation of God's love become the foundation of our daily lives.



When: Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Where: KC Hall, 9016 Highway 23, Belle Chasse

Presenter: Fr. Maestri
ALL are welcomed.

Please bring your Bible and the updated Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Sponsored by OLPH, Educational Ministry.



Who Needs Love?

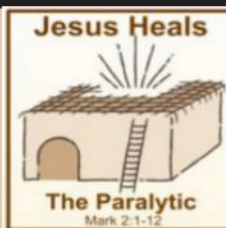
Part of the first reading from Acts that we don't hear is a vision Peter has, in which God tells him that all foods are OK to eat; no longer are some unclean. He later realizes that the vision was a symbol

that all people are "clean," Gentiles as well as Jews. All are called to have faith in Jesus. Not all of the early Christians understood. The Jewish Christians were shocked that the Holy Spirit would give gifts, such as speaking in tongues, to Gentiles. Especially Gentiles who had not been baptized. Now the distinction between Gentile and Jewish Christians doesn't seem very important today. But we still need to follow St. Peter's example of sharing our faith in Jesus. We seem to be more interested in converting other Christians than in bringing non-Christians to the faith. Does that mean we should drag any non-believers we meet to church on Sunday? Should we brag about how much we love God?

Today's gospel gives us a hint at what we can do to bring others to Christ. Jesus makes it sound simple: Love one another as I love you. (Jn 15:12) Remember that God's love for us comes first. That's why the Gentiles in the first reading received the gifts of the Spirit before they were baptized. The second reading from John tells us that love is not people loving God; it's that God loved us first, enough to send his Son to die for us. We may think that we have chosen to love and follow Jesus, but as the gospel tells us, Jesus chose us before we ever chose him. So maybe that part about loving others as Jesus loves us is not so much about being willing to die for those you love. It may just be our willingness to love others without requiring that they love us first.

How can we do that? I can introduce myself to someone new to the parish that I see in church. I can offer to help the poor without waiting for the pastor to beg. I can be courteous to other drivers, letting them go in front of me in heavy traffic. I can make a priority of seeing what I can do for others, instead of what they can do for me. Perhaps part of our daily prayer can be asking God to show us who needs our love today.

Tom Schmidt



Healing Mass

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Novena 6:50 p.m. and
Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Anyone desiring physical, emotional or spiritual healing for yourself and others is encouraged to join us for Mass, Adoration and Prayer Service. All are invited and there are no age restrictions.

To view a short Healing Mass Video by Fr. Kyle, visit OLPH's Facebook Page (Our lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church-Belle Chasse) link at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064562537271> or YouTube link at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASK3BJuogsY>.



May Crowning: What It Is and Why We Do It

May Crowning is a ritual celebrated in the month of May where an image or statue of Mary is crowned with a wreath of flowers and honored as the Queen of Heaven and the Mother

of God. But this simple ceremony carries deep meaning for the Catholic faith.

The Ceremony: Unlike most holidays, May Crowning doesn't have a set date and can be celebrated at any time during the month of May. Some churches opt for Mother's Day, while others do it as soon as May arrives. There is also no set ritual, but traditionally May Crownings are celebrated during Mass and after a procession, a crown of flowers and herbs is placed on the head of a statue of Mary. It's usually followed by prayers and/or hymns centered around Mary. The flowers and herbs are usually replaced throughout the rest of the month to keep them fresh.

The Meaning of May Crowning: While Mary the Mother of God is revered and celebrated all year long, May is a special month to celebrate the "Queen of Heaven." May has been Mary's month since the medieval period, when May was considered the end of winter and the start of a new season of growth. It's a time for new beginnings and the chance to begin with gratitude and devotion. There are many reasons she is considered the "Queen of Heaven." She was a perfect follower of Christ, and so is considered the crown of creation. She is also the Mother of the Son of God, Jesus, who is the King of Israel and the universe. And of course, she is the most important woman of our faith, and our spiritual mother.

It's our hope and prayer that this May, you'll celebrate May Crowning in our parish and have a special encounter with Christ through the Virgin Mary.

<https://versoministries.com/blog/may-crowning/>



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Just as the origins of Lent have to do with accompanying people in the final stages of preparation for baptism at Eastertime, so does the structure of the Easter season help the newly received Catholics take root in the community. This is the season of “mystagogy,” which means “reflection on the mysteries.” This means that new Catholics are remembering the sacraments by which they become one with us, and are sorting out the implications for their everyday life. They can understand the excitement of Cornelius and his family in the first reading, filled with the Holy Spirit, and so eager to begin their new life that they overwhelm St. Peter. The second reading and the Gospel today likewise help our new brothers and sisters explore their new life as an experience of God’s tender love.

Long ago, our tradition named these newly baptized adults and children the “neophytes,” from Greek words meaning “newly planted.” Newly planted in the garden of faith, they look to us to provide the fertile soil in which their new life can take root and grow. You can help. If you have “neophytes” in your parish, a card or note of welcome, or warm words of congratulation, are still timely. It’s Easter!

—Rev. James Field



Faith and Marriage
an Apostolate of the Willwoods Community

Willwoods Married Couples Retreat: May 18th-19th or May 25th-26th

Would you like to break away with your spouse and spend quality time enriching your marriage? Then join us on either one of our upcoming May Married Couples Retreats at the beautiful St Joseph Abbey Retreat Center in Covington, La.

For more information or to register go to FaithandMarriage.org. Don’t miss out on this **great weekend get-a-way!** A suggested donation is requested but not required. Scholarships are available. Cost should never be a reason why a couple cannot make a weekend!

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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.

Next Sunday is the Ascension of the Lord

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11. Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Ephesians 1:17-23. He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Mark 16:15-20. The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.



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

Deceased Members of the Altar Society.

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: **Joyce Ehrhard**, requested by June Chauvin.

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.



Sixth Sunday of Easter



Straight Talk

by: Father William Maestri

Vocations:
Whose to Answer?

Ours is an age of increasing use of, and dependency on, analytics, logarithms, and probability tables. The use of analytics is prevalent in sports, commerce, and even within the churches. Case in point - the state of vocations in the Catholic Church.

The Vatican 2022 Statistical Yearbook, (released April 2024), has provoked the following: "Vocations have Declined Overall", (*L'Osservatore Romano*, the daily newspaper of the Vatican City-State). The number of Catholics globally increased by 14 million, (2021-

2022). At the same time, there was a marked DECLINE in the number of priests and seminarians, except in Africa and Asia. The number of Catholics in Africa increased 3%, the largest growth, while the Americas reported a 0.9% increase, Asia was up 0.6%, and in Europe the number remained STEADY at about 286 million.

While the number of Catholics worldwide increased, the number of priests, seminarians, and religious (men and women) DECLINED. In 2021, there were 407,872 priests globally, in 2022, the reported number was 407,730, a reduction of 142. Oceania experienced a 1.5% decline, Europe's priest population fell 1.7%, the Americas remained steady, and once again Africa and Asia reported INCREASES in the number of priests (3.2% and 1.6% respectively).

Between 2021 and 2022, there were fewer seminarians worldwide. In terms of the number of seminarians, the Yearbook's report revealed: Europe with 10% of the world's population, accounted for only 14,461 seminarians; Asia reported 30,000, a DECREASE of 1.2%; the Americas numbered 27,000, a DECLINE of 3.2%; and Oceania reported 1,000 while making up only 0.6% of the global population. The only region to report an INCREASE was Africa, with 35,000, a 2.1% growth.

In terms of professed men in religious communities (NOT including priests), there was a DECREASE of 360 - for 2021, there were 49,774, but for 2022, the number fell to 49,414. While there are more women religious than priests (about 50%), the number of women religious DECLINED 1.6% (10,000 worldwide). By region: Oceania 3.6%, Europe 3.5%, North America 3%, and South and Central America, a decrease of more than 2,000. The INCREASE in women religious occurred in Africa (1.7%, with 1,000 newly professed) and Southeast Asia with a 0.1% uptick accounting for 200 newly professed women.

Not to be overlooked, is the INCREASE in the number of Permanent Deacons. Between 2021-2022, there was a 2% increase, while during the same time period, there were 142 less priests worldwide, there were 974 more Permanent Deacons.

The vocation situation, too often ignored in culture and within the Church, along with the graying of the priesthood (the average age is 63, an increase of 28 years since 1973, and more than 40% of those still serving, are OVER the age of 65 (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate/CARA)), should call to mind the words of Jesus: "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.'" (Mt 9: 37-8).

The workforce for harvesting more workers, is a call to ALL disciples, not just those in chanceries and "Vocation" Offices. An essential part of the "new evangelization" must include the "old practice" of ACTIVE discernment and invitation to follow Jesus as priests and as men and women religious. St. Augustine reminds us that God builds the boat but expects US to open the sails. The wind of the Holy Spirit continues to blow (Jn 3: 7-8). There is no later or more convenient hour, for "now is the accepted time" (2 Cor 6: 2).

Who's to open the sail? Who's to answer?



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