



# 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](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.

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev. Kyle V. Dave, Pastor**  
[kdave@arch-no.org](mailto:kdave@arch-no.org)

**Rev. William F. Maestri,**  
*Ministry of Sacraments & Education*

**George “Ed” Merritt, Jr., Deacon**  
[emerritt@arch-no.org](mailto:emerritt@arch-no.org)

**Brittany Breaux, School Principal**  
[bbreaux@olphbcschool.org](mailto:bbreaux@olphbcschool.org)

**Dawn Bassett, Administrative Assistant**

**Suzette Perrin, Coordinator of Religious  
Education and Adult Formation**  
[cre@olphbc.org](mailto: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

<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 a.m. & Vigil 4:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
<b>Monday</b>	7:30 a.m.
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 a.m. During the school year (7:30 a.m. when school is not in session)
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 a.m.
<b>Friday</b>	7:30 a.m.
<b>First Friday Adoration:</b>	8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
<b>Holy Days:</b>	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](http://www.olphbc.org).

### Sacraments



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. To begin the process, parents are encouraged to go to our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) to access the forms under Sacraments and return the forms by email or drop off at the Church Office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar prior to the Baptism. The Baptismal Seminar is held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Day Chapel. If you need more information or have questions, call the Rectory at (504) 394-0314 or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**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).

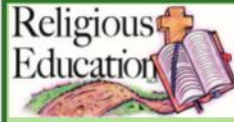
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

**For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact 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, 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](mailto:cre@olphbc.org) for more information.

**SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Children in grades K-2nd are invited with a catechist during 10:30 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 with day and time to be adjusted to personal schedules. For additional information and to register, contact the Church Office or email [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

**Saturday, September 7, 1 Cor 4:6b-15; Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21; Lk 6:1-5**

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. M)  
Holy Land Gifts—All Masses

**Sunday, September 8, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
Holy Land Gifts—All Masses  
Confirmation Class, Church—5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 9, Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest; 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12; Lk 6:6-11**

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, September 10, 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Lk 6:12-19**

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

**Wednesday, September 11, 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17; Lk 6:20-26**

Daily Mass, Church—8:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.  
PSR Class—4:45 p.m.—6:00 p.m.  
KC Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 12, Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary; 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38**

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

**Friday, September 13, Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42**

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

**Saturday, September 14, Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17**

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)  
2nd Collection—Catholic Communications Campaign  
Catechetical Sunday

**Sunday, September 15, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
2nd Collection—Catholic Communications Campaign  
Catechetical Sunday  
Confirmation Class, Church—5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

## Mass Intentions

**9/7, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— For the Parishioners

**9/8, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— Cathy Madere, Sally Allan, Dinko Popich, Eva Vujnovich, Marija & Kuzma Tesvich, Sr., Adrian, Ester & Roberta Bruley, Mary Robbie Lowry, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson

**9/8, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**— Cristian Broussard, for the intentions of Annette Joe, for the intentions of Douglas Francois IV, Eric Hansen, Francis Gainey, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Eva Vujnovich, Donald Kennair, Helen Abadie Morris

**9/9, Monday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**9/10, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**9/10, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**— Darrell Roy

**9/11, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.**— Anne Fowler

**9/12, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.**— Kerry M. Casler

**9/13, Friday, 7:30 a.m.**— Ronald P. Boudreaux

**9/14, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**9/14, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— Jerry Pignuolo, Eric Hansen, Larry Avist, Sr., Oliver & Margaret Koch, Beverly Hebert, Peggy Fortmayer, Evelyn Mistich, Alexandra “Allie” Boteler, Francis Gainey, Eva Vujnovich, Carolyn Nielsen, John Caulding, Paul Comeaux, Sally Jeanfreau

**9/15, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— For the Parishioners

**9/15, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**— Joyce Ehrhard, Terry Sponge, Blaze St. Marie, for the intentions of Annette Joe, for the intentions of Douglas Francois IV, Eric Hansen, Eva Vujnovich, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Helen Abadie Morris, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson



**High School of Religion Registration is OPEN** for the 2024-2025 School Year. If you have any students who are 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, we have an engaging HSR Program for them. It involves

packets of work sent home as well as three (3) in person sessions with our catechists. Please go online to our [olphbc.org](http://olphbc.org) website for digital registration. Fees can be paid in person on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. when we meet with parents and students. All registration is ONLINE for HSR. Our HSR classes prepare our young adults for Confirmation in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade as well as their future in our Church Community here at OLPH. Questions? Contact Suzette Perrin at (504) 394-0314.



**HURRICANE PRAYER:** Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us from all harm during this hurricane season; and protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. AMEN



**Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for 2024**

*September—For the Cry of the Earth*

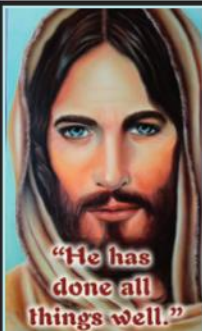
We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

## OLPH School News

Students in the Marvel Studio had an exciting and interactive math session where they enjoyed learning their addition facts using a life-sized ten-frame board.



At OLPH, students in all Studios have the opportunity to begin their day in a way that suits them best. Whether they prefer reading, writing, building, or sitting quietly, each student can choose how they would like to start their day. Our Imagination Studio students embraced this opportunity wholeheartedly, diving into a variety of soft start activities that were as unique as they are.



**Royal Treatment** — St. James is exaggerating a little when he describes how people might greet visitors or new members in the church. Hopefully, no one was that obvious at treating wealthy members better than poor ones. Sadly, prejudice is a sin that is just as prevalent today as it was 2000 years ago. Today we have laws for business and government to prevent prejudice. But the subtler forms of judging people by their race, clothing, speech, religion, etc. sometimes hide behind patriotism, faith, or the desire to protect our families. So how can we stop it?

One reason for prejudice is ignorance. Some people will believe anything they hear or read, especially if they see it on the internet. When you get an e-mail that says "true Americans" are white, English-speaking Christians, there is probably some prejudice behind it. The only way to fight ignorance is with the truth. Jesus himself said the truth will set you free. (Jn 8:32) He ignored the laws/traditions that said you cannot associate with unclean people, Gentiles, or sinners. He told us that God loves all people, even sinners, so what right do we have to judge someone just because they are different?

A second reason for prejudice is fear. We are told that certain neighborhoods are dangerous. Or an older adult sees three teenage boys walking down the street and because of her fear, she thinks they could be gang members. Sometimes fear stops us from helping the needy. But remember how many times Jesus tells us in the gospels, "Do not be afraid." If we can learn to see Christ in all peoples, regardless of their race or lifestyle, we are beginning to leave prejudice behind. If we teach our children to respect the poor, the disabled, the homeless, we can help them to understand what James meant about God choosing the "poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom." (Jas 2:5) Tom Schmidt

## OLPH Fair News

### OLPH GLOWS WILD

**2024 OLPH Parish Fair**  
**Friday, October 11, 2024 -**  
**Sunday, October 13, 2024**

#### FAIR SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor, please visit [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) fair page for the form.

#### **Platinum Sponsor: \$2,000.00**

- Full Color Large Stage Banner
- Full Color Highway Banner
- Electronic Ad on OLPH Marquis on Hwy. 23
- T-Shirt Advertisement
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- Recognition in School Newsletter
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

#### **Gold Sponsor: \$1,500.00**

- Full Color Highway Banner
- Electronic Ad on OLPH Marquis
- T-Shirt Advertisement
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

#### **Silver Sponsor: \$750.00**

- Full Color Highway Banner
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

#### **Bronze Sponsor: \$300.00**

- Booth Sign
- Parish Bulletin Insert Recognition
- P.A. Recognition During Fair

If you are interested in a different type of sponsorship or adding anything onto your package, please let us know!



### OLPH FAIR T-SHIRTS

Fair T-shirt order forms can be found on the table in the back of church. Please complete the form and return it with payment to the church or school office by September 8, 2024.

### 50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS

Fair 50/50 Raffle Tickets will be sold after all masses at the back of church. *Last year's Raffle Ticket Winner won \$22,182.50, so please don't miss out on a chance to win at the Fair.*

OLPH Fair would like to thank Wayne Breaux Electrical for the 2024 raffle ticket sponsorship.

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Fair Raffle

October 11th - October 13th  
BIG 50/50 Raffle

**BIG 50/50 Drawing:**  
Sunday, October 13th, 2024  
Winner Need to Not Be Present  
Live Bands, Food and much more!  
\$5/Ticket

Donations Benefit OLPH Church and School

Lic No. G-



### PRE-FAIR VOLUNTEERS/BOOTH CAPTAINS/SHIFT WORKERS

**Lots of work goes into the fair before the gates open. Weekday, Evening and Weekend help is all needed whether you have an extra hour or can make a weekly commitment. If anyone wants to volunteer to help, please contact Amie at (504) 654-6078 or email [olphfairchairs@gmail.com](mailto:olphfairchairs@gmail.com).**

**We are also in need of volunteers to help with booths, games and ticket sales. Sign up is in the back of church after Masses or contact Amie Hebert by phone at (504) 654-6078 or email [olphfairchairs@gmail.com](mailto:olphfairchairs@gmail.com). The gifts of your time and talent are much appreciated and essential to the success of the Fair. Please sign up to be a part of this year's Fair.**

## **OLPH 2024 FAIR** **OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup> - OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**FRI. AARON FORET 8-11 PM**

**SAT. BOOT HILL 4-7 PM**

**KINGS OF NEON 8-11 PM**

**SUN. THE STRAYS 12-2:30 PM**

**FEATURING PEYTON FALGOUST BAND 3-6:30 PM**  
**BAG OF DONUTS - UNMASKED!**

**Food • Music • Carnival Rides**  
**8968 HWY. 23, BELLE CHASSE**



We are happy to announce that Belinda Gaile, Cindy Liebel, and Peggy Gatti will be chairing the Flea Market this year!! OLPH Parish Community sends a BIG "thank you" to each of them for their efforts and willingness to help make our Fair a success! If you have questions about donations, please call Belinda Gaile at (504) 912-1226.

### **TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE! WE NEED YOUR DONTIONS!**

Please save items to donate for our fair Flea Market. The items that sell the best are kitchen items, toys, bedding and holiday decorations. NOTE: The flea market does NOT sell shoes, clothes, computers or electronics. We will begin receiving items starting on September 14, 2024. Thank YOU for your support!

*Next Sunday is the  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Isaiah 50:5-9a.** I gave my body to those who struck me.

**James 2:14-18.** Faith without good works is dead.

**Mark 8:27-35.** You are the Christ...the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

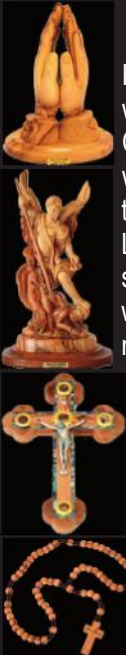


*The Sanctuary Light by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.*

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in loving memory of:

**Donald Kennair**, requested by The Kennair Family; and **Annabelle O'Brien**, requested by 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.*



**Holy Land Gifts**

Holy Land Gifts, represented by the Rashmawi Family who are volunteer members from the Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem, will be visiting our Parish next weekend, **September 7/8** to sell their olive wood gifts to help relieve the dire Christian situation in the Holy Land. Olive wood carvings are made in home workshops by Catholic families in the city of Bethlehem who rely on their sales to pilgrims and tourists as their main source of income. The recent war halted tourism to the Holy Land, all souvenir shops and Hotels are now closed resulting in 70% unemployment among the carvers. The Catholics of the Holy Land ask for the support of your prayers and the purchase of these handcrafted artworks. Proceeds from sales generate much-needed employment opportunities and monetary funds for 600 Catholic families in Bethlehem. Cards, cash and apple pay will be accepted. Please consider these Gifts for your family, friends, and yourself and be as generous as God is to you.

**Sponsor of the Week:**



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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.



**Newly Baptized In Christ**

OLPH would like to welcome our new parishioners that were Baptized in August:

**Anne Reba Tesvich**, child of Eden and Matthew Tesvich; **Anthony Joseph Barrois**, child of Sabrina and Blake Barrois; and **Sade Bryant Acy**, child of Kandice Newcomb and Steven Acy, Jr.



**Mass For Peace, Justice & Healing**

On Tuesday evening, September 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., Fr. Kyle Dave will celebrate a special Mass for Peace, Justice & Healing. Our communities continue to feel the effects of violence and its aftermath. This

will be an opportunity to come together in worship and peace, to pray for those touched by violence, and to thank those who put themselves in harm's way in order to keep our neighborhoods safe and who reach out to tend to their needs every day. The liturgy will close with Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

**Friends of all faiths are welcome to attend.** Hospitality will follow afterwards. Questions? contact the Church Office at 504-394-0314 or [churchoffice@olphbc.org](mailto:churchoffice@olphbc.org).



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

**Donald Kennair**, requested by The Kennair Family.

*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.*

**Stewardship**  
*All things are possible with God*



Devote Time Share Talent



Give Treasure A way of life

**Church Financials  
Fiscal Month Ending  
March 31, 2024**

Total Income \$ 557,000

Total Expense \$ 544,000

Net Gain/(Loss) \$ 13,000\*

\*includes Fair Net Proceeds of \$90,000 and Rectory Roof Replacement of \$(43,000).

*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](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.



## The Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time



## Straight Talk

by: Father William Maestri

### Change of Seasons

Those “lazy, hazy, crazy days (daze) of summer” are slowly giving way to the UPS brown of autumn’s shameful undressing of summer’s greenery.

Reluctantly, I (we?) put away the shorts, tank tops, flipflops, sun screen, ice cooler, and bug repellent. Out comes long sleeve shirts, pants, jackets, and a new hat from Meyer the Hatter.

The “Boys of Summer” vacate the diamond to make room for Bears, Falcons, Lions and what else - SAINTS!

The summer wind that comes blowing in from across the Gulf changes direction and comes howling down from our Canadian “neighbors”. Unfortunately, there is no wall so high to repel this seasonal invasion.

The Bible gives us fair warning: “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair [season] under the heavens.” (Ecc 3:2).

If there is a silver lining in the dark winter clouds, it belongs to those suffering from football deprivation. Their “dark night of the soul” (St. John of the Cross), has given way to tailgating, football pools, and the weekly agony/ecstasy known only to the congregation of “gotta believe” fans.

Does all this mean that for the next six months a goodly number will be SAD - Seasonal Affective Disorder (Depression)? No. At least it need not be. Even though the sun is lower and the nights are longer, this shut-in time contains its own silver lining - “a time to give birth...to plant; ...to gather...to seek...a time to be silent...”. (Ecc 3:1-8). It can be a time to properly love ourselves by BEFRIENDING SOLITUDE. We can periodically enjoy a brief retreat from the “buzz, bang, and boom”, of our “normal” days. The long silent nights can shun the TV and computer screens. The hearing of noisy distractions can be replaced by a blessed listening: “Deep call to deep”. (Ps 42:7).

Granted such solitude and listening can be frightening. It is safer to be “up and doing”. In the story of Martha and Mary (Lk 10:38-42), at first blush we admire Mary but we are more comfortable with Martha. However, Jesus’ evaluation is worth considering.

Jesus is welcomed and shown hospitality by Martha. She goes all out to make a good impression. However, her sister, Mary, “has left [Martha] to do all the serving”. Jesus seems to be indifferent to Martha’s plight: “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving?”

Martha’s SELF-INFLICTED situation IS of concern to Jesus. His response is an invitation to concern herself with the things that really matter: genuine hospitality is PERSON-CENTERED, the “serving” is an expression of welcome. Unfortunately, Martha’s hospitality is a performance as a gracious hostess. By so doing, her part will be fleeting, replaced by Martha’s next self-exhibition.

By contrast, Mary’s hospitality is internal, that is, her welcoming of Jesus is through a listening heart. Martha’s preparation and serving ARE important, but NOT ultimately so. It is Jesus’ Person and words that are “Spirit and Life” (Jn 6:63). Such is “the better part and it will not be taken from her.” (Lk 10:42).

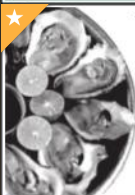
And such will NOT be taken from US!



**504-392-0554**



PHONE: (504) 564-3344  
FAX: (504) 564-0174  
27136 HIGHWAY 23, PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083



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Nick Bezmalinovic (Owner)



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For Membership Call Rodney Schaubhut, Sr., GK  
[RodSchaubhut@gmail.com](mailto:RodSchaubhut@gmail.com) • 504-376-3080  
Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. Each Month 7:00 pm  
Council Home



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