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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. & 10:30 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

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



He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Lk 3:16

JOY



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 on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Due to demand, some months may be eliminated or another day or time may be chosen by the family if it is available on the church schedule of events." To begin the process, parents are encouraged to go to our website at 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.

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.

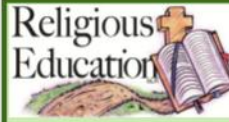
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

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 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.

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, December 14, Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.
Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)
2nd Collection—Riverbend Resident Gifts, All Masses

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent; Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Children's Dismissal—10:30 a.m. Mass
2nd Collection—Riverbend Resident Gifts, All Masses
School and Craft Fair, OLPH School—9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (see School Page for more information)

Monday, December 16, Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

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

Tuesday, December 17, Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
PSR Nativity Play, Church—5:00 p.m.
Confessions, Church—5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.
Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church—6:50 p.m.
Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Wednesday, December 18, Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

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.

Thursday, December 19, Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
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, December 20, Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

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

Saturday, December 21, Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33-2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

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, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
Children's Dismissal—10:30 a.m. Mass

Mass Intentions

12/14, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— For the Parishioners

12/15, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— Sally Allan, Kenneth Pouwels, Sr., Edna & Eugene Fagnano, Patsy & Ray "Pete" Ansardi, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson

12/15, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.— Adrijan Dekovic, Blaze St. Marie, Francis Gainey, Eva Vujnovich, Helen Abadie Morris, Eugene D. Fagnano, Johnnie Pennison, Amanda Luneau, Sgt. Peter Foltz, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Gary Buras

12/16, Monday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

12/17, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

12/17, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

12/18, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.— Darrell Roy

12/19, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

12/20, Friday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

12/21, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

12/21, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— Larry Avist, Sr., Eric Hansen, Oliver & Margaret Koch, Beverly Hebert, Ruth Ferrell, Francis Gainey, Edna & Eugene Fagnano

12/22, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— For the Parishioners

12/22, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.— Wayne Perrin, Blaze St. Marie, Eva Vujnovich, Helen Abadie Morris, Eugene D. Fagnano, Sgt. Peter Foltz, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Gary Buras



Newly Baptized In Christ

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

Tatum Elise Bladsacker, child of Anjelica and Nikos Bladsacker; **Cooper Patrick Gros**, child of Kelli and Dalton Gros; **Landon Joseph Ledet**, child of Stacey and Ronald Ledet, Jr.; and **Jaime Moss Boudreaux**, child of Emily and Zachary Boudreaux.



Third Sunday of Advent

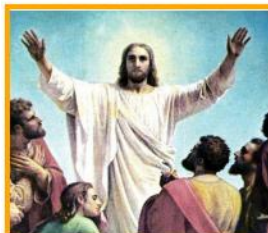
The Third Week of Advent: December 15, 2024

Candle Name: The Shepherd's Candle

The Third Week of Advent Represents: Joy

Candle Color: Pink

This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus. How is Jesus inviting you to experience greater joy this Advent?



"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."



OLPH School News

Grandparents Day was a huge success! It was such a joy to welcome our grandparents to campus and see the smiles, hugs, and love shared throughout the day. The students worked hard on their special performances, and the pride in their eyes as they sang and danced for their grandparents was truly heartwarming.



OLPH CHRISTMAS MARKET AND CELEBRATION

Craft and food vendors!
Donuts with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Grinch! Photography available!
Kids' "Secret Shopping" market
Craft making and more!
(Santa/Mrs. Claus only from 9-11)

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday, 12/15/2024
OLPH School, Belle Chasse

MARKET IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!
SANTA'S VILLAGE \$10/CHILD

Don't forget 50/50 raffle tickets too!

Still interested in being a vendor? Email
sam.bordelon@gmail.com.

Third Sunday

Behold, I am sending
my messenger ahead of
you; he will prepare
your way before you.

Matthew 11:10



This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show

evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/third-sunday-of-advent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/>



OLPH Angel Tree Program

Now through **December 22nd** you are invited to participate in the Angel Tree Program **benefitting Padua House**, which is run by Catholic Charities. All are residents of Plaquemines Parish.

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



Christmas Flowers

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



CHRISTMAS TREES

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

The memorials will be published in the bulletin.



2024 CHRISTMAS CANDLES

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

If anyone is interested, please contact the Church Office at 504-394-0314 no later than Friday, December 20th.

*Next Sunday is the
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Micah 5:1-4a. Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Hebrews 10:5-10. I am coming to do your will.

Luke 1:39-45. Why should it happen that I am honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

As God gives us the gift of His Son, come join us.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Vigil Masses: Tuesday, December 24th—
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Christmas Carols—3:30 PM

Los Posadas Procession—5:45 PM

Candlelight Christmas Mass—10:00 PM

Choral Program—9:30 PM

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th Mass—9:00 AM

Prelude Music—8:45 AM

New Year's Day

Tuesday, December 31st Vigil Mass—5:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1st Mass—9:00 AM



*On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you
and yours a Merry Christmas and a
Blessed New Year!*

Rev. Kyle V. Davis

Sponsor of the Week:



504-394-5574
instepmembers.com

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.



****NEW BOOK REPLACES
HEAR OUR PRAYER BOOK****

On December 1, 2024, which is the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin using a different book for Prayer Intentions since the red "Hear Our Prayer" book has been discontinued. The new blue book is called "Lord, Have Mercy" and will be displayed on the same table as the Hear Our Prayer book in the back of church. Like the old book, the new book is to record the petitions and prayer requests for the sick, the homebound, the suffering, the local and universal Church, the needs of the world, and all who need prayer. As previously done, the prayers contained in the new Lord, Have Mercy Book will also be remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful during Sunday or weekday Masses.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for 2024

December—For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



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; and **Edna & Eugene Fagnano**, requested by Dolly Roy.

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 Year Ending
June 30, 2024**

Total Income	\$ 749,209
Total Expense	\$ 707,120
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 42,089

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

**Online Giving Is Available on Our
Website at www.olphbc.org** (click
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easily create your donation account
online and make changes at any time.



Third Sunday of Advent



Straight Talk

by: Father William Maestri

Close Encounter of the Merciful Kind

The Season of Advent is short, intense, and not well liked by many within both secular and "religious" realms. Why? Advent is the Season that requires PATIENT WAITING. And on a deeper level it requires we prioritize mercy over condemnation.

We modern folk put time on a short leash. We want what we want NOW, better yet, YESTERDAY. We are addicted to the fast-food, computers, and sports (baseball and tennis have succumbed to the tyranny of the clock and the dollar; faster paced games = more eyeballs = higher incomes and ticket prices). The result of this vicious dynamic is a severe case of mental and emotional shrink-flation, that is, our capacity for concentration shrinks while our level of frustration (rage) inflates.

On the religious side of the Advent coin, the talk of patient waiting signals promises made but too often broken. History's passing parade of the "Real Thing" messiah is long; as long as the list of village idiots who blindly follow. We're tired of being scammed. We've become those "hard headed" realists (William James) who reject those "reasons of the heart which the mind knows not." (Blaise Pascal 1623-62). Before canceling Pascal, we might consider Shakespeare's Hamlet: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." At the time of Jesus' birth there was a heightened sense of great expectations. The long-promised Messiah was near at hand (Lk 3:15-17). The general consensus was the Messiah would restore Israel's glory as in the days of King David (2 Sam 5 and 6) - political independence and economic prosperity. However, God's Messiah is quite different than the one of Israel's making.

When the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4) had come, we gaze on a newborn in a crib (a feeding bin), wrapped in swaddling cloths (discarded rags), inside a stable (inhospitable), and with field shepherds in attendance (poor and simple). These aspects point to deep theological meanings: Jesus is the food and drink for eternal life (Jn 6:51); swaddling clothes prefigure Jesus' burial; Jesus' "own" do not receive him (Jn 1:11), the Gospel includes the poor, simple, and rejected (Lk 4:18), and most stunning is the Word becomes fully human (Jn 1:14).

This solidarity with the poor, simple, and outcasts, is not the resume of the expected Savior. Worse still, this "King of the Jews" (Mt 27:37) is nailed to a cross between two criminals (Lk 23:33) and buried in a borrowed tomb (Lk 24:53). There were reports he had risen and was seen by more than 500 disciples (1Cor 15:6). Some have even claimed he will return soon and establish God's Kingdom of justice and peace. Such would NOT be the case (2Thes 2:1-17). As time goes by without Jesus' return in glory, two questions confront the early Church: When will Jesus return? And why the delay?

The "when" question has a modern ring to it. The disciples were eager for an answer right before the Ascension: "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?" (Acts 2:6). Jesus' answer is direct: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority." (Acts 1:7). The Church is to enter into a new Advent Season of waiting and preparing. However, the Spirit will be sent to strengthen and guide the Church down the corridor of history (Acts 2:8). This new Spirit guided time is anything but a time out. Rather, it is an urgent call for personal Christian maturity (2Thes 2:13-15). Furthermore, filled with the Spirit, the Church is to go forth into the whole world, without fear, and proclaim the Good News - "Jesus is Lord" (Acts 1:8; Mt 17:7; Acts 2:29-33).

Why the delay? The Second Letter of Peter faces this pressing and perennial question (complaint) head on. There are "scoffers" (like the "mockers" at the Crucifixion (Mt 27:41)) who claimed Jesus was not coming again (2 Pt 3:3). Again, the question: Why the delay? The response is as direct as the question: "The Lord does not delay his promise [Parousia], as some regard "delay", but he is PATIENT with you, not wishing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance." (2Pt 3:8-10). The patient, merciful, universal love of God is NEVER governed by TIMEX time.

The Church, People of God, is between sunrise and sunset (daily living), hence hold fast to this exhortation: "...be on your guard not to be led into error...and to fall from your own stability. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ." (2Pt 3:17-18).

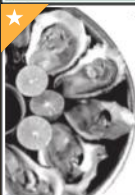
And now we return to our Advent time of waiting and preparing for the empty crib to be filled; and our empty hearts. In the darkness of night, we keep vigil for the Light that shines and is not overcome (Isa 9:2; Jn 1:3-13). What do we behold; ENCOUNTER? Pope Francis captures it beautifully: "[The Infant] is in fact the humility of God... taken to the extreme; it is love with which...he assumed our frailty...suffering...anxieties...desires...our limitations. The message that everyone was expecting... searching for in the depths of their souls, was none other than the tenderness of God...who looks upon us with eyes full of love...accepts our poverty...in love with our smallness.... The question put to us...by the Infant's presence is: do I allow God to love me?" (Pope Francis. The Infinite Tenderness of God, pp.22-23).



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