



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
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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 ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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



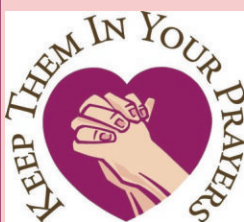
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Due to demand, some months may be eliminated or another day or time may be chosen by the family if it is available on the church schedule of events." To begin the process, parents are encouraged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

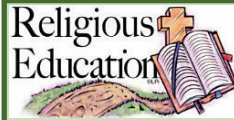
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

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, May 10, Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

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, May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter; Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rev 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
2nd Collection—Diocesan Priest Retirement (All Masses)

Monday, May 12, Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3, 43:3,4; Jn 10:1-10

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

Tuesday, May 13, Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30

Daily Mass, Day Chapel—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.
Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

Wednesday, May 14, Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle; Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17

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

Thursday, May 15, Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20

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

Friday, May 16, Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m. (Fr. K)

Saturday, May 17, Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14

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)

Sunday, May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)
2nd Collection—Capital Campaign (All Masses)

Next Sunday is the Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 14:21-27. They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Revelation 21:1-5a. He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

John 13:31-33a, 34-35. I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Mass Intentions

5/10, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— Jerry Pigniole, Dominick J. Sciortino, Sandra Longley, Oliver & Margaret Koch, Donna Pobrica, Jacqueline Cain, Irwin Cooper, III, Larry Avist, Sr., Trena Avist, Avist & Wilson Families, Rosemary Arcement, Mildred Benoit, Ferdinand Von Behren, Margaret Laughlin, Darrell Roy, David & Pam DeJean, Fay Dudenhefer, Randy Lemoine, Ronnie Lemoine, Mervin “Buddy” Burlette, Arturo Yap, Francis Gainey, Cindy Darce’, Alexandra “Allie” Boteler, Rene’ Bowers, Archie & Josie Lyles, Amy Pigniole Armstrong, Samuel Tague, Darrell Roy

5/11, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— For the Parishioners (living & deceased)

5/11, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.— Evelyn Mistich, Blaze St. Marie, Donald Kennair, Brigid Dufrene, Susan Elliott, Marija Tesvich, Audrey Creppel Treme’, Judith “Judy” Ponson, Geraldine Arnold, Samuel Tague

5/12, Monday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

5/13, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

5/13, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.— Wheldon Boyd, Jr.

5/14, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

5/15, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

5/16, Friday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

5/17, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.— For the intentions of the Priest

5/17, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.— For the Parishioners (living & deceased)

5/18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.— Sally Allan, Richard & Anne Fowler, Rennie Coludrovich, Jr.

5/18, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.— Donald Kennair, Rosemary (Schaubhut) Hebert, Pat & Dolly Stakelum, Blaze St. Marie, Jacqueline Bubrig Cain, Sandra Longley, Francis Gainey, Marija Tesvich, Kuzma Tesvich, Sr., Anthony Tesvich, Audrey Creppel Treme’, Geraldine Arnold, Samuel Tague



Confirmation Preparation Classes

The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred in the Junior year of high school (11th grade) in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. OLPH celebrates this sacrament in the Fall each year. There will be a Parent/Student Meeting on **Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM** in the church to go over all requirements for preparation for the sacrament. High school students in both Catholic and non-Catholic schools should attend and register for Confirmation as soon as possible. Registration can be done through our website at www.olphbc.org/hsr-forms. For more information check our website or contact Suzette Perrin at the church office at (504) 394-0314.

OLPH School News



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PSR and OLPH Students successfully completed the formation process in order to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



A Lot of Nerve

Last week we saw how the disciples rejoiced to suffer for their faith. This week we see them turn away from their persecutors and begin preaching to the Gentiles. Even though they are thrown out of town, they still are filled with joy (Acts 13:50–52). Rejected by their own people, they are happy that the pagans not only listen to them, but also spread the word of the Lord. What I find interesting is that the disciples' joy comes from their failure to convert the Jewish leaders in Antioch. If those Jews had become believers and had not rejected Paul and Barnabas, the disciples probably would never have thought to preach to non-Jews about Jesus.

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."



I think that failure to convert their own people allowed them to see how God's power was working for them. That's why their joy was so great. They were not just congratulating themselves on how well they were preaching. No, they saw how God was doing the real work. That took the pressure off of them. They could stop worrying about every word of their preaching, wondering if they looked holy enough to impress people, or afraid that someone might make fun of them (or do a background check: "Isn't that Saul, who used to persecute Jesus' followers? He's got a lot of nerve thinking he could now be one of them."). None of that mattered, because they knew that the Spirit was leading them, as our second reading says, "to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17). They knew they were in God's hands, as we heard in the Gospel (John 10:28).

Can we be like those disciples? Instead of getting angry at frustrations, can we see them as an opportunity to experience God's grace? Do we let our failures get us down, or do we let God bring us through them, teaching us to rely on the Lord? When people reject us, do we give up, or do we trust God to help them? Are we ashamed of our past sins, or grateful for God's forgiveness?

Of course, the disciples didn't go around looking for ways to suffer. But they did look for ways to share their great news that Jesus is risen from the dead. Let us ask the Lord to send us the Spirit to show us how we can spread that same news.

Tom Schmidt

Happy Mother's Day—May 11, 2025

Mother's Day Prayer
Heavenly Father,
We lift up all mothers today and
thank them for their guidance and love.
We ask You to bless them
with Your own special love, today and always.
Amen.



OUR LADY'S GREEN SCAPULAR



The Green Scapular, also known as the Scapular of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is a Roman Catholic devotional article used to gain the intercession of the Virgin Mary, particularly for spiritual conversion and physical healing. It's a small piece of green cloth with images of Mary and her Immaculate Heart, blessed by a priest and worn around the neck or carried. **The prayer associated with the Green Scapular is:**

"Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death." This prayer is inscribed on the Green Scapular and should be recited daily by those wearing it or those offering it to others. The Green Scapular is known for obtaining many miraculous conversions and cures. Read more about the Green Scapular at <https://www.greenscapular.com/>



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.



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 **Wade & Barbara Bolotte**, 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.

Sponsor of the Week:

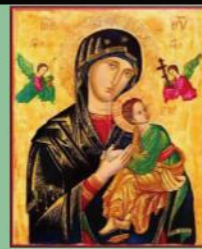


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Mass Intentions & Cards

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.

NOTE: Mass intentions can be scheduled for weekday and weekend Masses. Some guidelines include: (a) An intention may be for the deceased or the living (i.e. “The Healing of...”, “The intentions of ...”); (b) Each weekend, one Mass is reserved for “All Parishioners’ Intentions.”; (c) Only one intention can be offered at each Weekday Mass, except for Holy Days of Obligations that fall during the week; and (d) Mass can be said for an individual (e.g. “John Smith”), a married couple (“Joe and Mary Smith”) or a family (e.g. “The Smith Family”).



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The reception of Holy Communion at Sunday Mass is such an expected feature of the Mass these days that it is surprising to realize that for many centuries, receiving Communion was a relatively rare event in the life of a faithful Christian. “Easter duty” means that Catholics must celebrate reconciliation if aware of serious sin, and receive Holy Communion during the Easter season. For a while, this was a requirement of Easter week, and later extended to the whole season of fifty days, and even beyond that by a few weeks. For the majority of people long ago, this meant Communion was a once-a-year moment. A rather complex bureaucracy grew up around this rule in the Middle Ages. Amazingly, people received a kind of token at confession admitting them to Communion in their home parish, which then kept careful records and reported them to the bishop.

Surviving records can tell us a great deal about our ancestors. In fact, people were encouraged to journey to the church of their baptism in order to fulfill their duty, and therefore the Easter duty includes in its origins a grateful pilgrimage to the font in which you were first embraced by Christ. If your “Holy Mother Church” is within a drive, why not make a pilgrimage to that font be a feature of your Easter celebration of these fifty days? —James Field

Stewardship

All things are possible with God.



Church Financials Year to Date through January 31, 2025

	Operating	Maintenance	Cap. Campaign	Total
Income before Fair, Maint. & Capital	310,391			310,391
Fair Proceeds	91,000			91,000
Maintenance Monthly Collections		36,213		36,213
Capital Campaign Collections			11,131	11,131
Expenses	(420,770)	(94,246)	(86,116)	(601,132)
Total YTD Actuals	\$ (19,379)	\$ (58,033)	\$ (74,985)	\$ (152,397)

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.



Fourth Sunday of Easter



Straight Talk

by: Father William Maestri

Three Faces of Motherly Love

This weekend we lift our hearts and minds to the treasure too often buried in the Taken for Granted Field; the pearl of great price overlooked in the marketplace of costume jewelry (Mt 13:44-46). For Catholics, Mother's Day is also a time (*kairos*) when we honor the Blessed Mother of the whole human race (Catechism, Nos. 484-507). It is in Mary, the New Eve, that the promise of a Savior made to the first Eve (Gen 3:15) would be fulfilled (Lk 1:30-33).

The life of the Blessed Mother reveals the three expressions of motherly love: mystery, self-forgetful,

and fidelity. A word about each is fitting.

1. **Love as MYSTERY.** The great Cole Porter (1891-1964) in his song 'This Thing Called Love' (1929) writes: "I was a humdrum person/ Leading a life apart/ When love flew in through my window wide/ And quickened my humdrum heart/ Who can solve its mystery/ That's why I ask the lord in heaven above/ What is this thing/ Called love?" This mystery called love was not unique to Porter. Long before, Mary asked the same question of the Archangel Gabriel: "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" (Lk 1:34). Gabriel's response can be seen as clear as MUD. He offers a mystery in order to answer a mystery: "The holy Spirit will come upon you...the power of the Most High will overshadow you...the child...will be called holy, the Son of God." (Lk 1:35). Mary in a state of shock and bewilderment (Lk 1:29) responds: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38). Her response to Divine Love is SURRENDER TO MYSTERY. God's invitation to Love is NOT a problem to be solved (G. Marcel) but an enduring mystery of God's unbounded Love for humanity, for Mary, and the revelation of God's Love as salvific and NOT damning (2Pt 3:9-18).

All mothers experience the love for their child(ren) as the surrender to mystery, that is, the unfolding of a new life, a gift, through the years. Of the many things said about the 'early' Jesus, Luke tells us that Mary "kept all these things in her heart". (Lk 2:51). Each mother keeps many things in her, in that sacred place revealed to a trusted few. Like Mary, each mother prays their child(ren) will grow, become strong, filled with wisdom, and "the favor of God" will be upon them (Lk 2:40;51-52). Such is the mystery of Love upon Love (Jn 1:16).

2. **Love is Self-Forgetful.** At the end of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary, he reveals a 'second annunciation': "And behold, Elizabeth your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age" (Lk 1:36). Upon hearing this revelation, Mary responds not with words but with ACTION: "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste" (Lk 1:39-40). Mary de-centers herself and puts the needs of Elizabeth (and Zechariah) first. Elizabeth and Zechariah are up in age. Their needs are greater than Mary celebrating herself. Mary travels to the "hill country". The roads are not paved and Uber is not available. Mary is also "with child", but Elizabeth needs what only Mary can give - a fellow mother in whom "all things are possible" (Lk 1:37). The example of both mothers will contribute to John the "voice in the wilderness" (Lk 3:2-6), and to Jesus "the Lamb of God, who takes away the son of the world." (Jn 1:29). Each in their vocations will do the will of the Father (Jn 1:26-27).

The power of a mother's example is crucial in the formation of a child(ren). So much of a mother's love is expressed through self-donation. From the womb onward, the gift of self is NOT self-neglect. Rather, it is in the expansion of one's capacity to give that one receives: "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap...the measure...you measure...will...be measured to you." (Lk 6:38).

Blessed is the child(ren) who learns 'Kingdom math' taught by mother-addition by subtraction, for "all these things will be given you besides". (Mt 6:33).

3. **Love is Faithful.** "Success" attracts sunshine disciples; "failure" disperses followers. What happens when cheers become jeers; crowns become crosses; acclaims become accusations? The Blessed Mother faced this from the first. When Jesus is presented in the temple, the "righteous and devout" Simeon says to Mary, "this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel...a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce". (Lk 2:34-35). This sign and sword will be present throughout Jesus' public ministry. From being rejected at Nazareth (Lk 4:16-30), to Herod's plot to kill Jesus (Lk 13:31-33) and the way of the Cross (Lk 23:26-32), Jesus arrives at Golgotha. Throughout these three years, Mary's sword pierces deeper. Finally, at the third hour Jesus declares, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). Jesus is taken down and laid in the arms of his mother whose heart is completely pierced. Each mother, at some point and degree, experiences a pierced heart. Mary will re-emerge at the first Christian Pentecost (Acts 1:13-14), and with the Apostles, to receive the tongue of fire that begins the Church - the new people of God (Acts 2:14-47).

In time, Mary will be assumed into heaven and received by her Son. Her sorrow has turned to joy; hope is not disappointed (Rom 5:5); and death is swallowed up by the victory of the Cross. (1Cor 15:54-57).

Mary's love story is shared by each mother; a mysterious, sacrificing, and faithful love. How blessed we are to know the embrace of mother's love.

God bless them all!



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