

Giving Thanks to God For Thanksgiving Day!

Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!

Thanksgiving is one of the great traditions of our country: celebrating **Thanksgiving Day** on the fourth Thursday of November! This is unique to our country: remembering the **first harvest** in the **new world** in the Fall of 1621, almost 400 years ago (396 years ago to be precise). What began as a simple **harvest feast** is now celebrated nationally as a **federal holiday**. Families and friends gather around a meal and **thank God** for everything they have! It is for many of us a prelude to the great celebration of **Christmas** and the coming of the New Year!

I recall my First Thanksgiving in America **fifty years** ago! I had just arrived by boat in the summer of 1967, after a slow crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in nine days. (I still remember the name of the small boat, the Aurora. I called it a *student boat* as it was the cheapest way to reach the USA from France) ! I will never forget my first sight of America: the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor as the sun was rising on a hot, humid July morning! In the same way, I will never forget my first Thanksgiving. I had known about the Statue of Liberty and its impact on the thousands of immigrants passing by as they entered New York Harbor. But I had known nothing about the tradition of Thanksgiving. It did not exist in my little country of origin (France). Of course, we never had pilgrims celebrating their first harvest in the Old World of Europe!

My first summer had been spent with a wonderful family in Tampa, FL, as part of an international student program. The family had a son my age and a younger daughter. They all struggled with my French accent (what else is new?). They were a good Jewish family and they invited me to return to their home to spend the whole week of Thanksgiving. We shared the same Judeo-Christian heritage. We worshipped the same God and I appreciated this special time to **give thanks to God together**.

Four weeks ago, I wrote to you about "**Thanking God for All of You,**" as I was moved to do so by the beautiful beginning of the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians: "**We give thanks to God always for all of you.**" This is what **Thanksgiving Day** is all about: giving thanks to God for the gift of all our family members and friends! Everything we have belongs to God! The **love** we receive from our parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, cousins, and friends **is a gift from GOD!** As we plan to sit down together with our family and friends for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, let us remember God and all the blessings He pours upon each one of us! Let us also remember all the gifts God gives us through our own **parish community, a family of families!** Our own church is the **house of God**. Every time we gather together, it is a time to give thanks to God, to be grateful for all **His gifts!**

You are all invited to join us at our **Vigil Mass for Thanksgiving at 7 pm, Wednesday, November 22!** It is a new tradition we established since last year. We have also moved the **Blessing of the Food** to that Vigil Mass. If you cannot make it on that evening, we still have the 9 am Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

On behalf of Fr. Santiago, Deacon Rich, Deacon Bill and all our staff, we would like to take this opportunity to **thank God for the gift of each one of you!** You are the ones making our parish

Mass Intention

Saturday, Nov. 18, 5:00 PM: Theresa Beinert +

Sunday , Nov. 19 , 8:30 AM: Jerry Spurgeon +

Sunday, Nov. 19, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, Nov. 19, 11:30 AM: Pedro Nagales, Jr. +

Sunday, Nov. 19, 7:00 PM: Francisco Cervantes +

Monday, Nov. 20, 9:00 AM: Carol Bisagni +

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 9:00 AM: Anna Lee +

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 9:00 AM: Hugh Waters +

Thursday, Nov. 23, 9:00 AM: Mass of Thanksgiving

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Mass Readings for November 26, 2017

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

First Reading- Ezekiel 34 : vs. 11-12,15-17

Second Reading- 1 Corinthians 15: vs. 20-26, 28

Gospel-Matthew 25: vs. 31-46

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Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Linda Kelly, Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, James Reinhardt, Fr. Robert Pittman, Denise Zois, Dolores Settler, Yolanda Brenoes, Elsie & Rodalin Canare, Brenda Dodson, Sarah Parker, Elaine Townley, Juliann Leginze, Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Cumpion, Joe Martinez, Ann Gillespie, Julie King, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Mike Connolly, Samuel Lopez, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Elinore Fortney, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

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A Mass of Thanksgiving

There will be a special **Vigil Mass for Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Food** at OLHOC on **Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM**. Join us for this start to your holiday!

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(cont.) a true family of families. You are the ones making our church a place where everyone feels welcome, a place where we gather joyfully and prayerfully to worship the Lord our God, a place where we all help each other, a place we can all call home! **Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! May God keep blessing all of us!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Nov. 19/20- CCD Classes

Nov. 26/27- No CCD Classes (Thanksgiving Break)

Dec. 3/4- CCD Classes

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org

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Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm- check website)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)

FIAT: elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

Attention Families!!

The next **All-Youth Night (FIAT, Edge and Life Teen)** will be on **Jan. 28, 2018** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! **Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.**

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RCIA Invitation

We meet on Wednesdays from **7:00-9:00 PM**. Come and join us! If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.org.

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" are for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present). Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.



OLHOC Holiday House

The OLHOC Holiday House will be in the narthex from **November 4** through **December 17** to collect donations for the **Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets**. Over 50 baskets will be prepared and delivered to those in need right here in our community by our OLHOC volunteers. While we sit around our holiday table with our loved ones, may we remember those who have so very little in this world.



Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for the **OLHOC Parish Advent Penance Service**. It will be held on **Tuesday, November 28, 2017** at **7:00 PM**. There will be many priests available for confession. This is a wonderful way to begin your Advent Season in preparation for welcoming the Lord!

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **Nov. 8** at 7 pm. **New members and ideas are welcome!**

Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link. or sign-up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc

Sharing Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Non-perishable food items and toiletries may be left in the Social Hall and at any time will be used for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

Thanksgiving Basket Preparation

- **November 19** - 9:30 am final preparation of baskets in Social Hall
- **November 19** - delivery of baskets after 10:00 am Mass

Mary's Helping Hands Bake Sale

On **December 3**, Mary's Helping Hands will once again hold their bake sale and raffle. A variety of delicious holiday items will be available. The raffle this year is a Nativity Centerpiece by Danbury Mint and a Mikasa Holiday Train.



Breakfast with St. Nick

Celebrate the **Feast of St. Nicholas** with us on **Saturday, December 2** and starting at **9:30 am**. Enjoy delicious pancakes, eggs, sausage and more, plus activities for the kids and a visit with St. Nicholas. Tickets are **\$5 each** (under 2 eat free) and will be available after all Masses **Nov. 18/19** and **Nov. 25/26**, or in the church office. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Children's Aid Society. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Fund.