

# December 10, 2017

## Giving Thanks to God:

### Au Revoir Madame Dianne Soloninka!

About a year ago, Dianne Soloninka, (our current Office Manager), told me that as her husband Frank was definitely going to retire at the end of 2017, that she, too, would do so. Dianne had been working with me for nearly seven years. I knew how much she loved her job, and I did not take her retirement plan seriously...However, this past June she gave me a letter enclosed in an envelope, and I could not believe it. She had decided to retire effective December 8, 2017 (Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception), and she wanted to give me ample notice so that we would have time to find a suitable replacement with some overlap. I wished that Dianne could have stayed with us forever (she is completing 10 years of extraordinary service as OLHOC Office Manager), but her advance notice proved to be a blessing for all of us as we initiated a recruitment process in July. By September, after a thorough process of selection (we had received a very large number of applicants-all fully qualified for the job), we were able to make an offer to Karen D'Alessandro, a long-time parishioner and volunteer together with her husband and their four children. Karen joined the office staff in early November allowing a full month overlap with Dianne.

Many of you know how much Dianne has contributed to our entire parish. Before accepting Fr. Crowley's offer for the position of Office Manager 10 years ago, Dianne and her husband had already been active volunteers in our parish since 1990 (by now over 27 years!). Dianne had been a lector and CCD teacher. She never stopped such volunteer work and we know that together with Frank she will continue to assist our parish as a volunteer in the coming months and years! We are not, therefore, saying goodbye to Dianne. We are simply expressing to her all our gratitude for her tireless efforts made day to day, year after year, never losing her passion to assist everyone in the parish!

Throughout her tenure assignment as Office Manager, Dianne thrived in establishing strong, individual relationships with many parishioners, in loving all the children of our preschool (Our Lady's Little Christians), in assisting the people most in need (those facing crises, including lack of food or shelter), in coordinating multi-faceted activities, and in strengthening her Faith as a devoted Carmelite Third Order member. She has loved especially this time of the year assisting in a major way the ever-growing number of families receiving food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I will never forget the amazing assistance Dianne provided to my predecessor, pastor Fr. Tom Crowley as he faced many challenging months trying all his best to continue serving our entire parish as pastor while going through major medical treatment. In these difficult moments, Dianne went much beyond the call of duty as she not only helped find priests to assist with Masses week after week, but also assisted Fr. Crowley directly with his doctors appointments including driving him.

On behalf of all our clergy, staff, volunteers, and all our past and current parishioners, we would like to simply say, "**Dianne, you have done a fantastic job as office manager over the last 10 years! You have been a true blessing to so many of us! You will be much missed! We know in our hearts that you and Frank will continue to assist our parish in so many different ways! May God keep blessing you and your entire family!**"

## Mass Intention

Saturday, Dec. 9, 5:00 PM: The Moussi Family

Sunday, Dec. 10, 8:30 AM: Milton Truxon +

& Monique Truxon-Makel +

Sunday, Dec. 3, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:30 AM: Fernando Barrios Balza +

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 9:00 AM: Lawyer Sutton

Thursday, Dec. 14, 9:00 AM: Sister Miriam John

Friday, Dec. 15, 9:00 AM: Thomas Hoepfl +

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## Mass Readings for December 17, 2017

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

First Reading- Isaiah 61: vs. 1-2a 10-11

Second Reading- 1 Thessalonians 5: vs.16-24

Gospel-John 1: vs. 6-8, 19-28

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## Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Liz Marcus, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studds, Vincent Argiro, Sr., Pearl Green, Ghran Waldon, Linda Kelly, Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, 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, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, 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.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Edwin Joseph "Bo" Bogaczyk.

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(cont.) This is not a goodbye! This is simply a thank you note for your past achievements and an encouragement note that you continue to help us as volunteer! Thanks also for assisting over the last month training our new office manager, Karen D'Alessandro, in learning the key responsibilities. Many thanks for the offer in volunteering your assistance to the office when needed over the coming months! May God bless both you and your successor.

In this time of **Advent**, in this time of waiting in Joy of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that God will send out the Holy Spirit upon each one of us, young and old, rich and poor, married and celibates, healthy and sick, working and retired ones: **Holy Spirit**, enter into each one of our hearts and bring to each of us that immense Joy of the New Born King!

*One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain*

# Second Sunday of Advent

## CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org).

Dec. 10/11-CCD Classes

Dec. 17/18-CCD Class

Dec. 24/25 & Dec. 31/Jan. 1- No CCD Classes

Contact Therese Thiedeman at 301-645-7112 or [dre@olhoc.org](mailto: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](http://olhoc.org/ym).

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## Upcoming Youth Events

We still have spots available for the March for Life , Mount 2000 in Emmittsburg, Steubenville Youth Conference and many more events! For more info, visit [www.olhoc.com/ym](http://www.olhoc.com/ym) or contact Marlen at : [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org).

## 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](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org). Classes in Spanish are on Sundays at 5:00 PM- Domingo a las cinco de la tarde. Salon #105.

## Calling All Children

- **Attention School-Age Band/Orchestra Instrumentalists:** we want you to share your talents as members of a youth instrumental ensemble in the prelude to our Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. If you are available and want to participate, please sign up on the Music Ministry page of our website ([www.olhoc.com/music-ministry](http://www.olhoc.com/music-ministry)). Our **first rehearsal** will be Sunday, **Dec. 10 at 1:15 pm** in the main church. Bring your instrument and a portable music stand if you have one.
- **Attention Children** who want to serve as Angel or Shepherd Greeters for our Children's Christmas Eve Mass: Please sign up on the Religious Education "Christmas" page of our website ([www.olhoc.com/Christmas](http://www.olhoc.com/Christmas)). We will meet on **Sunday, Dec. 17th at 3 pm** to learn our roles and be fitted for costumes. If necessary, we will meet again on Dec. 23 at 10:30 am.

## 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](http://VIRTUS.org) to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.

## Christmas Posadas and Novena Masses

**December 14-22** - The Posada processions meet up at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall. The **Novena Masses** are scheduled for 7:00 pm.

## OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) for information.
- The OLLC Christmas tree is up in the office lobby! We are collecting **new: children's pajamas, slippers, socks, mittens gloves, hats, & scarves** to place on the tree and later be donated to the Children's Aid Society.

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## Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **Dec. 13** at 7 pm. **New members and ideas are welcome!**

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

## Thank You

**Mary's Helping Hands** would like to thank everyone who supported us at our bake sale and raffle. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue our contributions to the Theological College, Mt. Carmel Nuns, Body of Christ Farm, Shepherd's Table and the Snack Sak Program of Charles County. The winners of the raffle are Caryn McMahon and Celeste Jewell

## Sharing Sunday

Is the first Sunday of the month. **Yet, at this time, we are especially in need of canned vegetables (corn, green beans), sweet potatoes, stuffing and macaroni and cheese for the Christmas Baskets.** Items may be left in the Social Hall in boxes marked 'Food Donations'.

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## Volunteers Needed! Christmas Basket Prep

- **December 16- 8 am-** Social Hall- fill the baskets
- **December 17- 9:30 am-** Final preparation of baskets in Social Hall
- **December 17-** Delivery of baskets , **following 10 am Mass.**

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## OLHOC Holiday House

The OLHOC Holiday House will be in the narthex through **December 17** to collect donations for the **Christmas Baskets**. Over 50 baskets will be prepared and delivered to those in need right here in our community by our OLHOC volunteers.

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