

January 14, 2018

**Hearing the Word of God !**

One of the long-standing members of our Tuesday Scripture Prayer Group (every Tuesday morning at 10 am—all are welcome!) has an amazing love of the Bible. I recently asked him to write a few reflections on the Bible, so that I could share them with all of you. This is what he wrote:

*“Question: If you needed an organ transplant and the donor requested that you spend a few minutes a day with them, would you agree? Now God has given us an earthly life and a chance for eternal life. Shouldn’t we spend a few minutes a day with Him? In fact, take 15 minutes a day and you can read the complete Bible in 1 year.*

**Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth (BIBLE)**

*If you wish to be **informed**—read many books; if you wish to be **transformed**—read the Bible. God gives us the spiritual blueprint of how to be a child of God!*

*The Old Testament is in 4 categories: Law (Torah), History, Poetry and Prophecy. 7 Deuterocanonical Books (Tobit, Judith, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch).*

*The New Testament is also in 4 categories: Gospels, History (Acts of the Apostles), Letters (Saints Peter/Paul/James/John/Jude) and Prophecy (Revelation).*

*All the Biblical authors were inspired by the Holy Spirit, over a 1600 year span, and you will not find one contradiction. Some reading suggestions: Go to Genesis-6:3 and read what God said about the human life span. Go to Joshua-1:8 and read what God told Joshua about the book of law. Go to 1 Kings-3:12 and read how God blessed Solomon more than anyone. Go to the Book of Proverbs and read Solomon’s advice on righteous living. Go to Matthew-5,6 and 7 and read the complete Sermon on the Mount. Go to Matthew-11:11 and read what Jesus said about John the Baptist. Go to Matthew-5:3, 5:8,5:10,5:12,7:21; John 3:3; Mark 10:15 and read the 7 ways that Jesus tells us how to get to heaven. Go to John-14:21 and read how Jesus defines love for him. Go to Matthew-12:31 and read what Jesus says is the unpardonable sin. Go to Matthew-22:37 and read what Jesus says are the 2 greatest commandments.*

*If you want to **impress people**—quote the Bible; if you want to **impress God**—live the Bible!”*

I hope you have found the above reflection helpful. As we just entered into the beginning of Ordinary Time, I invite all of us to spend 15 minutes a day reading the Bible and hearing what God is asking us to change in our daily life so as to reach out to others by sharing the joy of the Gospel (the Good News, as Pope Francis always invites us to do). If you feel you cannot commit to 15 minutes each day, I suggest that you read next week’s Gospel reading (you can find it listed in the weekly bulletin) to prepare for the Sunday liturgy. Or perhaps, start by reading at least one chapter of the OLHOC Christmas book/gift of “Joy to the World”, by Scott Hahn. If you would have reflections you would like to share, please feel free to send them to my email at :[pastor@olhoc.org](mailto:pastor@olhoc.org).

May God give us a constant ‘hunger’ for His Word and a constant ‘desire’ to do His Will!

***One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain***

+++++

**Prayer Requests**

**We are asked to pray for:** Ann Garner, Awethash Berania, Larry McGraw, Audrey Laplaca-Mulligan, Cecilia Spinks, Chantelle Angelini, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Liz Marcus, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studts, Vincent Argiro, Sr., Pearl Green, Graham Waldon, Linda Kelly, Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, Fr. Robert Pittman, Brenda Dobson, and all our military and civilians serving in harm’s way.

*\*Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*

**Mass Readings for January 21, 2018**

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading - Jonah 3: 1-5, 10**

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31**

**Gospel - Mark 1: 14-20**

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CCD Class Schedule

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

Jan. 14/15- No CCD – MLK Holiday

Jan. 21/22- CCD Classes

Jan. 20/27-First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament, 9 am to Noon. Be sure to sign up for your preferred date.

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

+++++

### 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).

### Upcoming Youth Events

We still have spots available for the March for Life, Mount 2000 in Emmitsburg, 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).

+++++

### Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, Jan. 13, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, Jan. 14, 8:30 AM: Mary Carol Turner (+)

Sunday, Jan. 14, 10:00 AM: Melve Velasco (+)

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 9:00 AM: Isaiah Strawberry

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 9:00 AM: Barbara Tice (+)

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7:00 PM: Nkiru Lemke

Friday, Jan. 19, 9:00 AM: ADW Seminarians

+++++

### Men's Discernment Retreat

Cardinal Wuerl invites men in their 20's, 30's, or 40's who are open to a call to the priesthood to attend a discernment retreat led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held on the weekend of Feb. 2-4, 2018, at St. John Paul II Seminary in Wash. DC. The weekend will offer time away from your daily routine and will provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. There is no cost to attend. Registration is now open at [www.dcpriest.org](http://www.dcpriest.org). Email [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org) with your questions.

### 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.

**Note:**The Office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018 in observance of the federal holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### English/French Mass

Our monthly **French Mass** has taken root and is scheduled **every week** at 1:00 PM in a bilingual setting.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Community Outreach

The next **Shepherd's Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, January 18, 2018 at Good Shepherd Church**. Many thanks to Margot and Russell Savoy for the great job on the monthly snack bags.

**Volunteers go to: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org) and click on the Community Outreach link.**

Come join us at our next Outreach Committee Meeting to be held on **February 7, at 7 pm** in our social hall. **New members and ideas are welcome;** our meetings are held to 60 minutes!

### Sharing Sunday

Sharing Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Non-perishable food items may be left in the Social Hall in boxes marked 'Food Donations' and will be donated to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.



### Marriage Preparation Class

**Monday evenings, 7:30 pm** in the Social Hall. Class will be held on Jan. 15, MLK Day. All are welcome to join us! (Free babysitting provided). For more information, please contact Fr. Santiago Martin, 301-645-7112.

### Poinsettia Pick-Up

Contributors of the Memorial Poinsettias may pick up their flowers beginning after the 9:00 AM Mass on Tuesday, January 9 through January 14.