

April 01, 2018

HAPPY EASTER: ENTERING 50 DAYS OF JOY!

There is no April Fooling here! We have walked the 40 days of Lent joyfully! We have had a Biblical Walk with Mary (Thursday and Saturday mornings). We had a wonderful four-day mission with Fr. David Gunter: The Triumph of Mary. We have had an increased number of people participating in the First Saturday Devotion promoted by Our Lady of Fatima. We have just completed a Novena to the Holy Spirit as promoted by Cardinal Wuerl to show our solidarity with those most in need including immigrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking. We have walked two miles to raise funds for the financing of a new, larger statue of Our Lady of Fatima. We have also walked the Stations of the Cross every Friday. The number of children participating in our religious education program has grown, now reaching a total of 400 registered children. We may not have kept all our Lenten resolutions, but we have kept our eyes fixed on the Lord in anticipation of the **Joy of Easter : He is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! He is risen!**



We have reached the **Climax of the Holy Week and the Triduum**. On Holy Thursday, Father Santiago and I concelebrated the Evening Mass of the Last Supper, a joint celebration of the Priesthood and the Eucharist. This is always a great joyful event for the unity of priests, but also a moving one this year as we prayed for the soul of our beloved third pastor at OLHOC, Fr. Tom Crowley, who passed away one year ago; and we remembered Fr. Crowley's great homilies, his amazing sense of humor, and his great love for OLHOC, as he chose to postpone his necessary medical treatment for a few weeks so that he could celebrate the **Triduum** with all his Parishioners at OLHOC for his last time.

With great joy we have entered into the **Mystery of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ**. With even greater joy, we are now entering into the **50 Days of the Easter Season**: the journey leading from Easter to Pentecost! Through these 50 days, we will complete our "walking with Mary on the road to intentional discipleship." We will **ascend** with Jesus 40 days after His Resurrection (Ascension Sunday). Through a new **Novena to the Holy Spirit**, we will all await the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost on **Sunday, May 20**, which this year coincides with the **Feast of our Lady Help of Christians**. Over these last few weeks, we have meditated on the role and presence of the **Holy Spirit** in our lives. Once again, the Holy Spirit was felt by many at the Healing Mass presided by Fr. Martin Scott. The church was packed on that Saturday March 17, and many received individual blessings from Fr. Scott. We have discussed with our entire Parish Council what to do after we complete our walk with Mary on May 20 (Crowning of Mary, Outdoor Mass and Fellowship), and we reached a consensus: Our parish will **celebrate a year of the Holy Spirit beginning on Pentecost 2018 and ending on Pentecost 2019**.

As we begin again to sing **Gloria** and **Alleluia** at Masses, **Jesus** keeps reminding us, "**I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will never die.**" This is our Faith! This is our Hope not only in eternal life but also in peace and happiness right here, right now. At every Mass, not only at Easter, we celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. At every Mass, we are reminded of the **immense love God has** for each one of us. "God so loved the world that he sent His only Son" so that we can all have life! By dying on the **cross** for our sins, Jesus destroys our death: by rising from the dead, Jesus restores our life!



Easter is also a time for celebrating in our homes. The family is the **domestic church**. It is the center of our relationship with God. Pope Francis also keeps reminding us that the parish is a family of families. In his exhortation letter "The Joy of Love" (issued two years ago), Pope Francis also addresses some of the family challenges, including the need for the church to accompany newly married couples far beyond their wedding day. Last week we distributed a Pastoral Plan written by Cardinal Wuerl, "Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family."

May we all have a most blessed Easter! May we all enter with great **Joy** these 50 days of the Easter Season culminating with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon all of us at Pentecost on May 20!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*



Easter Sunday of Resurrection of Our Lord

CCD Class Schedule

April 8/9: CCD Class
 April 11 (6:45PM) or April 14 (9:45AM): 1st Communion Workshop
 April 15/16: CCD Class
 April 21 (12:30-6:30 PM): Youth Retreat w/NET Ministries (required for Confirmation Year 1 students)
 April 22/23: CCD Class (Monday 8th grade attend Sunday classes)
 April 23 (6:45 PM): Confirmation rehearsal
 Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org
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FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)
Edge: Middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)
Life Teen: High school youth ministry

**** Youth Summer Retreat ****

Rising 9th graders-seniors, join us for **Camp Veritas** August 12th-18th at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. It will be an amazing week of outdoor fun, prayer, time with friends, and growing in your faith.

For more information and youth opportunities, please visit www.olhoc.com/ym or contact **Marlen Coles** at marlen@olhoc.org.
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RICE BOWL RETURN – April 7 & 8 During all Masses

Throughout the Lenten Season, the children in CCD have been encouraged to make sacrifices and put money saved or earned into their Rice Bowls to assist Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in providing aid to those in need. Grades 3-6 have been learning about Global Solidarity while discovering some of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. They've seen video stories about lives in Iraq, Nicaragua, and Burkina Faso as they've learned about "Life and Dignity of the Human Person", "Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers", and "Care for God's Creation".



This year the children will carry their Rice Bowls to the celebrant during the Offertory Procession at all Masses the weekend of April 7 & 8 Divine Mercy Sunday! Please mark your calendars and have your children bring their Rice Bowls to Mass with them April 7/8.

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Catholic In Southern Maryland

St. Mary Church, Newport in Charlotte Hall, MD, will hold monthly Healing Masses in honor of St. John Vianney every 1st Thursday, beginning April 5. Confessions begin at 6:00 PM followed by 6:30 PM Healing Mass. 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD, 20622 - 301-934-8825. www.stmarychurchnewport.org. All are welcome!

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

Now Open – Registration for Fall 2018

For more information, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherd's Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, April 19, 2018 at Good Shepherd Church**. We need menu planners for May.

Our next Outreach Committee Meeting is **April 4** at 7PM in the Social Hall. All are welcome!

****First Annual Easter Egg Hunt****

"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

After the 11:30 Mass, celebrate new life outdoors. Children ages 1 to 10 years old.



2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on Monday, June 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call or email the parish office to register by Monday, April 16.

Divine Mercy Ministry

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena began on Good Friday and will continue through Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 PM each day.

Then, beginning May 4, the Divine Mercy Ministry invites us all to come and pray the chaplet each **1st Friday at 3:00 PM**.

Prayer Requests *

We are asked to pray for: Ernest Mack, Derrick Webster, Brandon Mack, Patricia Trefry, Gregory Marciano, Johnné Webster, Dionne Gause, Dorian Webster, Alfred Brown, Doris Chesley, James Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunham, Tom Casey, Connie Miller, Windsor Family, Jessica Holt, Sue Holt, Wilbur Etbauer, Todd Iddings, Michael Proctor, Edmund Madden, Abigail Poole, Sarah Parker, Dennis Forgash, David DeMarr, Joseph Mason Proctor, Larry McGraw, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studds, Pearl Green, Fr. Robert Pittman, 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.*

OLHOC offers its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of J. Cecelia Spinks, Vincent Argiro, Sr., Nellie Lynch, Guillermo Sánchez, Allen Young, and Baby Cruz Ragin.

Mass Intentions this Week

- Saturday, March 31, 8:00 PM: Peter Nikolai (+)
- Sunday, April 01, 8:30 AM Thaddeus E. Rose, Sr.
- Sunday, April 01, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, April 01, 11:30 AM: David Norgren (+)
- Monday, April 02, 9:00 AM: Moira Toner (+)
- Wednesday, April 04, 9:00 AM: Joseph Hall
- Wednesday, April 04, 7:00 PM: Jennifer Hall
- Thursday, April 05, 9:00 AM: John Keller
- Friday, April 06, 8:00 PM: Jonathan Coles

The Vocations Tree

God, our Father, please send us holy priests. All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with St. Joseph.



The Vocations Tree project invites our parish community (English and Spanish) to offer prayers to our Seminarians. Each year the Archdiocese Vocation Office generously prints out Seminarian cards.

Each card has the photo of a seminarian and a bit of information about him along with a suggested prayer on the back. We ask parishioners to pick a card from the “wall-tree” in the Narthex, and commit to praying for that seminarian every day until Pentecost Sunday, May 20.



Mass Readings for April 8, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday

First Reading * Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Second Reading * 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel * John 20:19-31

OLHOC Parish Office will be closed Easter Monday, April 2.

“Mary’s Helping Hands” Bake Sale

Sunday, April 8

Mary’s Helping Hands will hold a bake sale and raffle ticket sale in the Narthex next week on April 8. Support Catholic causes by purchasing delicious baked goods and/or raffle tickets to win a white-gold cross necklace set with 25 diamonds valued at \$1,200.

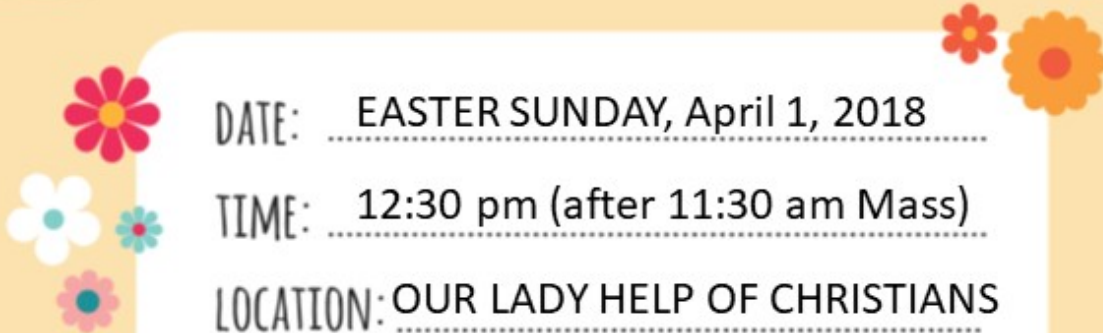


YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR



Easter Egg Hunt

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!



DATE: .. EASTER SUNDAY, April 1, 2018 ..

TIME: .. 12:30 pm (after 11:30 am Mass) ..

LOCATION: .. OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS ..

100 VILLAGE ST., WALDORF, MD 20602 ..

NOTE: .. For ages 1 – 10 years old ..

.. Please bring a basket for egg collection. ..

www.olhoc.org

