

Behold the Lamb of God !

“Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I (John the Baptist) said: a man is coming after me who ranked ahead of me because **He** existed before me...**I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon Him...He is the Son of God.”** (John 1:29-34). This is the amazing message we are hearing today as we concluded the Christmas season earlier this week (Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 9) and entered Ordinary Time! Today, John the Baptist once again points us to Jesus. As done since the beginning of Advent (begun over six weeks ago), John the Baptist assists us in understanding **who Jesus is!**

Last Sunday, I wrote to you about Scott Hahn’s inspirational book, “The Lamb’s Supper” (our Christmas gift this year). I also invited you at the end of Mass to reflect on the book’s subtitle, **“The Mass As Heaven on Earth”**. If St. John Paul II could affirm that the Mass is heaven on earth, we, too, can affirm that whenever we go to Mass, we go to Heaven. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed that Heaven is God: to be in Heaven is to be with God!

At the end of Mass, one parishioner (to remain nameless), told me as she was going to her car: “Father, I am now leaving Heaven...and I am entering Purgatory.” As the ground was covered with snow, I simply responded: “be careful, walk slowly.” Yes, walking in extreme cold weather, walking on snow/ice can make us feel we are in purgatory – suffering, but looking forward to being in a pleasant and warm place at home! But the message was deeper: our entire life on earth, our pilgrimage on earth, can be seen as part of our purgatory on earth, as a time when we get prepared to go back to God, to reach the end of our journey on earth, hoping that one day we will have that eternal joy and peace with God! The peace being in Purgatory, after the death of our bodies, is that we then have the assurance that one day we will enter Heaven forever!

The Mass is the Supper of the Lamb. Before Communion at Mass, the priest elevates the Host over the Chalice and proclaims the words of John the Baptist: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” and adds: **“Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb”!** Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. The Lamb of God is **“Christ crucified and risen, the one high priest of the true sanctuary, the same one Who offers and is offered, Who gives**

Mass Intention

**Saturday, Jan. 14, 5:00 PM: Karl Lass +
Saturday, Jan. 15, 8:30 AM: Marion Lapinski +
Sunday, Jan. 15, 10:00 AM: Jimmy Sell +
Friday, Jan. 20, 9:00 AM: Michael Proctor (St. Louis)**

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: James Knapp, Wilbur Etbauer, Fr. Thomas Crowley, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Chelsea Soloninka, Susan Walker, Janina Sidorska, Bill Newman, Jordan Hamacek, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, John Lohman, Wilhelmina Franck, Robbie Atchinson, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Michael Sofield Jr., Elinore Fortney, Ron Chilcoat, Patricia Moffat, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joassaint, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Shirley Williams, Caroline Buoy, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr. Emiliano Hilario, Phillip Green, Doris Chesley, Betsy Kiss, Patricia & James Robey, Dick White, Ada Johnson, James Thompson, Sean Guido, Marcus Williams, Valerie Eddy, and all our military and civilians serving in harm’s way.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Tyler Newby and Shirley Hodges.

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Mass Readings for January 22, 2017

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Isaiah 8: vs. 23-9: vs. 3

Second Reading- 1 Corinthians 1: vs. 10-13, 17

Gospel-Matthew 4: vs. 12-23

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(cont.) and is given” (Catechism of the Catholic Church no.1137, as quoted top of page 76 of Scott Hahn’s book)...“The Lamb is Jesus. The Lamb is also a “son of man,” robed as a high priest (Revelation 1:13); the Lamb is sacrificial victim; the Lamb is God.” (bottom of page 76).

Next time you enter the Church on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, be aware that you are entering Heaven on Earth!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2016-2017 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Jan. 15/16- No CCD (MLK holiday)

Jan. 22/23- CCD

Jan. 29/30- CCD

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

Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (meets weekly)

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 **January 22** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Upcoming Youth Events

Don't miss out on the many wonderful opportunities we have for our youth of all ages. We still have spots available for the **March for Life**, the **Life Teen Summer Camp** in Georgia, **Steubenville Youth Conference** and many more upcoming events. For more info and an update list of our events, please visit www.olhoc.org/ym or contact Marlen at marlen@olhoc.org.

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Jan. 19-6 PM: St. Mary, Piscataway

Jan. 19, 7 PM- St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.



Do You Like A Mystery ?

You are invited to join us for a Sunday morning Bible Study, beginning **January 22** at both **9:30 a.m.** and **11:15 a.m.** as we "**Unlock the Mystery of the Bible**"! Make sense of the Bible and see how it relates to your everyday life; discover the remarkable connections between the Old and New Testaments; see how the sacraments, the Church, and our entire Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture. Register on our website, or contact Therese Thiedeman in the parish office.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Fall registration began **January 3, 2017**, for **parishioners and families of former OLLC students.**
- Our Lady's Little Christians Preschool has **one full day opening for the current school year, available immediately.** The hours are 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and the tuition is \$575/month. Flexible payment plans are available. Call the office for more information.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

The next Community Outreach Meeting is on **Feb. 1, 2017 at 7 pm.** All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2016** at Good Shepherd Church.

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



Save the Date !

We are hearing parishioners are enjoying the book given out as a gift at Christmas. Please mark your calendar to join us on **Thursday, January 26, at 7 pm** for the group discussion of the book, "**The Lamb's Supper**" by Dr. Scott Hahn. Each year this is an evening of fellowship and inspiration!



The office will be closed on Monday, **January 16, 2017** in observance of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.** The **9:00 a.m. morning Mass** will take place as scheduled.