

February 5, 2017

Where Can I Find Happiness ?

Are you happy? Where can you find true happiness?

These are the questions that I asked many of you last week-end. These are foundational questions. We all seek **happiness!** St. Thomas Aquinas spoke extensively about **happiness** and the **purpose of man**. He debated seven questions in great detail, one by one: "Can I find happiness in wealth (money)? In pleasure? In power? In honor (prestige)? In any good of the body? In any good of the soul? In any created good?" St. Thomas Aquinas categorically answered: "No!" to each of these 7 questions. For him (one of the greatest minds and saints of all time) the source of happiness was very clear: **one can find happiness only in God**, who is the source of all good. Though St. Thomas Aquinas lived in the 13th century (more than 700 years ago), his deep insights resonate within each of us today. Yes, we may find some kind of happiness in the short term through honor, pleasure, power or money, but this happiness is **not the one God intends for us** and we know it can last only a limited time. We are created to know, love and serve God. (Baltimore Catechism). Our deep **sense** of happiness, peace and joy can come only when we know that we are doing God's will.

Jesus gives us clear answers on how to find the way to happiness! One of his most famous teachings is the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew Chapters 5, 6, and 7). Last week, we heard the beginning, The Beatitudes (Chapter 5: 1-12); over the next few weeks, we will hear more from this amazing sermon in which Jesus teaches all of us how we can be truly his followers, his disciples. **Beatus**, in Latin, means **happy** or **blessed**. The Beatitudes teach us how to find that happiness we all look for. There is no reference to wealth, pleasure, power, or prestige. It is just the opposite. Happy are the poor! Happy are those who suffer! Happy are the meek! Happy are the humble, the lowly, those who are persecuted!

Pope Benedict XVI wrote: " Behind the Beatitudes stands the figure of Christ, the man who is God, but who precisely because he is God, descends, empties himself all the way to death on the Cross... The **happy/blessed** par excellence is only **Jesus**. He is in fact the true poor in spirit, the one afflicted, the one hungering and thirsting for justice, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemaker, the one persecuted for the sake of justice...we are all invited to follow **Jesus** and to participate in His Blessedness...With Him, the impossible becomes possible." We are called to **imitate Christ**, as the only way to find **happiness** right now, right here on earth, and then forever in Heaven!

Where can I find true happiness? Think about your own experience, your own desires. Where have you been seeking that lasting happiness: in money, pleasure, power of honor/prestige? Where have you found it? We are all invited to think less of ourselves and the think of the other, especially to love and serve the one most in need!

Mass Intention

- Saturday, Feb. 4, 5:00 PM: Rivert & Helene Obas +
- Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 PM: Gerardo Ochoa +
- Sunday, Feb. 5, 8:30 AM: Chelsea Soloninka
- Sunday, Feb. 5, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, Feb. 5, 11:30 AM: Nell Schwartz +
- Tuesday, Feb. 7, 9:00 AM: Special Intention (Erin Morris)
- Wednesday, Feb. 8, 9:00 AM: Dennis Riggs +
- Thursday, Feb. 9, 9:00 AM: Gerardo Ochoa +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, Mae Hawkins, Jessica Curry Miller, LaShay Barnes, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, James Knapp, Wilbur Etbauer, Fr. Thomas Crowley, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Susan Walker, Janina Sidorska, Bill Newman, Doris Conover, 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, 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, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

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Mass Readings for February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Sirach 15: vs. 15-20

Second Reading- 1 Corinthians 2: vs. 6-10

Gospel-Matthew 5: vs. 17-37

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Save The Date

Our OLHOC Youth will be sponsoring and serving at a **Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) Pancake Dinner** on **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, from 5:30–7:30 pm**. Included are delicious pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit and beverages. Tickets are **\$5 each (under 2 eat free)** and will for sale after all Masses. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Pilgrimage Fund.

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May God help each one of us to imitate the example of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ! May God help each one of us to walk with Jesus on our journey to happiness!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

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

Feb. 5/6- CCD

Feb. 15/18- 1st Communion Workshop #1 (6:45 pm/9:30 am)

Feb. 16- Conf. Yr. 2 Workshop (parents/students) - (7 pm)

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

Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm, Feb. 12; Mar .5, 12, 26; Apr. 2, 9, 30; May 7)

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 **February 26** and will begin with **4:00 PM Mass** followed by **pizza, fellowship and FIAT, Edge, and Life Teen meetings**. Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Steubenville Youth Conference

Steubenville is a weekend (Fri-Sat) Catholic Youth Conference for students currently in 8th-12th grade, that is similar to a retreat experience. This amazing weekend features a series of talks from popular motivational speakers from across the country, Adoration, confession, Mass and more. For more details and to register visit www.olhoc.org/ym and click on Life Teen. Don't delay, limited spots available!

" Seek First the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33)

This week, you are asked to review the Cardinal's Appeal brochure and the tabloid that you will receive with your bulletin today. The theme of the campaign is: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33) The Cardinal's Appeal campaign is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, today, payable over ten months.

A significant gift to the Cardinal' Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a positive way. As you review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives to you. Each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate and the gifts of many enable the archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those who did not receive a mailing, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

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

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, February 16, 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

Sharing Sunday

All non-perishable donations may be placed in the marked box in the Social Hall. The items are donated to the local food pantry for those in need and given out to people who come to the office looking for food.

Supporting Families with Special Needs

Join us for a special day of reflection led by the **Archdiocese of Washington Department of Special Needs Ministries** on **March 11, 2017 from 9 a.m. 1 p.m. here at OLHOC**. Let us gather together to pray, reflect, and continue to learn about supporting our families with special needs in faith formation and beyond. All are welcome to attend. Catechists and parents of children with special needs are especially encouraged to attend. Childcare and lunch will be provided. **Registration is required: 301-459-7464.**

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

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

All Are Welcome

You are invited to **join us** for a Sunday morning Bible Study at **both 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.** in the Social Hal, as we "**Unlock the Mystery of the Bible**".