

February 12, 2017

"Lord, I Have Chosen To Do Your Will..."

"Lord, I have chosen to do your will; may your hand be always there to strengthen me!" I have read this beautiful paraphrase of verse 173 of Psalm 119 hundreds of times as they are included regularly in the Liturgy of the Hours, which priests pray every day (Saturday Daytime Prayer, Week IV of Psalter) --but only last Saturday did it resonate in my heart. I simply stopped and re-read it three times. It was kind of another 'aha' moment. On that particular day, I felt totally at peace (which is rare) and what struck me was the boldness of the psalmist: how can one dare say I have chosen to do your will?

Yes, God has given freedom to each of us. Every day we make many choices, most of the time small ones, at times major ones (e.g., buying a house, getting engaged, choosing which college to apply to). Whenever we pray the Our Father, the most powerful prayer given to us by Jesus Christ, we ask God that "His will be done!"

We know that even Jesus, as a man, was tested and challenged to accept the will of His Father at a crucial time: the Agony in the Garden, the First Sorrowful Mystery on which we meditate every Tuesday and Friday when praying the Rosary. As God, Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to be arrested, to be flagellated, to be crowned with thorns, to carry his cross and finally to die through the most scandalous way for the Son of God: crucifixion! In the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Jesus began to feel sorrow and distress...he fell prostrate in prayer saying: **"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as You will."** (Matthew 26: 37-39). Then, Jesus said to Peter: "So, you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26: 40-41).

Jesus demonstrates his humanness. He is distraught. He shows his emotion. However, he is totally obedient to the will of the Father. **He chooses to do God's will!** By doing His Father's will and accepting to die on a cross, the whole world will be transformed once for all! None of us is faced with such dramatic choices. However, the example of Jesus' Passion and Death strengthens each of us. It gives us courage and perseverance. Many times, we may feel like St. Paul when he says: "I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want." (Romans 7:19). However, we should keep striving for doing God's will! We cannot do it alone. We need God, we need God's hand to strengthen us.

Next time you face an important choice, I invite you to meditate on verse 173 of Psalm 119, which you can paraphrase by saying: **"Lord, I am choosing to do Your will. May your hand be always there to strengthen me!"** Lord, help me to discern what is Your will, not my will. Lord, always give me the strength to choose your will, not mine! Lord, help me not to be discouraged when I fail to obey your commands! Lord, help

Mass Intention

- Saturday, Feb. 11, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 PM: Jay Archibald Greene +
- Sunday, Feb. 12, 8:30 AM: William Dexter +
- Sunday, Feb. 12, 10:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd +
- Sunday, Feb. 12, 11:30 AM: Lorraine Wells +
- Friday, Feb. 17, 9:00 AM: Evelyn Losano +

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 Mof-fat, 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, 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 19, 2017

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Leviticus 19: vs. 1-2, 17-18

Second Reading- 1 Corinthians 3: vs. 16-23

Gospel-Matthew 5: vs. 38-48

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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 be on sale after all Masses and in the office during the week. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Pilgrimage Fund.

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(cont.) me to seek reconciliation with You! Lord, be always my light and guide my steps, whether small steps, or big steps. Lord, keep reminding me that it is only when I do **Your will** and not mine, that I can find true, lasting **happiness**, not only **now** here on earth, but also **forever** and **ever** in **heaven!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

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

Feb. 12/13- CCD

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

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

Feb. 19/20- No CCD (Presidents' Day)

Feb. 26/27- CCD

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 (June 23-25, 2017) 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!

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

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

OLHOC Reminders

- Scripture Prayer Gathering- Every Tuesday, following 9:00 AM Mass.
- Adoration (6 pm) and Mass (7 pm)- Every Wednesday evening.
- Parish Family Movie Night- 2nd Friday of each month.
- Adoration (8 am), Rosary (8:30 am), Mass (9 am), Adoration (9:45 am) - Mon.-Sat.
- "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"- Every Sunday, 9:30 am and 11:15 am.
- Latin Mass- every First Friday, 8 pm.
- French Mass- every second Sunday, 1 pm.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Fall registration begins next Friday, **Feb. 17, 2017**, for all new students.
- 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. Due to Ash Wednesday, the **March meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 2**.

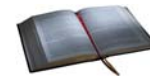
Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link. or sign-up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc

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.**



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 Hall, as we "**Unlock the Mystery of the Bible**".

Pilgrimage to America's First Cathedral

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women are sponsoring a trip to Baltimore to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 11, 2017. Questions? Call Sonia at 240-264-1821.