

Filled With the Holy Spirit!

“ Then there appeared to them tongues of **fire**, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit.**” (Acts 2:3-4). **Come, Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts!** The Holy Spirit is God’s love! The Holy Spirit is the fire of God’s love! Jesus tells us: “ I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” (Luke 12:49). **Fire it up!** This has been the theme of our **Lenten Parish Family Mission**, which just began on the Second Sunday of Lent. The Holy Spirit does not descend upon us only Pentecost. It descends upon us every day of our lives. We just have to **open our hearts!** This is what God invites us to do every day in this special season of Lent, a time for **prayer**, a time to get closer to God.

As we have entered into our second week of **Lent**, we have been reminded of the power of God’s love in our lives. Like Jesus, we too can be **transfigured**, we too can be transformed (Matthew 17: 1-9). Like Peter, James and John, we too can hear God’s voice.: **“This is My beloved son, with whom I am well pleased: listen to Him.”** We too are God’s beloved sons and daughters. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, we are all invited to feel God’s transforming love. We are all invited to **listen to Jesus**, to come and **encounter Him!** For the many of you who were able to participate in the first day of our Parish Family Mission, you may have experienced that special presence of the Holy Spirit. (I am writing this column on the morning of the second day, as freezing rain is covering Waldorf; this morning, trees have been falling down under the weight of the ice.) I, for one, could feel the **joy, peace, and love** of the Holy Spirit last night! I will never forget our many children coming close to the altar to **adore Jesus** in the exposed **Blessed Sacrament!** It was a beautiful moment for our entire parish! Like little children, we all want to come close to Jesus! Like the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, we all want to touch Jesus and be healed. As we come close to Jesus, we can hear Jesus’ words: “Your **faith** has saved you; go in **peace.**” (Luke 8:43-48).

The ongoing changes in the weather forecast (Will we have one foot of snow? Or sleet? Or freezing rain?) remind us that **God is in charge!** Many of you were asking whether the parish mission would take place. My answer was simple: “If God wants it to happen, it will happen!” God blessed us with a beautiful first day of parish mission. Tonight, **God willing**, we will have our second day focusing on “Freedom in Christ” and ending with our **Parish Lenten Penance Service.** We still expect 15 priests to show up! Some of them have already let me know that they will be here, depending on our road conditions. May we all walk and drive safely today!

I want to express my appreciation to all our staff and all our volunteers who have made this family parish mission a reality! Special thanks go to the Knights of Columbus and Mary’s Helping Hands who generously gave of their time to prepare a wonderful dinner for the first evening of the mission. Close to 200 people packed our Social Hall! Special thanks also to our Libation Music Group that provided joyful music while we were eating! Special thanks also to the members of the Youth Group for their generous assistance! Thanks to all the parents who came in large number with their children and friends! And thanks to Dan and Caroline for leading us into a parish family mission filled with the Holy Spirit! May the Holy Spirit continue to fill our hearts

Mass Intention

- Saturday, March 18, 9:00 AM: Dorothy Bologna +
- Saturday, March 18, 5:00 PM: Anthony Andrews
- Sunday, March 19, 8:30 AM: Faith Miller +
- Sunday, March 19, 10:00 AM: Placide Michel +
- Sunday, March 19, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Monday, March 20, 9:00 AM: Wayne Couto
- Tuesday, March 21, 9:00 AM: Gorzsym Family Deceased +
- Thursday, March 23, 9:00 AM: Norma Broyles +
- Friday, March 24, 9:00 AM: Zachary Winters +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Monica Myers, Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, Jessica Curry Miller, LaShay Barnes, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Fr. Thomas Crowley, Fr. Eamon Dignan, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, John Lohman, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Michael Sofield Jr., Elinore Fortney, Patricia Moffat, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joassaint, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr., 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.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **James Knapp.**

+++++

Mass Readings for March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading- 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Second Reading- Ephesians 5: vs. 8-14

Gospel-John 9: vs. 1-41

+++++

Lenten Information

- **The Light is On For You-** Every Wednesday- Confession & Adoration- 6 to 6:45 pm; Mass- 7 pm; Confession & Adoration- 7:45 to 8:30 pm.
 - **Stations of the Cross-** Every Friday- 7 pm (also Exposition and Adoration) (note: on First Friday, Mass to follow).
 - **Healing Mass** (Fr. Martin Scott)- Sunday, Mar. 19 , 7 pm.
 - **International Pilgrim Statue of Fatima-** Wednesday, March 29. (see information, page 2 this bulletin).
 - **Youth Group Living Stations-** Friday, Apr. 7 at 7 pm.
- +++++ (cont.) with **love** during this Lenten season! May the **Holy Spirit** help us to prepare for receiving the Sacrament of **Reconciliation!** May the Holy Spirit help us to come and adore Jesus in the **Blessed Sacrament**, and to spend one **Holy Hour** with Jesus in pray and silence! **Behold the Lamb of God!** **Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Third Sunday of Lent

CCD Class Schedule

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

March 19/20- CCD

March 19- 4 PM- Mass/ All Youth Night

March 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, ; April 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 **March 19** 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

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present).

- **3/22/17- Sacred Heart, La Plata- 6:30 pm**

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112 with questions or if you need assistance with this process.



Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & Marian Shrines of France

Our parish is organizing this pilgrimage, **August 6-16, 2017**, celebrating the **100th year anniversary** of the apparitions of **Our Lady in Fatima** and the Feast of Our Lady of the Bread Giver in Aire Sur La Lys (Home parish of Fr. Narcisse Martin). Fr. Alain will be the Spiritual Director for the pilgrimage. There are detailed flyers available in the narthex and on the parish bulletin board. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please sign up on one of the lists in the narthex or contact **May Oteyza** at **301-843-7784**. Please do not delay; Seats are limited, but still available for this once-in-a-lifetime faith journey!

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, April 20, 2017** at Good Shepherd Church. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 5** at 7 pm.

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

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program is currently seeking volunteers who can donate 3 hours of their time, one day a month. If you are interested in working with this special organization that helps those in need/homebound, please contact Kathy at (301)-843-8295.

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima

The world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima is on an historic 2-year tour of America to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, and is coming to Our Lady Help of Christians! Our parish is one of three parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington selected to host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue (the only one in Southern Maryland).

Our Lady Help of Christians will host the tour on **Wednesday, March 29 starting at 7 pm**. It will be an extraordinary occasion. Join us to hear the story of Fatima and to see the statue that began it's journey in 1947 to bring the graces of Fatima to all who might not ever be able to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal.

Schedule: **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

- 5 pm- Confession
- 7 pm- Candle Light Procession of Our Lady
- 7:15 pm-Crowning of Mary
- 7:15 pm-7:45 pm- Confession
- 7:15 pm- Rosary
- 8 pm- Mass
- 8:45 pm- Prayer of Consecration
- 9 pm- Farewell Procession of Our Lady
- 9:15 pm- Scapular Enrollment