

**I Will Give You Light!**

“Go to the poor!” These are the words I heard Mother Teresa tell me as I was meditating following my receiving the Body and Blood of Christ! It was about 12:30 pm on Thursday, February 9 (almost seven weeks ago). I will never forget this spiritual experience. It was the fifth day of our annual Priests’ Silent Retreat. We were a group of about 20 priests concelebrating the Mass in the chapel of the Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland. Our daily Mass was just ending. I closed my eyes. I was seated on the aisle end seat of the second row. Suddenly, I could see Mother Teresa of Calcutta. I could see her face with a big smile and many deep wrinkles. I felt a deep sense of peace. Then, I could hear her distinctly: “Go to the poor”! Then I could see a bright light. I felt the presence of Jesus! And then, I heard Jesus tell me: “Come to me, my son! I will give you light...a light for the poor”! Then, there was a deep silence...and the bright, blinding light gradually became softer and softer, changing into a deep blue, like a peaceful sea of tranquility. I kept my eyes closed and asked God what did all this mean? While I was repeating the words from Jesus: “Come to me, my son, I will give you light, a light for the poor”, I could hear other words within my heart: “Come to me. Give your life for me. Love, love everyone. Be my light, my son. Go! Go! Do my will. I will give you joy.”

When I came back to the parish at the end of that second week of February, I did not share with anyone what had happened on that Thursday afternoon at the Loyola Retreat Center. It was hard for me to interpret what really happened and what it all meant. I was waiting for another sign from God! And there was no sign to be seen or heard. Then, I began to share my Loyola Retreat experience with Fr. Lopez, then with other priests, then with our Marian Group, then our daily communicants, and finally, today with our Tuesday Morning Scripture Prayer Group. This gave me the courage to write this column for all our parishioners. I can do that today without any fear as seven weeks later, the message became quite clear. God was not asking me to go to Haiti and live among the poorest of the poor, I finally got it: God was asking me to stay right here, right now and to continue assisting the poor living around us in Waldorf: the spiritually poor, the emotionally poor, the physically poor, the materially poor; it did not matter where I was living—God wanted me to focus more and more on those in the most need, especially the spiritually poor. So, if you have heard that I was going to live in India or Haiti, it is a false rumor. I have promised total obedience to Cardinal Wuerl, and all his successors, when he ordained me to the priesthood on June 20, 2009 (almost 8 years ago). You may recall that when Cardinal Wuerl installed me as your pastor 6 years ago, I was invited to make some brief comments before the end of the Mass. My comments were indeed very brief. I simply expressed my appreciation to the Cardinal for having entrusted me the leadership of our wonderful parish, and asked him a simple question: “Why since the end of my third year in the seminary in May 2008, he sent me to Waldorf four times in a row: as seminarian at St. Peter’s, then (one year later) as parochial vicar at St. Peter’s, then (another 6 months later) as Administrator of Our Lady Help of Christians?” Cardinal Wuerl had a simple answer: “It is the Holy Spirit!”

Last week, all the readings had to do with light and darkness. Jesus told us in the beautiful narrative of the healing of the man born blind: “I am the light of the world!” And Paul told the

**Mass Intention**

- Saturday, April 1, 9:00 AM: Tonye Patou +
- Saturday, April 1, 5:00 PM: Denise Ann Rivera +
- Sunday, April 2, 8:30 AM: Thaddeus Rose +
- Sunday, April 2, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, April 2, 11:30 AM: James O’Toole +
- Tuesday, April 4, 9:00 AM: James Lennox +
- Wednesday, April 5, 9:00 AM: The Moussi Family
- Thursday, April 6, 9:00 AM: The Storey Family

**Prayer Requests**

We are asked to pray for: Fr. Thomas Crowley, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beiner, Mike Connolly, Jessica Curry Miller, LaShay Barnes, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, 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, 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.

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**Mass Readings for April 9, 2017**

- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*
- First Reading– Isaiah 50: vs. 4-7
- Second Reading– Philippians 2: vs. 6-11
- Gospel–Matthew 26: vs. 14- 27:66

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**Reminder !**

- On Palm Sunday, April 9, the 8:30 am and 10 am Masses will begin 10 minutes earlier, at 8:20 am and 9:50 am.
- Please join us for the Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil! Please take a Holy Week and Easter Schedule with you as you leave Mass today.

+++++ (cont.) Ephesians and each of us: “You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light!” Let us pray that as we continue our Lenten journey, we may open our hearts to receive that light from Christ, and prepare ourselves to enter into the joy of Christ’s resurrection at Easter!

*One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain*

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

## CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2016-2017 CCD Registration is open online: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org).

April 2/3- CCD

April 6 & 8- 1st Communion Workshop #3 (6:45 pm/9:30 am)

April 7- Living Stations- 7 pm

April 9/10, 16/17- Easter Break/No CCD

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org)

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## 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 **April 30** 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](http://olhoc.org/ym).

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## 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.

- **April 24@ 6:30 pm- Archbishop Neale ES, La Plata**
- **May 18 @7 pm- St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick**

Go to [VIRTUS.org](http://VIRTUS.org) to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112 with questions or if you need assistance with this process.



## 2017 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 **Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 2 pm** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please use the sign-up forms on the bulletin table to register (required) and turn them into the ushers or the office. All forms must be to the OLHOC office no later than Thursday, April 20.

## Women's Prayer Group/St. Mary's Bryantown

Will be holding their **3rd Annual Day of Reflection on Saturday, April 29**, with special guest, Marie Miller. 12:30 – 3:30 pm- Presentation; 5:15-6 pm- Concert (immediately following 4 pm Mass open to public, families welcome); 6-9 pm- Dinner/Fellowship open to public. Cost is free will offering, but RSVP required for dinner. Email : [thejoyfulprayergroup@outlook.com](mailto:thejoyfulprayergroup@outlook.com) to register and for more info.

## OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Fall registration continues for all new students.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) for information.

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## Community Outreach

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, April 20, 2017** (OLHOC Confirmation Students as sponsor) at Good Shepherd Church. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 5 at 7 pm**; Brenda DiCarlo of Catholic Charities will speak at the meeting.

Many thanks to our **OLHOC Altar Guild** for sponsoring the delicious March 16 Shepherd's Table. Thanks also to the Mall Circle **McDonalds** for their PB&J donation!

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

## Meals on Wheels

The **Meals on Wheels** program is currently seeking volunteers for the **Waldorf/St. Charles** route who can donate **2-3 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.

## Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & 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!

## Mary's Helping Hands Bake Sale

The ladies of **Mary's Helping Hands** (Knights of Columbus Auxiliary) will hold a bake sale and raffle (Celebrate America Basket) on **Sunday, April 23** in the narthex. There will be a large variety of post-Lenten and Easter celebration treats!