

May 21, 2017

Happy Feast Day!

Once a year, we celebrate the Feast of our Patroness Saint, Our Lady Help of Christians: May 24! Happy Feast Day to all our parishioners!!! It has become a tradition that we celebrate our Parish Feast Day on the Sunday before May 24, this year on May 21st! It has become a tradition to have on that Sunday the Crowning of Mary (our outdoor statue) organized by the children, youth, teachers and aides of our Religious Education Program! This crowning also marks the end of the 2016-17 CCD program. It is an opportunity to rejoice with the 350 children enrolled this year, including the 64 First Communicants and the 41 Confirmandi! It is also an opportunity to express our appreciation to all the volunteer teachers and aides (more than 75 this year)! As a special celebration, we will have the traditional Outdoor Mass at 11:30 am. This year, the entire outdoor Mass is being organized by our youth!

We are blessed that our parish Feast Day occurs in the middle of the month of May, the month of Mary! As an additional blessing this year, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, held every May 13, took an extraordinary significance: it was the 100th anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima and Pope Francis had his first pilgrimage as Pope to Fatima. On that day he canonized Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the little shepherds who saw that first apparition.

For our parish, this 100th anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima was celebrated together with other parishes of Charles County. Our parish had been chosen to be the first one to launch this county-wide initiative. Many of you were able to participate and your feedback, including from other parishes, was unanimous: it was an amazing spiritual experience. One could feel the presence of Mary, Our Mother in Heaven. One could feel her protection. One could also feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, Mary's Spouse! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who made this special event a reality, including the Knights of Columbus, our Youth Group, our Marian Group and our Musicians! We were blessed to have over 50 children bringing flowers to Mary and leading an International Living Rosary (English, Spanish, Tagalo, French and Portuguese). We also experienced a mini-miracle. It had been raining non-stop for the last 24 hours and the rain had continued to pour down while we celebrated the 9 am Mass. However, at 11 am as we were concluding the Mass, the rain stopped, allowing us to hold our Eucharistic Procession outdoors!!!

Let us all remember the main messages of Fatima: prayer, conversion and repentance. Let us remember the command of Our Lady on her first apparition on May 13, 2017: **Pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world!** In this extraordinary Year of Fatima, I invite everyone to consider praying the Rosary daily for **peace—peace** in our hearts, **peace** in our families, **peace** in our communities, **peace** in our country, **peace** in the whole world! I also invite everyone to come and attend our 9 am Mass on every First Saturday, and learn about the

Mass Intention

- Saturday, May 20, 9:00 AM: Brad Lemke
- Saturday, May 20, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, May 21, 8:30 AM: Sue Reid
- Sunday, May 21, 10:00 AM: James Knapp +
- Sunday, May 21, 11:30 AM: James & A. Cecelia Clark (50th Anniversary)
- Monday, May 22, 9:00 AM: Karl Lass +
- Tuesday, May 23, 9:00 AM: Nadia Toledo
- Wednesday, May 24, 9:00 AM: Boguslawski Family +
- Thursday, May 25, 9:00 AM: Eutalia Villanueva
- Friday, May 19, 9:00 AM: Agostinho Couto +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, Terri Facini, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beinert, 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, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, 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.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **John Lohman** and **Joseph Organ**.

Mass Readings for May 28, 2017

The Ascension of the Lord

- First Reading- Acts of the Apostles 1: vs. 1-11
- Second Reading- Ephesians 1: vs. 17-23
- Gospel- Matthew 28: vs. 16-20

(cont.) Fatima Devotion to the First Five Saturdays! Finally, I invite everyone to avail themselves of the extraordinary opportunity for a **plenary indulgence** in participating in any of the next five 100th anniversaries of the five final apparitions at Fatima (**June 13, July 13th, August 13, September 13, and October 13**), as organized in different parishes of Charles County (see schedule in weekly bulletin).

May you all have a most Blessed Parish Feast Day! May Mary, our Patroness Saint, continue to protect all of us and lead all of us to her son, Jesus!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

CCD Class Schedule

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

May 21- 11:10 am- Crowning of Mary, 11:30 am- Outdoor Mass, (bring lawn chairs) , end of CCD year (2016-17).

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

Parish Youth Night !

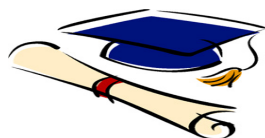
Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm- check website)

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 **on June 11** 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.



Attention High School & College Graduates

Please join us on **Sunday, June 4** at the **11:30 am Mass** for a special blessing. We ask that you wear your graduation robes. Please sign up after Mass or online www.olhoc.org/ym . If you have any questions, contact Marlen at: marlen@olhoc.org.

Save the Dates! Summer All Youth Nights

June 11, July 4, and August 20 beginning with Mass at 4 pm followed by a fun event. Visit the www.olhoc.org/ym or sign up on flock note to stay updated on all the upcoming youth events.

Eucharistic Holy Hour for Our Deacons

Join us in praying for our Deacons (due to be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 17, 2017). They include Deacon Jorge Ubau (former OLHOC seminarian). The special **Holy Hour in Thanksgiving** will be held at **Our Lady Help of Christians on Saturday, June 3 from 9:30 to 10:30 am**, following the 9 am Mass.

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).

- **June 15 @7pm- St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick**

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.

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 for information.

Community Outreach

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, June 15, 2017** . The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **June 7** 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 **

Catholic Homeschool Co-op: Totus Tuus!

There will be an **Information Night** at **Our Lady Help of Christians** in Waldorf on **Wednesday, May 24 at 8 pm** for anyone who is currently homeschooling or is discerning it. This is also for those who have younger children and may be interested in joining a community of other Catholic families. We will discuss financial information as well as logistics of the co-op and provide registration materials. Light refreshments will be provided. Fr. Alain will also be celebrating **Mass at 7 pm** for those who wish to attend. Contact Karen Cross, crosskz@gmail.com or Carolyn Parson, parsonfamily07@yahoo.com with any questions.



2017 Jubilee of Fatima Schedule

Celebrate the joy of the **100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima** right here in Charles County! The Pilgrimage that began at Our Lady Help of Christians on **May 13** continues!

- **Tuesday, June 13** at **St. Catherine of Alexandria** , Port Tobacco, MD at **7:30 pm**.
- **Thursday, July 13**, **St. Mary's (Newport)**, Charlotte Hall, MD at **6:30 pm**.
- **Sunday, August 13**, **St. Frances de Sales**, Benedict, MD at **11:00 am**.
- **Wednesday, September 13**, **St. Joseph**, Pomfret,, MD at **9:00 am** (after Mass).
- **Friday, October 13**, **Sacred Heart**, La Plata, MD at **6:00 pm**. (Procession/Closing Mass)