

Behold, I Am With You Always!

Before Jesus is **lifted up to heaven**, he announces to his disciples: *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!”* (Acts 1: 1-11). This is Jesus’ promise to his disciples, including all of us, that He will never abandon us, and that as He returns to His Father in heaven, He will send upon us the **Holy Spirit** at Pentecost, which we will celebrate next Sunday as we close the **Easter Season**, those joyful 50 days! **Ascension Sunday**, today, is the prelude to **Pentecost**, the great beginning of the **Church!** In today’s Gospel, we hear the ending of Matthew’s Gospel: **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”**

What a consolation for all of us to know that as we face daily challenges in our lives, **Jesus is always with us!** Always with us even when we do not feel His Presence! The **Holy Spirit**, which is the **love between the Father and the Son**, is always within us, always at the center of our hearts. Many times, we do not hear the Word of God, because our hearts are closed unto themselves. They are not opened. As we celebrate the **Ascension of Our Lord** into heaven, we are all invited to pray to **God:** *“O, God, open my heart to the Holy Spirit, help me to feel your love within me, help me to take away my fears, help me to let the Holy Spirit invade my heart, help me to be docile to the Holy Spirit, help me to let the Holy Spirit guide my daily steps! O God, I know that without You , I can do nothing. O God, make me aware that I depend totally on You!”*

Where do you find that presence of the Holy Spirit in your lives? Do you remember the last time you prayed directly to the Holy Spirit for help? Many of you have told me that you can find the presence of the Holy Spirit when praying alone or with your family at home, but also when worshipping at our parish on Sundays. As we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, our Parish Feast last Sunday, we were all blessed by the beautiful crowning of Mary right after the 10 am Mass, including hearing our children singing to Our Lady Help of Christians, praying a decade of the Rosary with them, and watching them bring flowers to the foot of our outdoor Mary Statue! God also blessed us with the most beautiful weather we could have for our traditional 11:30 am outdoor Mass: cloudy, cool and breezy! The gentle breeze reminded us of the presence of the **Holy Spirit!** At the time of consecration, the **sun** appeared for a few seconds, reminding us that we are totally in God’s hands!

As we enter the final week of **Easter Season**, let us all turn our hearts toward the Holy Spirit: **“ Come Holy Spirit! Help us to convert daily! Help us to change! Help us to have a new beginning! Help me to bring peace within my family! Help me to be a new person! Give me a loving heart!”**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Mass Intention

- Saturday, May 27, 9:00 AM: Pat Dieberto +
- Saturday, May 27, 5:00 PM: Matthew Lemke
- Sunday , May 28, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, May 28, 10:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd +
- Sunday, May 28, 11:30 AM: Mary Frances Cox +
- Sunday, May 28, 7:00 PM: Alexander R. Echeverria +
- Monday, May 29, 9:00 AM: Addland Andrews
- Tuesday, May 30, 9:00 AM: Aldo Toscano +
- Wednesday, May 31 , 9:00 AM: Joseph Organ +
- Thursday, June 1, 9:00 AM: A.J. McLean +

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, 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, 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 June 4, 2017

Pentecost Sunday

First Reading– Acts of the Apostles 2: vs. 1-11

Second Reading– 1 Corinthians 12: vs. 3b-7, 12-13

Gospel– John 20: vs. 19-23

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Memorial Day

Our parish wishes to express **our gratitude** to those **veterans, both past and present**, who have dedicated themselves and fought to protect our country’s freedoms. **Your bravery and many sacrifices will never be taken for granted, nor forgotten.**

There will be 9:00 AM Mass on Monday, May 29. The church office will be closed in observance of the federal holiday.

The Ascension of the Lord

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming information on VBS: The Musical! (Coming July 24-28, 2017)

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 an evening of fun at Sky Zone trampoline park. 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 of Thanksgiving** will be held at **Our Lady Help of Christians on First 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.

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 (the Southern Maryland Food Bank in Waldorf) for those in need.

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

Thank you to the **OLHOC Choir and 301 Youth/Adult Group** who planned and prepared a delicious chicken dinner for the Shepherd's Table attendees on **May 18!**

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**. All are welcome!

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



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)

In Memoriam of Fr. Crowley

The **June 4, 2017 Mass at 8:30 am** at OLHOC will be held for the repose of the soul of Fr. Tom Crowley. All are welcome to attend.