

June 4, 2017

Receive The Holy Spirit !

“ **Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!**” This was the prayer Fr. Moriarty used every day before teaching us at St. John XXIII Seminary in Boston! It is a most powerful prayer. Not surprisingly, it is sung before the proclamation of the Gospel at every Mass on this great **Solemnity of Pentecost** we are celebrating today! We are all invited to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and to fill them with the **fire of the love of God!** This sums up the long **Sequence** which is read or sung at every Pentecost Mass and begins with those words: **Come, Holy Spirit, Come!**

I invite all of you to meditate on this **prayer to the Holy Spirit!** I am confident that you will find one or two words that will touch your own hearts. As I am writing this column, I chose to read the whole Pentecost Sequence slowly, asking the Holy Spirit to guide my own reflection. Here are the words that touched me: *“Come, Father of the Poor...heal our wounds, our strength renew...Wash the stains of guilt away...Bend the stubborn heart and will...guide the steps that go astray...On the faithful, who adore and confess you...give them your salvation, give them joys that never end.. Alleluia!”*

These words above reminded me of a recent experience I had while visiting inmates at the Charles County Detention Center. As you know, it is a grace to be able to visit those in jail and I go there about once a month. On one of these visits, I was asked by one inmate, (whom I will call ‘Peter’ to protect his anonymity) to visit one of his friends (I will call ‘Paul’ etc.). I had visited Peter regularly and it was the second time that he had asked me to help someone else. When I met Paul, I had no idea who he was or why he wanted to see me. After a long conversation with him, it became clear that he was seeking the **truth** and wanted to know **how to be saved**. We spent lots of time reading the Bible together. I also found out that Paul had never been baptized although several people in his family were Catholics (but not practicing their faith). To make a long story short... Paul eventually asked me to **baptize him!** I gave him an abbreviated Catechesis for Adults wishing to enter the Catholic Church. I will never forget the day I baptized and confirmed him and I will never forget the **joy** that Paul radiated on that day. This was truly the **Holy Spirit** at work: Baptism with Water and Confirmation with Chrism Oil and Imposition of Hands!

As said in the Pentecost Sequence, the Holy Spirit was truly healing Paul’s **wounds** , **washing the stains of his guilt away, guiding his steps that had gone astray...and giving him salvation...and joys that never end!** What also made that experience very special is the impact Paul’s **conversion** had on Peter. Later on, when I told Peter that had it not been for his seeking help for Paul, Paul may have never been baptized and encountered the power of the **Holy Spirit** – this was a seed that Peter had planted! For many of us, unlike Peter, we may never know the impact of the seeds we are

Mass Intention

- Saturday, June 3, 9:00 AM: Verna Burke +
- Saturday, June 3, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday , June 4, 8:30 AM: Fr. Tom Crowley +
- Sunday, June 4, 10:00 AM: Jose & Anna Marie Gonzales & Family +
- Sunday, June 4, 11:30 AM: Arturo Padinit +
- Monday, June 5, 9:00 AM: Milton Gaines +
- Tuesday, June 6, 9:00 AM: Joseph Organ +
- Wednesday, June 7 , 9:00 AM: Fr. John Clark +
- Thursday, June 8, 9:00 AM: Alton & Regina Proctor +
- Friday, June 9, 9:00 AM: Joseph Organ +

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.

Condolences to the family and friends of **Jeffrey Diehl**.

Mass Readings for June 11, 2017

The Most Holy Trinity

First Reading- Exodus 34: vs. 4b-6, 8-9

Second Reading- 2 Corinthians 13: vs. 11-13

Gospel- John 3: vs. 16-18

(cont.) planting. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, we should never be discouraged and we should continue to plant seeds!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all our parishioners on this Pentecost Sunday and kindle in them the **fire of your love!**

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain



Pentecost Sunday

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

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

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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)

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St. Inigoes Youth Camp at Loyola

St. Inigoes Youth Camp @ Loyola on the Potomac in conjunction with Camp Fire are excited to present "Unplug and Reconnect" a summer day camp for youth ages 8-14. Session 1-June 19-23 and Session 2- July 17-21. Camp will include: Bible Study, ways to pray, music, arts and crafts, games, nature walks and more. Daily snack and lunch provided. Fee: \$100 per week plus one-time fee of \$25. For more info, contact Lisa White (301-391-0819) or lisa.white@loyolaretreat.org.