

June 25, 2017

A New Beginning!

There was much excitement on Monday morning! Many of our youth had responded generously to our call for help to move the 400 chairs from the church to the Social Hall. Together with a few more "mature" parishioners, our youth worked as a single-minded team. The church was totally emptied in less than two hours. Not only all the chairs were moved, but also the Tabernacle, the piano, and the altar. By 11 am, the Social Hall was transformed into a new church! Only the heavy organ was left behind and kept in the Narthex for the time being.

As the "big" move was taking place, the implementation of the renovation of our church was in full swing with the removal of the carpet. Initially, the removal proved easier than expected, but by the afternoon, it became more challenging as it appeared that in some parts of the church, our original carpet (27 years old) had been glued with extra-strength glue; but we remain confident that if God wants us to make the change from carpet to tiles...it will happen!

We are all afraid of change. Change provides a mix of opportunities and challenges! But **Jesus** constantly reminds us: "**Do not be afraid!**" In today's Gospel (Matthew 10: 26-33), Jesus says to the Twelve, and all of us: "Fear no one...do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul...rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna...**do not be afraid**...everyone who acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before my Heavenly Father."

With the Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:13), we can proclaim "Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!" Yes, we are all poor, poor in spirit. Only Jesus can give us the spirit that we need to face our daily challenges with joy, peace and love. Since we embarked upon our Capital Campaign one year ago, many times, as your pastor, I have had many fears. So many things can go wrong; but thanks to your broad support and strong encouragement as an united parish, One in Christ, and thanks to the many volunteers who have come forward to assist me, every difficulty has been surmounted. And this week, we can all say in one voice: "**Praise the Lord for a new beginning!**"

Beginning this weekend, all Sunday Masses and the Saturday Vigil Mass (5 pm) will take place in the Social Hall. We plan to return for all weekend Masses in the renovated Church on August 19/20. During that time, confessions will be held in the Cry Room while the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will remain open for all daily Masses. Once again, we ask for your patience and understanding! If you have any questions about the renovation and the summer move, do not hesitate to contact us. May God continue to bless all of us worshipping at Our Lady Help of Christians!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Mass Intention

- Saturday, June 24, 9:00 AM: Ifeoma Igbokwe +
- Saturday, June 24, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Youth & Chaperones
In Steubenville
- Sunday, June 25, 8:30 AM: Helen Fitzpatrick +
- Sunday, June 25, 10:00 AM: Marie Cavanaugh +
- Sunday, June 25, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, June 25, 7:00 PM: Silvia Lopez +
- Tuesday, June 27, 9:00 AM: Inocencia Villanueva +
- Wednesday, June 28, 9:00 AM: All Souls in Purgatory +
- Thursday, June 29, 9:00 AM: Charles Strawberry, Jr.
- Friday, June 30, 9:00 AM: Ursula Cordner +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Therese Gendron, 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 **Ifeoma Igbokwe**.

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Mass Readings for July 2, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- 2 Kings 4: vs. 8-11, 14-16a

Second Reading- Romans 6: vs. 3-4, 8-11

Gospel- Matthew 10: vs. 37-42

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Don't Forget !

We will be celebrating **July 4th , Independence Day** at OLHOC! The event will start at 5:30 pm with a musical prelude by the OLHOC Youth Choir, a 6 pm Outdoor Mass for the U.S.A, followed by a Concert by Libation and games and activities for all ages, with a grand finale of Fireworks! You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and/or blanket and a picnic for your family. **See you there!**

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

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

Online registration is available for VBS (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 July 4 and will begin with **6:00 PM Mass** followed by an evening of fun and fireworks at OLHOC. Bring your friends! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Summer All Youth Night

Join us for the All Youth Night on **August 20** beginning with **Mass at 4 pm**, followed by a **pool party**. Visit the www.olhoc.org/ym or sign up on flock note to stay updated on all the upcoming youth events.

Reminder

The weekly **Sunday morning Bible Study (follows 8:30 am Mass)** will be held in **Room 103/104** during the summer sanctuary renovation.

Sharing Sunday

All non-perishable donations may be placed in the marked box in the kitchen. The items are donated to the local food pantry (the Southern Maryland Food Bank in Waldorf) for those in need.



Save the Date!

On **First Saturday, July 1 at 10:00 am**, our seminarian Pablo Villa will be presenting a short reflection called **"Walking In The Footsteps of Jesus"**. It will include an insight on the land of the Bible and the humanity of Jesus.

Also, Pablo will present a personal view of how spending three years in the Holy Land and living among Jewish people brought to light the deep relationship between Judaism and Christianity. Join us for this **special event** – all are invited!

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 **June Shepherd's Table** was a wonderful picnic-style dinner enjoyed by a large group of guests. Many thanks to Menu Coordinator **Stu Tellechea & group** and our amazing **volunteers** who made the dinner a success.

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, July 20, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **September 6** at 7 pm. All are welcome!

Thanks go to Cecelia Spinks for the bottled water and Margo & Russell Savoy for the amazing snack bags.

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.

- **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)

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 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.