

July 9, 2017

Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession

At least for the past five years, we had been thinking about organizing a long Eucharistic Procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (The Body of Christ). We had talked about it at both the Parish Council and the Liturgy Planning Committee. Some progress was made in the last three years as we began holding outdoor processions of the Blessed Sacrament around our church building, or around the parking lot across from our church. But we never made it a long one. One of my dreams had been to **walk with Jesus** along St. Thomas Drive, then turn right and follow the entire **Wakefield Circle**, finally returning to OL-HOC on St. Thomas Drive. We had done such a 2-mile walk six years ago to raise funds for our Mary Statue Project. Many parishioners still remember that walk, as it was not only pouring rain through the entire procession, but also there was deep, standing water on the ground. We all felt like we were walking in a shallow river! On Sunday, July 18, the day of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we chose to do the same 2-mile procession, this time with the Blessed Sacrament. We had close to 100 people singing and praying the Rosary. This time, there was no downpour of water—but we faced the midday sun and outdoor temperatures above 90 degrees; some of us wished that it had been raining instead on this extremely hot midday afternoon.

The entire Eucharistic procession was led by Deacon Bill and flower girls tossing petals, followed by three Knights of Columbus in their regalia of the Color Corps, our thurifer altar server with incense, then four men holding the canopy protecting the Blessed Sacrament carried in our golden monstrance by your humble servant, your pastor. As soon as we reached Wakefield Circle, a police car showed up. Thank God, we had asked our Office Manager to advise the police in advance of our plan and she had been told we could process as long as we would not interfere with auto traffic. I then wondered whether the police would ask us to return to our church. On the contrary, we ended up with two police cars, one in front and one in back, which helped protect us from traffic (thank you to Charles County Sheriff's Office)!

We could sense a feeling of joy among those of us processing together. We felt truly united without any fear. Through songs and recitations of the Rosary, we were accompanying Jesus through the Wakefield neighborhood in Waldorf. We met a few people in their yards or walking their dogs. However, many cars passed by and slowed down to see what was going on. Unaware and unwillingly, these drivers and passengers had an encounter with Christ that very afternoon of Corpus Christi. As I watched them, while holding high the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament, I felt in my own heart that for some of them, it may have been the first time they had ever encountered Jesus or seen Him in the Blessed Sacrament!

We thanked God that our volunteers had made comprehensive preparations for this new Eucharistic Procession, including organizing a service of water stations. As we stopped two or three times at different points of water distribution, I felt as if it had been Good Friday: remembering Jesus falling down three times and asking for water. With those stops for quenching our thirst, I felt that we were walking like Jesus toward Mt. Calvary!

Mass Intention

- Saturday, July 8, 5:00 PM: Pat Griesert +
- Sunday, July 9, 8:30 AM: Bill Bryner +
- Sunday, July 9, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, July 9, 11:30 AM: Deacon Joseph Salser
- Monday, July 10, 9:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd +
- Tuesday, July 11, 9:00 AM: Orlando S. Lagman
- Wednesday, July 12, 9:00 AM: Fr. Agustin Lopez
- Friday, July 14, 9:00 AM: Cosmo Quattrone

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Ann Gillespie, Cosmo Quattrone, Julie King, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Therese Gendron, Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, LaShay Barnes, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julietta 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 July 16, 2017

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Isaiah 55: vs. 10-11

Second Reading- Romans 8: vs. 18-23

Gospel- Matthew 13: vs. 1-9

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(cont.) The water stations became our own Stations of the Cross! We completed this nearly 2-hour procession by reposing the Blessed Sacrament on an altar at the foot of our Outdoor Crucifix and concluded with Benediction of everyone present!

If you have any feedback on this Eucharistic Procession, let us know so that we may incorporate your ideas in the design and planning of future processions! Let us pray that God will inspire many of our parishioners to spend more time in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament! May we all listen to God whispering into our ears while we are in **silent Adoration!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Fourteenth 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 August 20 and will begin with **4:00 PM Mass** followed by a fun pool party. 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.

Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer

Learn the essentials of an **effective and fruitful prayer life** with Fr. Mark Touns and discover how God speaks to you, even in the smallest encounters. Following the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn how to express yourself to God, how to hear his voice, and how to overcome common difficulties often encountered in prayer. So, this summer, take some time to improve your prayer life through this hybrid independent/group study. All participants are welcome to come together for a group discussion halfway through the study (August 3) and again at the end of the study (August 31) at 10 am. If there is enough interest, evening gatherings will be scheduled as well. **To register** for the study, contact Therese Thiedeman at dre@olhoc.org or 301-645-7112.

Reminder

The weekly **Sunday morning Bible Study** (follows 8:30 am Mass) in **Room 103/104**.



St. Ingoes Youth Camp @Loyola on the Potomac

St. Ingoes Youth Camp (with Camp Fire) are excited to present "Unplug and Reconnect", a summer day camp for youth ages 8-14 on July 17-21. Camp will include many activities (indoor and out) with daily snack and lunch provided. Fee: \$100 a week, plus one-time registration fee of \$25. For more information, contact Lisa White at 301-392-0819 or online at: lisa.white@loyolaretreat.org.

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.

Help Needed at OLLC

We need a few loving individuals who are willing and able to work as **classroom substitutes** in our preschool. Hours are 8:30 am- 3:30 pm. You will be required to complete the Virtus Child Protection process, including fingerprinting and background check. We also need a **part-time classroom aide**, 1-2 days per week. Please call the Preschool Director, Nieda Tice Palmer, if you are interested; or send an email to: preschool@olhoc.org.

Community Outreach

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!

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!

- 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)

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).

- **July 17 @ 6:30 pm- Our Lady Help of Christians (in Spanish)**

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.