

July 16, 2017

Summer of Change! Summer of Rest!

The humidity and heat are back! Summer has come! From my early childhood, I have thought of **summer as a time for rest**, as a time to take a break from school, a time to go to the beach, a time to enjoy swimming, a time to spend long hours with friends and family, a time to read books slowly, a time to have long, slow walks in the woods, a time to recharge our bodily and spiritual batteries. In my last eight years as priest (including seven years at OLHOC), summers have come and gone very fast...and they have all been very different...

This year, summer has begun as a **summer of change!** Over the last three weeks, we have moved to our "summer church". There was much trepidation and anxiety on how this move would go. So far, it has been easier than anticipated. Everyone has been patient. Yes, we have endured a few surprises and annoyances: the sound system needing constant adjustment, the noise of the kneelers being put down at the times of Consecration and Communion, the air-conditioning system being capricious, either too strong or too weak (times of sweating, times of freezing)... However, everyone has been patient and understanding (so far...). At the same time, work on the church renovation has progressed smoothly. As of today, we are on schedule to leave our summer church and to move back to the "renovated church" on the weekend of August 19-20. The construction of our new pews in Pennsylvania (at New Holland, same company that built our current chairs) is nearing completion and their installation will begin soon. Our summer this year has also begun with **other changes**... Over the last two weekends, we have said "goodbye", and expressed our appreciation, first to our seminarian Pablo (Paul the Sixth), and then to our parochial vicar Fr. Lopez. This was a time of sadness, but also a time of getting together as a parish community. Pablo's witness talk touched all of us with his authenticity, simplicity, and humility. There were also many tears, as Fr. Lopez spoke at all Masses last weekend. There was also much joy as many people remembered how Fr. Lopez had touched their hearts with his compassion and love. We were all blessed to have Fr. Lopez for three long years, half of his entire priesthood to date. He came to us as a baby priest, 3 years old! He leaves us as a child priest, 6 years old! He has grown much in the last 3 years, thanks to the great love that all parishioners have shown to him in response to his own love for us! The time has now come for him to move on...and the time has come for a new parochial vicar to join us.

This weekend, you will all have a chance to meet and welcome our new parochial vicar, Fr. Santiago Martin. He was ordained by Cardinal Wuerl two years ago and assigned as parochial vicar at Mother Seton parish in Germantown, Maryland. Please take a moment as you leave Mass this weekend and introduce yourselves to him.

Let us pray that this **summer will be a time for rest** for all of us! May God help us to accept the continuing changes in our daily lives! May God help us to find some time to **rest with**

Mass Intention

Saturday, July 15, 5:00 PM: Carole Regalbuto +
Sunday, July 16, 8:30 AM: Dick Kelley +
Sunday, July 16, 10:00 AM: Helen Fitzpatrick +
Sunday, July 16, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Tuesday, July 18, 9:00 AM: Antonio Saltaformaggio
Wednesday, July 19, 9:00 AM: Arnolando Galaz +
Wednesday, July 19, 7:00 PM: Arnolando Galaz +
Friday, July 21, 9:00 AM: Special Intention

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Maria Reyes, John Cumpion, Joe Martinez, 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, 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 July 23, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Reading- Wisdom 12: : vs. 13,16-19
Second Reading- Romans 8: vs. 26-27
Gospel- Matthew 13: vs. 24-43

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We Need You

Are you a graphic designer or aspiring graphic designer? The Digital Outreach Committee is seeking a volunteer to do some designs for our web and social media presence. If interested, please contact the parish office or email dre@olhoc.org.

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(cont.) **Him**, a time for peace, love and joy. Jesus invites all of us this summer: "*Come to me, all of you who are burdened...and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28)!

One in Christ
Fr. Alain

Fifteenth 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. 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 half-way 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.

Office Manager

Our Office Manager will be retiring in December of 2017. We plan to have an overlay to provide a smooth transition for the parish. **Hard-copy CVs** (in a sealed, confidential envelope addressed to Fr. Alain, Pastor) should be left with the Office Manager during **Business Hours- Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4 pm before July 28**. This announcement and basic criteria for selection have been posted on our website.

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

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.

2017 Jubilee of Fatima Schedule

Celebrate the joy of the **100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima** right here in Charles County.

- 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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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)
- **July 20 @ 6:30 pm-** Our Lady Help of Christians (in English)
- **August 2 @6:30 pm-** Immaculate Conception, Mechanicsville (in English)
- **August 14 @6:00 pm-** ANS, La Plata (in English)

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

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Reminder

The weekly **Sunday morning Bible Study** (follows 8:30 am Mass) in **Room 103/104** ; last class will be July 30.

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