

July 23, 2017

The Pews Are Coming! The Pews Are Coming!

As I am writing this column (always on Tuesday morning, before the printing deadline), I would like to share with you some excitement that took place early this morning around 7:00 am: a large truck stopped in the middle of the circle in front of our church. It had come all the way from Lancaster, Pennsylvania! We had been waiting for that truck for many weeks! It contained the pews that had been manufactured by "New Holland" in Dutch Pennsylvania (land of the Amish)! We had to move our regular daily Mass from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to the Summer Church. We also had to move our Tuesday Scripture Prayer Group (beginning at 10 am) from the Narthex to our new "Summer Narthex" (aka Office Entrance). All this, so that we could let the crew from "New Holland" bring all the pews inside the Church. At the end of the Mass, some parishioners asked me whether they could go and see the new pews. My response was: "No!"

Can't you wait until the weekend of **August 19/20** when we move our Masses back to the renovated Church? Wouldn't you prefer to see the totality of the ongoing renovation, as opposed to parts of it? We also do not want to interfere with the work of the New Holland crew. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the feedback we have received on the current setup in the Summer Church. This feedback, together with what we received through the whole process or preparation of the Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign, has been invaluable as it will help us to continue to have at OLHOC a place of worship that is welcoming, prayerful, joyful, and above all, spiritual!

In consultation with our Parish Council and our Liturgy Planning Committee, we are also preparing to have a **Re-dedication** of our renovated church at the 11:30 am Mass on **Sunday, September 10**. We have invited Bishop Knestout to join us for this event. The Bishop already blessed our outdoor Mary Statue and our large inside Crucifix. He has been personally involved in reviewing our parish renovation proposals from the very beginning of our capital campaign. Why **Sunday, September 10**? It has been our annual tradition to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of our parish on the Sunday prior to September 15; Cardinal Hickey did so on September 15, 1980! This September, we will turn 37 years young! It has also been our tradition to combine that anniversary celebration with our annual picnic, which we will hold this year after the 11:30 am Mass of Re-dedication! The Parish Council has also suggested that we use the opportunity of this September 10 picnic to have a **display of ongoing activities** at our parish and each of our committees/organizations are being invited to have a simple display (e.g., Preschool, Knights of Columbus, Community Outreach, CCD, RCIA, Marian Group, Music Ministry, Altar Guild, Scripture Prayer Group, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist serving the Homebound, etc.). Any thoughts or suggestions for this major September event are welcome! (send them to office@olhoc.org, with a cc: to me at pastor@olhoc.org).

Mass Intention

- Saturday, July 22, 5:00 PM: Arnold Galaz +
- Sunday, July 23, 8:30 AM: George Albrittain +
- Sunday, July 23, 10:00 AM: Mr. Louis Akabogu +
- Sunday, July 23, 11:30 AM: Baby Ciara Bocchino +
- Sunday, July 23, 7:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Tuesday, July 25, 9:00 AM: Gladys Sriprasert (Healing)
- Wednesday, July 26, 9:00 AM: Arsenia Romona Gines & Deceased Family Members +
- Thursday, July 27, 9:00 AM: Michael Proctor (St. Louis)
- Friday, July 28, 9:00 AM: Darren D. William

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Pat Gray, John Kopec, Maria Reyes, John Cumpion, Barbara Lagman, 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, 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.

Mass Readings for July 30, 2017

- Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- First Reading- 1 Kings 3 : vs. 5, 7-12
- Second Reading- Romans 8: vs. 28-30
- Gospel- Matthew 13: vs. 44-52

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.

(cont.) May God continue to bless Our Lady Help of Christians parish in Waldorf! May Mary, our patroness saint, continue to protect each OLHOC parishioner with her maternal love! May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire all of us to go out and evangelize, proclaiming the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org. We are looking for Catechists to share their faith with the children at OLHOC!

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 web-site)

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.



Vacation Bible School: The Musical!

Everyone is invited to attend the grand finale of our 2017 Vacation Bible School production, "Oh, Jonah!" This faith-filled, joyful musical will tell the story of Jonah and the Whale in a way you have never experienced. **Join us on Friday, July 28 at 11:30 am** in the Social Hall for this 'whale of a good time'!

RCIA Invitation

Registration for the 2017-2018 RCIA class has begun. We meet on Wednesdays from **7:00-9:00 PM**. Anyone interested in learning about the Catholic Church for the first time, wanting to complete their Sacraments of Initiation, or wishing to learn more about their Catholic faith are welcome to join us! Interested? This is the group for you! An Open House will be held on **Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 7-8:30 PM** in the Social Hall. Come and meet the Team Members. Please call the church office at (301-645-7112) or reply to Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org.

Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer

Learn the essentials of an **effective and fruitful prayer life** with Fr. Mark Toups 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.

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.

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).

- **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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Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, August 17, 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

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 **Fr. Alain or 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.