

Whoever Has Ears Ought to Hear!

Over the last two weeks and again this week, we have all been invited to **hear Jesus speak to us** through amazing **parables**, all from Matthew's Chapter 13. Jesus says to each one of us: **"Whoever has ears ought to hear!"** (Matthew 13:43). As Jesus sits down by the Sea of Galilee, large crowds gather around him. He then goes into a boat, sits down and speaks to the whole crowd, including ourselves, standing along the shore. Everyone is silent as Jesus speaks with such authority. He also speaks in **parables** as he knows how difficult it is for all of us to understand the meaning of life on earth and what happens afterwards. We all want to go to heaven. We all want to know how to reach heaven and be with God forever and ever. Jesus wants to explain to us the meaning of the Kingdom of Heaven. He uses many different parables so that we can get some grasp, some understanding of that Kingdom of God. He has already taught us how to pray to God our Father, asking Him **"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!"**. We are all ears. We do not want to miss a single word coming out of Jesus' mouth!

Some of his parables are easier than others to be understood. For the difficult ones, including the Parable of the Sower (two weeks ago) and the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (last week), he even gives us an explanation. But as in any parable, even the ones He explains, we are challenged to think, to reflect. Every time we hear a parable, even if it is a familiar one (like the Mustard Seed), we may gain a different insight into that Kingdom of God we are all seeking to reach! Jesus is constantly challenging us. Whenever we hear the Word of God being proclaimed in church or in small Scripture prayer groups (as we have Tuesday mornings and Friday evenings), we need to **open our ears, open our minds, open our hearts!** It is not sufficient to hear the words, we need to ask the **Holy Spirit** to help such understanding touch our **hearts** and then move our **hands** into **action**. We believe that every word in the **Scriptures** (collected in both the Old and New Testaments in the Bible), though written by man, is inspired by **God**, so that we can reach some knowledge of God, our Triune God, **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**, as well as some understanding of the meaning and purpose of our life on earth: coming from God and returning to God!

I invite everyone to open your Bibles this week and read the entire Chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel. You may wish to read it together with members of your family or friends. You may wish to read it to alone at your own pace. Some of you have commented to me last week that it was hard, though good, to hear some of Jesus' messages, including the one in the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds, where Jesus makes it clear at the end of time, the time of Final Judgment, God will separate the good wheat from the bad weeds: the good wheat (the righteous) will enter the Kingdom of their Father forever, but the bad weeds (the evildoers) will be separated from God forever. The good news is that all of us, while

Mass Intention

Saturday, July 29, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, July 30, 8:30 AM: Anthony Perry
Sunday, July 30, 10:00 AM: Laretta Akabogu
Sunday, July 30, 11:30 AM: Josephine Manalo
Tuesday, Aug. 1, 9:00 AM: Ramon Adolfo Lam del Cid +
Wed., Aug. 2, 9:00 AM: Gary Vicha +
Friday, Aug. 4, 9:00 AM: John Quattrone +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Connie Miller, Edmond Ferguson, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, 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.

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Mass Readings for August 6, 2017

The Transfiguration of the Lord
First Reading- Daniel 7: vs. 9-10,13-14
Second Reading- 2 Peter 1: vs. 16-19
Gospel- Matthew 17: vs. 1-9

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(cont.) living on earth, are given many chances to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If we sin, we can reconcile with God if and when we go and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance (confession). While there are many other messages in these beautiful parables, I invite you this week to focus on two of them: the importance of spending time hearing and understanding the Word of God, and the necessity for all of us to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation established by Our Lord Jesus Christ!

May we all open our ears to the Word of God! Whoever has ears ought to hear!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Seventeenth 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 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.

Own A Part of Our Parish History!

Own an OLHOC chair! Both **OLHOC fabric kneeler chairs** and **fabric folding chairs** are available for **\$30 each** for our parishioners. These chairs can be an addition to your in-home prayer room, or to begin one. We will be **taking your reservations and payments** at the end of Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. **Chairs will be picked up by August 10th**. If you have any questions, please call the office and leave a message for Gina Hall or Maria de Los Angeles.

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 (for English)** will be held on **Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 7-8:30 PM** in the Social Hall. An **Open House (for Spanish)** will be held on **Sunday, September 3, 2017 at 5:00 – 6:00 PM** in Room 105. 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

Thank you to Menu Coordinators Debbie and Bill Reynolds and all our **volunteers** who worked so hard at the annual OLHOC chicken barbecue for Shepherd’s Table on July 20, 2017. **Schlagel Farms** again donated corn, tomatoes, and cucumbers and **Margo and Russell Savoy** the snack bags. Many thanks to all!

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