

August 6, 2017

Jonah's Miracle...Nave Renovation... and Going to Fatima!

Lots of excitement last week and this week! Last Friday morning at 11:30 am, a **true miracle** happened in our Summer Church (a.k.a. Social Hall) when over 75 of our children and youth performed a remarkable musical representation of **Jonah!** Another 40 volunteers, including youth, were also involved in the preparation of this performance that took place after only four mornings of practice during what we have referred to as our Vacation Bible School. I was able to observe only the first two practices on Monday and Tuesday morning, but I knew already that something special was happening. And it did so on Friday morning and I call it: **Jonah's Miracle!** Our children and youth will never forget the amazing story of the Book of Jonah. Jonah's lessons are multiple and I encourage you all to open your Bible this week and read again Jonah's journey as he tried to avoid God's command by fleeing from Nineveh where God was sending him.

To reinforce the key lessons from the Book of Jonah, four of them were shown on the screen in the Summer Narthex (a.k.a. lobby area near the office and Social Hall) in simple words: 1. We can be guilty of the **same sins** Jonah was guilty of! 2. **God is merciful!** 3. **Listen** for God's call and **do not** run from it! 4. We **cannot** run from **responsibility!** This was visible to parents, friends, and all that were not necessarily involved in the morning practices. I am confident that every child and youth involved in the play performance will remember at least one lesson. In parallel, Fr. Santiago and I were listening to a large number of confessions of our children/youth from 10 to about 11:30 am every morning (except the first day): Jonah's story definitely helped in the individual preparation for these confessions that took place in our **summer confessional** (a.k.a. Cry Room, which by coincidence has Jonah's whale painted on the wall as part of a much earlier decoration of the entire Cry Room by talented volunteer parishioners). Our youth could literally see Jonah's whale while confessing their sins. Thanks go to all the over 100 participants and their families for such a beautiful expression of **community** and **joy!** You can watch the video of this Jonah's miracle on YouTube! Special thanks also go to our DRE and our Music Director who single-handedly led the main practices and the final performance.

This week saw another type of excitement. First, we are coming close to the end of **Phase I** of our Capital Campaign. We can finally see the **light at the end of the tunnel!** After several weeks of intense activities, the **renovation** of the entire **Nave of our Church** is almost completed! We need a few final touches and **yes**, we are on schedule to reopen our main church on Saturday afternoon for 4 pm confessions and 5 pm Mass on **August 19!** Our last Mass in the Summer Church will be at 7 pm on the evening of the **Assumption of Our Lady** on Tuesday, **August 15** (a Holy Day of Obligation). Fr. Santiago will be the main celebrant on that day (also at 9 am and noon Masses), as I will be with 40 pilgrims from Waldorf celebrating the Assumption at 11:15 am (5:15 am Waldorf time) in Aire-sur-la-Lys at the most northern part of France, also the city of the birth of Fr. Narcisse Martin in 1845, who as many of you know was one of the main evangelizers in Waldorf for 29 consecutive years (1894-1923) , and is one of the major inspirations of my own priesthood (more to say about him after our return late on August 16). This long-

Mass Intention

Saturday, August 5, 9:00 AM: Authur Baptiste +
Saturday, August 5, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday , August 6, 8:30 AM: Mary McGuire
Sunday, August 6, 10:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd +
Sunday, August 6, 11:30 AM: Angie Thomas +
Tuesday, Aug. 8 , 9:00 AM: Betty Jo Saunders +
Thursday, Aug. 10, 9:00 AM: Michael Dako

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.**

Our condolences to the family and friends of **John Quattrone** and **John Richardson, Sr.**

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Mass Readings for August 13, 2017

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- 1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a

Second Reading- Romans 9: vs. 1-5

Gospel- Matthew 14: vs. 22-23

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(cont.) anticipated **pilgrimage** is another excitement ,as all the 40 pilgrims are making final preparations before flying to **Portugal** this Sunday afternoon, this year the **Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord** (as this Sunday falls on Aug.6). One of the greatest excitements is that we will first be in Fatima (August 7 to August 9) before leaving for **Lourdes** and many other **Marian sites** in France. In this 100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, we will be with thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. We ask you to pray for all of us on pilgrimage and you can be assured that we will pray for you, not only in Fatima, but also in Lourdes where so many healings (spiritual and physical) have taken place over the last 150 years.

May the Transfiguration of Our Lord inspire each of us to have our own transfiguration of our hearts!

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain

The Transfiguration of the Lord

CCD Class Schedule

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

Religious Education Classes

CCD Classes begin **September 17/18, 2017!** Families must **re-register each year** to ensure contact info is up-to-date. Please register online now (www.olhoc.org) so class assignments can be made and communicated in a timely manner. If 2016-17 online lessons have not yet been completed, please complete them before the end of August in order to move on to the next level of learning about our Catholic Faith in September. If assistance or wi-fi access is needed, don't hesitate to contact Therese in the parish office.

Share the Faith!

Catechists, parent volunteers, and teen volunteers are needed for the CCD year. If you have ever considered answering the Lord's call to be a witness of the Faith to the children of our parish, please be sure to contact Therese or complete the RE Volunteer form online: www.olhoc.org/revolunteer.

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.

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 (all proceeds go to providing for the poor). These chairs can be an addition to your in-home prayer room, or to begin one They will be sold on a "cash/check & carry " basis only. You may purchase one and take it with you after the weekend Masses (someone will be in the summer narthex) or only **August 7 through the 11, Monday-Friday, between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm**. Please call the office at 301-645-7112 if you have any questions. (**Note:** those parishioners who signed up and/or paid last weekend must also pick them up by August 11.)

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. If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.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.

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 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

Angels Watch Shelter

The women and children of the **Angels Watch Shelter** enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by **OLHOC volunteers**. The dinner included fried chicken, sloppy joes, mixed vegetables, potato salad, and two pans of delicious tropical fruit salad. Many thanks to Wayne Moodie, Kim Forinash, Chrystal Beaugard, Theresa Lloyd, Josephina Knapp, Mary Jane Burger, Linda Dixon, Ali Nikolai, and Dave and Dolores Cacciaglia. The women and children were very appreciative!

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