

September 17, 2017

A Joyful New Beginning for the OLHOC Family!

What an honor and a joy for our parish to have **Cardinal McCarrick** with us last Sunday! We were expecting His Eminence, Cardinal McCarrick to arrive shortly after 11 am so that we could begin on time at 11:30 am for the blessing of our **renovated church**. To our surprise, the Cardinal arrived at 10:30 am, one hour ahead of schedule! This gave him an opportunity to meet a large number of parishioners as he chose to greet everyone coming out of the 10 am Mass! The weather was just perfect; no humidity, low 70's, little wind and much sunshine. We no longer pray for good weather. God decides! There was already a festive mood as the picnic tables and balloons were set up near the Mary Statue outside, and musicians were already singing outdoors to greet the Cardinal. There was our Libations Music Group (Rick and Greg) who provided beautiful guitar and singing during the whole picnic. There was a group of singers with instruments from the Neo-Catechumenal Way communities of our parish to welcome him. Cardinal McCarrick was the first Bishop in our country to invite the Way to establish a seminary. He did so when he was Archbishop of Newark. When he became Archbishop of Washington in 2000, one of his first decisions was to have the Way establish a seminary in Washington DC, Redemptoris Mater, where today about 40 percent of our seminarians are formed.

By 11:30 am, a large group of parishioners had gathered in the Narthex where appropriately we began the Mass. Cardinal McCarrick reminded us that he had no choice but to accept our invitation for leading us in the blessing and rededication of our church. He felt guilty, as last time we had invited him to OLHOC, he had to cancel at the last minute. The Blessing and the Mass lasted one and a half hours. The church was packed and the narthex too. Close to 600 people attended. There was a sense of **joy** all around, the **Holy Spirit** was fully present! After the Mass and during the picnic, everyone shared their own joy. Here is some of the feedback on Cardinal McCarrick's presence among us: *"He showed a great sense of humility, kindness, humor and love; he reminded many of us of St. John Paul II, as he continued to serve the church despite health difficulties; his homily was inspiring; he referred to our parish as a growing family where everyone is welcome; he emphasized several times that this was a new beginning for our family; in his blessing of the new entrance doors and his blessing of our new baptistery, he pointed out the importance of entering the Church and reminding ourselves of our own baptism; he surprised many by speaking fluent Spanish and French in his concluding remarks at the end of the Mass"*.

Other shared observations included: the music was outstanding and many appreciated the fact that our all our choirs were represented, with special mention of our children's choir who sounded like angels, singing about Mary during the blessing of the two new side chapels, Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Guadalupe. People loved seeing the joy of the 50 children who joined the Children's Liturgy. The Knights of Columbus were awesome in their Color Corps regalia, but also in their grilling over 300 hot dogs and 300 hamburgers. For me personally, I was reminded that if it were not for Cardinal McCarrick, I would not be a priest, and would not be here with all of you in Waldorf.

My only regret is that the Cardinal did not have the time to visit the displays of our parish activities in the Social Hall. When I invited him at the end of lunch after 2 pm to go and see the

Mass Intention

Saturday, Sept. 16, 9:00 AM: **Benedicto S. Lagman +**
 Saturday, Sept. 16, 5:00 PM: **Noah Strawberry**
 Sunday, Sept. 17, 8:30 AM: **OLHOC Parishioners**
 Sunday, Sept. 17, 10:00 AM: **John Glen Tolentino +**
 Sunday, Sept. 17, 11:30 AM: **Mary Taylor +**
 Monday, Sept. 18, 9:00 AM: **Jose & AnnaMarie Gonzales & family**
 Thursday, Sept. 21, 9:00 AM: **Anthony Andrews**

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: **James Reinhardt, Fr. Robert Pittman, Denise Zois, Gary Settler, Scott Settler, Yolanda Brenoes, Elsie & Rodalin Canare, Brenda Dodson, Sarah Parker, Elaine Townley, Juliann Leginze, Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Edmond Ferguson, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Kopec, John Cumpion, Barbara Lagman, Joe Martinez, Ann Gillespie, 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, 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 September 24, 2017

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Isaiah 55: vs. 6-9

Second Reading- Philippians 1: vs. 20c-24, 27a

Gospel- Matthew 20: vs. 1-16a

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(cont.) displays, he apologized as he had to return to Washington. The good news, however, was that he said he would come again!!!

Last, but not least, I want to thank all the volunteers, staff and clergy who made this event such a success! It was truly a team effort. Special thanks go to Jeannie Jacobs, who once again had accepted our invitation to be the Picnic Chairperson. On behalf of the entire parish, I am sending a letter of thanks to Cardinal McCarrick. His coming was truly a great act of generosity and love. (He had just returned at 1 am Sunday morning from marrying one of his great nieces in New Jersey.) At his young age of 87, he is an inspiration to all of us! We are all grateful to God for the many blessings He pours upon our parish! May we all be filled with the **joy** of beginning a **new day!** Heavenly Father, we ask that you keep blessing our new beginning! **May God keep all our parishioners, present and future, as one, united family!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

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 **September 24** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! **Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.**

Religious Education Classes for Students with Special Needs

Our **Special Needs Faith Formation Team** has been diligently working to provide a CCD program that fosters an environment in which each person can build a unique relationship with God through education and spirituality. Our goal is to present the Catholic Faith in a manner that God's children of all ages and abilities, will embrace and understand. An understanding of Jesus and His message is essential to knowing Him, loving Him and serving Him always.

A Meet and Greet is planned for OLHOC families with members who may have special needs on Monday, October 2, 2017 from 6 pm to 7 pm in the Parish Social Hall. We invite you join us to hear about the program and to share your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns.

RCIA Invitation

Registration for the 2017-2018 RCIA class has begun. We meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Come and meet the Team Members. If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.org.

Altar Guild Bake Sale

The OLHOC Altar Guild will hold a **bake sale** following Masses on Saturday, **September 30** and Sunday, **October 1**.

Sharing Sunday

Sharing Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Non-perishable food items and toiletries may be left in the wooden box on wheels in the Social Hall. All donations go to the Food Bank of So. Md and local shelters.

Mary's Helping Hands

Remember: Applebees Restaurants (Waldorf and LaPlata) on **Thursday, Sept. 21** for lunch or dinner (11 am to closing) fundraiser for Charles Co. students in crisis.

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!

- **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" are for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present). Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, September 21, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **October 4** at 7 pm. **New members 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

OLHOC Coat Drive

The box is in the Social Hall for new or very gently used coats, hats, etc. for adults and children to be donated to Children's Aid and the shelters.

Annual OLHOC Craft Fair

Leaves are falling, which means it is time for our **Annual OLHOC Craft Fair!** It will be held on **Saturday, November 11, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.** Table rentals are \$25. We are **looking for volunteers** who are willing to work at the fair. It is a day filled with fun, food, and meeting new friends! Applications are available online at www.olhoc.org or in the church office. As we have every year, there will be an **Attic Treasures** room at the fair. If you have any new or gently-used items (no clothing or furniture, please), you may drop them off in the Social Hall on Thursday or Friday, Nov. 9/10. Also, we gladly accept donations of baked goods and useable jewelry for the OLHOC tables. **Note: OLHOC Crafters,** we need your items for our OLHOC Craft Table! For an application or **questions**, please contact **Jean (301-645-3433)** or **Marie (301-843-1062)**.

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