

October 22, 2017

From Fatima to Parish Consecration and Year of Mary!

What a beautiful weekend we all shared at OLHOC! Many blessings were poured out by the Holy Spirit on all of us! We were concluding our own Year of Fatima by consecrating our parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (at all Masses on October 14/15) as we had announced in the last two weekly bulletins and in our earlier homilies. As we entered this weekend, many of us participated in the Fatima procession through the streets of La Plata as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the final apparition on October 13, 1917, well-known for the miracle of the sun, which was experienced by thousands of people. On that evening, it was drizzling and we did not experience the miracle of the sun. But we experienced a great joy in our hearts as we prayed the Rosary and sang Marian hymns.

On the next day, Saturday morning, we gathered at OLHOC in front of the Blessed Sacrament and then walked in procession to a 'Public Square', one of the 20,000 public squares that had been identified throughout the US to pray the Rosary at noon all together on that very day. While we were close to 400 in La Plata for the Friday evening Outdoor Candlelight Procession, we were a smaller group of about 50. On that morning, the miracle of the sun did not appear, however, the earlier constant drizzle stopped and we had a great time praying the outdoor Rosary right after the Angelus at the intersection of St. Charles Parkway and St. Thomas Drive. We had a huge banner held by two of our Knights of Columbus in regalia that read "Pray the Rosary for America"! Our country, like many others in this more and more secular world, needs lots of prayer, prayer for conversion for getting our beloved America closer to God! May our country return to God! While we saw only a few people walking by, we were visible to close to 500 cars and trucks on St. Charles Parkway. We waved to them and some waved back. A new experience for many of us in evangelizing through an outdoor Rosary, one of the greatest spiritual weapons the Church has developed over the last 800 years!

The crowning of this amazing Fatima weekend at OLHOC took place at all our Vigil and Sunday Masses when as your pastor, I led a prayer of consecration of our parish to Mary, her Immaculate Heart, as recommended at Fatima. Close to 1,300 parishioners joined me in praying together: "Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Help of Christians, we consecrate and entrust ourselves and our parish to your Immaculate Heart. We offer you our whole being, body and soul, mind and senses, our sorrows and joys, all that we possess. Help us to persevere and grow in faith and through our actions advance the kingdom of your Son, Jesus. Pray for us, O Immaculate Mother, conceived without sin, that we may have a heart like yours—pure in spirit, free of sin, and open to the will of God. Holy Mary, Our Life, Our Sweetness and Our Hope, lead us to Jesus and accept our act of consecration as we pray: (ending with the Hail Mary)". At the final Sunday Mass presided by Bishop Dorsonville (7 pm), close to 500 people participated in this consecration. It was prayed in both English and Spanish. We also announced at all Masses that this ending of our Year of Fatima was the beginning, for our entire parish, of a New Year: the **Year of Mary**, a year in which we will have many opportunities to discuss how our devotion to Mary, and through her to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, can help us deepen our journey of Faith, and assist us in walking together toward the Heavenly Jerusalem,

Mass Intention

- Saturday, October 21, 9:00 AM: Arnolito A. Galaz
- Saturday, October 21, 5:00 PM: Theresa Beinert +
- Sunday, October 22, 8:30 AM: Elizabeth Forgash +
- Sunday, October 22, 10:00 AM: James Knapp +
- Sunday, October 22, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Tuesday, October 24, 9:00 AM: Max Long
- Wednesday, October 25, 9:00 AM: Maria Amoros +
- Thursday, October 25, 9:00 AM: Varvara Kovaleva +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, James Reinhardt, Fr. Robert Pittman, Denise Zois, Dolores Settler, Yolanda Brenoes, Elsie & Rodalin Canare, Brenda Dodson, Sarah Parker, Elaine Townley, Juliann Leginze, Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Cumpion, 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, 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, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

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Mass Readings for October 29, 2017

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Exodus 22: vs. 20-26

Second Reading- 1 Thessalonians 1: vs. 5c-10

Gospel-Matthew 22:34-40

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(cont.) our final destination where we hope we will all be reunited and have our eternal home with God! Prior to the 7 pm Sunday Mass, we finally experienced the miracle of the sun: after many days of continuous drizzle, the sun began to appear about 3 pm, making our outdoor procession and prayer of the Living Rosary most joyful! Later in the evening, and after the closing of the well-attended reception in the Social Hall (packed with people and food!), the drizzle started again...

Our Parish Council has fully endorsed the idea of a Year of Mary. Your feedback is very welcome. Let us know what kind of spiritual events you would like to see occur at OLHOC over the next 7 months, from now until Sunday, May 20, 2018, our annual Parish Feast Day, when we will renew our Consecration to Mary, following our annual Crowning of Mary and Outdoor Mass.

May Mary help empty our hearts of our unholy worldly desires so that we will have space for letting the Holy Spirit fill them with the Fire of the Love of God! May our Patroness Saint Mary continue to protect us and lead us to her son, Jesus, and eternal life with God!

One in Christ, Fr. Alain

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

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

Oct. 21- Conf. Yr. 2- Retreat at OLHOC (9:30 am-6 pm)

Oct. 22/23- CCD

Oct. 25- First Reconciliation PARENT ONLY meeting- 6:45 pm

Oct. 29/30- NO CCD Classes

Contact Therese Thiedeman at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org

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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 October 29 and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

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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.

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.



Gentle Reminders

- We have been greatly blessed by God (and our generous parishioners) with a beautifully renovated church. Please ensure that no gum, eating, drinking, writing or coloring in or on the pews occurs. Remember this is God's house and your place of worship. It is holy ground.
- We are given many opportunities at Our Lady Help of Christians to pray and meditate in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Also, there is an opportunity to prayerfully meditate after receiving Communion; please take the opportunity to reflect on the great gift you have received, rather than leaving immediately after receiving.

Angels Watch Shelter Dinner

OLHOC volunteers brought a delicious dinner of pizza, chicken wings and chicken nuggets with dipping sauces. As a side dish, we brought carrots, celery, and tomatoes. Dessert was an assortment of candies. Many thanks go to Sarah and Ralph Dixon, Doreen McCallister, Ali Nikolai, and the Cacciaglia family.

Save the Date

Sunday, November 12, 2017, the 11:30 am Mass will be dedicated to the Black Catholic History Month and in Memoriam of our late Deacon Reggie Thomas, with Bishop Roy Campbell presiding.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

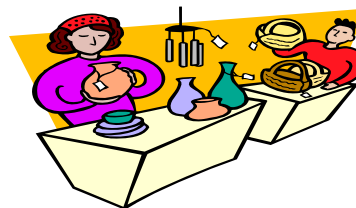
- The **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming to OLHOC **October 26-31**. The Book Fair **will be open** in the Social Hall after Sunday morning Masses October 29.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, November 16, 2017**. We are **in need of a menu coordinator for November** – please consider it! The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **Nov. 1** at 7 pm. **New members and ideas 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

Sharing Sunday-Sharing Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Non-perishable food items and toiletries may be left in the Social Hall; donated to So. Md. Food Bank; 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 local 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 and we still have a few openings!** We are **looking for volunteers** who are willing to work at the fair. 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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