

December 3, 2017

Entering Advent Walking with Mary: Friday December 8 & Saturday December 9

In this Joyful 1st Sunday of Advent (December 2-3), we turn our attention toward **Mary**. With the young, pregnant Mary, we anticipate the Joy of the Birth of Baby Jesus. **Advent is a time of waiting, a time of watching.** Mary does not know the time nor the day when she will give birth to Baby Jesus. As Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel (Mark 13:33-37): "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come...Watch, therefore: you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming...What I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!**" We know that in today's parable Jesus is the man traveling abroad...and no one knows when he will return. While the parable is about the Second Coming of Christ (the end of times), it also makes us reflect on the First Coming of Christ: **Christmas!** We know that we will celebrate Christmas on December 25, but we also know that we need to be watchful during the next few days—to be watchful so that we can be fully prepared to receive the **joy of the newborn King** in our hearts.

As we continue to celebrate these special seven months of Mary at OLHOC (ending May 20), it is fitting that in this First week of Advent, we have three opportunities to feel the presence of Mary: **(1) This Tuesday**, December 5, special Mass at 7 PM followed by Devotion to Immaculate Heart of Mary and contemplation of the message of Fatima (see flyer at the Helpdesk). **(2) This Friday**, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Day of Obligation with Masses at 9 AM, Noon, and 7 PM. Lastly, **(3) This Saturday**, December 9, **Walking with Mary** (traditional annual walk held in DC).

This year our celebration of the **Immaculate Conception** will mark the completion, for many of us, of the **33 days of Consecration to Jesus through Mary!** At the end of the 7 PM Mass on **Friday, December 8**, we are all invited to proclaim our individual **Consecration to Jesus through Mary**. For those of us who will have completed the 33 days of preparatory prayers (over 100 of us signed up last month), this will be a very special moment. The words we will use will remind us that Mary will continue to lead us to her Son, Jesus, and with St. John Paul II, we can sum up this Consecration of ourselves to Jesus through Mary in two words: **Totus Tuus** (Totally Yours). Jesus, we become totally yours through the hands of Mary. Jesus, becoming totally attached to your mother Mary (becoming her slave), we become totally attached to you. We become your slave, too, as Mary and you are always attached to one another: Mary and you are **one!** May we all be one with Jesus and Mary!

You are all invited to join us in walking with Mary on Saturday, December 9! This has also become an annual tradition in our parish: we are joining the **downtown DC walk with Mary** from Sacred Heart Church in Washington DC, to the **National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** (see flyer for details). Last year we carpooled. This year we are going to the Sacred Heart Church in DC **by bus**. If you have not yet signed up, please do so at the end of the Masses this weekend. This **annual walk** (about 1 hour walk through the streets of Washington) is a **procession** to honor the **Patroness Saint of the Americas**, on the Saturday before her annual Feast: December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe. On that very day, Tuesday, **December 12**, we will hold our traditional **5 AM Mass** w/mariachis here at OLHOC.

Mass Intention

- Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:00 AM: John C. Price +
- Saturday, Dec. 2, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, Dec. 3, 8:30 AM: Deceased Members of Mary's Helping Hands +
- Sunday, Dec. 3, 10:00 AM: April Sheffield
- Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:30 AM: Claire Trainque +
- Wednesday, Dec. 6, 9:00 AM: John Lohman III +
- Thursday, Dec. 7, 9:00 AM: Nicholas Snowden +
- Friday, Dec. 8, 9:00 AM: Esther Baraquio +

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Mass Readings for December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading- Isaiah 40 : vs. 1-5, 9-11

Second Reading- 2 Peter 3: vs. 8-14

Gospel-Mark 1: vs. 1-8

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Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Pearl Green, Ghram Waldon, Linda Kelly, Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, 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, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, 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, 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.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Norman Levasseur**.

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(cont.) It will be a beautiful walk, on Saturday, December 9, carrying a statue of Mary, praying a walking rosary and singing hymns to Mary. At the end of the procession, we will enter solemnly into the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where Cardinal Wuerl will be the main Celebrant at the 2:30 PM Mass.

The bus will leave from OLHOC at 9 AM this Saturday, December 9. If you came with us last year, we are confident that you will return this year. If you have never come on that walk, we are confident that you will enjoy it! Come and sign up! Bring your children! Bring your friends!

May Mary guide all of us on this joyful journey of Advent! May Mary always lead us to **Jesus!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

First Sunday of Advent

CCD Class Schedule

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

Dec. 3/4- CCD Classes

Dec. 10/11-CCD Classes

Dec. 17/18-CCD Class

Dec. 24/25 & Dec. 31/Jan. 1- 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 Jan. 28, 2018 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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Upcoming Youth Events

We still have spots available for the March for Life , Mount 2000 in Emmittsburg, Steubenville Youth Conference and many more events! For more info, visit www.olhoc.com/ym or contact Marlen at : marlen@olhoc.org.

RCIA Invitation

We meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Come and join us! If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.org.

Calling All Children

• **Attention School-Age Band/Orchestra Instrumentalists:** we want you to share your talents as members of a youth instrumental ensemble in the prelude to our Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. If you are available and want to participate, please sign up on the Music Ministry page of our website (www.olhoc.com/music-ministry). Our **first rehearsal** will be Sunday, **Dec. 10 at 1:15 pm** in the main church. Bring your instrument and a portable music stand if you have one.

• **Attention Children** who want to serve as Angel or Shepherd Greeters for our Children's Christmas Eve Mass: Please sign up on the Religious Education "Christmas" page of our website (www.olhoc.com/Christmas). We will meet on **Sunday, Dec. 17th at 3 pm** to learn our roles and be fitted for costumes. If necessary, we will meet again on Dec. 23 at 10:30 am.

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.

OLHOC Holiday House

The OLHOC Holiday House will be in the narthex through **December 17** to collect donations for the **Christmas Baskets**. Over 50 baskets will be prepared and delivered to those in need right here in our community by our OLHOC volunteers.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : preschool@olhoc.org for information.
- The OLLC Christmas tree will be up in the office lobby soon! We are collecting **new:** children's **pajamas, slippers, and socks** to be donated to Children's Aid. **New** children's **mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves** will be gratefully accepted, appreciated and delivered, too!

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **Dec. 6** 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

On Nov. 19, 60 + people were treated to a delicious meal at Shepherd's Table sponsored by OLHOC. Thanks go to Stew Tellechea, our menu coordinator and to many hardworking volunteers. Many thanks to **Schlagel Farms** for donating sweet potatoes and **Giant Food** for donating 50 pies for the Thanksgiving Baskets and assistance with the canned goods.

OLHOC volunteers also provided a hot breakfast for the homeless spending the night at Safe Nights at Good Samaritan Church.

Thank You

Many thanks to all the volunteers who filled and delivered a total of 50 Thanksgiving baskets with a turkey and all the trimmings. Thank you to all those who donated time, money and food to help those in need – a great way to express our own thankfulness!

Sharing Sunday

Is the first Sunday of the month. **At this time, we are especially in need of canned vegetables (corn, green beans), sweet potatoes, stuffing and macaroni and cheese for the Christmas Baskets.** Items may be left in the Social Hall in boxes marked 'Food Donations'.

Volunteers Needed! Christmas Basket Prep

- **December 16- 8 am-** Social Hall- fill the baskets
- **December 17- 9:30 am-** Final preparation of baskets in Social Hall
- **December 17-** Delivery of baskets , **following 10 am Mass.**