

April 22, 2018

GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR HIS IMMENSE LOVE!

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday as we celebrate Jesus' self-proclamation: "**I am the Good Shepherd.** A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep....I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:11,14). Jesus is the only one prepared to **give His life for all of us!**

Saint **Peter**, filled with the Holy Spirit (right after Pentecost), says to the leaders and elders, and all of us: "**Jesus** is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be **saved.**" (Acts 4:11-12). We can only be saved by Jesus, no one else!



In his First Letter, Saint **John** (1 John 3:1-2) also emphasizes the **immense love God has for each of us believers: Beloved:** "See what **love** the **Father** has bestowed on us that we may be **called the children of God.**" This **love** (Agape in Greek) is totally **unconditional.** God loves us the way we are. He is our loving Father and we are His Beloved ones!

The above readings in today's Mass (John's Gospel, Luke's Acts of the Apostles, and John's First Letter) proclaim the **Good News** of Our Lord Jesus Christ who saves us by **dying for us** and rising for us. Not surprisingly, this was one of the central themes of the first hour of the **Catechesis** which began this past Monday evening. Even if you might have missed the first two sessions, you are invited to attend the Catechesis as it continues on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 pm. One of the two seminarian members of the **Catechesis Team**, Pedro, gave a witness talk that linked amazingly his childhood's own suffering and his entering the seminary. One of his greatest sufferings as a child and adolescent came from the difficult relationship he had with an alcoholic father. With hindsight, Pedro affirmed that he would not be in the seminary today if his father had not been an alcoholic. While initially, his father led him away from God, in the end, Pedro's own suffering, through attending a **Catechesis** similar to the one being given now, led him to believe in God's Love, to come back to the church. God had a plan for Pedro. God loved Pedro the way he was then, and the way he is today. God's immense love is for each one of us! This is the **Good News** of the **Gospel!**

As some of you may know, I have had my own share of physical sufferings over the last few weeks. Though my suffering does not compare in any way with the major one our seminarian Pedro suffered over many years of having an alcoholic father, it is still hard for me to accept mine! My illness during the Holy Week required taking several health tests (mostly linked with difficulty in breathing and chest pain). None of us likes to spend time in doctors' offices...I still have to take one more test in a few days. In the middle of these tests, I had a car accident last week, and this brought me back to see doctors again for difficulty in breathing and chest pain, but this time caused by heavy pressure from seat belt and air bag. God has a sense of humor! Just a few hours before the car accident, my cardiologist had told me that if I felt any new chest pains, I should see a doctor immediately! I'm choosing to share with you my current physical sufferings so that you can encourage me to slow down! It is very hard for me to say "no" when someone asks for some help. In the coming days, I may have to decline more often and trust that the Lord will provide. As Seminarian Pedro shared, I also know that God loves me the way I am, including my own weaknesses and suffering. I also thank God for all the **love I have received** being your pastor (already seven years!). Our parish is well-known for our welcoming ways and loving everyone! I am one of those who have benefited much from that welcome and love!

As we continue our Easter Season Journey, I invite you to join our **Catechesis** on Mondays and Thursdays. Please also invite a family member or friend to join! I also invite you to begin the **33 days to Morning Glory**, even if you did not begin on Wednesday April 18. Start **today** and go to our website-click on **Marian Consecration**. Request to receive the daily meditations by text! Instead of completing on May 21st, you can complete four days later.



May we all feel in our daily life the love of the Good Shepherd! He is always there for each of us! May **He** help us to accept our shortcomings! May He send us **His Holy Spirit** to guide every step, every decision of our lives, and to give us **His Peace!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Fourth Sunday of Easter • Good Shepherd Sunday

CCD Class Schedule

April 22/23: CCD Class (Monday 8th grade attend 9:30 am Sunday)

April 23 (6:45 PM): Confirmation rehearsal

April 24 (7:00 PM): Confirmation with Bishop Bevard

April 29/30: CCD Class

May 6/7: CCD Class

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org
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FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

Edge: Middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)

Life Teen: High school youth ministry

All-Youth Night is THIS, Sunday April 22



Youth Worship

Begins with 4:00PM Mass followed by
 pizza and gatherings for
 FIAT, EDGE and Life Teen

** Youth Summer Retreat **

Rising 9th graders-seniors, join us for **Camp Veritas** August 12th-18th at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. It will be an amazing week of outdoor fun, prayer, time with friends, and growing in your faith.

For more information and youth opportunities, please visit www.olhoc.com/ym or contact **Marlen Coles** at marlen@olhoc.org.

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Rice Bowl Contributions

Thank you to all our students who participated in the CRS Rice Bowl program this Lent. Your prayers, fasting, and alms-giving resulted in a contribution of \$1,120 to Catholic Relief Services on Divine Mercy Sunday. You made a difference by engaging in **three of the Corporal Works of Mercy**:

- *Feed the Hungry*
- *Give Drink to the Thirsty*
- *Give Alms to the Poor*

and **one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy**:

- *Praying for the Living and the Dead*

Continue to live your lives as Jesus showed us!

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Pray for our Confirmands!

This Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 7:00 pm, Bishop Herbert Bevard of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, will be at OLHOC to confirm 41 of our youth. All are welcome to attend. Please keep these youth in your prayers that they may be open to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

Now Open – Registration for Fall 2018

For more information, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

Upcoming Child Protection Workshop

Protecting God's Children: April 30, 6:00 PM
 Archbishop Neale School, 104 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, MD 20646

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherd's Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Good Shepherd Church**. We need menu planners for May.



Our next Outreach Committee Meeting is **May 2** at 7PM in the Social Hall.

All are welcome!

Sharing Sunday – Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

Divine Mercy at OLHOC

The Divine Mercy Ministry invites us all to come and pray the chaplet each **1st Saturday at 3:00 PM**.



Prayer Requests *

We are asked to pray for: Dennis Forgash, Robert Brooks, Angel Morgan, William Graham, Fred Kowaleski, Kaylie Fowler, Ernest Mack, Derrick Webster, Brandon Mack, Gregory Marciano, Johnné Webster, Dionne Gause, Dorian Webster, Alfred Brown, Doris Chesley, James Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunham, Tom Casey, Connie Miller, Windsor Family, Jessica Holt, Sue Holt, Wilbur Etbauer, Todd Iddings, Michael Proctor, Sarah Parker, Larry McGraw, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studds, Pearl Green, Fr. Robert Pittman, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



*Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.

Mass Intentions this Week

- Saturday, April 21, 9:00 AM: Jaime Trodrez (+)
- Saturday, April 21, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, April 22, 8:30 AM: Kaine Akabogu
- Sunday, April 22, 10:00 AM: Vallesteros Family
- Sunday, April 22, 11:30 AM: Edgar Lastimosa (+)
- Sunday, April 22, 7:00 PM: Cristina Henry
- Monday, April 23, 9:00 AM: Plaridel Bandibas (+)
- Tuesday, April 24, 9:00 AM: Myrna Egbufoama
- Wednesday, April 25, 9:00 AM: Deceased Children of Myrna Egbufoama
- Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 PM: Guillermo Sánchez (+)
- Thursday, April 26, 9:00 AM: Fr. Boniface
- Friday, April 27, 9:00 AM: Claude Boursiquot (+)

The Vocations Tree

God, our Father, please send us holy priests. All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with St. Joseph.



The Vocations Tree project invites our parish community (English and Spanish) to offer prayers for our Seminarians. Each year the Archdiocesan Vocation Office generously prints out Seminarian cards. Each card has the photo of a seminarian and a bit of information about him along with a suggested prayer on the back. We ask parishioners to pick a card from the "tree-wall" in the Narthex, and commit to praying for that seminarian every day until Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

Mass Readings for April 29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading * Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Second Reading * 1 John 3:18-24

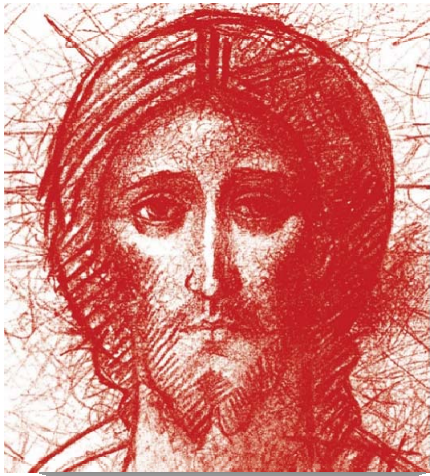
Gospel * John 15:1-8

Lost Jewelry

Various items (wedding rings, watches, cell phones, etc.) have been found in and around our church building. If you or anyone you know has lost anything, please stop in or call the church office during business hours to claim.



OLHOC invites you to attend The Catechesis for Adults and Teenagers on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 PM, in the Social Hall.



To be a Christian is to have an encounter with the person of Christ. Jesus himself affirms: “... *I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*” (John 10:10)

The catechesis will be given by a team from the Neo-catechumenal Way composed of one priest (Fr. Santiago), two seminarians from the Archdiocese of Washington, one widow, and two married couples.

This catechesis is an announcement of the Good News of the Gospel aimed to introduce people to a journey of mature Faith. The catechesis will help you deepen your Faith, encounter Jesus Christ through the scriptures, and find in Christ the answer to your daily sufferings.

We also encourage you to pass on this invitation with family members, friends or anyone that may be in need of rediscovering Jesus Christ. Take one or two cards located in the narthex to pass out and evangelize.

Come with an open heart - You won't be disappointed!

**THIS
WEEKEND!!**

Adult Faith Formation Class:

Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles

SUNDAYS at 9:30 AM, beginning APRIL 22, 2018

Ten sessions - Come when you can!

As we approach Pentecost and our OLHOC “Year of the Holy Spirit” (Pentecost 2018-Pentecost 2019), there is no better place to look for guidance in the New Evangelization than the Acts of the Apostles. This chronicle of the Church in action gives us the blueprint for the life and mission of the Church today. In *Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles*, Dr. Mary Healy combines Bible study with Church teaching and practical wisdom to show us how modern Catholics can effectively lead people to Jesus Christ.

Join us for this exciting study facilitated by Mike and Diane Spurgeon!