

May 06, 2018

A NEW HEART!

The doctors have asked me to have total rest. I am trying my best to follow their advice. But I want to write to you this short note, personally:

The triple bypass heart surgery was successful; having gone to the hospital last week for a simple angioplasty, I am still in shock to have ended up with open heart surgery! I am still in pain and do not yet know when I will be transferred to a convalescent home (rehab facility). Once there I face a few more weeks of physical therapy, total rest and healing, so that I can come back to the parish as early as possible. **I miss you all!** And would like to thank God for all your many prayers. Keep praying that God's will be done and that I will be able to endure pain and sufferings; quite a humbling experience!

To facilitate total rest, I am continuing to ask for no visits: the office will collect your personal notes and prayers and pass them on to me. Until I return to Waldorf, I have delegated all the powers given to me by Cardinal Wuerl as Pastor of OLHOC, to Father Santiago, who, with your help, I am confident will do very well. We are blessed with two experienced deacons, a very able staff and so many volunteers (some even full-time). Karen, as Office Manager will continue to help coordinate the many parish activities.

With a yearning heart, I missed the Confirmation by Bishop Bevard of 41 of our youth last Tuesday (the very day of preparation for heart surgery). But I was with all our youth in prayers at the same time by concelebrating Mass with two priests in my hospital room. I regret that I will also miss the First Holy Communion of 61 of our youth this First Saturday of May. To experience the **JOY** of our first communicants receiving this life-changing sacrament is among my favorite liturgical celebrations at OLHOC.

God is asking me to **slow down** and to **pray**. "*Fr. Alain,*" *He says, "It is time for you to read the Bible slowly,"* (chewing every word). Praying and meditating in long hours of silence, I will continue to pray for all of you. I will continue the daily readings, prayer of the Office of the Liturgy (Breviary, five times a day), the daily Rosary, the Scriptures of the daily and Sunday Masses, and I will complete the Marian Consecration with Fr. Michael Gaitley: 33 Days to Morning Glory!

All the readings this Sixth Sunday of Easter deal with **love**; God's Unconditional Love for each of us. The First Letter of St. John says it all: **God is Love!** God sent His only Son into the world that you might have **life through Him!** John's Gospel (15:9-17) is one of my favorite passages of the entire bible. It continues the beautiful message we heard last Sunday: (15:5-8) "*I am the vine, you are the*

branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,..." We are truly one in Christ!

Concluding thought - Some of you have experienced open heart surgery and may relate directly with my current emotions, feelings and thoughts. At the spiritual level, we can all relate to the image of the **heart of love!** The heart is the center of the human being! Spiritually, as I write this, I have the sense that God has given me a **new heart** filled with the Fire of the Love of the Holy Spirit! He has given me a new opportunity in my relationship with the Holy Spirit. Everyday is a new day! I will always remember my first steps after surgery, clutching a "new heart" in my arms, which I continue to do at all times. I leave you to think about your own changes, imagining in your heart what you desire the Holy Spirit to affect in your life! Thanks for all your prayers. Please keep praying for me!



May the Holy Spirit guide our hearts as we prepare to enter the **Year of the Holy Spirit** this Pentecost, May 20!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*



Prayer Requests *

We are asked to pray for: Miriam Chagolla, Lauren Lohman, Fr. Alain, Grace Emmanuella, Dennis Forgash, Robert Brooks, Angel Morgan, William Graham, Fred Kowaleski, Kaylie Fowler, Ernest Mack, Derrick Webster, Brandon Mack, Johnné Webster, Dionne Gause, Dorian Webster, Alfred Brown, Doris Chesley, James Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dunham, Tom Casey, Connie Miller, Windsor Family, Jessica Holt, Sue Holt, Michael Proctor, Larry McGraw, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Ebony Jenkins, 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.*



Sixth Sunday of Easter

CCD Class Schedule

May 6/7: CCD Class

May 13/14: CCD Class

May 20: All CCD Classes at 11:10 AM-Crowning of Mary

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

**** Youth Summer Retreat ****



Youth Worship

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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First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our 61 young people who received the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time on Saturday, May 5, 2018. They join the 6 youth who received their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, and the 3 youth who received their First Communion at Confirmation... a total of **SEVENTY** new young people who now join us at the Table of the Lord each week!



We are also thrilled to welcome members of our new Special Needs class among these 70 individuals. Jesus said, *“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child - will not enter it.”* Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.” (Mark 10:14-16) If you have a child with special needs, he/she is welcome at the Table of the Lord. Please be sure to talk to Therese to enroll your child and/or young adult in our Special Needs Religious Education program.
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Refresher – What happened at Pentecost?

ACTS 2:4-6

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.”

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.

Community Outreach

Many thanks to Terry Davis, our April menu coordinator, and all our hard working volunteers for a wonderful Shepherd's Table/Safe Night dinner held on April 19, 2018. Thank you also to Martini's for once again supporting us with food donations!

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



Our next Outreach Committee Meeting is **June 6** at 7:00 PM 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.

May 20, 2018 - Pentecost Sunday

OLHOC Feast Day Celebration!

What a year! May 20 is not only the annual celebration of our Parish Feast Day (May 24), crowning of Mary, and end-of-CCD-year, it is **PENTECOST SUNDAY** --- the birth of the **CHURCH**, and the kickoff to our **OLHOC YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

In Acts 2:4-6, these words symbolized the worldwide mission of the church. And so, we will kick off our **YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** with an **INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK**, immediately following the 11:30 am outdoor Mass! Watch the bulletin and Flocknote for more details! Be a part of this celebration and **YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** kickoff!

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Mass Intentions this Week

- Saturday, May 5, 9:00 AM: Dolly Fitzpatrick
- Saturday, May 5, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, May 6, 8:30 AM: Phyllis Anne Windsor (+)
- Sunday, May 6, 10:00 AM: José & Anna Maria Gonzales (+)
- Sunday, May 6, 11:30 AM: Eugene Heasley (+)
- Sunday, May 6, 1:00 PM: Ouedraogo Family
- Sunday, May 6, 7:00 PM: Chesley Argueta
- Monday, May 7, 9:00 AM: Fr. Alain
- Tuesday, May 8, 9:00 AM: Louis & Gloria Baumgaertner (+)
- Wednesday, May 9, 9:00 AM: Grace Emmanuella
- Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 PM: Ouedraogo Family
- Thursday, May 10, 9:00 AM: Joseph Graham (+)
- Friday, May 11, 9:00 AM: Joseph Organ (+)



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.

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Trial Subscription for You!

Our Lady Help of Christians has been given a trial subscription to FORMED.org for the month of May to provide parishioners with access to Fr. Michael Gaitley's program "33 Days to Morning Glory" in video format as we strive for Marian Consecration. To access this subscription throughout the month, simply

Go to www.formed.org

Login: trial@formed.org

Password: **Presence#18** (case sensitive)

Contact Therese Thiedeman at dre@olhoc.org with ??'s

Mass Readings for May 13, 2018

The Ascension of the Lord

First Reading * Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

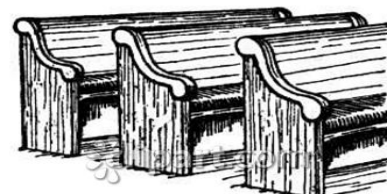
Second Reading * Ephesians 4:1-13

Gospel * Mark 16:15-20

Your Church; the Lord's House

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped clean, paint, and repaired areas of our church last Saturday - All in keeping your church investment beautiful and clean!

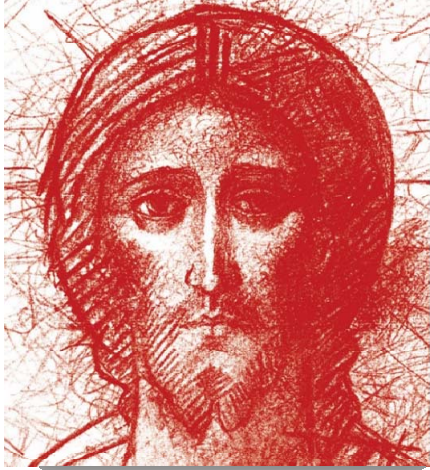
Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and refrain from taking any food or beverage in the Sanctuary or Nave. If children need food or beverages, please use the cry room or Social Hall.



We have incurred some recent pew damage. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as a foot rest.



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!


Adult Faith Formation Class:

Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles

SUNDAYS at 9:30 AM

Eight more sessions - Come when you can!

**SUNDAY
MORNING!!**



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!

Divine Mercy at OLHOC



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

Healing Mass

St. Mary Church, Newport's monthly Healing Masses are held the **first Thursday of each month, 6:30 PM** in honor of St. John Vianney. The next Healing Mass will be on Thursday, June 7. Fr. Michael Briese will offer prayers of healing for the body and soul. Confessions begin at 6:00 p.m.; Location: St. Mary Church, Newport, 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. For additional information, please call the rectory office at [301-934-8825](tel:301-934-8825).