

January 13, 2019

Come and Share Your Story of Hope!

**Come at 7pm this Thursday, January 17 to discuss the book distributed at Christmas
"Beautiful Hope" Come and share your story of hope!**

We are looking forward to a lively discussion. Many of you have already commented that they found our Christmas book inspirational. For some, the book's subtitle said it all: "Finding hope every day in a broken world". As a parish community, as a "family of families", we can learn from one another, we can help one another on our spiritual journey.

All of us have experienced, though in different degrees, suffering and pain. Many of us have discovered that **our only hope is in God, our only hope is in Jesus!** Pope Francis in his introduction to "Beautiful Hope" writes: "Hope never disappoints. We need hope... The only certainty that will save us is that **hope in God**. It will save us because it is strong and enables us to journey in life with **joy**, with the will to do good, with the will to attain **eternal happiness**."

Since the beginning of Advent, I have emphasized the importance of **hope!** You will recall the first banner was a lit candle with the word "**Hope**". It reminded us that "**Jesus, our light is our hope**". And yes, He is our only hope. On the following three Sundays of Advent, the focus moved to **Peace, Joy and Love** (the second, third, and fourth lit candles). They remind us that if we have hope in Jesus, we will find peace, joy, and love in him. **God is love! Jesus is God**. Only through Jesus, only through **His Spirit** can we enjoy the great fruits of Peace, Joy and love! But it all begins with keeping **hope in God**. I recall the two difficult months I spent last spring (May and June) following open heart surgery. I was asked by my bishop to rest and recover fully before returning to Waldorf as your pastor. These were two very long and difficult months. Your many prayers kept my hope in God alive. I knew that I was not alone and that your prayers to God would help me to accept God's will, and not my self-centered will.

At the beginning of the January 17 meeting, we will welcome your sharing which one of the 18 stories in "Beautiful Hope" has touched you the most and why. We will then expand the sharing to our own personal stories of hope, including how we have seen/known friends, family members or ourselves able to overcome challenging situations (e.g. loss of a loved one, lack of faith, financial crisis, marital difficulties, addiction, depression, or major physical illness).

We will conclude the meeting with sharing personal reflections on how to renew our spiritual formation at OLHOC. In that context, we would like to hear especially from those of you who have been active participants in recent or on-going faith formation programs. I hope that the spiritual enthusiasm of the over 100 participants in "**The Gift**" (Life in the Spirit seminar) last fall can be spread more widely within our parish. The goal is to facilitate **Spiritual Renewal** at our parish, individually and collectively.

As we celebrate this weekend the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, all readings point to the power of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah (chapter 40:1-5, 9-11) prophesies that John the Baptist will prepare the way of the Messiah and "the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together... Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! **Here comes with power the Lord God**." St. Luke (3:15-16, 21-22) describes the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist: "The heavens were opened and the **Holy Spirit** descended upon Jesus in a bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven: You are my **beloved Son**, with you I am well pleased"; this the first revelation of the **Holy Trinity: Father** (the voice from heaven), **Son** (Jesus) and the **Holy Spirit**. As proclaimed by John the Baptist, Jesus is the one who will "**Baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire**". St. Paul in his letter to Titus (3:4-7) proclaims that "when our Savior appeared, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and **Renewal by the Holy Spirit**."

Come Holy Spirit! Strengthen our hope and help our spiritual renewal!

*One in Christ,
Father Alain*



The Baptism of the Lord

Religious Education

Important Dates:

Jan. 13/14- CCD Classes

Jan 20/21- CCD Classes

Jan. 27/28- Sacramental **PREP** and **ALL**

YOUTH NIGHT SUNDAY. (NO regular

Classes).. ALL Sunday and Monday families

are encouraged to attend Sunday's 4pm **YOUTH MASS** and **ALL**

YOUTH NIGHT activities (Fiat,/Edge/Life teen)

Feb. 3/4- **CCD Classes**



***Attention Sacramental Preparation Families (CCD and Catho-**

lic School Families): Workshop dates for First Reconciliation/

Communion (10 am) and Confirmation Year 1 and 2

(2:30pm): Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, & Apr 28.

Questions? Please contact Therese Thiedeman, DRE



Youth Worship

FIAT: Children in Elementary

EDGE: Middle School Youth

Life Teen: High School Youth

For most current Youth and Evangelization events,

please see our website: www.olhoc.org

Stop By For a Visit!

Our Lady Help of Christians has a new arrival—the beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the Sanctuary. She was blessed on Her Feast Day of The Immaculate Conception on December 8th. Please feel free to visit Her and Our Lady of Guadalupe in the opposite grotto. Our Blessed Mother is always here to listen to Her children!

Your Church: The Lord's House

Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and **refrain from taking any food or beverage into the Church.** If your children need food or beverages, please use the cry room. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as footrests.

Book Discussion- January 17, 2019

Come at 7pm on Thursday, January 17 to discuss the book distributed at Christmas "**Beautiful Hope**" by Pope Francis and assorted authors. Bring your book and a friend!

Come and share your "story of hope"

We will also discuss ways to promote Spiritual Renewal at OLHOC., including follow-up to the well attended "Life in the Spirit" series "The Gift" presented last fall.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Preschool openings (3 and 4 year olds) at OLHOC! Full and half-day programs. We include children's chapel services and many opportunities for family involvement!



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

OLHOC Community Outreach

Our next Shepherd's Table will be held on February 20, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church on Smallwood.

Our next Outreach Committee meeting will be on February 6, at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Friday Faith & Fellowship Group

Join the group every 2nd Friday of the month for

Movie Night (watch for update)

and for bible study and music each 3rd, 4th, and occasional 5th Friday. 7:00 PM

Help Our Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1,000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on February 1-3, 2019, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.com, call (443) 400-7017, or email:

3015@retrouvaille.org



Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Adele Alvey, Dorothy Neal, Dunny Proctor, K.D. Dillard, Josephina Knapp, Bill Cooke, Maria Townsend, Crystal Beauregard, Sheryl Carter, Alex Leon, Sharketer Butler, Chloe, Harris Family, Dennis Wick, Richard Dunham, Edward Krevey, Scott Anderson, Rebecca "Tess" Franch, Russell Dickens, Fr. Pittman, Christopher Berger, Margaret Reeves, Bonnie Croston, Melody Hudson, Thomas Kennane, Joseph Albrittain, Lam Family, Urrutia Family, Darren Williams, Pat Fisher, Antonio Torres, Chris Goldhammer, Trinidad Mercedes Santos, Shirley & Jerry Barrett, June Swann, Elsy Canare, Martone Family, Maria Mora, Nadia Toledo, Cielo Quintero, Oscar Marin, Maribel Colindres, Zynae Green Family, Anthony Rodriguez, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Laura Flaim, 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

Sunday, January 13, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, January 13, 10:00 AM: Dennis Forgash (+)
Sunday, January 13, 11:30 AM: David Viets
Sunday, January 13, 1 PM: World Youth Day Attendees
Sunday, January 13, 7:00 PM: Andrea Paz (+)
Monday, January 14, 9:00 AM Doris Chesley and Family
Tuesday, January 15, 9:00 AM: Martin Lam
Wednesday, January 16, 9:00 AM: Mr. & Mrs. Albert Beauregard
Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 PM: Therese Thiedeman
Thursday, January 17, 9:00 AM: Nikki Lemke
Friday, January 18, 9:00 AM: Daniel Andrews
Saturday, January 19, 9:00 AM: Antonio Ramos (+)
Saturday, January 19, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners

First Reconciliation

Please pray for the 71 students receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend and next!

Altar Guild

Father Alain and the Altar Guild thank all parishioners who donated, on behalf of their loved ones, for the beautiful poinsettia used to decorate our church this Christmas. Another big **thank you** to all those who helped decorate the church with those flowers, the Nativity, the trees, and wreaths. You provided a gorgeous setting for all who have come to our parish to worship The Christ Child throughout this beautiful Christmas Season.

We will be needing some **extra hands** to help de-decorate the church after the daily mass on Monday, 14 January, so if you are available, please consider helping out. The poinsettia will be available at that time for those who donated and are interested in taking them home. Any flowers remaining after the daily Wednesday mass, 16 January, will be discarded.

Mass Readings for January 20, 2019

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Isaiah 62:1-5

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

***Gospel**

John 2:1-11

www.usccb.org



Upcoming Youth Events:

Tickets Available for the Youth Rally & March for Life - Friday, January 18th

Join thousands of youth from all over the USA in the nation's capital as we Stand for Life. We will take a bus from OLHOC to the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capital One Arena and then join the March down Constitution Ave to the Supreme Court. Limited tickets available, more info./register please visit www.olhoc.org/ym

World Youth Day Celebration for Young Adults | #wydDC

Join college students and young adults (ages 18-39) on Saturday, January 26, 2019 for a one-day Catholic festival at The Catholic University of America. Experience World Youth Day in Panama including world-renowned speakers, live music, simultaneous streaming of Pope Francis in Panama, and authentic Panamanian culture! For more information visit www.wyddc.org

Next All Youth Night - Sunday, January 27th

Join us for 4 pm Mass followed by pizza, faith & fellowship for FIAT (Elementary), Edge (Middle School) & Life Teen (High School) from 5-6:30 pm. Bring some friends, ALL are welcome!

Don't miss out on the many wonderful opportunities we have for our youth of all ages. We have spots available for the Steubenville Youth Conference, Camp Covecrest in Georgia, and many more upcoming events.

Quo Vadis Shadow Day

On Friday, February 15, 2019, juniors and seniors in high school are invited to join the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington for a special Quo Vadis "Shadow Day" at Saint John Paul II Seminary and the Catholic University of America. You will be able to experience a "day in the life" of a seminarian by joining them for Mass, Adoration, meals, class, sports and just hanging out. This day is a great opportunity to come and see what a day in the life of a seminarian is like. For more information visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents

For more info and an updated list of our events please visit www.olhoc.org/ym or contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org



www.FaithDirect.net

Faith Direct provides our parishioners with the ability to give electronically. To simplify your Sunday mornings, visit Faith Direct and consider enrolling using our **parish code: MD614**. Applications can also be found in the narthex. Thank you for your kind donations and to all those already enrolled in this cost effective measure for our church.

Feast of the Holy Child (Santo Niño)

Novena begins January 11-19th.

Triduum Masses- Jan. 16 and Jan. 18 @7pm, and Jan. 19 @ 9am

Sunday January 20th.

Join us beginning at 3pm

3pm- Preparation/Exposition

3:30 pm- Rosary

4pm- MASS

5:30pm- Outdoor Procession

6:30pm- Traditional Dances & Presentation followed by fellowship and potluck at St. Peter's School in Waldorf.

Social Hall Under Renovation

The Social Hall is closed while under construction. The kitchen is also unavailable at this time. All contractor work is complete.

- > Floor to be stripped and cleaned Fri, Jan 11.
- > Partitions are scheduled to be shipped from Iowa factory Jan 11 and installed upon arrival.
- > All inspections are scheduled to close out Building Permit and receive Occupancy Permit

If you have any questions regarding this important Capital Campaign step, please contact the office at 301-645-7112. Concerns will be forwarded to the Project Manager.

