

May 26, 2019

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

Celebrating 40 Years! With the traditional May Crowning of Mary last Sunday, we just had a wonderful celebration of our Parish Feast Day at the end of our CCD Year 2018-2019. It was a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning and many of our CCD children and Youth participated actively. While singing "Immaculate Mary" and "Hail Mary", the children came one by one to place flowers at the feet of Mary. The newly confirmed led us in praying the last and fifth decade of the Glorious Mysteries: "The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth". While we were singing "Hail, Holy Queen", Mary Ardita one of our high school seniors, who assisted CCD during her high school years, crowned Mary. Then everyone began to process toward the Church.

As the main celebrant at the 11:30 am Youth Mass following the crowning of Mary, I felt being in heaven! Quoting St John Paul II, I repeatedly say that every Mass is Heaven on Earth. For me that morning it was not heaven on earth, it was just heaven! My joy was to see so many children and youth fill the front pews as they participated in the Mass Entrance Procession. They were also attentive during the entire Mass. I wish it would be the same participation in such large number of our children and Youth at every Mass every Sunday, not just at a special Youth Mass.

My joy was also to see a joint participation at Mass of many Confirmandi and many First Communicants in the same red gowns, white dresses, and suit-and-ties they wore on the day they received their sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. This was particularly fitting to happen on our Parish Feast Day celebrating our patroness Saint "Our Lady Help of Christians". In the last few years, we have chosen to celebrate our Parish Feast Day (May 24 on the church calendar) on the Sunday preceding May 24. Last year, it happened to coincide with Pentecost Sunday and the entrance of our parish into the "Year of the Holy Spirit". This year, it happened on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, just three weeks before Pentecost. Next year, May 24, 2020 will fall exactly on a Sunday (which is a rare occurrence) and it will be our 40th Parish Feast Day!

Celebrating our 39th Parish Feast Day last Sunday reminded us that though still one of the youngest parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington, we are getting more "mature": 40 years in 2020! Does it matter that we are entering into our 40th year this September 15 and celebrate the completion of our first 40 years next September? Many of you know, I love numbers though I keep saying numbers do not matter. We know the importance of the number "40" in the Bible: 40 years of preparation in the desert before entering the promised land, Jesus fasting 40 days in the desert after his Baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. We now celebrate 40 days of Lent, and Jesus's ascension into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. Last Sunday, we were reminded that for us Christians today, what matters is not numbers, but first and foremost is our Love of God and our Neighbour: an unconditional love, the same way Jesus Christ loved us giving his life for us on the Cross (Jesus' New Commandment of Love, *love one another as I have loved you* John 13: 34).

However numbers, including dates in history, give us a sense of our reality and a sense of perspective. Still today "40" years

represents a full generation. In order to know God, and ourselves we need to know where we come from. We believe that God is the Creator of each one of us and that our destiny, our journey on earth is to go back to Him. To know ourselves, it is important to be aware of the changes that we have gone through in past years. Numbers help to measure quantity and at times may be a proxy, though imperfect, for quality. We may be proud that within the framework of the last 10 years, we have reached some record numbers this 2018-19 CCD Year: 400 students enrolled, 51 Confirmations, 73 First Communions! To know our own parish, it is important to know our own history.

In order to know our parish better, and on behalf of our entire staff and entire Parish Council, we are proposing to all of you a full year of celebration: **celebrating 40 years**, beginning Sunday September 15, 2019 and concluding September 13, 2020! Following the completion of our Year of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost June 9, we have about three months for preparing a few special celebrations beginning with our 39th anniversary this September and concluding/culminating with our 40th anniversary next September. We plan to establish a "**Celebration Committee**" and would love to have some of you as members to volunteer to help with preparation and implementation. It is essential to have a good representation of our "**OLHOC pioneers**", those of you who have been members of our parish from its early beginnings. Please contact directly our Office Manager Jeannie Jacobs (office@OLHOC.org or 301-645-7112). As our plans progress, we will keep you informed and continue seeking your feedback and participation. While our parish has evolved over those first four decades of existence; we have remained a strong, faithful and united family of families. Our wish is that we continue to do so over the next 10 years and beyond.

I invite everyone to meditate on the prayer recited with all our children and youth last Sunday: "*O Mary, you love me with a Mother's heart. Just as you held your son Jesus in your arms, you hold me in your care. Help me in my need. Protect me day by day. And through your Motherly intercession, may I become ever more aware of the breath of God living within me. Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us. Amen.*" We know that Mary is our Mother in Heaven. We believe that as she is so close to the Father and the Son in Heaven, she is a perfect intercessor for us. We believe that as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit and as the Mother of God, she can always lead us to her son Jesus, now in Heaven!



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Please join us for this year's VBS, "A Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer ...with Amazing Angels and Super Saints", July 22-26, 9 am - noon. Ages 4-11 are most welcome as participants; 12 - 17 as youth volunteers; and 18-102 as adult volunteers (see Therese about becoming VIRTUS-compliant, child protection trained). Registration is online: www.olhoc.org/vbs

Volunteers for Summer Activities and Beyond

We are currently recruiting adult volunteers (ages 18+) to work with our parish programs for children and youth over the summer and for the 2019-20 Year (chaperones, Vacation Bible School volunteers, catechists, assistants, mentors, substitutes, office helpers, Youth Core Team members, All Youth Night helpers, OLLC Preschool volunteers, childcare providers during parish programs, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, or are a parent of a child/youth in any of these programs, you are NEEDED!

Adult Volunteers (ages 18+) who have substantial contact with minors (under 18) or vulnerable adults are required to undergo Child Protection Training and get an electronic background check. The next Archdiocesan class for Child Protection taking place locally is Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Archbishop Neale School in La Plata. Spaces are "first registered, first served". To register, establish an account at VIRTUS.org and select that particular class for training. Please see Nieda or Therese for more information or visit our website www.olhoc.com/safety

Outreach news

Beginning June 1st the OLHOC Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies-new pens, pencils, paper, etc-for the next school year, 2019-2020. A designated box can be found in the Father Martin Hall for this worthwhile project. All donations will be taken to Children's Aid Society of Waldorf. Thank you all!

The next Outreach Committee Meeting before summer break will be June 5 at 7 p.m. in the Fr. Martin Hall. All are welcome!

The next OLHOC Shepherd's Table is June 20, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.

All non-perishable foods donated to "Sharing Sunday" may be left in the designated box near the doors to Fr. Martin Hall. All donations go to the Food Bank of Southern Maryland. During the summer months cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you!

OLLC Preschool

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration is open! Parishioners, please share this information with families you know who may be looking for Catholic Preschool for their child or grandchild, and be sure you have registered your child for fall. For info or to register: email the preschool director, Nieda, at preschool@olhoc.org or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.

Holy Hour for Vocations June 1

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Mt 9:37-38

Join your fellow parishioners in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the "Holy Hour for the intentions of the Ordinandi" and an increase in Vocations to the priesthood and Consecrated Life on June 1 at 10 am.

Unite with parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Washington as we anticipate the Ordination of our Priests on June 15!

This year's Ordinandi:

- Deacon John Benson
- Deacon Joseph Cwik
- Deacon Brendan Glasgow
- Deacon Christian Huebner
- Deacon Ebuka Mbanude
- Deacon Stefan Megyery
- Deacon Patrick Mullan
- Deacon Benjamin Petty
- Deacon Jan Pietryga
- Deacon Michael Russo



*Congratulations
Archbishop Wilton D.
Gregory on your
appointment as the 7th
Archbishop of the
Archdiocese of
Washington!*

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We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
Dennis Hook
Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
Nestor Ermelindo Molina
Doris Chesley
James Thompson
Thoeun Tinn
Felicia & Myles Webster
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Vicky Welch
Naomi Lilly
Sterling Greene
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Rosano Wheeler
Larry McGraw

Vivian Truxon
Kenny Lindsay
Dorian Webster Sr.
Dionne Gause
Pat Fisher
Christ Goldhammer
Ernest Mack
James Wiltz
Adele Alvey
Dorothy Neal
Dunnie Proctor
Shirley Ehman
K.D. Dillard
Josephina Knapp
Maria Townsend
Chrystal Beauregard
Sheryl Carter

Alex Leon
Sharketer Butler
Steven Bowling
Edna Yarngo
Kathly Grimes
Damien Price
Sheny Padilla
Richard White
Mary Dooley
and all our military and civilians serving in
harm's way.

*Please let us know if any names should be removed
from the list.*

Please pray for the soul of Sheila Wilks



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, May 25, 9:00 AM: Elsy Barrera
Saturday, May 25, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, May 26, 8:30 AM: Mar Vic Javier
Sunday, May 26, 10:00 AM: Ghydeon Stuart
Sunday, May 26, 11:30 AM: Lowell Thomas (+)
Sunday, May 26, 7:00 PM: Nathalie Innocent
Monday, May 27, 9:00 AM: Matthew Lemke
Tuesday, May 28 9:00 AM: Francisco V. Reyes (+)
Wednesday, May 29, 9:00 AM: Jim Kerby (+)
Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 PM: Sheila Wilks (+)
Thursday, May 30, 7:00 PM: Elias & Marie Calderon (+)
Friday, May 31, 9:00 AM: Ashley Cromwell (+)

Father Eamon Dignan celebrates 60 years as a Priest!

On Sunday June 2, we will celebrate Father Eamon Dignan's sixtieth anniversary as a Priest!
Father Dignan was our Pastor from 1987-2004. Join us next Sunday to say "Congratulations Father". He will be the main celebrant at the 10:00 AM Mass. Light refreshments will be served between all three Masses.

Healing Mass

At St. Mary Church, Newport the St. John Vianney Mass with Healing Prayers is held the first Thursday of each month, in honor of St. John Vianney. The Litany of St. John Vianney will be recited after Communion and Fr. Michael Briese will offer prayers of healing for the body and soul. Confessions begin at 6:00 p.m and will continue throughout Mass.; Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. Location: St. Mary Church, Newport, 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. For additional information, please call the parish office at [301-934-8825](tel:301-934-8825).

Mass Readings for June 2 2019.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

***First Reading**

Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60

***Second Reading**

Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

***Gospel**

John 17:20-26



www.usccb.org

YOUTH NEWS

Attention High School & College Graduates: Please join us on Sunday, June 9th at the 11:30 am Mass for a special blessing. We ask that you also wear your graduation robes. Please sign up online www.olhoc.org/ymevents If you have any questions contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org

Attention College Students: Join other Young Adults for a 4 Day Formation Conference Universitas - "Beauty & Beatitude" June 1st-5th. In order to meet the challenges of living the faith as a young Catholic adult, the Religious Family (Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara and IVE) hosts an annual 4 day formation retreat called *Universitas* on the grounds of their retreat center in the beautiful foothills of the NY Catskill Mountains. The cost is \$80 for the retreat. For more information or to register, please visit www.olhoc.com/college

Attention current 8-12 graders - Spots still available!

Steubenville Youth Conference - June 21-23, 2019

Join us this summer for Steubenville Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. A Steubenville Conference weekend is PACKED with dynamic speakers, worship music, Mass, Adoration and MORE! Come and encounter Christ with other teens from other states as we worship together and grow in our Catholic faith! Limited spots available for more details & to register visit www.olhoc.org/steubie19

Quo Vadis Camp- The Office of Priest Vocations annual Quo Vadis Camp for high school aged young men will be held at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary July 28-31, 2019. For four days, high school aged young men who desire to grow in holiness will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic adoration, as well time for fraternity, sports, and reflection. Bus transportation is available. More information is available and registration is open at www.DCpriest.org. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations (vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020) with any questions.

Camp Covecrest - August 4-10, 2019 in Tiger, Georgia

Join us for Life Teen summer camp - Camp Covecrest, in the North Georgia Mountains, for an amazing and transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith (i.e. high ropes, messy games, obstacle course, zip line, white water rafting, team building experiences, music, talks, reflections, Mass, Adoration & personal growth). For more details, watch a video & to register visit www.olhoc.org/camp

Join Our Youth Support Team which is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. All volunteers must be Virtus Compliant. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website or talk to Marlen Coles.

For more Youth Events or questions contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org or visit: www.olhoc.org/ym

Life Teen/Edge/FIAT: (high school, middle school, and elementary school youth ministries) May 19th 11:10 am Crowning of Mary, Parish Feast Day Mass, Rita's Ice Social

The Fourth Cup

Go deeper in your understanding of the Mass as renowned "Catholic Theologian, Dr. Scott Hahn explains Christ's Paschal Sacrifice on the Cross as the traditional Fourth Cup used in the celebration of the Jewish Passover meal." Small group discussions will follow.

Thursday, May 30th at 6:45 pm and/or Saturday, June 1st. At 11 am

Sign up at www.olhoc.org/mass

Presentation – The Holy Spirit

In preparation for Pentecost Sunday and the end of our Year of the Holy Spirit, you are invited to join us for a short video presentation about the Holy Spirit, and learn to pray the Scriptures (Lectio Divina) while focusing on the readings for Pentecost.

Thursday June 6th at 6:45 pm, or Saturday, June 8th at 9:45 am

Welcome John Winslow

Our Seminarian for this summer is John Winslow. Please stop to say "hello" and welcome him to our church.