

TIME FOR HOLY SPIRIT!

Time for Holy Spirit! Is there a time for the Holy Spirit? In my last two columns, I have covered “**time for change**” and “**time for ordinary**”. Though those two writings were lengthy, many of you read them and made comments or asked questions. One question was: **Why** does the Bible seem to imply that if there is a time for A, there is also a time for the opposite of A , e.g. a time for laugh and a time for cry, a time for work and a time for rest , a time for wealth and a time for poverty, a time for change and a time for stability, a time for ordinary and a time for extraordinary ...?

Think for ten seconds: is there a noun, or object or person that lasts **forever**? An obvious answer is **God**! We believe that **God** always existed and will always exist. Yes, **God** is eternal (no beginning and no end) while infinite (no limit), omnipotent (all power) and omniscient (all knowledge). So, can we say that there is a time for God and a time for **evil**? No, because God is always victorious against Evil! However, though the Holy Spirit (celebrated at Pentecost and Most Blessed Trinity) is God as one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, I still believe that one can say that there is a **time for Holy Spirit** and a **time for evil spirit**, as we can say that is a time for **goodness** and a time for **badness**. Yes, the Holy Spirit had always existed, that **love** between the **Father** and the **Son**. However, there are times when we no longer feel the **presence** of the **Holy Spirit**, as our minds and souls then seem to be overwhelmed by bad events originating from the Master of Sin, Satan also called Devil.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI gave very insightful reflections about **God-Heaven –End of Time**. First, he gave us a simple approach when seeking an understanding of **Heaven**. He said, “Heaven is to be with God...Heaven is God”. Since God is infinite (no limit), eternal and omnipresent (everywhere), it implies that God cannot be limited in time nor space. In another way, one can say that when being with God there is no more time, no more space in the way we understand it here on earth. As Heaven is God, it implies that in Heaven there is no space, no time. As our souls never die, exist forever, one can say that our souls (existing since our conception) can be in Heaven right here right now. There is no need to wait for the death of the body: when we receive the Eucharist, we truly receive the Body of Christ we are totally transformed and we become **one with Christ**. As Jesus Christ is **God**, the true Triune **God** (three persons in one God), we truly become **one in God**! We know that this deep Union lasts only a few minutes, as it disappears when the Body of Christ is fully consumed within our body.

In conclusion, let's return to the **Holy Spirit**, As we were closing our full Year of the Holy Spirit three weeks ago at Pentecost , we could all feel the strong presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the weekend (all regular Sunday Masses, but also at the 10 pm Vigil Mass, the monthly French Mass, and in the times between Masses). Someone asked me: Father, why don't we continue the Year of the Holy Spirit beyond last Pentecost? My answer is simple: the Year of the Holy Spirit at OLHOC will never end: the strong presence of the Holy Spirit at OLHOC is an integral part of our identity as a parish: as a welcoming (Narthex) , prayerful (main church , Blessed Sacrament Chapel and yet to be built Perpetual Adoration Chapel) and joyful (Father Martin Hall) parish , we need the constant help of both the Holy Spirit and His Spouse Mary (our patroness Saint). On a personal note, the last three weeks have been particularly stressful

(with all the on-going changes as described in my column “Time for Change” (2 weeks ago). However, in the last 10 days a miracle happened: all the stress vanished! I could feel once again the strong presence of the Holy Spirit in my heart, in my life, and especially in all the decisions I had to make and could make them in a peaceful way (quite a contrast with the earlier weeks). I prayed every day: **Come Holy Spirit Come! Guide all my steps! Come Holy Spirit! Help me make the right decisions** always following God's will! The Holy Spirit helped me to **have no fear!**

When did the Holy Spirit arrive at OLHOC? Is He going to stay here for good? Two possible answers:

First, in many ways, the Holy Spirit has always been with us even when we did not have a church building, an anchor: for the first 10 years of our young parish (1980-1990) and like the Israelites were wandering in a spiritual desert (going back and forth from Public Elementary School Dr. Mudd school to Methodist Church Good Shepherd) ...From our Baptism, the Holy Spirit is within each of us, even if we do not feel His Love nor His Presence.

Second, we have just been blessed with a **surprise** from the Holy Spirit! Last Tuesday, at long last, the **Holy Spirit**, in the form of a **Dove** , flew into our church and then remained above the baptistry, a very fitting place , reminding us of the one Baptism of Jesus by His cousin John-Baptist when many artistic representations (paintings) have shown the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. About three years ago, I recall that while praying to the Holy Spirit and raising my head towards heaven (through our skylight) I saw a dove flying and then stopping on top of our own skylight. My thought then: maybe one day, we will have a painting of such a dove as Holy Spirit, in our own church. Praise the Lord: a few weeks later, we received a surprise from the family of the recently deceased Mr. Norman Levasseur, a long -time parishioner who sat down always on the same chair toward the back of the church, spoke French with me, and also played golf with other parishioners. The Levasseur family wanted to honor the memory of their father and grandfather Mr. Levasseur and his wife Margaret, deceased a few years earlier. We agreed that the best way to honor Norman and Margaret would be to have a beautiful stained glass of the Holy Spirit in form of a dove! This painting was expected to arrive just before Pentecost, but it did not ...and arrived only last Tuesday. It is now hanging over the baptistry reminding us of Jesus' own baptism. **Did you notice any change in the back of the church last week?** This weekend, pay attention to the changes around you... And discover the **Holy Spirit: He has arrived and will stay where he is** (no more flying). I would like to use this opportunity to thank the entire Levasseur family for this generous gift and we have a commemorative plaque in preparation.

Come Holy Spirit! Guide us and lead us on the way to Eternal Life!



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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 in the office for more information or visit.

www.olhoc.com/safety

Outreach news

The next Shepherd's Table will be on August 15, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.
The Outreach Committee is now collecting school supplies (new pens, pencils, notebooks etc.) for the next school year. A drop-off box can be found in the Fr. Martin Hall. All donations will be taken to the Children's Aid Society of Waldorf. Thank you all!
Non-perishable food donations to "Sharing Sunday" may be left in the designated box near the door to Fr. Martin Hall. All donations go to the Southern Maryland Food Bank. During the summer months cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you!

Father Santiago



Thank you Father Santiago, for the gifts you have brought to our Parish during the last two years. We wish you all the best!

Father Santiago will be the presider at all Masses this weekend.

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.

****Help Wanted****

Coordinator of Religious Education

After 6 years as the Religious Education coordinator, Mrs. Thiedeman will be leaving in September. Mrs. Thiedeman has devoted much of her time and energy into our program and will be missed.

We are now recruiting for a Coordinator of Religious Education to begin training in August. The selection criteria includes being a practicing Catholic committed to the teachings of the church, with at least 2 years experience as a catechist. The position entails working evenings and weekends. Organizational, planning skills, proficiencies in Microsoft Office are required. Bilingual in English and Spanish is preferred.

Please see our website- www.olhoc.com for information on applying.

Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Wednesday Scripture Study - The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass.

Divine Mercy - Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

40th Anniversary of OLHoC

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to the office regarding what you feel we can/should do to celebrate 40 years of being a Parish. Anyone wishing to help in organizing, please call the office.

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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
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Vicky Welch
Naomi Lilly
Sterling Greene
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Rosano Wheeler
Larry McGraw
Vivian Truxon
Kenny Lindsay

Pat Fisher
Christ Goldhammer
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
Victor Cordero
Georgiana Norgren
Marie Marie Bottorf
Angela Fenwick
and all our military and civilians serving in
harm's way.

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



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, July 6, 9:00 AM: Rosita Quizon (+)
Saturday, July 6, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, July 7, 8:30 AM: Doug Davis
Sunday, July 7, 10:00 AM: Jose & AnnMarie Gonzales & family (+)
Sunday, July 7, 11:30 AM: Francis & Ann Marie Nicole Brady & family
Sunday, July 7, 7:00 PM: Maria Santos (+)
Monday, July 8, 9:00 AM: Patricia Griesert (+)
Tuesday, July 9, 9:00 AM: Elira Andrews (+)
Wednesday, July 10, 9:00 AM: Milton Galvan Jr.
Wednesday, July 10, 7:00 PM: Wayne Lloyd (+)
Thursday, July 11 7:00 PM: Agnes Mintoume (+)
Friday, July 12, 9:00 AM: Agnes Mintoume (+)

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.

**Pope Francis's monthly intention for
July:**

The Integrity of Justice
That those who administer justice may
work with integrity, and that the
injustice which prevails in the world
may not have the last word.

www.usccb.org

Mass Readings for July 14 2019.
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**
Deuteronomy 30:10-14
***Second Reading**
Colossians 1:15-20
***Gospel**
Luke 10:25-37

www.usccb.org

YOUTH NEWS

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

Get ready for a

RADICAL

**Vacation
Bible School
Adventure**

July 22-26, 2019

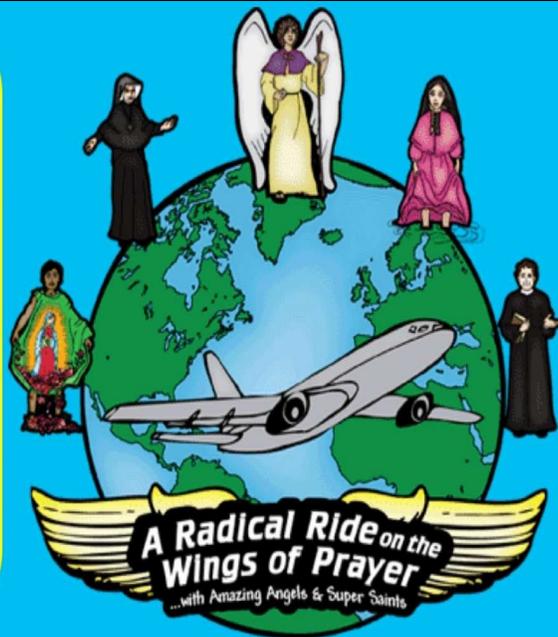
9am - 12 noon daily

Registration Online NOW

Kids (ages 4-11)

Youth Volunteers (12-17)

Adult Volunteers (18-102)



Vacation Bible School planning is well underway, and we are seeking supplies to help us convert our facility into an international airport from which we will travel the world. These kids are in for a Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer!

Some of the supplies we know we currently need:

- Cardboard boxes
- Pool noodles
- Left over interior house paint
- Drop cloths
- Paint brushes
- Newspaper
- Blue insulation board (4x8 sheets)

Prep week begins July 15, so please provide your contributions prior to that date. Thank you for your generosity!

Adults interested in registering themselves, youth helpers, or child participants for VBS please register today at olhoc.org/VBS

Your Church: The Lord's House

Please continue to 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. Thank you!