

GOOD THIEF, BAD THIEF

GOOD THIEF, BAD THIEF? Which one are we? Which one we would like to be? We are all familiar with the good thief in today's Gospel (Luke 23:35-43): next to Jesus, there were two criminals hanging on a cross. One of them - the so-called "bad thief" - mocked Jesus: "*Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.*" The other- the so-called "good thief" rebuked him: "*We have been condemned justly...but this man (Jesus) has done nothing criminal.*" Then, turning to Jesus, he said: "JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM." Jesus replied to him: "TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." We all want to go to heaven. We all want that Jesus remembers us. He is the one who will judge us. None of us wants to hear from Jesus on our judgment day: "I do not know you "and none of us wants the door to heaven be closed on us...Like the good thief, we want to RECONCILE with Jesus, we want to ask for his forgiveness.

St. Athanasius refers to the "GOOD THIEF" or "PENITENT THIEF", as the "EVANGELIST THIEF": because of his crimes, he was being crucified, but having FAITH in Jesus, he corrects the other thief for his having no fear of God, then asks for Jesus' remembrance/forgiveness and receives much more: eternal life with God right away. "*Today you will be with me in paradise.*"

Yes, we can learn from the two different attitudes of the two thieves on the cross while facing the same desperate situation. Like the two thieves, we are all sinners. Like the good thief, we believe in the good news that JESUS IS OUR KING that He is GOD, and HE can forgive us. One day, with God's help, we cannot do it alone, we hope to be together with the good thief in paradise, in heaven, forever and ever!

There are two ways of life. Every day, we have the choice between two roads: the broad, easy road that leads us into the darkness; and the narrow, steep road that leads us into the light. These are two clear choices: spiritual death or spiritual life. While the choice should be obvious, it is not: the Devil attracts us to the broad road of pleasure, power and prestige, and many times, we are weak and do not have the strength to resist the temptations. We are like the bad thief: hopeless, unable to see the love of God in our lives, living a way of life where God is not present. However, many times like the good thief, we

turn toward God and seeks His forgiveness. As we come to a close of the liturgical Year C- Luke and enter the New Year: Year A - Matthew, we can ask God to help us to begin a new spiritual journey, away from our past, self-centered path and converging toward the right way, the narrow road of repentance and unconditional LOVE.

Next Sunday, we enter the ADVENT SEASON, the four weeks beginning the New Liturgical Year and preparing us for the JOY of CHRISTMAS! It is hard to believe that Christmas is just four weeks away.

ADVENT is always a time to turn toward God, a time of preparing our hearts for the coming of Baby Jesus.

Every Advent, everyone, children and adults, are invited to participate in our ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE. This year, Fr. DAN LEARY has once again accepted to lead us. Many of you may recall his joining us twice in the last five years. He is a talented preacher filled with the Holy Spirit. He has a deep love for Mary and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He will talk to us about the GIFT OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. His theme will be "FORGIVENESS AS SEEN IN EYES OF MARY AND JESUS." COME with your entire family. You will not regret it. COME AT 6:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 3rd. Following Fr. Dan Leary's talk, we will have individual confessions. We hope that as in the past, we will have 10 to 12 priests.

COME HOLY SPIRIT! Fill our hearts with the fire of YOUR LOVE! Give us the humility of the "good thief" to recognize our sins and ask for FORGIVENESS!

COME HOLY SPIRIT! Give us the grace and strength to FORGIVE those who have hurt us! Come Holy Spirit! Help us to seek those who are less blessed than we are and are in need of financial and emotional support!

COME JESUS! THY KINGDOM COME! THY WILL BE DONE!

One in Christ,  
Father Alain

# Christ the King



## CCD Class Schedule

**Nov. 24/25** Sacramental Prep & All Youth Night  
(10 am- Communion prep, 2:30 pm Confirmation prep)  
**Dec. 1/2-** NO CCD Classes  
**Dec. 8/9-** CCD Classes resume  
 Dec. 15/16- CCD Classes

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## Community Outreach

The OLHOC Holiday House is now in the Narthex for monetary donations to our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

Also on display are the "food bags" we hope to fill for those in need in our community. Thank you all in advance for your generosity and kindness!

Also there is a box in the office lobby to collect boxed food (I.e. mac&cheese, Stuffing, potato dishes, etc.) to accompany the Thanksgiving turkey or Christmas ham and grocery cards.

Looking ahead, please consider volunteering to deliver a food bag or two on November 24th after the 10 a.m. Mass. Thank you!

The next Shepherd's Table will be on Dec. 19, 2019. At Good Shepard Church.

Our next Outreach meeting will be Dec. 4, 2019 in the Fr. Martin Hall at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

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## Mary's Helping Hands Bake Sale

On Dec 8, Mary's Helping Hands will once again hold their bake sale and raffle. A variety of delicious holiday items will be available. The raffle this year is a "money Fiber Optic Tree, decorated with various denominations of currency worth \$250.00

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## ***FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE***

On Thursday, December 12, join your fellow parishioners, and Mariachis for Mass at **5 am** here at Our Lady Help of Christians.. A light breakfast will follow Mass



## Blessing of Thanksgiving food

Wednesday, November 27 following the 7 pm Mass.

Mass Thanksgiving day is at 9 am



Calling all school age singers! Would you like to sing at the Christmas Eve 5 pm Mass? Join the choir for rehearsals on Saturdays December 7, 14, and 21 from 2-3:30 pm. For more information, e-mail

[music@olhoc.org](mailto:music@olhoc.org)

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## Breakfast with St Nick:

Celebrate the feast of St Nicholas with us on Saturday, December 7th starting at 9:30 am. Enjoy delicious pancakes, eggs, sausage and more, plus activities for the kids and a visit with St Nicholas. Tickets are \$5 each (under 2 eat free) and will be available after all Masses, in the church office or on the website [www.olhoc.org/stnick](http://www.olhoc.org/stnick) Please bring a NEW, unwrapped toy for the Children's Aid Society. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Fund.

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## Christmas donations/opportunities to give

Beginning November 25, we will collect NEW:

Children's pajamas, socks, and slippers  
 Socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves  
 for all ages, Small stuffed animals

All items must be NEW.

Thank you very much for your generosity!!

Wrapped collection boxes are located in the office narthex near the tree.

Items will be distributed with the Christmas food boxes and donated to Children's Aid.

## Looking ahead

December 3- Parish Reconciliation Service- 6:30 pm

December 5- Gift of Mary talk- 7 pm

December 7- Breakfast with St. Nick-following the 9 am Mass

December 8- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 12- Our Lady of Guadalupe - 5 am Mass,  
 Gift of Mary class at 7 pm

December 14- Walk with Mary in Washington, DC,  
 Christmas Novena and Posada begin

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  
Derrick Webster  
Pat Fisher  
Christ Goldhammer

Julie Davis  
Dorothy Neal  
Dunnie Proctor  
Shirley Ehman  
K.D. Dillard  
Tabitha Barton  
Maria Townsend  
Chrystal Beauregard  
Sheryl Carter  
Alex Leon  
Sharketer Butler  
Steven Bowling  
Edna Yarngo  
Kathly Grimes  
Sheny Padilla  
Richard White  
Mary Dooley  
Victor Cordero  
Georgiana Norgren

Marie Marie Bottorf  
Joy Cooper  
Dorian Webster  
Dionne Gause  
Patricia Sutton  
Trenia Price  
Michael Sofield Jr.  
Norm Green  
Mary A. Dyson  
Jim Lavish  
The Dixons  
Louise Green  
David DeMarr  
Brandon Mack  
Amelia Vinceguerra  
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, November 23, 9:00AM: Father Robert Pitman  
Saturday, November 23, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners  
Sunday, November 24, 8:30 AM: Dennis Forgash (+)  
Sunday, November 24, 10:00 AM: Jose & Anna Marie Gonzales & family (+)  
Sunday, November 24, 11:30 AM: Coles family  
Sunday, November 24, 1:00 PM: Father of Fr. Jean Claude  
Sunday, November 24, 7:00 PM: Naomi Lily  
Monday, November 25, 9:00 AM: Raymond Meyer III (+)  
Tuesday, November 26, 9:00 AM: John Mahon (+)  
Wednesday, November 27, 9:00 AM: Souls in Purgatory  
Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 PM: Jennifer Lass  
Thursday, November 28, 9:00 AM: Wilbur Etbauer (+)  
Friday, November 28, 9:00 AM: Children in danger of abortion

***Parish Penance Service– Tuesday, December 3rd.***

*Our parish reconciliation service will begin at 6:30 pm in the Main Church on Tuesday, December 3rd. Several Priest will be available to hear confessions.*

*Father Dan Leary will give a talk before the penance service to help us prepare ourselves to receive God's forgiveness during this Advent Season.*

**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

**First Friday**– The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is said in Latin. This Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood.

**First Saturday**—Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

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

**Mass Readings for December 1, 2019.**

***First Sunday of Advent***



**\*First Reading**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

**\*Second Reading**

**Romans 13:11-14**

**\*Gospel**

**Matthew 24:37-44**

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

Youth Ministry: Questions, please contact Marlen [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

**Life Teen:** high school youth ministry (meets most Sundays 5-6:30 pm, December 8th; check website for other dates)

**Edge:** middle school youth ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

**FIAT:** Faith in Action Team elementary school ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

For more info and an updated list of our events please visit [www.olhoc.org/yevents](http://www.olhoc.org/yevents)

**To Join Our Youth Core & Support Team,** please visit our website or talk to Marlen Coles. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ!

**Breakfast with St Nick:**

Celebrate the feast of St Nicholas with us on Saturday, December 7th starting at 9:30 am. Enjoy delicious pancakes, eggs, sausage and more, plus activities for the kids and a visit with St Nicholas. Tickets are \$5 each (under 2 eat free) and will be available after all Masses, in the church office or on the website [www.olhoc.org/stnick](http://www.olhoc.org/stnick) Please bring a NEW, unwrapped toy for the Children's Aid Society. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Fund.

**Time to Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 2-8, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia**

For more details and a video on this transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith visit [www.olhoc.org/camp2020](http://www.olhoc.org/camp2020) Questions, please contact Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

*Christmas Flowers*

**All parishioners are invited to make a donation in honor or remembrance of loved ones this Advent. Your donations will offset the cost of the poinsettias used to decorate our church for Christmas. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing or stop by the office. Suggested offering is \$15.**

**SAVING BABIES** is a new Pro-life organization under the purview of Sacred Heart Church in La Plata. After Saturday/ Sunday Masses of Nov. 30/Dec. 1 at Our Lady Help of Christians, Saving Babies volunteers will be distributing brochures and obtaining signatures for you to **Go on Record** as being pro-life. These signature pages will be presented to Charles County and state representatives to effect legislation. Please bring your address labels with you to Mass to make it easy to put your contact information on the signature page. For more information about Saving Babies, go to [www.sacredheartlaplata.org](http://www.sacredheartlaplata.org) and click under "Get Involved" or send an email to [Savingbabiesisright@aol.com](mailto:Savingbabiesisright@aol.com).



**THE GIFT OF MARY**

SEE ADVENT THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY

*This Advent Season join Mike Spurgeon, Father Ben and fellow parishioners in exploring the question*

**MARY DID YOU KNOW?**

*Two parts - 5 and 12 December at 6:45 PM*



*Walk with Mary*

HEALING AND PEACE UNDER HER MANTLE

**DECEMBER//DICIEMBRE 14, 2019**

PROCESSION//PROCESIÓN 11:30 a.m.      ROSARY//SANTO ROSARIO 1:00 p.m.

From Shrine of the Sacred Heart//Santuario del Sagrado Corazon  
To Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception//  
Basilica Santuario Nacional

MASS//MISA 2:30 p.m.

**Bus will leave OLHOC at 8:45 am. \$10 per person for Walk with Mary. Please sign up on line ([www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org))**