

December 29, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

May God bless you all throughout the New Year 2020!

As your pastor, I am addressing this last message of the year 2019 to all of you parishioners at Our Lady of Help of Christians but also to your entire families and friends.

We have just entered the Christmas Season with a great sense of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! Christmas Eve and Christmas Day have just passed but the beautiful Masses, songs and prayers of Christmas continue to resonate in our hearts.

The Christmas Season ending on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12, 2020), includes a series of great celebrations: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (this Sunday); The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (Wednesday January 1st, 2020); and The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday January 5, 2020).

The beautiful statue of the Holy Family and the unique painting of Our Lady Help of Christians that adorn our Sanctuary are a constant reminder of the Love that both Mary and Joseph have for each of us. Mary and Joseph are always present to inspire our own family journey on earth. They also help keep our parish united as a prayerful and joyful family of families.

As we look forward to the New Year 2020, we all have much to be grateful to God. Everything we have belongs to God. Because we know that with God everything is possible, there is no limit to what we can hope for. God keeps inviting us to encounter Him in every moment of our lives.

We can anticipate with much excitement the first visit of our new Archbishop Wilton Gregory on our Parish Feast Day: Crowning of Mary and 11:30 am Mass on Sunday May 24, 2020. This is going to be the summit of our celebrating our 40th anniversary and you are all invited to come. We cannot forget that our parish is making its Big 40 on September 15, 2020. To prepare for this summit, we have already held many special activities, and more are coming. However, our Parish Feast Day is our most important annual parish event as on that day we together seek privileged protection from our Patroness Saint, the greatest Saint of all Saints: Our Lady!

God has a wonderful plan for each one of us in 2020! God loves each of us so much that He will never abandon us. We can trust in His Providence all the days of our lives. Like a child, we can surrender to Him. As our Father in heaven, our Abba or Daddy, He will do everything for us. Everything that happens in our lives, whether good or bad, will always lead to something good when we love God (Romans 8:28). God is Love. God has created each of us so as we can love and be loved.

You may have already thought about your personal plans for 2020. You may have already chosen a series of New Year 2020 Resolutions. I suggest that you consider adding one new resolution, a daily short prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to go out of my comfort zone today and stretch me gently in the right path so that I can do Your will and not my own will. Heavenly Father, help me to hear your whispers in my heart and obey your commands. Heavenly Father, help me to love you and my neighbor. Help me to surrender to you totally!"

I am grateful to God for the blessings He provides me through each one of you! I have written a long wish list for 2020. But how do I know that those wishes are in line with God's Plan for me? I will keep praying with all of you that God can give me the courage, strength and grace to surrender to him totally: do His will and not mine!

May Almighty Father keep blessing each of you throughout the New Year 2020! May the Holy Spirit keep guiding your paths! May you find Jesus' Love every single day! May Mary, Help of Christians, protect you!

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain





CCD Class Schedule

Dec. 29/30- No CCD Classes

Jan. 5/6- CCD Classes

Jan 12/13- CCD Classes

Jan.19/20- No CCD Classes

Jan. 26/27 – Sacramental Prep & All Youth Night (no regular classes). All Sunday & Monday families are encouraged to attend Sunday's 4 pm Youth Mass and All Youth night activities. (Fiat/Edge/Life team)

## Community Outreach

The next Shepherd's Table will be February 20, 2020 at Good Shepherd Church.

The next Outreach meeting is January 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. In the Fr. Martin Hall. All are welcome!

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Do you still have 2019 RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA or savings plan? Consider a tax exempt gift to OLHOC. Leverage your donation by gifting before tax money. Contact the office for the easy process.

## 2020 Calendars

Are available in the Narthex. Please take one home with you today!

## ~Pre-school News~

Fall 2020 registration opens to parishioners January 6! Children must be confidently potty trained and at least three years old by Dec. 31, 2020, in order to start school in September. We have a half day and a full day program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Please call the office and ask for Nieda, or email [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org).



## Masses

### Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

December 31(Mary, Holy Mother of God, Vigil)

5 pm Mass

January 1 Solemnity of Mary,  
Holy Mother of God

8:30 am

10 am



Join Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in following the footsteps of Jesus Christ on a **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

June 21– July 1, 2020 9 days/8 nights

Spiritual Director:

**Father Alain Colliou**

Spaces still available for securing a seat,

**apply by January 5, 2020**

Information can be found in the Narthex, or email

**MAY@AMICABANTRAVEL.COM**

**We are asked to pray for:**

Sandra Barrientos  
 Brandon Mack  
 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  
 Ilene Custer  
 Derrick Webster  
 Pat Fisher  
 Christ Goldhammer

Julie Davis  
 David DeMarr  
 Dinnie Proctor  
 Amelia Vinceguerra  
 K.D. Dillard  
 Tabitha Barton  
 Maria Townsend  
 Chrystal Beauregard  
 Sheryl Carter  
 Alex Leon  
 Sharketer Butler  
 Steven Bowling  
 Edna Yarngo  
 Kathy Grimes  
 Sheny Padilla  
 Richard White  
 Mary Dooley  
 Victor Cordero  
 Georgiana Norgren

Marie Marie Bottorf  
 Joy Cooper  
 Dorian Webster  
 Dionne Gause  
 Patricia Sutton  
 Trena Price  
 Michael Sofield Jr.  
 Norm Green  
 Mary A. Dyson  
 Jim Lavish  
 The Dixons

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, December 28, 9:00AM: Bernard Ralph Lawrence Jr (+)**  
**Saturday, December 28, 5:00 PM: Father Benjamin Garcia**  
**Sunday, December 29, 8:30 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners**  
**Sunday, December 29, 10:00 AM: Jose & Anna Marie Gonzales and family**  
**Sunday, December 29, 11:30 AM: Dennis Hook (+)**  
**Sunday, December 29, 1:00 PM: Father Alain**  
**Sunday, December 29, 7:00 PM: Maria de los Angeles**  
**Monday, December 30, 9:00 AM: Carolyn Thompson (+)**  
**Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 PM: Jaime Herran Trochez**  
**Wednesday, January 1, 8:30 AM: Yvonne Castro**  
**Wednesday, January 1, 10:00 AM: Father John Clark (+)**  
**Thursday, January 2, 9:00 AM: Salame Castro**  
**Friday, January 3, 9:00 AM: Bea Duncan**

If you would like to have a Mass said for yourself or a loved one, for intentions or in memory, please call the office.

**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 January 5, 2020**

***The Epiphany of the Lord***

**\*First Reading**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**\*Second Reading**

**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

**\*Gospel**

**Matthew 2:1-12**





## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

**Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation Year 1 & Year 2 - Sunday, January 26th from 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm.** This is the parish sacramental preparation for Confirmation for students( who are in catholic school, public school or homeschooled), parent(s), and mentors, (sponsors are always welcome). This includes the 4 pm Mass followed by dinner and All Youth Night activities. Questions, visit [www.olhoc.com/faq](http://www.olhoc.com/faq) or contact Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

### 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, check website for 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/ymevents](http://www.olhoc.org/ymevents)

### Tickets Available for the Youth Rally & March for Life - Friday, January 24th

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](http://www.olhoc.org/ym)

### Next All Youth Night - Sunday, January 26th

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

### 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)

**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!



*Wise Men still  
follow him!*

Join us on Sunday, January 5 at 6:30 PM, before Mass.

We will *bring to life* the three men who followed a star