

September 27, 2020

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY OLHOC!!!

The one-year celebration of our 40th anniversary has just come to an end with the visit of Archbishop Wilton Gregory last Saturday. It was a beautiful day. The weather could not have been better: cool and dry! Inside the church, the Holy Spirit was fully present and filled our hearts with the warmth of His Love while our Blessed Mother put her protective arms around our shoulders. There were many moments that brought much JOY to those attending (if you could not attend see footnote below) including the powerful homily delivered by the Archbishop.¹

In his homily, Archbishop Gregory commented on the Parable of the Vineyard Workers (Matthew 20:1-16) and God's Unique Justice: "God's justice is always directed toward generosity... We have all been recipient of God's generosity... The parable is not about what we have earned or what we merit though our labors, but what God has given to all of us out of his superior generosity. The parable is not about what we do, but what God does so generously for all of us."

Archbishop Gregory concluded his homily, "honoring the hard work of the parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians for 40 years in the establishment and growth of a fine community of faith". He gave special recognition to the "pioneer families" still laboring and supporting the work of our parish throughout the 40 years of its existence. He asked those pioneers to stand up so that we can "applaud them and thank them" for their continuing generosity and support." This was for me the highlight of our evening celebration: a dozen of our "pioneers" stood up and many more were watching on our YouTube Channel at home. They all fully deserve our applause. Their spirit of pioneers is still an inspiration to all of us.

The Archbishop then extended his thanks to all who have joined this parish family whether they came at the mid-time of our history or have only recently joined the parish: "Each one of you should bask in the joy of 40 years of faithful service. However, all of you should rejoice that it has been through God's good favor and

blessings that you celebrate this evening - no matter how long you have been a member of Our Lady Help of Christians family. Just like those in the Gospel's vineyard, you realize that God's generosity has made all this possible and glorious from the beginning until this evening celebration."

God keeps inviting all of us to work in His vineyard on earth, the Church established by Christ himself 2,000 years ago: The Catholic Church. Jesus is the Vine and we the vineyard workers are the branches united with Jesus and working only for Him, with Him and in Him. This is what Jesus told his disciples at the Last Supper knowing that He was going to die and rise for all of us: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing*" (John 15: 5). Over the past 40 years our parish has seen many changes, but the pioneering spirit of our founders has remained with us. We have become more diverse in backgrounds and cultures, but we have remained united in the EUCHARIST. We have remained ONE IN CHRIST. We are all brothers and sisters having the same Father in Heaven. As we enter our 41st year and look beyond, let us keep this image of the Vine and the Branches. Let us keep focusing on the Eucharist. Let us keep evangelizing in Waldorf, "*Bringing All to Christ, Sharing Christ with All and Being One in Christ*". May the JOY of being united in Christ continue to fill our hearts and help us to reach out to those in need of Christ!

Let us pray together to our Patroness Saint: "*Mary Help of Christians, keep protecting our parish and keep leading all of us to your Son Jesus. May your spouse, the Holy Spirit, who is always within us, be the one evangelizing through our Joy and through our Love of those in spiritual need*".

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain

¹If you were unable to attend the 5 pm Anniversary Mass, you can still watch it on our YouTube OLHOC channel (50-minutes long). You can listen to our virtual OLHOC Choir singing the prelude "Holy is His Name" (special link on our website). You can also read the Catholic Standard's article of September 21st "Our Lady Help of Christians Parish celebrates 40 years" including colorful photographs (it is on our website or you can go directly to cathstan.org/news/local/our-lady-help-of-Christians-parish-celebrates-40-years).

Most of you will have already received the above links directly in our weekly flocknotes. A gentle reminder: if you do not receive flocknotes, we will encourage you to request your name be added to our parish-wide distribution list. Just send an email request to office@OLHOC.org or call the office (we only need an email address).



Religious Education News

Religious Education begins this week on line! If you have not yet enrolled your child, please go to <https://olhoc.com/re> to enroll your child in online learning.

For more information, please contact Neri-da Tellechea at cre@olhoc.org

Mass intentions

If you would like to have a Mass said in 2021, the calendar is open in the office. Sign up for the Mass you would like so as to assure the date you want is available. Suggested stipend is \$10

Few items to keep in mind when returning to Mass:

-Please wear a mask, bring your hand sanitizer, observe the social distancing in seating and new traffic flow during Mass.

-If you are ill, more susceptible, or feel uncomfortable returning to church right now, please know staying home is ok and you can continue to be with us in spirit and watch Sunday's Mass at 10 am or daily Mass at 9 am on the OLHOC YouTube Channel.

When you are ready to return, please reserve a seat online www.olhoc.org/reopening If you have reservations and are unable to attend, please return to the signup and cancel your seat so others may attend Mass.

If you would like to volunteer for Mass, please visit www.olhoc.org/reopening

Holiday House

The holiday house is in the Narthex. It is our opportunity as a parish to give a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal to those less fortunate than we are. If we all give each week we are able, we will soon have enough to feed people in need.

“It is in giving that we receive”

~Pre-school News~

Our pre-school resumed classes on Wednesday, September 9th. Following COVID19 guidelines, we currently have one classroom of 3-4 year olds who are all very happy to be back in school with other 3-4 year olds. We hope to be able to add another class in January, 2021.

OLLC gives preschoolers a beginning in their Catholic education. Many families need financial assistance to attend our pre-school. If you are in a position to donate, please make your check payable to Our Lady's Little Christians Preschool, for online instructions, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org

CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

We hope you will join us!

The Youth Support Team 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 (hospitality, chaperones, fundraisers, prayer team..), confirmation mentors, or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website www.olhoc.org/ymteam or talk to Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

Will you Stand and Pray? On Respect Life Sunday (October 4th), join us for the National Life Chain from 1:45 pm – 3:30 pm. The Life Chain is a prayerful public witness standing in remembrance of the 61 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. We will stand and unite in prayer for the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Please meet in Mary's circle at 1:45 pm, we will then walk to the corner of St Charles Parkway and St Thomas Dr to stand and unite in prayer! Bring the entire family and feel free to bring a lawn chair for those that need it!

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Bariantos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittain
 Sid and Suszanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dunnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Lorrin Green

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trena Price
 Josephina Knapp
 Norm Green

The Dixons
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 Gloria Snyder
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

Please pray for the soul of Margaret Walker and K.D. Dillard



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, September 26, 9:00AM: Natalie Innocent
 Saturday, September 26, 5:00 PM: Victor H. Andrews (+)
 Sunday, September 27, 8:00 AM: Medical Professionals & families
 Sunday, September 27, 10:00 AM: Lourdes Ballesteros
 Sunday, September 27, 12:00 PM: OLL Parishioners
 Sunday, September 27, 7:00 PM: Father Alain
 Monday, September 28, 9:00 AM: Father Alain
 Tuesday, September 29, 9:00 AM: Anthony Dako
 Wednesday, September 30 9:00 AM: Bonnie Strang
 Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 PM: Roger Smith
 Thursday, October 1, 9:00 AM: Rebecca Coles
 Friday, October 2, 9:00 AM: Michael Dako
 Friday, October 2, 7:00 PM: Orlando Lagman (+)

Sunday am Mass times are changing
 We will resume Mass times beginning October 4 to:
 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am

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

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

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.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for October 4, 2020

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Isaiah 5:1-7

***Second Reading**

Phlippians 4:6-9

***Gospel**

Matthew 21:33-43



www.usccb.org