

October 25, 2020

The birds are singing! Songs of Joy!

Every morning in the last few days, I listen to the birds singing in our backyard at the rectory: the little sparrows, the blue jays, the cardinals, the robins and many more that I do not recognize. The birds are singing. They are not worried as many of us about continuing uncertainties and challenges. They are not listening to the news on the radio. They are just singing, singing songs of joy! As the weather has been cold and then warm again, they may believe that Spring is coming! With God it is always Spring Time! Time for Renewal and Joy!

I pray to God that we can all find the Joy of Spring in our hearts, the Joy of a new Life, the Joy of a transfiguration of our souls to be conformed to the image of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Joy of Conversion: going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, being at Peace with God, accepting God's invitation to come to the Feast on Sunday, the Wedding Feast of His Son, the prelude to the Eternal, Heavenly Banquet, receiving the Body of Christ, receiving God, the Son of God in the Eucharist, and being transformed.

I loved watching the sparrows. They look so simple, so small. They are not showing off beautiful colors. They are everywhere and they are almost invisible. Their singing is not as elaborate as that of the robins. But they are singing their simple Joy. In one of the recent daily readings at Mass (Luke 12:1-7 on Friday October 16), Jesus talked to his disciples about five sparrows (they are everywhere, even in Israel). He was warning us about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees: *"I tell you my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. Be afraid of the one (devil) who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna (hell); yes, I tell you be afraid of that one. ARE NOT FIVE SPARROWS SOLD FOR TWO SMALL COINS? Yet not one of them has escaped the NOTICE OF GOD. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. DO NOT BE AFRAID? YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS."*

In the last few days, there have been more talk about a new wave of the coronavirus infection in a few states. This is a reminder that we should continue to be prudent: washing hands, wearing masks, keeping 6-foot distance. We should remain hopeful that by Christmas (two months from now), we will have made much progress about development of a vaccine and new therapeutics to reduce the risks of death for those contaminated.

As Jesus told his disciples many times, DO NOT BE AFRAID! God is always with us. If HE protects the little sparrows, how much more will HE protect us. We have now endured seven full months of the pandemic. Our churches have been reopened and people gradually are coming back to attend Mass in person. Many of you have told me: "Father, I had to come back to church. I needed to feel the presence of the parishioners at Mass. It was so beautiful to RECEIVE JESUS!" They can see that we are taking all precautionary measures. I pray to God that in the coming weeks, more and more people will return. About half of our parishioners have now returned. Our church capacity is still limited by the 6-foot distancing. However, we have empty spaces at 5 pm and 8:30 am Masses.

Going to confession and receiving the Eucharist are a priority for all of us. They are essential sacraments on our journey of Faith. In addition, we recommend to everyone PRAY! This is a time of prayer for all of us. Come to daily Mass. Pray the Rosary every day. Come and Adore the Blessed Sacrament: spend one hour of silent prayer in front of the Lord exposed on the altar and hear the whispers of the Lord in your heart. You can hear HIM say: "Do not be afraid of the coronavirus. Be afraid of the devil, the liar that is constantly attacking the Catholic Church and all of us. Remember that God is stronger than anyone. He is fully in charge. Remember you also have a powerful guardian Angel to protect you continuously. Transform your Fear into Trust in God! Listen to the birds singing! Keep praying and feeling the Love of God in your lives." Pray for an end to the corona virus pandemic. Pray for peace in our country. Pray for peace in our own hearts. In this context, **you are invited to join Fr. Ben and me** any time from 10 am till 7 pm on Tuesday November 3rd for an Adoration of Our Lord in our church. Can you spare one hour with the Lord before voting on Election Day? We need a minimum of two parishioners at all times. **Sign up at www.olhoc.com or call the office.**

May God keep protecting our country! May our country remain united under ONE GOD!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain



Religious Education News

Religious Education has begun 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 Nereida Tellechea at cre@olhoc.org

Community Outreach

On Thursday, October 15th OLHOC Outreach sponsored a chicken barbecue to-go- dinner at Shepherd's Table for 143!

Many thanks go to Bill and Debbie Reynolds, as menu coordinators, Bonnie Mesler, Karen Bray, Renee White, Frank Soloninka, Terry Kiss, and Mary Pierson for all their hard work!

The "Holiday House" remains in the Narthex for monetary donations to our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We also are collecting food for these baskets- stuffing, gravy, boxed potatoes, canned corn and green beans, yams and cranberry sauce. Thank you, in advance, to all OLHOC parishioners who have always been so generous!

Our annual coat drive is underway. Gently used coats, hats, gloves etc. can be left in a box found in Fr. Martin Hall. Thank you!

Our next Outreach meeting will be November 4th at 7 p. m.

"Into the Breach"

OLHOC and the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a six-week journey on the video series "Into the Breach." This video series looks to answer the questions of in today's world, what it means to be a man and how to live as a man.

The journey began October 15 at 7 pm. Participants can join in person in the Father Martin Hall, or by Zoom. It's not too late, you are still able to attend.

This series is geared towards Catholic men, but families may also join. For more information, please call the office for more information.

~Pre-school News~

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, or 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/

Praying for Peace

Please join Father Ben and Father Alain on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020** in our church. We will have Eucharistic Adoration from **10 am through 7 pm.** Sign-up online at www.olhoc.com, or call the office at 301-645-7112. We need a minimum of 2 people for each hour.

Jesus will be waiting for you!

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Bariantos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittitan
 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
 Trenia Price
 Erick M. 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
 Kevin Viel Sr.

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



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, October 24, 9:00AM: Milton Galván Jr.
 Saturday, October 24, 5:00 PM: Monina Palma (+)
 Sunday, October 25, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
 Sunday, October 25, 10:00 AM: Annamarie & Jose Gonzales & family
 Sunday, October 25, 11:30 AM: Dennis Morris (+)
 Sunday, October 25, 7:00 PM: Father Alain
 Monday, October 26, 9:00 AM: Cathy & Michael Gibson
 Tuesday, October 27, 9:00 AM: Eugene Broughton (+)
 Wednesday, October 28, 9:00 AM: Haley Andrews
 Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 PM: Almerinda Verrigni (+)
 Thursday, October 29, 9:00 AM: James Harding (+)
 Friday, October 30, 9:00 AM: John Lohman Jr. (+)

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

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 November 1, 2020

All Saints

***First Reading**

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

***Second Reading**

1 John 3:1-3

***Gospel**

Matthew 5:1-12a



www.usccb.org



All Youth Night is Back!

Join us on October 25th for Mass at 2:30 pm followed by Youth Ministry for youth in EDGE (middle school) and Life Teen (high school) from 3:30 pm-5 pm. Invite some friends to join you for some faith, fun and fellowship. Unfortunately at this time, we will not be offering FIAT (elementary) after Mass, we will keep you posted when FIAT will resume.

Smore's and Saints

Youth in EDGE (middle school) and Life Teen (high school), join us on Friday, October 30th from 7 pm - 9 pm for some fire, fun, faith & smore's. Bring some friends and meet us in Mary's circle.

Youth Core Team

If you are interested in joining our Youth Core team, be a Confirmation Mentor, or learn more about ways to volunteer with the youth, please visit www.olhoc.org/ymteam or talk to Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

For more Youth Ministry events both in person and virtually, please visit www.olhoc.org/ym or contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation will begin this Sunday, October 25th.

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). For Year 2, we will be offering the option to attend in person. The workshop will be from 1-2:30 pm followed by 2:30 pm Mass and All Youth Night activities from 3:30 - 5pm. For more details and questions, visit www.olhoc.com/confirmation-1 or contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org