

November 1, 2020

## A CHURCH OF SAINTS!!!

This Sunday, we celebrate the great SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS. At every Mass, not only on All Saints Day, we pray with all the Saints in Heaven. All SAINTS are an integral part of the CHURCH. While Jesus is the Head of the Church, the Saints in Heaven and all the baptized Catholics living on earth constitute the BODY OF THE CHURCH. As all the baptized are CALLED TO BE SAINTS, we can say that our Church is a CHURCH OF SAINTS : Saints in Heaven, and all potential Saints on Earth.

Anyone entering Heaven becomes a saint (with a small s). To enter Heaven forever, we do not need to be recognized/canonized by the Church as a Saint, with a Capital S (e.g. St John Paul II, St John XXIII or St Teresa of Calcutta). To be in Heaven is to be with God. God is present at each Mass: Jesus, who is both God and the Son of God, is fully present in the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. MASS IS HEAVEN ON EARTH: the Saints in Heaven are present not only at ALL SAINTS MASS, but at every Mass. I recall as a seminarian on retreat at Omaha (Institute of Priestly Formation) having a vision of St Teresa of Calcutta right at the moment of receiving the Eucharist. She was standing next to me, and also receiving the Body of Christ at the same time as I did. Yes, each of us has a guardian angel, invisible but always at our side. But also, each of us can feel the presence of some Saints at our side, including the Virgin Mary, the greatest and purest Saints of all times.

IS YOUR GREATEST DESIRE TO BECOME A SAINT? Think about it. Do you desire to go to Heaven? If you indeed desire to go to Heaven, that is to be with God forever and ever, do you desire to put God at the center of your life right now while on earth? In our current secular environment, more and more people find it difficult to put even just one hour aside and come to Mass every weekend. Can you go beyond spending one hour a week with God? Can you pray 20 minutes every day? Can you go to daily Mass? Can you go to Confession regularly and receive the Eucharist in a state of grace (without committing a major sin, a sacrilege)?

All the readings this week can guide us on HOW TO BECOME A SAINT. The final statement of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:12) gives us HOPE: "*Rejoice and Be glad, for your reward will be great in HEAVEN.*" We will be rewarded, we will be BLESSED "*if we are "poor in spirit, if we mourn, if we are meek, if we hunger and thirst for righteousness, if we are merciful, if we are clean of heart, if we are peacemakers, if we are insulted and persecuted because of our Faith in Jesus"*.

All these "attitudes" recommended by Jesus were counter-cultural when Jesus taught them 2,000 years ago and they are still counter-cultural today. Only our Lord Jesus Christ can display all these attitudes consistently. Jesus wants us, his disciples, to be as HOLY AS HE. HE wants us to strive for HOLINESS. HE will help us if indeed we have the desire to be HOLY, to be a saint. HE has given us many SAINTS to learn from their example and IMITATE THEM .

TO STRIVE FOR HOLINESS, I invite everyone to pray to God through the intercession of one of your favorite saints. Do you remember the Patron Saint you chose at your Confirmation? If you are not sure through whom to pray, just take one of the following saints, and search for some of their most famous quotes on the Internet: St Augustine, St Monica, St Francis of Assisi, St Dominic, St Teresa of Avila, St John Vianney, St Therese of Lisieux (Little Flower), Padre Pio, St John Paul II, St Teresa of Calcutta, St John XXIII...Then, meditate on one or two quotes of the Saint you have chosen, and pray in silence for one hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament, listen to God!

In this week's first reading (Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14), St John has a vision of Heaven. The good news is that he sees "*a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue. They cried out in a loud voice: SALVATION COMES FROM OUR GOD, who is seated on the throne AND FROM THE LAMB.*" God wants everyone, not only the chosen people of Israel, to join HIM in HEAVEN. HE LOVES ALL OF US so much that HE sends HIS ONLY SON, our Lord Jesus Christ, the LAMB, to die for our sins on the Cross, so "*that we may be called the CHILDREN OF GOD*" ( First Letter of John 3:1-3). It is through the Blood of the Lamb that our sins are washed away.

As we all face challenges and difficulties in our daily lives, let us pray that we can accept our sufferings, our daily crosses and understand that our crosses are not a punishment from God. Our crosses, when accepted, unite us with Jesus and transform us. Blessed are those who suffer with Christ, they will be comforted right here right now on earth. THEY ARE THE FUTURE SAINTS! They can REJOICE AND BE GLAD! THEIR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN! THEY TRULY BELONG TO THE CHURCH OF THE SAINTS!

Heavenly Father, may you help all of us to keep in our hearts the desire to imitate the examples of your son Jesus, of HIS mother Mary, and of all the Saints who have preceded us in Heaven!

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain



### Religious Education News

**Father Alain and Father Ben will be live on [olhoc.com](http://olhoc.com). on Monday, November 2, at 7 pm.**

All CCD students have been invited used this opportunity to ask our Priests questions.

What is your favorite Bible verse? Why do Priests wear so many clothes? How come we have to make the sign of the Cross before we pray?

Join our Priests live-streamed to see what their answers are!

### Community Outreach

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.

### ~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](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org)



### PRAYING FOR PEACE

Please join Father Alain and Father Ben

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**  
in our church. We will have  
silent Eucharistic Adoration

**10 am through 7 pm.**  
Sign-up online at [ww.olhoc.com](http://ww.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 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  
 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 31, 9:00AM: Maria Alcorta  
 Saturday, October 31, 5:00 PM: Holy Souls  
 Sunday, November 1, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners  
 Sunday, November 1, 10:00 AM: Aragonés Family, Francisca Gagarina (+)  
 Sunday, November 1, 11:30 AM: Jeanne Toney (+)  
 Sunday, November 1, 7:00 PM: Diego & Juliana Palomino (+)  
 Monday, November 2, 9:00 AM: Etammene Family  
 Tuesday, November 3, 9:00 AM: Charles Dako  
 Wednesday, November 4, 9:00 AM: Nehemiah Strawberry  
 Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 PM: Beatrice Dako  
 Thursday, November 5, 9:00 AM: K.D. Dillard (+)  
 Friday, November 5, 9:00 AM: Phillip Dako  
 Friday, November 5, 7:00 PM: Fr. Michal Sajnog

**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](mailto:office@olhoc.org).

**Mass Readings for November 8 , 2020**

***32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time***

**\*First Reading**

**Wisdom 6:12-16**

**\*Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**\*Gospel**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

**[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)**

