

ENTERING "YEAR OF ST JOSEPH "

Today, December 8, 2020, as we celebrated the great Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, POPE FRANCIS surprised all of us: he proclaimed a " YEAR OF ST JOSEPH" beginning immediately and ending on December 8, 2021! I announced this GOOD NEWS at the end of our 7 pm Mass and I now would like to invite all of you to ENTER INTO THIS YEAR OF ST JOSEPH with great JOY and HOPE!

Why is Pope Francis proclaiming this Year of St Joseph today? Exactly 150 years ago, December 8,1870, Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed ST JOSEPH PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH. Recalling that 150th anniversary, Pope Francis announced his proclamation of a special Year of St Joseph and published a new Apostolic Letter " Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), In which he describes St Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. In introducing this new Apostolic Letter, Vatican News mentioned: "*The Holy Father wrote it against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which he says, has helped us to see more clearly the importance of ordinary people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St Joseph, the man who goes unnoticed, daily, discreet, and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation*". I invite all of you to read the entire letter. It is only seven-page long (search the web for Pope Francis Apostolic Letter on St Joseph " with a father's heart", December 8,2020). I hope that you will find it inspirational.

All his life, Pope Francis had a great devotion to St Joseph. Every morning for over 40 years of his priesthood, he has recited a special prayer of devotion and trust to St Joseph. When he became Pope in 2013, he was able to choose the Feast Day of St Joseph, March 19, for the inauguration celebration of his papacy (he was elected a few days earlier on March 13). One of his first decisions as Pope was to include a reference to St Joseph, Mary's Chaste Spouse, in all Eucharistic Prayers of the Mass. Not surprisingly, he concludes his Apostolic Letter by encouraging all of us to pray to St Joseph together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted His only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. AMEN.*

As you know, our parish has received many blessings during special Years of Celebration. We just completed celebrating our 40th Year Anniversary (September 15, 2019- September 15,2020). Over the last 10 years, we have had several other celebrations including the world-wide Year of Faith established by Pope Benedict XVI (ending November 2013) and the Jubilee Year of Mercy established by Pope Francis (December 8,2015- November 20,2016), but also our own parish-centered years, including Year of the Holy Spirit, Year of Fatima, Year of Mary... I look forward to this New Year of St Joseph. Our Marian Group had already recommended several months ago that the next Consecration to Jesus in our parish (just completed one through Mary today) would be through St Joseph and be completed on His Feast Day, March 19, 2021. We also look forward to receiving PLENARY INDULGENCES during the Year of St Joseph. The Apostolic Penitentiary of the Vatican just issued a decree granting specific indulgences through December 8, 2021. This decree details the special conditions of those plenary indulgences. They are being posted on our website and we will summarize them in our next weekly bulletin.

We wish you all a most joyful Third Sunday of Advent. We will light the third Candle of the Advent Wreath, the Candle of JOY! May God give all of us a most blessed and joyful Year of St Joseph and let us proclaim with St Paul (First Thessalonians 5:16-17): " Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain



### Religious Education News

We are already 1/3 of the way into CCD! Please continue your online classes. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

### Community Outreach

We are now collecting food for the Christmas baskets. Boxes are in the Narthex for mac&cheese, fruit cocktail, canned peas and corn, Stove Top stuffing, and boxed potatoes au gratin.

Thank you OLHOC parishioners! The next Outreach meeting will be Jan. 6, 2021, at 7 p.m.!

## Extended Confession Times (through December 13)

**Sundays 6-8 PM**

**Wednesdays 6-8 PM**

**Saturdays 4-6 PM**

*If these times are not convenient, please call the office.*



Christmas Flowers

Please consider donating money for our Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. We are asking \$15 that will be used for Poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary for Christmas.

Envelopes are in the Narthex by the offertory box.



## Are you a lost sheep?

If you miss some of the things happening at Our Lady Help of Christians, you might be missing out of flocknotes.

Flocknotes is an online tool we use to communicate with all our parishioners. You can read Father Alain's weekly column, find out Mass times, or any current events happening in our parish. The information is always up-to-date.

Flocknotes comes directly to your email inbox on Fridays. Never miss any more news at OLHOC!

Sign up on our webpage (just look for the lamb) [www.olhoc.com](http://www.olhoc.com), or call the office and someone will assist you to get the latest information.

Send a picture of your Nativity scene in your yard to office@olhoc.org.

Father Alain and Father Ben can't wait to see them!

### \*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\*\*\*

**-Sanitize your hands before coming into church**

**-Masks are mandatory**

**-Maintain at least a 6 ft distance**

**-If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on [www.olhoc.com](http://www.olhoc.com) -10 am on Sundays**

**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](http://www.olhoc.org/ymteam) or talk to Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)



*We want to have a safe Christmas Season this year.*

*To prepare safely for ALL Masses, we need people willing to step up and help before and after Mass. Help is needed in greeting, ushering, and sanitizing especially for the **Christmas Masses.***

*Sign up sheets are online, or call the office (301)645-7112*

**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  
 Cren Wolden

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  
 John Hoza  
 Mike Spurgeon  
 Mary A. Dyson  
 Kevin Viel Sr.

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

*Please let us know if any names should be removed from this list.*



**Mass Intentions this Week**

**Saturday, December 12, 9:00AM: Larry & Jai Sutton & family**  
**Saturday, December 12, 5:00 PM: Victor & Patricia Fogal & family**  
**Sunday, December 13, 8:30 AM: Thanksgiving to God Armand Ouedrago & family**  
**Sunday, December 13, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners**  
**Sunday, December 13, 11:30 AM: Ed Malm (+)**  
**Sunday, December 13, 7:00 PM: Gabriella & Hugo Jaubert**  
**Monday, December 14, 9:00 AM: Ayokhai family**  
**Tuesday, December 15, 9:00 AM: Rfuino Vinluan Jr. (+)**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 9:00 AM: Joanna Ouedrago (+)**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 PM: Keiry Urrutia**  
**Thursday, December 17, 9:00 AM: AnnaMarie & Jose Gonzales & family**  
**Friday, December 18, 9:00 AM: Steven Dako**

**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 December 20, 2020**

***4th Sunday of Advent***

**\*First Reading**

**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16**

**\*Second Reading**

**Romans 16:25-27**

**\*Gospel**

**Luke 1:26-38**

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

