

January 24, 2021

Time to get vaccinated

"HOPE IS THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL" (Hebrews 6:19). We, Christians, are people of Hope. We know that God loves us and that He has a beautiful plan for each of us. Many people are suffering today because of the continuing pandemic. About 400, 000 Americans have died of Covid-19 within the last 12 months. Everyone has been affected through the loss of a relative or friend. Many are afraid of being infected and have not yet come back to attend Mass at church. Many are asking: *"God, where are you? Why are you allowing this pandemic to continue?"* I always say that GOD IS A GOD OF HOPE! God will never abandon us. We believe in the resurrection of the bodies. We believe in eternal life. We believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. We believe in the Catholic Church. We are never alone on our journey of Faith. We have been praying for the end of the pandemic. We have been using a strict protocol in our own parish, in our own church so as to protect lives. Now that vaccination is available in Charles County, it is a time of hope for all of us. It is TIME TO GET VACCINATED. It is also a time to help one another.

Following much progress in Phase 1-A (inoculation of healthcare providers, long-term residents), since Monday January 18 we have entered Phase 1B (residents aged 75 and older, special needs group homes, developmentally disabled persons, continuity of government workers, childcare providers, teachers, and education staff) and we will enter Phase 1C next Tuesday January 26 (Residents aged 65-74).

Several parishioners have asked me whether they should be vaccinated. My answer is YES. Of course, no one is obliged to be vaccinated. It is your own decision. However, vaccination is a common good. When the entire world was affected by highly contagious diseases like smallpox, its eradication was made possible by nearly everyone being vaccinated. As I said many times, we should not be afraid of the coronavirus, we should put all our efforts in renewing our Faith and putting all our trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One to Save us! He is the only One to give us Peace, Hope and Eternal Life. He is the TRUTH, the only TRUTH! However, we need to use common sense in taking care of the health of our bodies, and in protecting the health of others: our family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and fellow parishioners. This is why we are wearing masks at this time. This is why we keep safe distancing. This is why we wash our hands regularly. This is why we should be vaccinated.

There have been some objections to vaccination based on moral grounds. Our own Archbishop Cardinal Wilton Gregory, together with Baltimore's Archbishop William Lori and other Bishops wrote a joint letter last month explaining why *"it is morally permissible to accept vaccination when there are no alternatives and there is a serious risk to health"* and recommending that *"a Catholic can in good conscience receive the currently available COVID-19 vaccines."* Moreover, they added that *"given the grave risk of harm to others, they strongly encourage the faithful to receive a vaccine against COVID, unless medically indicated otherwise."* (See full text on our website in Coronavirus Section)

Because of logistical issues (shortage of vaccine supplies, difficulties for county in reaching out to those eligible with no access to email), we all have to be patient ...and we also must reach out to those most in need, especially the elderly, and help them in registering. I encourage every parishioner to go to CharlesCountyHealth.org and learn about timing and process to register, or to call 301-609-6717. If you know someone that is over 65 and does not have access to a computer, or do not have an email, please consider being an "helping hand". Let the office know if you would like to volunteer to help others. On the other hand, if you are the one needing help, do not hesitate to contact the office. As we are launching *"The Gift of Love"* as our Lenten Retreat Theme beginning February 18 (day after Ash Wednesday), we invite you to sign up on our website and ask a friend to join you. There is no greater Love than Jesus giving His life for all of us. Let us share His Love with one another. Let us pray that as we face the pandemic challenges together, God will help keep strengthening our parish community: bringing all to Christ, sharing Christ with all, being one in Christ, loving one another through Christ!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

P.S. As this is being sent to the printer, I have just received the first dose of the COVID vaccine at the Regency Blue Crab Stadium (I qualified as 75+). I am happy to report I am still alive! Now I fully understand the process from registration to vaccinated. And I am ready to help others 75+ ... Father Ben, our preschool teachers, and some of our staff are expected to receive their first doses within the next week (they all qualify to protect the children that attend our preschool daily).



Religious Education News

CCD classes have resumed. Please continue to work on any classes you have missed. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

#IStand4Life

Join thousands all over the USA as we **#IStand4Life** virtually for the **ADW VIRTUAL Youth Rally & Mass for Life** which will take place on Friday, January 29th with the pre-rally beginning at 8am, and Mass at 10 am. For more details on how you can view the Virtual Rally & Mass for Life please visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents or www.youthrallyandmassforlife.org

Community Outreach

We are always collecting for the OLHOC "Sharing Sunday" box. All much needed, non-perishable food donated will be taken to the Food Bank and Women's Shelter. Thank you, OLHOC, your generosity has been overwhelming! The next Outreach meeting is February 3, 2021 at 7p.m. on Zoom. The next Shepherd's table is February 18.

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 -10 am on Sundays



Begins Wednesday, February 17, a day of abstinence and fasting. To safely accommodate everyone who would like to receive ashes, Masses will be at **7 am, 9 am, noon, 5 pm, 7 pm (bilingual), and 9 pm.**

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Join us in the Father Martin Hall on Sunday, February 7 for a Superbowl Celebration. If your team is playing or not, we will still have a good, safe time. Refreshments will be available at half-time to help support the Youth Group.

2021 ANNUAL APPEAL

SEEKING CHRIST

"Everyone is looking for you"
(Mark 1:37)

HOW WILL YOU SEEK CHRIST?

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!

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 Suzanna 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
 Kathly Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trena Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

The Dixons
 Grace Albrittitan
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson
 Kevin Viel Sr.
 Ligia Lam
 David Stanley

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



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, January 23, 9:00AM: Myrna Egbufoama
Saturday, January 23, 5:00 PM: Darlene Rutan (+)
Sunday, January 24, 8:30 AM: Elira Andrews (+)
Sunday, January 24, 10:00 AM: Arturo Guerrero (+)
Sunday, January 24, 11:30 AM: Pablo & Isabel Lamayo (+)
Sunday, January 24, 2:30 PM: OLHOC Youth
Sunday, January 24, 7:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
Monday, January 25, 9:00 AM: Philip DiLiberto (+)
Tuesday, January 26, 9:00 AM: Antoine Kanahou (+)
Wednesday, January 27, 9:00 AM: Troubled Youths
Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 PM: Nkiru Lemke
Thursday, January 28, 9:00 AM: Edward Marcus Sr. (+)
Friday, January 29, 8:30 AM : Peter Nikolai (+)

Pray for an end to abortion

"Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness." *Alveda King*

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 January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

***Gospel**

Mark 1:21-28

www.usccb.org





YOUTH NEWS

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation will continue on Sunday, January 24th.

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. Students in Year 1, please check your email for the instructions on how to join the virtual gathering. For more details and questions, visit www.olhoc.com/confirmation-1 or contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

All Youth Night is Back!

Join us on January 24th 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. Please visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents and signup to join us.

Life Teen (High School) Youth Ministry meets in-person on most Sunday's from 1pm - 2:30 pm. Please visit our website to stay informed of our dates and for other upcoming youth events.

Join thousands all over the USA as we **#IStand4Life virtually for the ADW VIRTUAL Youth Rally & Mass for Life which** will take place on Friday, January 29th with the pre-rally beginning at 8am, and Mass at 10 am. For more details on how you can view the Virtual Rally & Mass for Life please visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents or www.youthrallyandmassforlife.org

Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 1-7, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia

We plan to attend Camp Covecrest this coming summer 2021. We will continue to monitor the current pandemic and keep you posted if anything changes. 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/camp2021 Questions, please contact 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