

THE GIFT OF LOVE

THE GIFT OF LOVE is the theme of our Lenten Parish Retreat. THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN TO GIVE ONE'S LIFE for his friends. This is what Jesus did for all of us when dying on the Cross. Yes, all of us are called to become His friends. He is truly GOD. His LOVE is INFINITE.

The great teacher and theologian St Thomas Aquinas (we celebrated his feast day last week) says it more eloquently:

"Why did the Son of God have to suffer for us? There was a great need, and it can be considered in a twofold way: in the first place, as a remedy for sin, and secondly as an example of how to act. It is a remedy, for in the face of all evils which we incur on account of our sins, we have found relief through THE PASSION OF CHRIST. Yet, it is no less an example, for the Passion of Christ completely suffices to fashion our lives. Whoever wishes to live perfectly should do nothing but disdain what Christ disdained on the CROSS and desire what He desired, for the cross exemplifies every virtue. IF YOU SEEK THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE: GREATER LOVE THAN THIS NO MAN HAS, THAN TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS ". SUCH A MAN WAS CHRIST ON THE CROSS. And if He gave His life for us, then it should not be difficult to bear whatever hardships arise for His sake."

As already mentioned to you from the pulpit at Sunday Masses, we would like to invite all of you to join us in a Biblical Walk through Christ's Passion this Lent. We have entitled this Walk with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary: THE GIFT OF LOVE. It is all about Jesus' Amazing Love for us. We will have six sessions at 6: 45 pm on Thursdays beginning on the day after Ash Wednesday (February 18). Through six beautiful videos filmed in the Holy Land, Dr. Edward Sri will guide us through the last hours of Jesus' life. We are confident that we will get closer to Jesus through a deeper understanding of the Mystery of His suffering and death.

We will follow the format of the earlier "GIFT series" (you may recall the first one the GIFT of the HOLY SPIRIT, and some of its successors such as the GIFT of MARY and the GIFT of the EUCHARIST). We will start with Music and Prayer before listening to a video. We will then have small group reflections, and general discussion before concluding with Prayer and Music. Because of the pandemic, we will have a hybrid: some of you may choose to be physically present in the Father Martin Hall (we will keep a safe protocol) while the majority may choose to stay home and join through Zoom.

This will be our Parish Lenten Retreat. It will be a way to walk together spiritually and prepare our entrance into Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. To facilitate the logistics, you are invited to call the office (301-645-7112), or sign up on our website (www.olhoc.org/lent2021) .

Our sufferings on earth may not be comparable to the Agony of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, to the pains of flagellation, the crowning with thorns, the carrying of the Cross, or the dying on the Cross. However, we can learn from Jesus' Passion how to accept God's will including suffering.

Preparation for Lent is a good time to read the Book of Job and to understand how Job was able to endure tribulations as he kept Trust in God. The passage we hear this week-end (Job 7:1-4, 6-7) reminds us of the "drudgery" of man's life on earth, including months of misery, troubled nights, and restlessness. Everything of the world will pass away, but the Words of God will not pass away. God will always be faithful to us.

Our life is a pilgrimage. As we follow Jesus on His Way to Calvary, carrying our own crosses and obeying His commandments, we are filled with HOPE, the HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE: Jesus dying for us on the Cross, conquering death once for all and rising for us so that we too can rise with Him to eternal life! AMEN!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Want to control your healthcare decisions?

The Catholic Advance Health Care Directive is a tool to help you discuss your wishes, to designate who will speak for you, and to talk about the kinds of care you want. Pray about it. Talk about it. And write your wishes down. Visit MDcatholic.org/endoflife for more information.



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.

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 March 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

Blessing of the Throat

February 6/7 after all Masses

"We celebrate the feast of Saint Blaise, who was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We pray in a special way for protection from afflictions of the throat and from other illnesses. The blessing of Saint Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick." (Catholic Prayer: Book of Blessings: Blessing of Throats on the Feast of Saint Blaise-Catholicculture.org)

ALTAR GUILD

As parishioner are being led, by our Lord, to return to Him at Mass and in the Holy Eucharist, the Altar Guild is needing to return to His service. The Altar Guild is calling on parishioner to consider joining and participating in this dynamic ministry as our Lenten Season is upon us. Your support is needed - if you would like to join and/or have any questions, please contact Diane Spurgeon at afbabe1@verizon.net or 301-752-3930

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 Barientos
 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 Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trena Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

Sarah 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.
 Ligia Lam
 David Stanley
 Jim McMahan
 Drew Shuda

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



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, February 6, 9:00AM: Myrna Egbufoama
Saturday, February 6, 5:00 PM: Lorrain McCarthy (+)
Sunday, February 7, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, February 7, 10:00 AM: Juanita Canilas (+)
Sunday, February 7, 11:30 AM: Pregnant women
Sunday, February 7, 7:00 PM: Karen Colón
Monday, February 8, 9:00 AM: Pamela Starsky (+)
Tuesday, February 9, 9:00 AM: Orlando Lagman (+)
Wednesday, February 10, 9:00 AM: Rick Willett (+)
Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 PM: Earl Henry
Thursday, February 11, 9:00 AM: Marie Donnie Joassaint
Friday, February 12, 8:30 AM : Paul Vera (+)

Pregnant? Help is Available

Having a new baby can be exciting and scary. If you need any kind of help during your pregnancy, such as housing, health care, food or rent assistance, maternity and baby clothes, baby supplies, or parenting classes, help is available for you. Call 1-800-712-4357, text HELPLINE to 313131, or visit optionline.org to find the nearest pregnancy resources near you.

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 February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

***Gospel**

Mark 1:29-39

www.usccb.org



33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph February 15– March 19



Let's walk together as a parish for 33 days with St. Joseph, the foster Father of Jesus. We will begin 2 days before Ash Wednesday, and conclude on his feast day, March 19. The daily prayers can be found here:

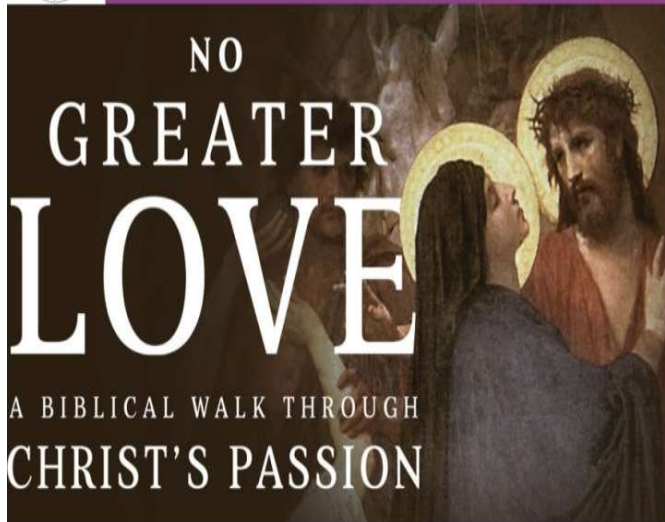
https://www.unleashthegospel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/33-Days-of-Prayers-and-Daily-Challenge_ENGLISH.pdf

“With the phrase “guardian of the mystery of God” used to describe St. Joseph’s role in salvation history, Pope St. John Paul II has left us with a sure point of departure as we begin our 33-Day Consecration to St. Joseph. It is for us, all of us, to become a new creation, to become people who, having been knit together by the Holy Spirit, are now focused and bidden to draw life from the Mystery of God, from the mystery made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, the one who bids us to come after him, called to become faithful guardians of the mystery of God.”

— Bishop Gerard Battersby



Parish Lenten Retreat: The Gift of LOVE (A Biblical Walk Thru Christ's Passion)



A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH
CHRIST'S PASSION

6 Sessions

Thursdays: February 18 - March 25

6:45 pm - 8:30 pm

Study, Music & Fellowship

Location: OLHOC Fr Martin Hall or
via Zoom Meeting

Thousands sought Jesus during his life. Only a few followed him to Calvary.
What will you do?

This Lent, commit to a sacrifice of time and invest in your spiritual life.

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, “No Greater Love” is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ’s amazing love for us. Walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary.

Join fellow parishioners by signing up today:

www.olhoc.org/lent2021

or call the parish office 301-645-7112