

## July 4, 2021: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### THANK YOU FATHER BEN!

We can all be thankful to God for the many gifts Fr. Ben has brought to our parish.

This weekend we will all have plenty of opportunities to show him our appreciation. It is never easy to say goodbye. In French we simply say "Aurevoir", which literally means: "See you again!"

In the last 10 years our parish has been blessed with five parochial vicars: Fr. John, Fr. Lopez, Fr. Santiago, Fr. Philip and Fr. Ben. Each one brought us their pastoral experience of parishes they served before joining us. Each one brought us their very rich personal experience (including in four different countries of origin: USA, Ecuador, Spain and Chile). All of us, parishioners, volunteers, staff and clergy have benefitted greatly from such a diversity of pastoral experiences.

I recall the shock many of you had when our first parochial vicar Fr. John was appointed to another parish only after two years being with us. Why so soon people asked? Our three earlier priests at OLHOC, all pastors, had stayed from six to seventeen years! By now, you all have learned that parochial vicars are transferred more frequently than pastors, but also that all priests promise "OBEDIENCE" to their Bishop and all his successors on the day of their ordination. Some of you have reminded me that "it is the same in the Army, Navy or Air Force" with frequent movements to different bases, including different countries. As I am getting older, I have noticed that our parochial vicars have been getting younger and younger. This is good for our parish: getting new and younger blood!

We can all be grateful to Fr. Ben for his great sense of humor, his enthusiasm, his contagious laugh, his high-level of energy, his inspirational homilies, his passion to assist all parishioners spiritually, his suggestions for spiritual readings and his total commitment to his priestly vocation. He will be remembered for his amazing contribution in a time of "Pandemic" including Livestreaming of Masses on YouTube OLHOC and Outside Adoration in parking lot (with parishioners praying while staying in their cars before going to the drive-through confessions at the foot of Mary on Saturdays).

Beyond his priestly ministry, Fr. Ben has many other talents he also shares with much generosity. You may have noticed that he loves planting flowers and trees. He is a truly accomplished "gardener". One of our volunteers said that "he definitely has a green thumb". Some of our staff also call Fr. Ben "Father Fix-it". Not only he loves fixing what is broken, but he loves to fix things that can be improved (e.g. telephone systems, laptops, computers). As my predecessor's predecessor Father Eamon Dignan, he loves to go on the roof of our church and "fix potential and actual leaks"...He is also an accomplished cook, and this was very helpful during the pandemic. He made sure that the OLHOC pastor will not starve to death. You may have also noticed that he loves "gadgets" and he made sure that our parish rectory would be filled with a large variety of "gadgets"...

We will all miss Father Ben and his successor Father Jan, who will join us July 7, will have big shoes to fill.

Our prayers today go to Fr. Ben. May the triune God continue blessing his priestly ministry! May Fr. Ben continue finding the Love of the Father in his heart. May the Holy Spirit continue guiding Father Ben in his daily decisions. May the Blessed Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary continue inspiring Fr. Ben in sharing with everyone the LOVE and JOY of the UNITED HEARTS of JESUS and MARY!

I would like to wish everyone a most blessed Fourth of July week-end. I also invite you to join us at the end of each Mass this week-end in showing all our appreciation for Father Ben (the only OLHOC Mass he will not be able to attend is the 1 pm Mass). As we have done over the last few years, we will also have special outdoor celebrations for the Fourth of July, which falls on a Sunday this year. We will have outdoor live music beginning at 4 pm (with LIBATION and the music ministry of the COUPLES FOR CHRIST). Bring your own chair and food. Come and sing along. We will pray for our country! We will also watch the traditional display of Fireworks (starting around 9 pm) and will combine these annual evangelization events with the special farewell celebration for Fr. Ben (see flyer distributed in our church and also available on our website).

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain

### Mass Protocol

Following the guidelines by the Archdiocese of Washington, and the state of Maryland, we are making changes to our procedures:

- \*No need to “sign-up” for Mass
- \*We encourage everyone to continue wearing a mask for the time being
- \*Keep 3 ft. between families. If you wish more distance, utilize the side aisles for 6 ft.
- \*If you are feeling ill, please stay home and watch Mass on YouTube

### ***General Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend Mass has been lifted***

The dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day obligation has been lifted. The reinstatement of the obligation to attend Mass begins this weekend. Full in-person participation of the Sunday Eucharist is welcomed, which is the source and summit of our Catholic faith (cf. Code of Canon Law, canon 1246-1247 and Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.2180).

This does not apply to those who are ill, have reason to believe they have been exposed recently to the coronavirus, or any other serious or contagious illness. Anyone confined to a hospital, home or nursing facility, having a serious underlying health condition will continue to have dispensation.

Please consult with Father Alain if you have questions regarding your obligation to attend Mass.

### Community Outreach

“Sharing Sunday” continues for the collection of non-perishable foods for the Food Bank and Family Shelter. The need is as great as ever for families in Waldorf! Your donations can be left in the Fr. Martin Hall all week long. Thank you OLHOC for all your support!

Our next Shepherd’s Table will be on August 19, 2021. The next Outreach meeting will be September 15 at 7 pm in the Father Martin Hall.

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Office will be closed July 5th in observance of the holiday

## Father Ben

*Sunday July 4th is Father Ben’s last day at Our Lady Help of Christians. Please join us after all Masses this weekend to say good-bye to our next S.O.F.A.*

## Religious Education Opening

We are looking for our next Coordinator of Religious Education. It could be you! If you are interested in being a leader in religious education at OLHOC, please see the job description on our website- [www.olhoc.com](http://www.olhoc.com) Interested candidates may send their resume to [pastor@olhoc.org](mailto:pastor@olhoc.org)

**\*We are asked to pray for:**

Brandon Mack  
Nestor Ermelindo Molina  
James Thompson  
Rebecca (Tess) Franch  
Joseph Albrittian  
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

Sheryl Carter  
Alex Leon  
Sharketer Butler  
Steven Bowling  
Edna Yarngo  
Kathly Grimes  
Sheny Padilla  
David Mesler  
Victor Cordero  
Georgiana Norgren  
Marie Bottorf  
Dorian Webster  
Dionne Gause  
Billy Dexter  
Trenia Price  
Erick M. Knapp  
Norm Green  
Sarah Dixon  
Grace Albrittain  
Elaine Moses

Yvonne Buford  
Karen Zimmerman  
Terri Elizabeth McAllister  
Burnette  
Joanne Johnson  
Mike Spurgeon  
Mary A. Dyson  
Kevin Viel Sr.  
Ligia Lam  
David Stanley  
Jim McMahon  
Drew Shuda  
Wilma Cruz  
Fr. Eamon Dignan  
Dr. Michael St. Thomas  
Bessie Davis  
Dorian Webster  
Derrick Webster  
Brandon Mack

Dionne Gause  
Thomas Keim  
Jack Lyons

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

*\*Names will be removed after 3  
months unless you notify the office*



**Mass Intentions this Week**

**Saturday, July 3,**

9:00AM: Guiliana Colindres  
5:00 PM: Jerry Harold

**Sunday, July 4,**

8:30 AM: Danny & Johnny Lam  
10:00AM: Jose & Anna Marie  
Gonzales & family  
11:30 AM: Fr. Ben Garcia  
1:00 PM: Fr. Martin Flum  
7:00 PM: Olga Perez Larios

**Monday, July 5,**

7:00 AM: Christopher Barnes Jr. (+)  
9:00 AM: Carmecita Pineda (+)

**Tuesday, July 6,**

9:00AM: Cristine Morrison (+)

**Wednesday, July 7,**

9:00 AM: Carl Wachsmuth (+)  
7:00 PM: Father Ben Garcia

**Thursday, July 8,**

9:00 AM: Father Ben Garcia

**Friday, July 9,**

7:00 AM: Leon Gonzales  
9:00 AM: Orlando Lagman (+)

*Please remember to pray for the  
Souls in Purgatory*

*“More than four thousand innocent lives are taken each day in this land of the free  
and home of the brave, whose lady holds high the torch of welcome to human life”  
-John Powell, Abortion: the Silent Holocaust*

**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 July 11, 2021**

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**\*First Reading**

**Amos 7:12-15**

**\*Second Reading**

**Ephesians 2:13-18**

**\*Gospel**

**Mark 6:30-34**

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



## ***Divine Mercy Chaplet Saturday, July 2, 2021***

*We begin at 3:00 pm with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed with the Litany for Priest.  
Come pray for those who pray for us.*

### ***James– Pearls for Wise Living Course***

Our next 10-session course will be James – Pearls for Wise Living by Ascension Press.

It will be every Sunday from 13 Jun – 15 Aug 21, 0930 (between the 8:30 and 11:30 Masses), in the Father Martin Hall and via Zoom

Presenter, Jeff Cavins, shows how James' teachings speak to us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our Faith. The Book of James helped a fledgling Church live out its Faith in the face of persecution and a worldview opposed to the gospel and you will discover wisdom you can apply to your own life, now.

To Register on Ascension Press:

<https://study.ascensionpress.com/studies/55902/registrations/new>

Get Workbook (optional):

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/james-pearls-for-wise-living-study-set-1?variant=7553718616100>

Zoom Meeting Link:

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

## **RCIA**

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? For more information, please contact Deacon Rich at [deacon@olhoc.org](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org) or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at [RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com](mailto:RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com)

## ***HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN***

Since last year, OLHOC cut back on many of the services we had paid for. Due to financial restraints, the lawn maintenance is all done by volunteers, we no longer have a staff person to help out with the facilities, and we cut back on our cleaning services to once a week.

Please do your part in helping to keep our church clean.

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

- Wash your hands before coming to Mass and sanitize when entering the church
- We are encouraging everyone to continue wearing their masks for the safety of those who are un-vaccinated
- Maintain a 3 ft distance from non family members. If you prefer 6 ft, please use the side aisles
- If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on [www.olhoc.com](http://www.olhoc.com) at 10 am on Sundays