

August 29, 2021: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

COME AND SEE! TASTE AND SEE!

Tuesday morning (August 24), as every morning I was spending time in silent meditation in the presence of the exposed BLESSED SACRAMENT in our little chapel at the rectory. This is the best moment of my day. A time for silent ADORATION. A time for silent REFLECTION in the presence of the Lord. I was meditating on the Gospel of the day, Feast of St BARTHOLOMEW APOSTLE: JOHN 1:45-51. Three simple WORDS touched me: "COME AND SEE". These are the words Philip told Nathanael, who is identified later as Bartholomew. Philip was filled with the JOY of having encountered Jesus who had asked him: FOLLOW ME! He wanted to share that JOY with his friend Bartholomew: He had just encountered the Messiah. This is what EVANGELIZATION is all about: to be a living WITNESS OF OUR FAITH IN CHRIST, to share the JOY OF OUR FAITH with others and invite them to encounter Christ: COME AND SEE! COME AND SEE JESUS! COME TO MASS!

I was looking at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I was repeating again and again in my heart: COME AND SEE! COME AND SEE! I was SEEING JESUS, right in front of me in the Blessed Sacrament. Then three other simple words came to me: "TASTE AND SEE". TASTE AND SEE: These were the words of Psalm 34 (34: 9a), which we had sung together last Sunday: TASTE AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD! Words very fitting for the Gospel of the day (John 6:60-69) : the amazing end of Jesus' "BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE", the SHOCKING TRUTH that Jesus will give us HIS FLESH TO EAT! A Truth so shocking that many disciples of Jesus then chose to leave him...EVANGELIZATION is also passing on to our children and youth our FAITH IN THE REAL PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST. When we truly believe in the Eucharist, we have this great desire to COME AND SEE JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, TO ADORE HIM, and to TASTE AND SEE HIM AS WE RECEIVE HIM IN THE HOLY COMMUNION: BODY, BLOOD, SOUL AND DIVINITY (all contained in a single consecrated host). As we receive Jesus, we become totally United with HIM. Our souls can be FED SPIRITUALLY. Our souls can have a foretaste of HEAVEN: HEAVEN ON EARTH, being with Jesus right here right now.

Later on the same morning, I was continuing my reading of " In Sinu Jesu", an inspirational book written by a Benedict monk, as a "Journal of a Priest at Prayer" in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. In 2007, Our Lord and Our Lady began to speak to the heart of this monk in the Silence of Adoration. I was now reading his

journal entry of March 30, 2008, Sunday of Divine Mercy: words he heard from Jesus: *"I will not leave you friendless; I am coming to you. It is only a little while now before the WORLD is to SEE ME NO MORE, but YOU CAN SEE ME because I LIVE ON, and you too will have life. When that day comes, you will learn for yourselves that I AM IN MY FATHER, and YOU ARE IN ME, and I AM IN YOU"* (John 14:18-21)...YES, here I WAS SPEAKING OF THE EUCHARIST, the GIFT of my abiding PRESENCE to My Bride, the Church, and this until the end of time. Not One soul who belongs to Me is left friendless in this world so long as the Church continues to do what I commanded on the night before I suffered, in memory of Me. The Most Holy Eucharist is not only My Sacrifice offered to the Father, although in a bloodless manner; it is not only the sustenance of souls, nourishing them with My very Body and Blood; it is also the Sacrament of My divine Friendship, the pledge of My burning desire to remain close to all who seek Me, to all who need Me, to all who would spend time in My company."

WOW!! This was more than a coincidence...It was God's incidence.... a loud and clear message to me about the EUCHARIST at a time when our parish is embarking on an EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL! I invite all of you to reflect on the above powerful words of Jesus as spoken to a Benedictine monk 13 years ago... and apply them to your own relationship with Jesus as you come to encounter Him at Mass.

Heavenly Father, help our parish's Eucharistic Renewal. Send Your Holy Spirit upon each one of us so we can appreciate the richness and fullness of the Paschal Mystery at Mass, especially the greatest miracle on earth : The Son of God, Jesus Christ, humbling Himself to be fully Present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the offered Bread and Wine at Consecration at every Mass every day! And may the Love of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother, help us receive in the Most Holy Communion all the Graces You deem sufficient for doing Your Will!

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain



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

Dr. Michael St. Thomas
Bessie Davis
Brandon Mack
Dionne Gause

Jack Lyons
Margaret Clark
Joan Johnson
Tess Franch

Francesc Franch
Shirley Ehman
**Names will be removed after 3 months unless you notify the office*



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 28,
9:00AM: John family
5:00 PM: Joanna Oudraogo (+)
Sunday, August 29,
8:30 AM: Ed Hevner (+)
10:00AM: OLHOC Parishioners
11:30 AM: Youth of the Parish
1:00 PM: Lydia McAndrew
7:00 PM: Shirley Ehman
Monday, August 30,
7:00 AM: William Kwenkeu
9:00AM: Etbauer family

Tuesday, August 30,
9:00AM: Amado Canare (+)
Wednesday, September 1,
9:00 AM: John Ehman
7:00 PM: Maximus Caesar
Thursday, September 2,
9:00 AM: Anje Michel Etamane
Friday, September 3,
7:00 AM: Fr. Ben Garcia
9:00 AM:
7:00 PM: Nadine Faraella (+)

Please remember to pray for the Souls in Purgatory

COME BACK TO CHURCH– SAFELY

The dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day obligation has been lifted. The reinstatement of the obligation to attend Mass at church began at the end of June.

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 or anyone 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.

We implemented and have regularly adjusted a conservative COVID protocol for OLHOC constantly referencing guidance from CDC, MD state government, Charles County, and Archdiocese of Washington.*

- Masks are required inside our church and building for everyone over the age of five. This applies if you are vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- Maintain 3' social distance between household families.
- Wash hands frequently and use sanitizer when coming to Church.
- Stay home if you feel ill or vulnerable to Covid transmission.

*These may change as situation dictates

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@alhoc.org.

Mass Readings for September 5, 2021

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- *First Reading**
Isaiah 35:4-7a
- *Second Reading**
James 2:1-5
- *Gospel**
Mark 7:31-37

www.usccb.org



Speak Lord, I'm listening!

Parish Registration

We know summer is the time of year when families are moving around.

If you are moving into our parish, welcome!

If you are moving out of the parish, we have enjoyed worshiping with you and hope you will come back and visit.

Forms to register are on our website: <https://olhoc.com/parish-registration>

Please notify the office if you are moving out of the parish
(301)645-7112

Mass Intentions

OLHOC offers Mass intentions for the deceased, the sick, to give thanks, in celebration of a special event, or for someone who may need extra prayer. Dates and times of Masses are on a first come, first served request. A stipend for clergy is usually offered with a Mass intention. The Archdiocese recommends that it be \$10.00. However, the decision is left to the requester of the intention. To request a Mass intention, please come by the office or call.

CCD Registration for 2021-2022

We are now accepting enrollment for the 2021-2022 Religious Education school year.

Pre-k/Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 7th & 8th grades will be in class every Sunday (9:45-11:15 am), or Monday (6:45-8:10 pm)

Special needs classes are held Mondays

(5:30-6:30), RCIC classes will be every Monday from 7-8 pm.

3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades will be blended/hybrid classes. Hybrid classes have the option of attending every other Sunday (9:30-11:15), or Monday (6:45-8:10 pm).

Please sign up online at:

<https://olhoc.com/re> or call the office for guidance.

Catechists needed! If you hear the Lord calling you to share your faith, please speak to one of our Priests, Sister Rosario, Marlen Coles, or call the office.

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 or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

"Life is a Gift From God. The Church's teaching on the dignity of human life is clear. "Human life" states the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person—among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life."

Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila - January 22, 2013

Community Outreach

As we enjoy these warm days of August it is also time to think ahead about the cooler months to come and those who will be in need of warm coats, hats, gloves, etc.

The OLHOC Outreach will again be collecting new and "gently used" outerwear. All donations will be given to Children's Aid Society of Waldorf. A box will be in the Fr. Martin Hall starting in September for your donations. Thank you all in advance!

On August 19th the OLHOC Outreach sponsored a Shepherd's Table dinner of over 120 "take-out" meals! Many thanks go to Dianne and Frank Soloninka, menu coordinators, and all the volunteers who prepared and distributed the meals to those in need in the Waldorf Community.

"Sharing Sunday" remains the same. Our next Shepherd's Table will be on September 16, 2021. The next Outreach meeting will be September 15 at 7 pm in the Father Martin Hall.

Eucharistic Adoration

We have an Adoration Chapel at OLHOC that provides a place for people to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The chapel is open Monday– Friday from 10 am– noon. Please sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-adoration40> Adoration is on Thursdays from 9 pm-10 pm in the church. Please come!

All are welcome!

Pray for Priests- Thursday, September 2nd at 9 pm

Latin Mass- Friday, September 3rd at 7 PM

Divine Mercy- Saturday, September 4th at 3 PM