

September 12, 2021: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

HAPPY 41st OLHOC!

We are entering our fifth decade! We are no longer a baby. HAPPY 41st OLHOC!!! We are getting up in age. But we remain one of the youngest parishes of the Archdiocese. MAY GOD CONTINUE BLESSING our parish and all our parishioners! May we keep the pioneering spirit of our founders!

When Cardinal Hickey established our parish, he put us under the "double" protection of OUR BLESSED MOTHER. First, he chose her as our patron saint. Our name will always remain "OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS". Second, he also chose the Feast Day of OUR LADY OF SORROWS, SEPTEMBER 15, to be the day of our birth.

I will never forget my first day at OLHOC. It was SEPTEMBER 15, 2010, our 30th birthday and we prayed together with our staff in our daily chapel. Then, we had the privilege to have a get-together of our entire parish with all our pastors present: Fr. Peter Alliata, half-Irish/half-Italian (founder, leading our first 7 years 1980-1987), Fr. Eamon Dignan, born in Ireland (led completion of our physical building, and stayed for 17 years), and my predecessor Fr. Thomas Crowley, also 100 percent Irish, born in Pennsylvania (completing six full years at OLHOC).

Our first pastor FATHER ALLIATA just celebrated 60 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD! I was one of the many concelebrants at the Jubilarian Mass celebrated by Cardinal Gregory earlier this year. In the Catholic Standard of July 26 (2021), the Editor Mark Zimmermann wrote a beautiful article about the celebration of Fr. Alliata's 60th anniversary of priesthood' with a picture of Cardinal Gregory presenting him a specially engraved pyx. He also quoted from the OLHOC website:

"Those early years were formative of a wonderful ecumenical spirit that still exists. Knowing that we were a community without a home, the local churches opened their doors and invited us to share their facilities. We celebrated our Saturday evening Mass at Good Shepherd Methodist Church for more than 9 years. The Peace Lutheran community presented us with a key to their front door for evening meetings, on a space-available basis. We formally returned the keys to both churches in June 1990, when we completed the construction of our church."

I wrote recently about our second pastor FATHER DIGNAN as I visited him at St Mary's Center in Leonardtown (see my column of June 27, 2021). It was such a JOY to see a BIG SMILE on his face

when I mentioned WALDORF AND OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS. He may be losing his short-term memory, but he has kept in his heart good remembrances of his 17 years at OLHOC. Like Fr. Alliata, he too was honored for his 60th anniversary of priesthood (two years ago). I renew my invitation to the many parishioner friends of Fr. Dignan to go and visit him (call the St Mary's Center in advance).

Many of you have kept wonderful memories of our third pastor Father Crowley. I still hear from you about his great sense of humor and his great homilies. In his last two assignments as senior priest at Sacred Heart and then pastor at St Francis Xavier, he kept serving the church with much strength and courage despite his failing health. On March 29, 2017, he died at the young age of 67 after completing 41 years of priesthood. He had literally given his entire life to Jesus Christ and the Church. I wrote about him in my column of April 9, 2017. Deacon Bill, his wife Rhonda, and I had visited him at the Leonardtown Hospital just a few days before he died. His last words to all OLHOC Parishioners were: "GIVE THEM ALL MY LOVE AND THANKS FOR THEIR PRAYERS." Every March 29, we will keep offering one Memorial Mass for him at OLHOC. While we keep praying for him, we have begun to ask for his prayers as we hope that by now God has already asked him to join HIM forever and ever in the beautiful paradise we call Heaven. MAY FATHER CROWLEY REST IN PEACE and may he keep praying for us and keep smiling upon us!

As we celebrate our 41st anniversary, we pray that God will continue blessing our "OLHOC PIONEERS", including our first two pastors who together dedicated 24 years of their priesthood to build the solid foundations of our parish. May their spirit of evangelization continue inspiring us! May GOD also bless all parishioners as we enter into a FORMAL YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL at OLHOC beginning this Sunday September 12, 2021, and ending Sunday September 11, 2022! May OUR BLESSED MOTHER keep protecting us and leading us all to her son JESUS CHRIST!

See you all at our picnic after the Outdoor 11:30 am Mass this Sunday September 12!

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, September 11,
9:00AM: Aaliyah Gonzales
5:00 PM: Donna Bowen (+)
Sunday, September 12,
8:30 AM: Felina Famador (+)
10:00AM: Marcus Williams
11:30 AM: Michelle Klein
1:00 PM: Henry Ballestros
7:00 PM: Olhoc Parishioners
Monday, September 13,
7:00 AM: Latoya Garvey (+)
9:00AM: Lena Licamara (+)

Tuesday, September 14,
9:00AM: KD Dillard (+)
Wednesday, September 15,
9:00 AM: Hall, Hazel & Telfair family
7:00 PM: Benedicto Lagman (+)
Thursday, September 16,
9:00 AM: Noah Strawberry
Friday, September 17,
7:00 AM: Thomas Johnson (+)
9:00 AM: Elvira Guerrero (+)

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 19, 2021

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

***Second Reading**
James 3:16-4:3

***Gospel**
Mark 9:30-37

www.usccb.org



Speak Lord, I'm listening!

Domestic Violence

CCD 2021-2022

Begins Next Week

You don't deserve to be abused. Violence at home hurts! You are not alone. During the past difficult year many families suffered more abuse as unemployment increased, alcohol and drug use worsened and the world shrunk to the confines of the home. Now is the time to protect yourself and those who count on you for safety. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 (800) 799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence visit:

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

Catholic families deserve to be safe and loved at home. Yet one out of 4 women, 1 out of 7 men have experienced severe physical violence in an intimate relationship: being kicked, beaten, choked, burned, having a weapon used against them. Families suffering abuse can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 (800) 799-7233. Most Reverend Roy Edward Campbell, Jr, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., will be the presider and homilist for a special vigil mass on domestic violence October 2nd at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. All are invited and need to register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mass-in-observance-of-domestic-violence-awareness-month-washington-dc-tickets-154714424007>

Weekly 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!

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, Emily Vara, or call the office.

RCIA has begun!

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

take my
HAND
not my
LIFE

Pregnant? Help is Available

Call 1-800-712-4357, text HELPLINE to 313131, or visit optionline.org to find the nearest pregnancy resources near you.



"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



We welcomed back our Early Learners this week! Wednesday was the first day for some children who have not have been away from their parents, as well as the "seasoned" veterans who were here last year. There were lots of smiles, and of course some tears as some of the children left their moms for the first time! We have 18 children this year, both Pre-k, and Kindergarten.

Please keep in your prayers Our Lady's Little Christians, as well as their teachers.

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 October 21, 2021. The next Outreach meeting will be this Wednesday at 6:45 pm in the Father Martin Hall.