

## September 19, 2021: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

NEW SIGNS FROM GOD? New "little" miracles?

We had an AWESOME 40-HOUR ADORATION preceding our 41st birthday OUTDOOR MASS and annual picnic. WE THANK GOD for our staff, our clergy and all the volunteers who made these three events possible, including the Altar Guild, Marian Group, the Knights of Columbus, the Couples for Christ and our own Parish Council. God has kept pouring so many blessings on our children, youth, parents, teachers at the beginning of a new School Year!

THE 40-HOUR ANNIVERSARY ADORATION has become MORE and MORE BEAUTIFUL over the last three years. In addition, this year we experienced NEW SIGNS FROM GOD, which could be interpreted as "little" miracles.

The first SIGN from GOD happened during the 17th hour of Adoration, close to 1 pm ,Friday afternoon. A "young" lady (one of our founder parishioners) called me in the Narthex: *"Father, come, come and see ..it is SO BEAUTIFUL"*. I knew that the Adoration set-up was spectacular with over 41 candles of different sizes, so, I was not surprised by her excitement as she was looking through the glass doors ...But she was looking at an awesome spectacle of "shooting stars" falling one after another in a regular rhythm. I could not figure out what was going on. I even got concerned that there may be some small fire behind the golden curtain where the shooting stars were appearing. So, I chose to enter the church and went behind the golden curtain (right side). There was a simple explanation: our volunteers had covered the two skylights with some black plastic to provide more darkness during the daytime and had put sandbags on the side of the two covers to avoid their flying away...Lo and Behold! A gentle breeze (HOLY SPIRIT!) was lifting up with regularity one small corner of the right cover ( right skylight) letting the sun coming down and then disappearing! No special fire to worry about! God was providing us His own mysterious LIGHT!

A second SIGN from GOD happened also at 1 pm the next day (Saturday September 11) just before the conclusion of the 40 hours with BENEDICTION. I was the main celebrant. Many people had gathered in the church. I knelt down at the foot of the altar. I put lots of incense on top of the lighted coals in the thurible (censor). I enjoyed looking at the smoke of the burning incense rising to HEAVEN. As I WAS LOOKING UP, suddenly I felt being BLINDED. I had no idea how such a BRIGHT LIGHT had appeared out of nowhere! I was totally blind for a few seconds. I felt like Saul on his way to Damascus. Maybe God wanted to WAKE ME UP to a new reality, a new CONVERSION in my journey of Faith...Later on, I discovered a simple explanation: like the day before at about the same time, a breeze

(HOLY SPIRIT) had begun to blow over our roof and this time it was stronger and a corner of the left cover (left skylight ) had been lifted up .The sun at this particular time came down exactly upon my eyes as a BRIGHT NARROW BEAM .. People took pictures of that narrow Beam which appeared as a Solid Column of HEAVY INCENSE SMOKE ... A co-incidence of the sun location at 1 pm, a sudden wind, special position of opened corner of skylight and of kneeler at foot of altar? Or, rather GOD's incidence? Was God giving us a message that He loved us to spend long hours of SILENCE in ADORATION of His Son fully present in the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar? To make us feel such LOVE, GOD can choose to SURPRISE US with a SIGN, a little miracle...

At the SUNDAY OUTDOOR MASS, one could sense JOY AND LOVE with the large number of children, youth and families under four large tents. Others stayed in the shade, of trees or of the Church building. The sound system was perfect. I could hear my voice projected almost to St Charles Parkway, a great way to EVANGELIZE! I could feel a sense of HEAVEN ON EARTH at the time of the CONSECRATION: the HOLY SPIRIT descending upon our portable altar located at the foot of the LARGE OUTDOOR CROSS ...

Let us pray that our children and youth, together with their parents and teachers will be BLESSED throughout this New School Year, especially those preparing to receive their SACRAMENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION Let us pray that our High Schoolers will participate in large numbers in our YOUTH ACTIVITIES (LIFETEENS Program)! May the entire parish also focus on the goals and activities selected for OUR YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC RENEWAL that just began last Sunday (41st parish Anniversary) and will continue through our 42nd Anniversary (Sunday September 11, 2022)!

May God also bless our parish as we prepare the 10th ANNIVERSARY of our Hispanic MINISTRY 2022. OUR ENTIRE PARISH IS INVITED. BISHOP DORSONVILLE has agreed to preside this special celebration. MARK YOUR CALENDAR from 5:30 pm till 8 pm (end of 7 pm Mass following Eucharistic Procession, Rosary, blessing two of our new chapels (Our Lady of Guadalupe and Divine Mercy).

Finally, I want to thank the ushers/EMoHCs who have agreed to assist at each Mass during Communion to ensure that EVERYONE receives the BODY OF CHRIST right in front of the priest or Deacon. You are our ANGELS OF TOTAL PROTECTION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST!

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  
Carmella Douglas  
Dorian Webster  
Derrick Webster

Branyah Mack  
Breihanna Mack  
Ernest Mack

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



**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Mass Intentions this Week**

**Saturday, September 18,**

**9:00AM:** Gabriel Auzal (+)  
**5:00 PM:** OLHOC Parishioners

**Sunday, September 19,**

**8:30 AM:** Maria Lam  
**10:00AM:** AnnaMarie & Jose Gonzales & family  
**11:30 AM:** Joeann Price (+)  
**1:00 PM:** Mary's Helping Hands  
**7:00 PM:** Henry Ballestros

**Monday, September 20,**

**7:00 AM:** Virginia & Maria Sinense  
**9:00AM:** Lindsey Ling

**Tuesday, September 21,**

**9:00AM:** Helen Malm (+)

**Wednesday, September 22,**

**9:00 AM:** Patricia Trabanino  
**7:00 PM:** Julie Toscano (+)

**Thursday, September 23,**

**9:00 AM:** Jesus Morales (+)

**Friday, September 24,**

**7:00 AM:** Jesus Morales (+)  
**9:00 AM:** Clare Coles

**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. 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](mailto:office@alhoc.org).

**Mass Readings for September 26, 2021**

**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**\*First Reading**  
**Numbers 11:25-29**

**\*Second Reading**

**James 5:1-6**

**\*Gospel**

**Mark 10:2-16**

**www.usccb.org**



**Speak Lord, I'm listening!**

## Domestic Violence

**CCD 2021-2022**

***Begins today***

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](http://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](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org) or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at [RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://optionline.org) to find the nearest pregnancy resources near you.



"I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is "**Abortion**", because it is a war against the child... A direct killing of the innocent child, "**Murder**" by the mother herself... And if we can accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an **abortion**? As always, we must persuade her with love... And we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts..."

– **St. Mother Teresa**



OLHOC would like to thank the many volunteers who made our 41st Anniversary weekend so special. Many hands and hearts worked to make last weekend a success.

The Marian Group and the Altar Guild (and Father Ben) did so much to make the 40 hours of Adoration very spiritual. The Knights of Columbus made the best hamburgers and hot dogs ever. The Parish Counsel did a wonderful job in setting up the picnic. Libation and Couples for Christ put on a spectacular concert.

And of course, so many people who are not members of any one group or organization who were called, and came to help.

*Bless you All!*

## Community Outreach

Cooler temperatures are coming and we need to prepare. OLHOC Outreach is collecting new and "gently used" coats, hats, gloves, etc. for those in need. A collection box is now set up in the Fr. Martin Hall. Thank you, in advance, for caring! All donations go to the Children's Aid Society Of Waldorf.

Collections for "Sharing Sunday" remain in the Fr. Martin Hall. All nonperishable foods go to the Women's Shelter and Food Bank of Southern Maryland. Thank you all!

The next Outreach meeting is Oct. 6, 2021 at 7 p.m. in Fr. Martin Hall. The next Shepherd's Table is Oct. 21, 2021.

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**Girl Scout Troop 6614** has set up a "little" food pantry in the lobby by the office.

**"If you find yourself in need, this food is here for you indeed.  
And if at home your pantry is full, please leave something here to be charitable"**