

## October 24, 2021: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### SHE LOVED HER CHURCH!

*"Judith (Judy) Tomasky, 73, of Waldorf Maryland unexpectedly began her eternal rest the week of October 3, 2021. Judy was a devout Catholic and a member of Our Lady Help of Christians for 41 years. She was a lifelong accomplished artist, pianist, and photographer, and a loving family member. Time dedicated to her Catholic Faith brought her great pleasure, as she committed many hours each week worshipping and walking the Christian path at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Charles County"* (extracts from obituary).

Many of us were shocked to hear about the unexpected death of Judy. She was one of the pillars of our parish, one of the "OLHOC pioneers" who joined the parish when it was established in 1980. As many of her family members reminded us: "JUDY LOVED HER CHURCH". I have decided to write this column for those of you who have joined our church recently and may have not known Judy. She is an example of the many "active" parishioners who over the last 41 years not only have "loved our church" but have also made our parish "who we are": a welcoming, prayerful and joyful community, a loving "family of families". At the repast organized by our own Marian Group in the Father Martin Hall, her daughter Lisa was talking to Fran Bryner, another of our pioneers, and they were recalling the way Religious Education took place in the homes when the parish did not have its own building. Lisa, like her three brothers, received all their sacraments at OLHOC.

Judy was an active member of our Marian Group. She had a great love for MARY. On Saturday mornings just before the 9 am Mass, Judy led the Rosary for many many years. She believed that Mary was leading her to Jesus. Not surprisingly she was involved in the Committees that helped with the projects of the outdoor Statue of Mary and the large Crucifix. She even sketched a landscape of a proposed "Mary's garden" and took many beautiful pictures of the statue of Mary, including on the very first day the Statue was put into place. I have a large frame of this beautiful picture in my office: with the sunset, Mary was glowing, like gold! At the request of the Marian Group, Judy also wrote a beautiful presentation of "Who is Our Lady Help of Christians". We all need to learn more about our Patroness Saint.

Many parishioners will also remember Judy as one of our dedicated Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion, and as an active member of our Parish Council. Her unexpected death is still a shock for many of us. It reminds all of us that our lives are

fragile, and we need to be ready at all times: none of us knows the day nor the hour when the Lord will decide to call us home. A reminder of the importance to go to confession regularly and attending Mass every Sunday. We will all miss Judy. We will keep praying for the repose of her soul and also for the consolation of all those who mourn her loss.

Last week, on October 13, two days before Judy's Funeral Mass at OLHOC, I had the honor to celebrate a Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the anniversary of the last miracle at Fatima, the miracle of the sun. This was at the invitation of the Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima. While some of our parishioners were present, Judy was with us in spirit. We were about 50 people in the beautiful Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We could feel the presence of Mary and her Spouse the Holy Spirit. In this beautiful month of October, the month of the Rosary, we prayed the special rosary of Our Lady of Fatima, including Scripture readings and special Marian prayers before each decade of the rosary. It was the longest rosary that I ever prayed: it took about 40 minutes. I am confident that Judy would have loved leading that rosary. In remembrance of Judy, I invite all of our parishioners at OLHOC to PRAY ONE ROSARY this week: pray for the repose of the soul of Judy, but also pray for our entire parish, especially for families who face difficulties and also for those who have not yet returned to church (whether confession or Mass) as a result of the pandemic.

In these final days of October, let us remember all our loved ones who have already been called back home by the Lord. This year ALL SAINTS DAY falls on a Monday. It is just one week away! Come and plan to attend one of the four Masses we will have: 7 am, 9 am, noon, and 7 pm. Come also if you can at the 9 am Mass on ALL SOULS DAY Tuesday, November 2nd. Let us pray together:

"May the Divine Assistance remain always in us and may the souls of the Faithful Departed REST IN PEACE!"

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain

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

Bessie Davis  
Brandon Mack  
Dionne Gause  
Jack Lyons  
Margaret Clark  
Joan Johnson  
Tess Franch

Francesc Franch  
Shirley Ehman  
Carmella Douglas  
Dorian Webster  
Derrick Webster  
Gram Baldwin

Branyah Mack  
Breihanna Mack  
Ernest Mac  
David Messler

*Names will be removed after 3 months.*



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

**Saturday, October 23,**

**9:00AM:** Dr. & Mrs. Francoeur and Melanie Magloire (+)

**5:00 PM:** OLHOC Parishioners

**Sunday, October 24,**

**8:30 AM:** Frank & Helen Soloninck (+)

**10:00AM:** James Knapp (+)

**11:30 AM:** Karen Polis & family

**1:00 PM:** Maria Candida Costas (+)

**7:00 PM:** Anastacio Nunez Rodrigues

**Monday, October 25,**

**7:00 AM:** Tomasky family

**9:00AM:**Wanda Davidson (+)

**Tuesday, October 26,**

**9:00AM:** Lois Schwoch (+)

**Wednesday, October 27,**

**9:00 AM:** Nora Kenny

**7:00 PM:** Emelia Lamayo Taqueban(+)

**Thursday, October 28,**

**9:00 AM:** Mary Clement Kiss (+)

**Friday, October 29,**

**7:00 AM:** Fr. Ben Garcia

**9:00 AM:** Carmella Bellino (+)

*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. 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 October 31, 2021**

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**\*First Reading**  
**Deuteronomy 6:2-6**

**\*Second Reading**  
**Hebrews 7:23-28**

**\*Gospel**  
**Mark 12:28b-34**

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



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

## Domestic Violence

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 at 1 (800) 799-7233.

## All Saints Day

A solemn holy day of the Catholic Church, All Saints' Day is celebrated annually on November 1st. The day is dedicated to all those who have attained heaven, the saints of the Church. It is often confused with All Souls Day, observed on November 2, dedicated to those who have died, but are not yet in heaven.

Many souls—billions may already be saints, All Saints Day is in observances tended to focus on Saints recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. Members of the Eastern Orthodox Church, as well as some protestant churches such as Lutheran and Anglican also commemorate All Saints' Day.

It is important to remember these basic facts:

Halloween is a secular holiday that comes the night before All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day is on November 1, and generally a Holy Day of Obligation. All Souls' Day is on November 2, and it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. (Catholic Online)

**Mass times on November 1, 2021: 7 am, 9 am, Noon, and 7 pm**

## 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)

### **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!*

### **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.

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.



### **There Are Several Alternatives To Abortion**

We must educate our young women and girls as to what they are up against.

Tell them abortion is an abomination, a serious sin against God.

Tell them about Birthright and the Crisis Pregnancy Centers in town that will help them.

Tell them abortion is not a quick fix to their problems. They will have repercussions for years to come; an abortion will change their life forever. Tell them abortion is the ultimate child abuse. Tell them adoption is a loving choice; a child brings love. Tell them one child could change the world.

Tell them to give life a chance. We are weeping for the children murdered by abortion and for our country that lets them die.

*Ruth Weber*

*Davenport, Iowa*

### **Community Outreach**

Looking ahead Outreach will now be collecting boxed stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, canned green beans, corn and yams. Your donations may be left in the designated boxes in the Narthex. The Holiday House is there also for monetary donations.

Thank you OLHOC for your continued spirit of helping those in need in our community.

The Coat Drive will continue until the end of October. New and gently used coats, hats, gloves, etc. may be left in the Fr. Martin Hall, and will be taken to Children's Aid and distributed in the coming months.

The "Sharing Sunday" food collection also continues in the Fr. Martin Hall for the Food Bank and Women's Shelter.

The next Outreach meeting will be November 3, 2021 at 7p.m. In the Fr. Martin Hall.

The next Shepherd's Table will be on December 16, 2021 at Good Shepherd Church.

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Dedicated Parishioners are looking for a reliable used car. If anyone is planning on selling a car, please call the office. If anyone is in the position to donate a used car, it will be a blessing to the family in need (it would be a tax deduction for the donor).

Thank you!

#### **BABY BOTTLES**

Baby bottles are in the Narthex. Please pick one up on your way out, and return it with donations for the Catherine Foundation within thirty days. Thank you!