

October 31, 2021: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

I WANT TO SEE!

When was the last time you talked to a blind person? You may have "seen" blind people begging for help at the entrance of a metro station or crossing a busy intersection alone with the help of a white cane or a specially trained dog. But you may not have had the opportunity to become one of their friends. At OLHOC, many of us have been blessed to know two amazing blind persons: Velma and Peter. Both have attended daily and Sunday Masses regularly. Both have become friends for many of us worshipping at Our Lady.

Velma passed away several years ago, and many still remember her as a RCIA teacher. She taught for many years. She did so always with great passion and great love of Christ. Her greatest desire was to pass on her faith to adults preparing to enter the Catholic Church or for already baptized Catholics to receive new sacraments. She loved receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. When she was not longer able to come to church and stayed in a nursing home, she would ask me to come often to hear her Confession and receive Jesus. In addition, some parishioners brought her the Eucharist frequently. Velma taught me the importance of praying for PEACE for everyone.

Peter is much younger, and you can see him at daily Mass or at Sunday Mass. He comes on his own by bus or some parishioners volunteer to pick him up at his home. After daily Mass, you can see him practice learning new skills, using programs on his laptop. He does so with great concentration. With his cane he tries to navigate around our narthex and church without any help. He keeps praying that God will give him back his sight. Peter loves to join those of us praying the Rosary regularly before Mass (8:30 am every morning of the week and 7:30 am every Sunday). I Invite you to join Peter in the Rosary Prayer Group whenever you can. Begin once a week!

Both Velma and Peter are an inspiration for all of us. Both have shown great courage in accepting their loss of sight, and both of them in different ways have discovered the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Both of them have gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly and can inspire everyone to do the same! Both of them have given the opportunity to other parishioners to SERVE them and assist them in so many ways.

In reality, we all have known many many blind people. Not just Velma and Peter. WE ARE ALL BLIND. Yes, we are all blind. We cannot see the reality of our life. Our view is distorted. We cannot see the presence and love of God in our own hearts nor in people around us. We are all like BARTIMAEUS, the blind man in last week's Gospel who was "sitting by the roadside, begging", begging for a change in his life, begging for an encounter with God, the personal God who has created us and is our personal Father, Abba, Daddy, in heaven. Bartimaeus' personal encounter with Jesus is one of the most powerful ones in the entire New Testament. We heard it through Mark's Gospel last Sunday. We hear it every three years, as part of the three-year Liturgical Cycle (we still have another three weeks of readings from Year B, the year of Mark).

Mark describes this amazing encounter in seven short verses (Mark 10:46-52). I invite you to open your Bible and read it again as if you had never read it or heard about it. Put yourself

in the shoes of Bartimaeus and imagine what is going on as you hear that Jesus of Nazareth is coming! Jesus is passing by. Do you BELIEVE that Jesus can heal your spiritual blindness? Do you BELIEVE that Jesus is your Savior, the Savior of the World?

Are you prepared to CRY OUT like Bartimaeus: JESUS! SON OF DAVID! HAVE PITY ON ME"? ARE YOU LISTENING TO JESUS's answer? HE IS CALLING YOU PERSONALLY. Are you ready to meet him? What do you want to receive from HIM? HE IS the Son of God, the MESSIAH, the Savior of the World. HE can do anything for you so that you can follow His Father's will, God's will, not your will. WITH HIM, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE. You will recall the Gospel of two weeks ago: the encounter of Jesus with the RICH YOUNG MAN followed by a discussion between Jesus and his disciples. When they asked: "Then who can be saved? ", Jesus responded very clearly: "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR GOD" (Mark 10: 26-27). Jesus is our ONLY HOPE for Peace today and for Salvation forever.

Jesus is God. He can change our lives, not only today but through eternity. Do you believe it? It does not matter how many challenges, difficulties and tribulations we face today in our lives: within our families, at the workplace or with our friends. JESUS IS ALWAYS PRESENT. HE ALWAYS LOVES US. He even loves us more when we are lost and do not see a way out of our sinful lives, addictions, and anxieties.

This Sunday's readings (Mark 12:28-34 and Deuteronomy 6:2-6) give us HOPE! We are first invited to "FEAR" the Lord, our GOD, to HEAR HIS WORD, and keep HIS commandments throughout the days of our lives. THE PROMISE is that "we will have long life, grow, and prosper the more" (Deuteronomy 6:2-3). Let us take to heart the response that Jesus gives to the scribe's question: "Which is the first of all the commandments?". Let us memorize MOSES' words (Deuteronomy 6:4-6) quoted by Jesus as being the FIRST of all commandments: "Hear, O Israel! THE LORD OUR GOD IS LORD ALONE! You shall LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Let us ask Jesus to help us identify any idols we may worship (money, power, pleasure, prestige etc.) and to reject them. To love God, we need to KNOW HIM (Scriptures, personal prayer, sacraments) and to SURRENDER TO HIM.

As we prepare for All Saints Day (Monday) and All Souls Day (Tuesday), let us write the names of our departed beloved ones in the BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (in the Narthex). Let us ask those who are already in heaven (saints) to pray for our own salvation. Let us also pray for all the souls of our beloved ones that are not already in heaven (saints) and are still in purgatory.

Jesus, help me to see!
Jesus, I want to see you!
Jesus I want to see you in everyone around me, especially
those who suffer!
JESUS, I WANT TO SEE!

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 Mesler

Names will be removed after 3 months.



MASS INTENTIONS
Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, October 30,
9:00AM: Souls in Purgatory
5:00 PM: Charles F Gallagher (+)
Sunday, October 31,
8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
10:00AM: Johnny Norman (+)
11:30 AM: Bri Singsong
1:00 PM: Charles Yates (+)
7:00 PM: Patricia Cardnas
Monday, November 1,
7:00 AM: Etammene Family
9:00AM: Evelyn Umawam (+)
12 PM: All Priests
7:00 PM: Romeo Ramirez (+)

Tuesday, November 2,
9:00AM: Francis Gagarin (+)
Wednesday, November 3,
9:00 AM: Diego & Juliana Palomino (+)
7:00 PM: Sandra Gawler (+)
Thursday, November 4,
9:00 AM: Thomas Family
Friday, November 5,
7:00 AM: Deceased Parishioners of OLHOC
9:00 AM: Nehemiah Strawberry
7:00 PM: Fr. Dignan
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.

Mass Readings for November 7, 2021

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**
1 Kings 17:10-16

***Second Reading**
Hebrews 9:24-28

***Gospel**

Mark 12:38-44

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.

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.

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

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://](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-adoration40)

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[go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-adoration40](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-adoration40)

Adoration is on Thursdays from 9 pm-10 pm in the church. Please come!

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Book of Remembrance is in the Narthex. Please add in the names of your family members who you would like to be remembered and prayed for by church family during the month of November.

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Celebrated at the end of the liturgical year, All Souls Day examines the fruits of redemption. The Saints in heaven are the first fruits, honored on All Saints Day, November 1. The holy souls who have gone through the battle of life, are confirmed in the state of grace, and are certain of eventual beatitude are the second fruits.

How to help-

- Remember your family and friends who are deceased and make an extra sacrifice for them.
- The recital of the Rosary (with its great indulgences) and making the Way of the Cross (which is also richly indulgenced) are excellent means of helping the Holy Souls.
- Attend Mass for the faithful departed on November 2.
- Request a Mass to be offered for the holy soul, on their birthday, the day they died, or any other day.
- Visit a cemetery and pray, even if silently for the departed. Nov. 1-8 you can receive a plenary indulgence when you visit a cemetery on those days and apply it to a soul in purgatory.
- Alms Help The Holy Souls If Given In Their Name.

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

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.



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.

On Oct. 21, 2021 the Outreach of OLHOC sponsored a dinner at Shepherd's Table.

Many thanks go to Joan Dulcey, our menu coordinator, and all our volunteers who planned, prepared and distributed 122 delicious meals. Thank you all!!

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.

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!