

November 7, 2021: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOW CAN I BECOME A SAINT?

My great JOY on ALL SAINTS DAY was that our church was packed with children and their parents! I had nothing to do with this little miracle...This was due to the initiative of Sister Rosario, our Coordinator of Religious Education, with the support of all our CCD teachers and aides. Instead of CCD classes last Monday evening, the entire focus was for CHILDREN, Youth, and their parents to participate in the ALL SAINTS MASS and have a procession with many children dressed as their favorite SAINT. We felt the presence of the Saints in our church: they are an integral part of the Church, and we worship with them at every Mass.

Another little miracle was that our children were reverent throughout the entire Mass. This is a tribute to their teachers and parents. Parents were present and most of the children were sitting next to their teachers. It is my dream that EVERY SUNDAY, before or after CCD Class (9:45-11:15 am) all parents and their children/youth attend MASS TOGETHER AS A FAMILY! We can all pray that we can get closer and closer to achieving that GOAL!

At the beginning of my homily, I asked everyone to raise their hands if they were BAPTIZED. Nearly all hands went up! Then, I asked if they wanted to GO TO HEAVEN. Again, nearly all hands went up. I was almost ready to ask who wanted to go to Heaven right now...but I did not do so to avoid confusing the little children. Most adults would have laughed and almost no one but little children would have raised their hands. None of us is in a hurry to go to heaven, and for good reason. We believe that God is the one who decides the time HE wants to call us back to HIM. WE BELIEVE that HE has a plan for each one of us, without exception. That plan includes a journey on earth leading back to God: going through mountains and valleys, the ups and downs of average lives. He will keep us on earth as long as HE wants to.

HOW can we be SAVED? How can we join all the Saints in Heaven? Last week's readings were about SALVATION. They focused on the GREATEST COMMANDMENT: THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE! Jesus tells us: "I love you so much that I am simply asking you to love me back so that we can always stay together. I know that if you LOVE me and trust me, you will keep my word, you will follow my commandments, including the greatest one of LOVING both GOD AND YOUR NEIGHBOR. I want you to focus on "LISTEN, HEAR" - "SHEMA" in Hebrew. Last Sunday, we heard three times the "SHEMA", the most important prayer for Jewish religion for centuries (Deuteronomy 6:4-6), a prayer that Jesus as a child would have prayed every day with Mary and Joseph:

SHEMA ISRAEL!
ADONAI ELOHENU,
ADONAI EJAD

HEAR O ISRAEL!
THE LORD IS OUR GOD,
THE LORD ALONE

LISTEN O ISRAEL!
THE LORD OUR GOD,
THE LORD IS ONE

"ADONAI" means "LORD" (the Lord GOD) in Hebrew, ELOHENU means "OUR GOD", and "EJAD" means "ONE". THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE. There is no other but OUR GOD, therefore: "you will LOVE the LORD YOUR GOD with all your HEART, with all your SOUL, with all your MIND and with all your STRENGTH". This means that we must LOVE GOD TOTALLY. HOW CAN WE DO IT? GOD LOVES US FIRST. HE will do everything possible to have us stay with him. WITH GOD EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE. We have simply to DESIRE TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ANYONE ELSE AND ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE.

Jesus also mentions the second commandment of LOVE: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF (from Leviticus). As GOD is ONE, so are those TWO Commandments: they are the ONE LAW OF LOVE. GOD IS LOVE (1John 1:4) Later, Jesus gives us a new commandment: LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. Jesus raises the bar; He shows us the greatest possible LOVE: through the Cross, he GIVES HIS LIFE FOR US. JESUS IS OUR LORD: ADONAI. JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR: YESHUA. To go to the Father, we need to go through Jesus: JESUS is the only mediator between GOD the FATHER and us, His humble children and servants. JESUS is the only WAY to HEAVEN. Also, the easiest way to go to Jesus is to go through His mother Mary. This is the way to Salvation: Mary leads us to Jesus and Jesus leads us to Mary. You are all invited to CONSECRATE yourself to Jesus through Mary on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: the 33 days of preparation begin this First Friday November 5. GO to: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/content/total-consecration-jesus-through-mary.cfm>

Heavenly Father, help me to OPEN my ears to YOUR WORD!
Heavenly Father, help me to OPEN my heart to YOUR WORD!
Heavenly Father, help me to OBEY your greatest commandment of LOVE!
Heavenly Father, help me to DESIRE to DO YOUR WILL, not mine!
Heavenly Father, help me to BE A SAINT!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain



P
R
A
Y
E
R

R
E
Q
U
E
S
T
S

&

I
N
T
E
N
T
I
O
N
S

***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, November 6,
9:00AM: Efrain Torres
5:00 PM: Knights of Columbus
Sunday, November 7,
8:30 AM: Agostinho & JeanCouto (+)
10:00AM: OLHOC parishioners
11:30 AM: Fr. Kamana
1:00 PM: Sinclair Ferdinand
7:00 PM: Karina Patricia Zelaya
Monday, November 8,
7:00 AM: Solita V. Clark (+)
9:00AM: Milton Galvan Sr.
Tuesday, November 9,
9:00AM: Danae Glover

Wednesday, November 10,
9:00 AM: Leonard Ita & Chuma Emenike
7:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, November 11,
9:00 AM: Carmen Resurrection (+)
Friday, November 12,
7:00 AM: Maroa :Luisa Ianacio Pico (+)
9:00 AM: Haley Andrews

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 14, 2021

33rd 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!

The Way Retreat

As we continue the important work of ministering to survivors of all forms of abuse across our archdiocese, we recognize that their healing is the responsibility of the entire Church. I write today to share with you that The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington has scheduled two The Way retreats for survivors of abuse, at no cost to attendees. The men's retreat is November 19-21, 2021 and the women's retreat is February 18-20, 2022.

In support of your ministry, we are pleased to share this information with you, in order to promote this opportunity in your parish and personally invite any survivors who could benefit. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. There will be opportunities for professional one-on-one counseling, and spiritual direction. For additional information and details about these retreats, please visit <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/<https://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=79081736&msgid=1230519&act=FD3A&c=686612&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fadw.org%2Fthe-way-retreat%2F&cf=17356&v=e2c1d1daa2dc09790eaa9b2011642b97e1d67a454a585af399c297d061b367c6>>.

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://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a44a4a723a2fa7-adoration40> Adoration is on Thursdays from 9 pm-10 pm in the church. Please come!



Synod Listening Session

The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops! In preparation for the international Synod of Bishops in 2023, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of “For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, and Mission.” You are invited to join Fr. Alain for a parish listening session on **Saturday, November 13, from 9:45 am-12:45 pm.**

We want everyone to participate in this listening session. To RSVP, please sign up on line at www.olhoc.com, or email: office@olhoc.org. If you can't make the parish listening session, share your opinion online at www.adw.org/synod.

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.



COVID 19 VACCINATIONS

On **Sunday, November 7 immediately following the 7 pm Mass**, Charles County Health Department will be in the Father Martin Hall to give COVID 19 shots to anyone who needs one, including ages 5-11.

Prayers at Planned Parenthood

Dear friend of life,

There is a dedicated group of pro-lifers who gather in prayer from 10:00 am until 11:00 am at the Planned Parenthood in Waldorf (3975 St. Charles Parkway, Gateway Plaza, Waldorf, MD 20602) on the second Saturday of each month. Please join us as we pray Saturday, November 13th to peacefully protest the unjust, unlawful and murderous practices of Planned Parenthood. We will be praying for this specific Planned Parenthood to close, along with every single one in our Nation.

Black Catholics Mass

Join us on **Sunday, November 21** at the **11:30 am** Mass. Bishop Roy Campbell will be the presider for the Mass, which will be filled with the history of Black Catholics. A reception will follow the Mass.

1st Communion and Confirmation Workshops

The next workshops for those receiving the Sacraments will be on **Sunday, November 21**. 1st Communion parents will be at from **10:15-11:15 am**, Confirmation parents will begin at **2:30 pm**, with Mass to follow. Attendance is mandatory for parents.

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 "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 December 1, 2021 at 7p.m in the Fr. Martin Hall.

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