

November 21, 2021: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM

"*JESUS CHRIST is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH...Behold, HE is coming amid the clouds, and EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, even those who pierced HIM.*" We have just reached the end of the Liturgical Year. We celebrate CHRIST THE KING and can meditate on the above beginning of the last Book of the Bible: Revelation (1:5-8). I was touched by those five words: "EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM !" Every eye, everyone without exception will see Him even those who have pierced His Heart with major sins. HE IS THE KING OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE. HE is the Ruler and the King of everyone!

Last week we meditated on the meaning for us of THE END OF TIME: the second coming of Christ, the end of the world as we know it: "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away*" says Jesus to his disciples as he is leaving the temple of Jerusalem and knows that his own death is near (Mark 13:31). Every word from Jesus is important. Every word can touch us and change our life. The world will end, but Jesus, the Word of God, will not pass away. After His Passion and Death, HE will rise and ascend to Heaven, but HE will never leave us alone as His LOVE is everlasting, never-ending. HE sends us HIS SPIRIT and HIS promise is that we will have ETERNAL LIFE. We will be with HIM forever and WE WILL SEE HIM AS HE IS: the end of our journey on earth is to return to OUR LORD JESUS and finally SEE HIM AS HE IS. This is the "beatific vision", that eternal peace we will have looking at HIM and no longer at ourselves.

While on earth, can we already SEE JESUS? Or are we still blind like BARTIMAEUS? Is our desire to see Jesus as strong as that of ZACCHAEUS? Are we prepared to humiliate ourselves and climb a tree so that we can SEE JESUS and be SAVED? We are all sinners like Zacchaeus. We are all spiritually blind like Bartimaeus. Do we wish to SEE OUR KING? Do we believe that Jesus is indeed the King of the Universe? Do we believe that His Kingship will last forever? Do we believe that when Jesus will come again at the end of time, "EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, EVEN THOSE WHO PIERCED HIM"? Jesus answered Pilate's question "THEN YOU ARE A KING?" by stating "*You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this, I came into the world to testify to the TRUTH. EVERYONE who belongs to the truth LISTENS TO MY VOICE.*" (John 18:37).

Let us LISTEN to Jesus' voice. Let us avoid the distractions of so many other voices around us. Let us focus on Jesus. Let us HEAR HIS WORD. Let us open

our Bibles at least once a week, especially to reflect on the readings of the coming Sunday, and be prepared to LISTEN to JESUS ' VOICE at Mass. DO WE BELONG TO JESUS totally? DO WE BELIEVE IN HIS MERCIFUL LOVE AND HIS PROMISE OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS, ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM? Do we believe that HE WANTS EVERYONE TO SEE HIM, even those who pierced his heart by major sins? Do we believe HIS MERCY IS INFINITE? Is our greatest desire to see Jesus, and have a personal encounter with Him?

We can encounter HIM in the Confessional. We can SEE HIM and encounter HIM in the EUCHARIST. We can ADORE HIM in the Blessed Sacrament. When you leave the building of the Church, let us keep looking for HIM! HE is out there with us at every moment of our life. Let us ASK HIM to OPEN OUR EARS to HIS VOICE. He is always calling us. He has a plan for each of us: a beautiful plan of love, service, and discipleship. We can SEE HIM in the face of someone suffering, someone hungry, someone sick, someone lost. Let us SHARE OUR GIFTS with those most in need. LET US KEEP OUR EYES ON JESUS and keep doing what HE asks us to DO FOR HIM! Let us not be afraid! He will always provide what we need.

As we celebrate THANKSGIVING this coming Thursday, let us GIVE THANKS to JESUS OUR KING for everything we have: our life, our family, our friends, our employment, our church, our joys, and ...also our crosses which if accepted will transform us in true disciples of Jesus.

Let us pray together: "JESUS, I thank you for being my KING FOREVER. Jesus, I LOVE YOU! Jesus, fill my heart with your LOVE! Jesus, I TRUST IN YOU! Jesus, HELP ME TO SEE YOU in those around me EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE! Jesus, FORGIVE MY SINS and help me to forgive those who have hurt me deeply. JESUS, HELP ME TO LOVE AND SERVE EVERYONE IN YOUR NAME!"

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain



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

**Carmella Douglas
Gram Baldwin
David Mesler
Josephina Knapp
Braelynn Mack**

Nadashata Mack

Names will be removed after 3 months.



MASS INTENTIONS
Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, November 20,
9:00AM: Dennis E. Forgash (+)
5:00 PM: Shawn Donohue (+)
Sunday, November 21,
8:30 AM: Josephina Knapp
10:00AM: Courtney Andrews
11:30 AM: Maria Luisa Pico (+)
7:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
Monday, November 22,
7:00 AM: Carmen Resurreccion (+)
9:00AM: Helen Su (+)
Tuesday, November 23,
9:00AM: John West (+)
Wednesday, November 24,
9:00 AM: Marlen Coles
7:00 PM: Ballestoros Family
Thursday, November 25,
9:00AM: Jose & Anna Marie Gonzales & family
Friday, November 26,
7:00 AM: Denise Ann Rivera (+)
9:00 AM: Jackueline Tabsoba (+)

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 28, 2021

1st Sunday of Advent

***First Reading**
Jeremia 33:14-16

***Second Reading**
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

***Gospel**
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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

Thanksgiving Baskets Sunday distributed, November 21 after Masses

Our Lady Help of Christians provides Thanksgiving food bags to those in need. Food will be ready for delivery on Sunday, **November 21** after Masses. Please come after Mass to the Father Martin Hall, and take a bag to someone who is in need.

Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for organizing this!

Christmas food bags can be asked for by someone in need by calling the office on Wednesday, December 1 after 8 am.

Christmas Flowers



Please consider donating money for our Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. We are asking \$15 that will be used for Poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary for Christmas. Envelopes are in the Narthex by the offertory box.

Mass Opportunities

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Wednesday, December 8th. Masses are at 9 am, noon, and 7 pm (Bilingual)

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Sunday, December 12. In addition to the regular Mass schedule for Sunday, we will also have a Mass at 5 am

Christmas Novena Masses and Posadas: December 15-23 at 7 pm.

Welcome Bishop Roy Campbell
Celebrating our 11:30 am Black Catholic Mass!

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.

Preparation for Total Consecration

Begin Friday, November 5th and finish on

Wednesday, December 8th

(The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception)



33 Days

To Give Your Life Totally
To Christ Through Mary

“True devotion to MARY
leads us closer

to JESUS.” St Louis de Montfort

www.olhoc.org/33day-consecration

“Walk with Mary” on December 11

All are invited to join in our annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Each year, we honor Our Lady through a pilgrimage through the streets of Washington, D.C. Our pilgrimage begins at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concludes at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where together we pray the Rosary and celebrate Mass. For more information, please go to <https://adw.org/media-events/walk-with-mary/>

Our Lady's Little Christians Early Learning Center is hosting a Book Fair!

Last day- November 21 Our school's Book Fair has gone online! Discover new books sure to keep kids reading. Every purchase supports our school. Shop now! <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/olhc>

If you would like to contribute a book/books to the classroom you can set up eWallet so that the teachers, Kendra Hunt or Cindy Torres, can purchase the books that will be relevant to the student units and the children's interest. Thank you for your participation.

Youth

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation will continue on Sunday, November 21st. This is the parish sacramental preparation for Confirmation for students (who are in catholic school, public school or homeschooled), parent(s), and mentors, (sponsors are always welcome). The workshop will begin at 2:30 pm and All Youth Night from 5pm-6:30 pm. For more details and questions, visit www.olhoc.com/confirmation-1 or contact Gracie Lopez youth@olhoc.org

All Youth Night is Back! Join us on November 21st for youth in EDGE (middle school) and Life Teen (high school) from 4-5:30 pm. Invite some friends to join you for some faith, fun and fellowship. Unfortunately at this time, we will not be offering FIAT (elementary) after Mass, we will keep you posted when FIAT will resume. Please visit www.olhoc.org/ynevents for more details.

Life Teen (High School) Youth Ministry meets in-person on most Sunday's from 1pm - 2:30 pm. Please visit our website to stay informed of our upcoming dates and for other youth events.

Youth Core Team If you are interested in joining our Youth Core team, be a Confirmation Mentor, or learn more about ways to volunteer with the youth, please visit www.olhoc.org/ynteam or talk to Gracie Lopez youth@olhoc.org

A Mass of Thanksgiving

There will be a special **Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Food** at OLHOC on Wednesday, **November 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM**. Join us for this start to your holiday!

The office will be closed November 25 and 26, so our staff can enjoy the holiday with their families.