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FAITHFUL**

©LPI

***Welcome to
Our Lady of the Chesapeake
A Christian Community in the Roman Catholic Tradition
8325 Ventnor Road, Pasadena, MD 21122***

Phone: 410-255-3677

Fax: 410-437-7527 www.olchesapeake.org

Weekday Masses: Tuesday—Friday, 9:00am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5:00pm,

Sunday 8:30am, & 10:30am,

Rosary: Sundays 8:00am

***New Parishioners may register online
or at our Pastoral Office any Weekday from 8:00AM - 3:00PM***

Welcome

Rev. Brian "Raff" Rafferty, STL

Pastor

Rick Clemens	Deacon
Tim Janiszewski	Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister
Judy Glinka	Adm. Assistant/Business Manager
Stacey Beres	Dir. of Religious Ed./Admin. Assist.
Sr. Sally Russell	Dir. of Adult Faith Formation
Donna Moran	Hall Manager/Development
Macey Glinka	Facilities Manager
Rodney Armero	Director of Worship Music
Charles Alexander	Assist. Director of Worship Music

Parish Support

Suzzane Keys	Pastoral Council Chair
Judy Glinka	Altar Society
Janet Cogliano	Lectors
Joseph Borchetti	Eucharistic Ministers
Daria Breslin, daria.breslin@verizon.net	Altar Server Ministry
Luke Hogue	Ushers
Mary Laber	Social Justice Ministry
Mary Mulcahy	Bereavement Ministry
Mary Helen Gurney	Evangelization Ministry
Kathy Clifford, Sr. Sally Russell	R.C.I.A.
John Donnelly	Knights of Columbus
Susan Israel	Prayer Line
Paula Gentile	Respect Life
Angie Stull	Associate Accompanist
Joyce Heid	Wellness Ministry, Bulletin Web Editor

Sacraments

Baptisms: Baptisms are usually held every month on selected Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Please call to schedule.

Reconciliation: Saturday after the 5:00PM Mass; anytime by appointment.

Sacraments: Please contact the Pastoral Office for information, 410-255-3677.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: All those interested in living the faith in our Roman Catholic tradition are welcome. The program begins in September and culminates in May.

FREE nursery program for OLC children age 5 and under

10:30 am Mass in the Lauer wing of the Gathering Place.
If interested please visit the OLC Website for Tips for Parents
and a Registration Form or contact Suzanne Keys at
suzannembryant@yahoo.com

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday:

Vigil:

Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight:

Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn:

Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day:

Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday:

1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Friday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday:

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Hi Gang,

Merry Christmas! Presuming (first) it is Christmas Eve or The Big Day itself and (second) you are reading this at a Mass celebrated by my younger, taller and more handsome twin, Fr. Andy Costello, this note is for you. Also the sealed note you found in today's Bulletin is also for you. **DO NOT open it until Mass is over.**

The Gist of my Christmas remarks is the centrality of our Moms and Dads in enabling our young Catholics in developing a good conscience. It seems most appropriate to address this at Christmas because that is when Mary and Joseph began with their own bundle of joy.

It's that simple. You present day Moms and Dads are the Mary and Joseph of your terrific family and my Christmas present to you and yours is **Raff's Guide to a confident and reassured conscience in a time of uncertainty (From Genesis to the Present)**

Coming to you this Christmas at no extra charge, this OLC (free) gift will guarantee you can be assured of the reliability of your conscience, conclusions and decisions into 2018 and beyond. No other parish can make this statement!

Now stop reading this and talking and pay attention to the Mass and again, **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Raff & Co.

**Please join us at Our Lady of the Chesapeake on February 6, 2018 at 7pm for
" A Life Worth Taking a Risk For: The Story of One Syrian Family".**

Elias Bakhsh, from Aleppo, Syria, is the second oldest of four children. Born in 1987, he studied mechanical engineering and graduated in 2011 from Aleppo University, just as the war in Syria was erupting. After living and working in Jordan for about 18 months, he moved to Turkey and worked with Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) providing safe water access for Syrian refugees. JRS is a CRS partner in the water projects Elias worked on through our Syria emergency response, which also includes sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion.

Elias' family is now scattered all over the world. His mother and one of his sisters took a tremendous risk migrating by boat to seek safety in Austria. His father and another sister are still in Syria after several attempts to get out. And his brother is in Turkey designing water access for the Syrian refugees.

In the fall of 2016, Elias moved to the United States to continue his education toward a master's degree in sustainable engineering at Villanova University.

***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
meets Wednesdays 7pm in the Maryland Suite in the Church.***

Each one is a missionary disciple by inviting persons who are not Catholic, or who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation to consider the RCIA process of becoming Catholic or completing the sacraments of initiation. Many persons observe your kindness and faithfulness. You have the grace to invite others to join us in our journey of faith. If you know of anyone who might consider the RCIA, please have a conversation with them about our faith.

Contact Sister Sally: srussell@olchesapeake.org; 410-255-3677 Ect. 104

**Holiday Schedule
January 1st 9:30 am Mass - in the Church**

From the Desk of Sister Sally: May your Advent desire become Christmas PEACE!

Join us for Contemplative Prayer!

Still your thoughts and emotions and focus on God's presence.

Next session: Tuesday, January 9th at 9:45am and 7:00pm.

There will be no Contemplative Prayer in Church on Tuesday, December 26th.

**Anyone interested in Spiritual Direction or walking the Labyrinth, please contact Sister Sally:
srussell@olchesapeake.org or 410-255-3677 EXT. 104**

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown. ...
the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed...*

For a Child is born to us.... they name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

*His dominion is vast and forever peaceful...which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever,
He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.*

*For today in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will
find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in the manger.*

*The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to ... live temperately, justly, and devoutly...
eager to do what is good.*

(texts from the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord – During the Night)

In the texts for Christmas, including the readings given us for the Mass at Dawn and During the Day, one hears the ache of a people who have suffered endlessly, longing for one who would set them free and establish a kingdom of peace and justice. We also hear the fulfillment of that hope and promise: in Jesus, a savior is born, the “grace of God has appeared,” now we will enjoy a time of prosperity and peace. But wait... fulfillment?

I wonder what first century Christians would say if they were to travel through time and see our world today. Maybe something like this, “There are over 65 million refugees in the world today, not just from fighting between nations, but fighting within nations?!? People don’t agree on how to take care of our common home, our earth, one of the most precious gifts given to us next to life itself?!? But where is the peace that God’s saving power ushered in through Jesus? Is there peace in your communities, your homes, your hearts?”

We keep forgetting that God’s coming is not only a past event in human history, but a continual present and future reality. God did not come in human form to live, die and rise and then leave the rest for us to figure out. We are not just hanging out passively until God comes again in glory. Like good parents whose relationships with their children transform as they mature, Jesus’s arrival was only the beginning of our maturing relationship with God as we learn to be people of peace, creating a more just and peaceful world.

In Jesus, the eternal birthing of God arrives in humanity for all time and all space; not in a flash of power and authority but in the wonder-full ordinariness of a young Jewish woman giving birth after nurturing in her own body a growing life for nine months. God comes to us in a small gift, in the helpless vulnerability of a baby. How does God come to us and invite our maturing? We might look in ordinary places like our homes and our work places; we might try noticing small things like the urge to forgive one who has hurt us, the desire for reconciliation in our families, the longing for better health. We might look to our communities to those who need refuge, shelter, food, employment; what one thing can I do to make a difference in someone’s life?

In *The Reed of God*, Caryl Houselander, a lay catholic woman of the early 20th century writes:

“if Christ is growing in us, if we are at peace, recollected, because we know that however insignificant our life seems to be, from it He is forming Himself; if we go with eager wills, ‘in haste,’ to wherever our circumstances compel us, because we believe that He desires to be in that place, we shall find that we are driven more and more to act on the impulse of His love.

“And the answer we shall get from others to those impulses will be an awakening into life, or the leap into joy of the already wakened life within them.

“It is only necessary to give ourselves to that life (growing within us)...to pray without ceasing, not by a continual effort to concentrate our minds but by a growing awareness that Christ is being formed in our lives from what we are. We must trust him for this...”

The Grace of God has appeared... may Christ find a welcome home in our hearts today and in the days to come.

Diane Jorgensen: Creighton University

RESPECT LIFE.....Building A Culture of Life *Respecting the Dignity of All God's People*

"Only a lack of love is responsible for poverty. It is a result of our refusal to share with others. Poverty is not created by God, It's made by you and me.. We are responsible for it because we don't share. Even God will not force us to do good. We must choose to do the good."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta in the book Lessons of Love and Secrets of Sanctity by Susan Conroy

WHEN IN NEED

Pregnant Need Help? Call the Gabriel Network 1-800-Angel-OK Material Assistance for Babies? Call Mary's Center 410-761-8082

Suffering Abortion Post Stress? Call Project Rachel Baltimore 410-625-8491 or projectrachel@archbalt.org

End of Life Issues Need Advice? Contact the National Catholic Bioethics Center at www.ncbcenter.org/consultation/submit-request/ or call 215-877-2660



The Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of the Chesapeake will meet the first Wednesday of the month, December 6th at 7:30 P.M. in the Lauer building. All Knights are invited. There will be no second meeting in December. For more information contact John Donnelly at 410-437-0116, or sandysue@cablespeed.com.

OLC Winter Relief

Our Lady of Chesapeake will be hosting 35 men from the House of Hope for the week of 1/15 to 1/22/2018. We set up the shelter in our Gathering Space and provide hot meals, warm beds, clothing and many other services during the week. We still have opportunities available for OLC parishioners to join us. You can view our schedule for the week and sign up for volunteer spots at signup.com/go/WYzakOU or by contacting Mary Cooley at marydcooley@gmail.com or 410 353 0079.

We are also in need of some donations for our guests and shelter. At the request of the House of Hope we are asked to limit our collection to the following items:

Men's blue jeans and t-shirts

Men's coats

Men's socks (tube and wool)

Men's long underwear

Twin size blankets and sheets

Zippered pillow covers

New pillows

Travel sized deodorant and toiletries

Disposable razors

Small denomination gift cards (McDonalds, Burger King, Food Lion, Dollar Tree, Cell phone cards)

You may bring items to OLC after January 1st. Thank you in advance for you help with this much needed ministry.

Our Lady of the Chesapeake Prayer Line

Available 24/7 by emailing info@olchesapeake.org

Pray for: Tina A. and Family, Stephen, Cory H., Janeen N., Shannon, Alex R., Gloria L, and Carmelina D., Malcolm, Jane, Nicole, Shawn, Samantha and Pat H., Maryanne J., Danny J., Caitlyn K., Phyllis H., Bill P. and family, Richard S., Ty P., David S. and family, Pat D., Sam, Oliver Family, Jake C., Barb, Bonnie, Jim C., Cheryl A., Dorothy P., Jim, Jeffrey S., Sharon P., Marcy P., Scott H., James C., Tom K., Carol H., Dorothy W., Frank C., JoAnn C., Bob K., Katie S., Ed & Ruth S., Beth V., Joe C., Elizabeth H., Zachary H., Mary Ann R., Michael E., Joseph D., Stan, Shelley, Diane B., Beth V., John H., Kay J., Jennifer, Ryan, Michael E., Ken S., Peter W., Janice H., Phyllis C., Mary Anna A., Iris A., Michael, Mark A., Barbara L., Nick B., Steve and Phyllis L., Sharon R., Ashley H., Marsha S., Helen D., Betty Y., Brian G., Lilly, the Cicero Family, Deter Family and the Matassa Families, Dave, Michael P, Ollie, Tanner C., Dave, Denise, Jim C., Carlson Family, Kevin & Janie N., Lynn C., Anita R., Kathy H., Katrina S., Ron C., Jeff A., Vernie E., Michele T., John M., Vernie E., Joanna, Betsy, Lou, Jodi, Paul R., Barb K., Ella J., Kelani W., Caleb W., Mikky, Sherry, Bonnie M., Carlos T. and family, Walter G., Kate R., Julio, Sebastian S., Michael, Nick, Leonard S. and family, Marie, Lisa W., Judy L. Pam D., August L., Rose B., Jason N., Dick C. Jenni, Matt, Jason R., Jeannie, Bob L., Bill H.

Usually only first names are listed to ensure privacy—don't worry, when you pray God knows who you are talking about!

To become a Prayer Partner contact Susan Israel at suisrael9@comcast.net or Stacey or Judy at info@olchesapeake.org

Youth Ministry

Middle School Youth Ministry

We just completed our second Session of the year on **Prayer**. Last Monday, Dec. 18th, we concluded our session on Prayer, and the students had an opportunity to investigate and pray the **Rosary**. When practiced properly, which it often is not, the rosary can be an extremely effective form of meditative prayer, which the students found out! We also had our **Christmas Party** at the end of the meeting. Many thanks to all the parents that made delicious treats for us!

We do not have class on Monday, Dec. 25th and Monday, Jan. 1st. Our Monday afternoon religious education/faith formation meetings **begin again on Monday, Jan. 8th, 2018**, when we will begin our third session of the year on **Sexuality**. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Our MSYM sponsored a church **Clean and Shine** event on Sunday, December 17th. The students helped to make the inside of OLC look beautiful for Christmas. It is their gift to the parish! Thank you to all the students who worked hard and did a great job...and thank you to all the parents who came and made the afternoon possible!

High School Youth Ministry

Last Sunday, Dec. 17th, we completed **Session 2 - Advent!** We investigated the Gospel reading from Sunday (Luke 1: 26-38) and discovered that God decided to become one of us, be born just like us, live and grow among us, heal and teach us, and eventually save us...all of which sounds kind of crazy...**because God is crazy in love with us!** The students discussed what they thought love is, and learned that love is not just a noun, but a verb...love is something we don't just feel, but something we do! Love, God-like love, is sacrificial in nature; it always puts the well-being of the "other" ahead of self. (Parents are often a good example of this kind of love.) The students shared that they do this on a regular basis by serving others, even in small ways, and they can be more intentional about it by praying for God's help every day. Advent is all about love. Now...go out and live it!

We also ended our meeting with a **Christmas Party**...thank you to everyone who brought in holiday treats to share!

Our Sunday evening faith formation meetings will be on break until Sunday, Jan. 8th, when we begin **Session 3 entitled "Pressures"**. However, our Wednesday evening faith formation meetings run year round (see below), so come join us please! If you have any questions, please contact Tim Janiszewski (410-255-3677).

We have a few **ACTIVITIES** on the near horizon (or recently behind us)...

Lazer Tag and Movie Lock-in - Fri./Sat., Dec. 15th/16th. We took over 40 people with us to see *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, followed by lazer tag for 3 hours. The movie and lazer tag were great. Thanks to all the parents/chaperones who made the trip possible and more fun!

Making Blankets for our January Winter Relief Guests – Sun., Dec. 17th. Thanks to everyone who sent in blanket material, and to all the generous students who made blankets.

HSYM Christmas Eve Mass – Sat., Dec. 24th at **3:30pm in the Hall** (we need students to serve!).

On Friday, Jan. 19th, we are heading to Washington, D.C. to take part in the **Rally and March for Life**. At the Rally before the March, we will join 20,000 other catholic high school students at the Verizon Center for a Rally with great music, talks, and a Mass. It is a most worthy cause and a great experience, worth taking a day off of school if necessary. Flyers are available SOON in the box on the Business Office door in the church lobby and will be e-mailed to parents.

Friday evening, January 26th, the high school students will host their annual **Game Night for the Winter Relief** – come and play cards, board games, watch television, and spend some quality time with our guests. In order for the students to attend, one of their own parents must attend with them. It's a great evening; please consider joining us. Flyers are available SOON in the box on the Business Office door in the church lobby and will be e-mailed to parents. RSVP is required in advance (we are limited in the number of students that can participate).

Also on Friday evening, January 26th, the HSYM is making and serving **Dessert for the Winter Relief** guests. In order for the students to attend this year, one of their own parents must attend with them. But students don't need to attend if they just want to make a dessert (individually wrapped). Please consider serving.

Wednesday Night Group

Our Wednesday Night Group is a **voluntary faith formation group** for high school students. If you are in 9th-12th grade and you're interested in pursuing your faith beyond what we do Sunday evening, AND in a relaxed setting, come join us please! (Note: Our Sunday evening meetings are wonderful with great content; the WNG is more relaxed, and yet deeper discussions.) While we have evenings of deep discussion on matters of faith, current events, and prayer, we also include evenings of community building, such as games, fun field trips, and service. And we've got some GREAT EATS! The schedule for the entire Fall (Sept. - Dec.) has been e-mailed to parents, and we will post here in the bulletin the upcoming month's schedule. So...if you are in 9th-12th grade, come join us please Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Here's our schedule for the next month...

Date Activity

Dec. 27 **What's Going on with You? w/Baked Ziti and Garlic Bread** It's important we stay in touch with one another personally, so we're doing this again...catching up with one another's lives. And we'll enjoy fresh baked ziti with garlic bread.

If you have any questions about Youth Ministry, please contact Tim Janiszewski (410-255-3677 or timjalc@verizon.net). If you're uncertain whether or not you are on our e-mail list, please let Tim know so he can add you to it.