

January 1, 2017

Mary, Mother of God, Mary, Mother of Peace,
Mary, Queen of Peace!

As we enter the **New Year 2017**, we turn toward Mary, our Mother in Heaven! On the first day of every new year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the **Holy Mother of God**. We have just rejoiced in the coming on earth of the Son of God a week ago. We now **rejoice** in acknowledging that Mary, as Mother of Jesus, is also the Mother of God, as Jesus is truly both Man and God. We **rejoice** as we now have a **Mother** always ready to intercede for us in heaven! In the same way **Jesus** came to us through **Mary**, we too can come to **Jesus** through **Mary: Mary leads us to Jesus!**

It is not by accident that we continue to celebrate the first day of every new year as the **World Day of Peace!** At Christmas, we celebrated the infant **Jesus** as the **Prince of Peace!** As Mary is the Mother of God, she is also the Mother of the Prince of Peace, she is the **Queen of Peace**. All of us search for peace. Peace in the World! Peace in our country! Peace in our own community! Peace in our own families! Peace in our own hearts! We cannot find peace unless we turn our hearts toward God and we cannot change alone: Mary, our Mother, is always ready to help us to change!

God is all merciful! **God is Mercy...**and Mary, the Mother of God is also the **Mother of Mercy!** Mercy and Peace! In the same way Mary leads us to Jesus, Mary also leads us to the **merciful love of God**. We have just completed a Holy Year of Mercy. As I announced earlier, our parish has just begun a new liturgical year focused on Mary, Mother of Mercy as we are preparing to celebrate the **100th Anniversary** (on May 13, 2017) of the first apparition of Mary at **Fatima**. The message of Mary at Fatima was a message of peace for the whole world (in the middle of World War I), but also a message for the need for **reparation of sin**: reparation of the sins of the world, reparation of our individual sins. Today, 100 years later, the message of Fatima remains relevant: we may not have a full-fledged World War III as in the first two World Wars; we are facing an increase of global terrorism affecting all countries, as well as continuing or escalating wars in many countries –Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, at the same time including Libya, Somalia, Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan. So, we need to continue to pray for **peace**, not only today, on the World Day of Peace, but every day of our lives. Peace begins in the heart of each one of us. To attain that individual peace, we have to receive God’s mercy, we have to pray for the reparation of our sins and those of the whole world (as relevant today as it was 100 years ago, when communism was emerging as a threat to our Christian world).

Let us pray that **Our Lady** will inspire each of us and the whole world in turning toward **God** throughout the whole **New Year 2017!** Let us pray the **Holy Spirit** will continue to inspire and guide all of us at **OLHOC!** May each one of us

Mass Intention

Saturday, Dec. 31, 9:00 AM: Michael & Sylvia (+) Dako
Sunday, Jan. 1, 8:30 AM: George Albrittain +
Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, Jan. 1, 11:30 AM: Edward Beau +
Wednesday, Jan. 4, 9:00 AM: Special Intention

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Fr. Thomas Crowley, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Chelsea Soloninka, Susan Walker, Janina Sidor-ska, Bill Newman, Jordan Hamacek, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, John Lohman, Wilhelmina Franck, Robbie Atchinson, Tabitha Barton, Patricia Gentile Stepp, Isabel Smith, Michael Sofield Jr., Elinore Fortney, Ron Chil-coat, Patricia Moffat, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joassaint, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Shirley Williams, Caroline Buoy, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr. Emiliano Hilario, Phillip Green, Doris Chesley, Carl Burch, Betsy Kiss, Patricia & James Robey, Dick White, Ada John-son, James Thompson, Sean Guido, Marcus Williams, Val-erie Eddy, and all our military and civilians serving in harm’s way.

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Mass Readings for January 8, 2017

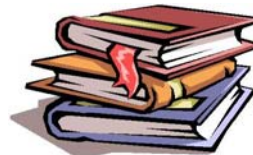
The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading- Isaiah 60: vs. 1-6

Second Reading- Ephesians 3: vs. 2-3a,5-6

Gospel-Matthew 2: vs. 1-12

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Save the Date

Hopefully, parishioners are enjoying the book given out as a gift at Christmas. Please mark your calendar to join us on **Thursday, January 26, at 7 pm** for the group discussion of the book, “The Lamb’s Supper” by Dr. Scott Hahn. Each year this is an evening of fellowship and inspiration!

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(cont.) be able to deepen our personal relationships with **Jesus!** May each of us strive to become an **intentional** disciple of Christ, putting Christ truly at the center of our lives!

May God bless all of us, our families and all of our friends in the New Year 2017!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2016-2017 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Jan. 1/2- New Year's Break (No CCD)

Jan. 3- RE Advisory Board- 7 pm

Jan. 5- Conf. Yr 2 General Session #3- 7 pm

Jan. 8/9- CCD Resumes

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org

Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (meets weekly)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)

FIAT: elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

Attention Families!!

The next **All-Youth Night (FIAT, Edge and Life Teen)** will be **Dec. 18** and will begin with **4:00 PM Mass!** See the website at olhoc.org/ym.

Upcoming Youth Events

Don't miss out on the many wonderful opportunities we have for our youth of all ages. We still have spots available for the **March for Life**, the **Life Teen Summer Camp** in Georgia, **Steubenville Youth Conference** and many more upcoming events. For more info and an update list of our events, please visit www.olhoc.org/ym or contact Marlen at marlen@olhoc.org.

Opportunity Knocks!

This week there are opportunities for those already involved in, or those who want to be involved in, our OLHOC Religious Education program:

- **Religious Education Advisory Board** meets three times throughout the year and is **open to anyone in the parish** (catechists, parents, interested parishioners, and confirmed youth) who have ideas, suggestions, concerns, questions, etc. about our Religious Education Program. Join us Tuesday, January 3rd at 7 p.m. Can't attend? Send your thoughts to Therese at dre@olhoc.org.
- **Religious Education Volunteers** (adult and youth) are invited to our mid-year in-house retreat on Saturday, January 7th, beginning with 9 a.m. Mass. Those interested in becoming volunteers with the program are most welcome to attend as well.



The Children's Christmas Pageant

Many thanks to the participants of the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant including members of the Youth Choir, the Children's Choir and parish families. You were tremendous!

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

- Fall registration begins **January 3, 2017**, for **parishioners and families of former OLLC students.**
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

The next Community Outreach Meeting is on **January 4, 2017 at 7 pm.** All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2016** at Good Shepherd Church.

We are in need of Menu coordinators for **February, March and April 2017.** Please consider volunteering with a friend or two. It involves creating a simple menu, some shopping and prep work with many "experienced" hands to help. The whole process is very rewarding and so much fun!

Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link. or sign-up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We are planning a meeting of all current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and those who minister to the Sick and Homebound on **Saturday, January 21, 2017**, from **12 noon to 3 pm.** The meeting will begin at noon with a potluck lunch. A **response** is requested **no later than January 8, 2017.** Please respond via email to Deacon Rich (deacon@olhoc.org).



Office Closed

The OLHOC church office will be **closed** January 2, 2017. The **Parish Staff** wishes everyone a **Holy New Year.**