

My Soul Is Thirsting For You, O Lord My God!

“O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you...my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water...So I gaze toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory, for your love is better than life...I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands calling on your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied...I will remember you ...I will meditate on you. You are my help and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.” (Psalm 63: vs. 2-9)

My soul is thirsting for you , O Lord My God! This is the longing for God from the psalmist David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. This is the poetic and powerful psalm that we sang at this weekend’s Masses. David is separated from God while he is in the desert, in the wilderness. “He longs for the divine life given in the temple (the sanctuary, the church today), which is based on a close relationship with God” (from commentary footnote in the New American Bible, Catholic Student Edition, 1986).

I invite everyone this weekend to **meditate on Psalm 63**, one of the most inspirational psalms of the entire Psalter (150 Psalms)! Do we sometimes feel that we are in a desert, where we are separated from God? Does this separation make us thirsty for reconnecting with God? How great is our desire to come to worship God on Sundays? Do we consider God’s love for us better than life?

Is our soul thirsting for Our Lord Jesus Christ? Are we thirsting for Jesus’ love as much as He Himself thirsts for our love as He is dying for our sins on the Cross? Are we seeking to be a true disciple of Jesus? Are we seeking to be an **intentional disciple of Christ**? I strongly recommend that you read Sherry Weddell’s bestseller book: “*Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*” (2012). We may establish **small groups** early next year to discuss the lessons and recommendations of this most insightful book. Earlier this year, Sherry Weddell was invited to give a talk to all the priests of the Archdiocese of Washington, and though I had read her book before, she provided much update and was very convincing in arguing that the Catholic Church needs to focus on such formation of true, totally committed disciples of Christ, so as to transform parishes and parishioners.

We are delighted that so many of you have responded positively to our invitation to begin on November 5 the **33 days of Consecration to Jesus through Mary**. I promise that your spiritual life will be changed if you persist in these daily prayers and focus your attention on Mary and Jesus. We got the largest ever attendance to our 9 am Mass last Saturday, the First Saturday of November (over 130 participants) and many of you for the first time began to participate in the Our Lady of Fatima First Saturday Devotion. I encourage everyone to join the **9 am Mass on the First Saturday of December** (December 2). We also expect most of you to attend our **Advent Penance Service at 7 pm Tuesday, November 28**. This will be an excellent preparation as we enter the **Advent Season**. It will also help us to meet the requirement of going to confession within one week of a First Saturday as recommended in Our Lady of Fatima’s First Saturday Devotion.

Mass Intention

- Saturday, Nov. 11, 9:00 AM: Dorothy Udeaja
- Saturday, Nov. 11, 5:00 PM: Margaret Deutsch +
- Sunday , Nov. 12 , 8:30 AM: John Lohman +
- Sunday, Nov. 12, 10:00 AM: Jose & Annamarie Gonzales & Family +
- Sunday, Nov. 12, 11:30 AM: Deacon Reggie Thomas +
- Monday, Nov. 13, 9:00 AM: Tonye Family
- Tuesday, Nov. 14, 9:00 AM: Dorothy Udeaja
- Wednesday, Nov. 15, 9:00 AM: Dorothy Udeaja
- Thursday, Nov. 16, 9:00 AM: Dorothy Udeaja
- Friday, Nov. 17, 9:00 AM: Dorothy Udeaja

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Mass Readings for November 19, 2017

- 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- First Reading– Proverbs 31: vs. 10-13, 19-20, 30-31
- Second Reading– 1 Thessalonians 5: vs. 1-6
- Gospel–Matthew 25: vs. 14-30

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(cont.) Total consecration to Jesus through Mary is to help make us **slaves of both Mary and Jesus**. As **slaves**, and as opposed to **servants** (who can always sever their contractual obligation to the master), we remain totally attached to Mary and Jesus. As Mary and Jesus are so close in Heaven (their two hearts remain together, as they were when baby Jesus was in Mary’s womb), and so, to be totally attached to Mary leads us naturally to be totally attached to Jesus.

The first 12 days of the Total Consecration are to help us to **detach ourselves from the spirit of the world**, which is manifested by **sin and disobedience to God**. Through Mary leading to Jesus, through chaining ourselves to Mary and Jesus, we will be helped by the Holy Spirit to weaken more and more the links of the chain enslaving us to the world’s sinfulness. We pray that in the end, our chain to sins will no longer exist and our chain to Mary and Jesus will remain strong. To which chain are we attached today? Becoming a slave to Jesus, we are more able to accept our daily sufferings and offer them to Jesus for the Glory of God alone.

May Mary continue to lead our entire parish to Jesus! May God the Father send the Holy Spirit upon each of us to open our ears and our hearts to the **call to Intentional Discipleship!** May we allow Mary and the Holy Spirit to mold our hearts into the hearts of an International Disciple of Christ! May this Sunday’s Celebration of Black Catholics’ Month with Bishop Roy Campbell (11:30 am Mass, followed by a reception) inspire us to love all our brothers and sisters without exception! “May our souls keep thirsting for You, Oh Lord, Our God”.

One in Christ
Fr. Alain

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Nov. 12/13- **NO** CCD Classes

Nov. 13- First Reconciliation Workshop- 6:45 pm

Nov. 16- Confirmation Year 2 -6:45 pm

Nov. 19/20- CCD Classes

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

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Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm- check website)

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 on November 19 and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

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RCIA Invitation

We meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Come and join us! If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.org.

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" are for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present). Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.



OLHOC Holiday House

The OLHOC Holiday House will be in the narthex from November 4 through December 17 to collect donations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. Over 50 baskets will be prepared and delivered to those in need right here in our community by our OLHOC volunteers. While we sit around our holiday table with our loved ones, may we remember those who have so very little in this world.



A Mass of Thanksgiving

There will be a special Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Food at OLHOC on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Join us for this start to your holiday!

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

The next Shepherds' Table Dinner will be held on Thursday, **November 16, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **Nov. 8** at 7 pm. New members and ideas are welcome!

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

Sharing Sunday-is the first Sunday of the month. Non-perishable food items and toiletries may be left in the Social Hall and will be used for the Thanksgiving Baskets.



Thanksgiving Basket Preparation

- November 18 - 8:00 am Social Hall
- November 19 - 9:30 am final preparation of baskets in Social Hall
- November 19 - delivery of baskets after 10:00 am Mass

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Linda Kelly, Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, James Reinhardt, Fr. Robert Pittman, Denise Zois, Dolores Settler, Yolanda Brenoes, Elsie & Rodalin Canare, Brenda Dodson, Sarah Parker, Elaine Townley, Juliann Leginze, Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Cumpion, Joe Martinez, Ann Gillespie, Julie King, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Therese Gendron, Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Mike Connolly, Samuel Lopez, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Elinore Fortney, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.