

Walking with Mary, Mother of God!

On the first day of every **New Year**, we celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God! Happy Feast Day of Mary and Happy New Year** to all of you! Since All Saints Day this year, November 1st, we closed the centennial **Year of Fatima** and began our mini-year of **Mary** at **OLHOC: WALKING WITH MARY ON THE ROAD OF INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!**

We had an excellent start on the first Saturday of November this year (Nov. 4) with about 150 people joining the 9 AM Mass and First Saturday Devotion. The following day, Sunday (Nov. 5), began the 33-day **consecration to Jesus through Mary** (following St. Louis de Montfort). For the first time ever in our parish, over 100 of us completed those 33 days of consecration prayer, encouraged to imitate Mary's virtues: profound **humility**, lively **faith**, blind **obedience**, continual mental **prayer**, **mortification** in all things, surpassing **purity**, ardent **charity**, heroic **patience**, angelic **sweetness**, divine **wisdom!** 10 Principle Virtues of Mary as identified by St. Louis de Montfort.

We are still enjoying the taste of the fruits of the great celebration of the **birth of Jesus**. As usual, the music at all Christmas Masses was superb! Everyone joined in singing along our favorite Christmas hymns; what **joy in singing!** There was the great **joy** of all **being united: One in Christ!** There was the **joy** of seeing so many families coming in large numbers to celebrate as **one family of families - our own OLHOC parish**. One of my own greatest **joys** was to see the **joy** of the **many children** participating at our Mass on Christmas Eve (the 5PM Mass). This year we enjoyed something new: a Youth Ensemble playing Christmas Music as well as children dressed as Angels and Shepherds welcoming all parishioners as they entered our Narthex as early as one hour ahead of the Mass. The Angels and Shepherds distributed **hearts** reminding us of God's Love; immense **love** for each of us. On each heart were written three simple phrases summing up what Christmas is all about: **"Jesus you are my Joy! I love you! I give you my heart!"** Also, as a first, everyone was invited to come and adore baby Jesus in the manger at the end of Mass! We could feel the presence of the **Holy Spirit**, the **mystical spouse** of Mary! We could feel the **joy of being one in Christ** as we received the Body and Precious Blood of Christ!

While we continue to **walk with Mary, Mother of God**, in the very beginning of this **New Year 2018**, we are reminded that Mary always **leads us to Jesus** in the same way that Jesus comes to us through Mary (her womb)! We are also reminded that **Mary and Jesus** are truly one: their **two hearts are one** from the moment of Jesus' Conception and are still **one in heaven** (where Mary and Jesus are reunited, with Jesus remaining our King and Mary being crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth). We are reminded that **God never changes** and that as Jesus is both God and man, Jesus can never change. In **God**, there is **no sense of time nor space**, but instead an unchanging **supreme being**: the **Triune God** (Mystery of the Holy Trinity: Three Persons in One God). We are also reminded that **Jesus is One with the Holy Spirit, Mary's Mystical Spouse!** We can feel the continuous Love of God for each one of us, through the love of His son Jesus, the love and constant presence of the Holy Spirit, and the unceasing, protecting and maternal God of Mary, Mother of God! **Looking ahead**, inspired by the **Holy Spirit** and with full **trust in God's love and mercy**, each of us is invited to consider making a **New Year's resolution** to **continue walking with Mary on the road to becoming intentional disciples of Christ** by choosing one or more of the following five actions/activities:

1. **FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION:** (i) Attend the 9AM Mass for **five consecutive First Saturdays** (Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5, etc.); (ii) Come to **Reconciliation** once a month within a week of a First Saturday (one week before or after); (iii) Pray the **Rosary** on the First Saturday; (iv) **Meditate for 15 minutes** on one of the Mysteries of the Rosary, and (v) Do all these activities in **reparation of our sins and those of the whole world**.
2. **33-DAY CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY:** (St. Louis de Montfort) Begin on **February 20** to end on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25. If you were unable to begin or to complete the consecration prayers many of us did last November/December, you have one more opportunity! Come and attend the First Saturday morning talks being held right after the 9AM Mass (Jan. 5 or Feb. 3) and learn more about the powerful impact of consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary!
3. **PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY:** Like the First Saturday Devotion, this is one of the strong recommendations of Mary appearing at FATIMA! The Rosary is the most powerful prayer we have. It will help give you **peace and joy!** Join our daily 8:30AM Rosary in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, or pray the Rosary daily at home with your family...or alone (while going to work, or taking a walk).
4. **COME TO RECONCILIATION MONTHLY:** We hold confessions (both in English and Spanish) every Saturday at 4PM (continuing if necessary thru the 5PM Mass, or after completion of the 5PM Mass). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a **personal encounter with Christ** (the priest represents Christ in this amazing sacrament given to us by Jesus). Not only will you receive the absolution of your sins, but you will enter into a **conversion** process and receive the Holy Spirit! One of the key messages of **Fatima** is the need for **reconciliation, repentance and reparation!** Mary is inviting you to get closer to her Son Jesus through frequent confession. In addition, you are always to reconcile whenever you have committed a major sin, so as to be able to receive the Eucharist. Receiving the Eucharist in a state of major sin separates us **further** from Jesus.
5. **WEEKLY HOUR OF HOLY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Come spend **one Holy Hour every week** in front of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament! If you cannot spend a full one hour without interruption, come twice for 1/2 an hour, or four times for 15 minutes. Several of you have shared with me not knowing how to pray a full Holy Hour. Join me at 10AM this coming **Saturday, January 6**, to discuss how best to **spend One Holy Hour** with the **Lord**.

God bless all of us in this New Year of 2018! May the **Joy of Jesus Christ** fill our hearts in the weeks and months ahead! May the **Holy Spirit** help each of us **walk with Mary on the road to intentional discipleship!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph • Solemnity of Mary

CCD Class Schedule

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

Classes begin Jan. 7/8 in the New Year

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

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 Jan. 28, 2018 and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by fun! Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, Dec. 30, 5:00 PM: Joseph Caggiano

Sunday, Dec. 31, 8:00 AM: Mr. Shirley Newman(+)

Sunday, Dec. 31, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, Dec. 31, 11:30 AM: Darrin Marcus Williams

Monday, Jan. 1, 9:00 AM: Donald Shachat(+)

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 9:00 AM: Mary Anne Sessa Murry (+)

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7:00 PM: Irma Palomino & Elijah Williams

Mass Readings for January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of our Lord

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Gospel-Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Chantelle Angelini, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Liz Marcus, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studds, Vincent Argiro, Sr., Pearl Green, Ghram Waldon, Linda Kelly, Barbara Tice, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, Joseph Albrittain, Ester Baraquio, Chris Goldhammer, Audrey Proctor, 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, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, 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. *Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

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

English/French Mass in the New Year!

Our monthly French Mass has taken root and is scheduled every week beginning Sunday, January 7, at 1:00 PM in a bilingual setting.

Community Outreach

Thank you to St. Mary's Bryantown Prayer Group for all their hard work in planning & providing a wonderful Christmas meal Dec. 21 at the Shepherd's Table. Over 90 people enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner, a visit from Santa and Christmas carols sung by the "Madrigals" of the Chesapeake Choral Arts Society. A great event! Thank you one and all!

The next Shepherd's Table Dinner will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at Good Shepherd Church.

Come join us at our next Outreach Committee Meeting to be held on January 3 at 7 pm in our social hall. **New members and ideas are welcome!**

Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link.

Thank You

Sharing Sunday

Is the first Sunday of the month. Items may be left in the Social Hall in boxes marked 'Food Donations'.

Upcoming Youth Events

We still have spots available for the March for Life, Mount 2000 in Emmittsburg, Steubenville Youth Conference and many more events! For more info, visit www.olhoc.com/ym or contact Marlen at : marlen@olhoc.org.

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. Classes in Spanish are on Sundays at 5:00 PM-Domingo a las cinco de la tarde. Salon #105.

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).