

September 09, 2018

Thanking God for 38 Year of Blessings!

Happy Birthday, OLHOC! On Saturday, September 15, our parish will complete its' first 38 years. Our tradition in recent years has been to celebrate our birthday on the Sunday before September 15. This is why this Sunday, Sept. 9, we are giving thanks to God for 38 years of blessings and praying that God will continue pouring His love on our parish and all our parishioners for many, many more years!

Everything we have comes from God.: “ Dear brothers and sisters, all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” (Letter of St. James, 1:17). St Ignatius of Loyola reminded us that one of the greatest virtues is to be grateful. The greatest gift we receive every day of our lives, even when we are struggling and suffering, is God’s love. God sent His Son to redeem us and demonstrate His love to each one of us. Following Jesus’ return to Heaven, His Ascension, Jesus continues sending us the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate our 38th birthday as a parish, everyone is invited to reflect on the blessings we received in the last 12 months and on the challenges we face in the coming 12 months. We have just done so in our annual retreat of our two Parish Councils. Looking back, we can all be proud of the continued progress on the formation of our children and our youth (religious education for 400 children and increased participation of our youth in parish activities). There was also unanimity on the successful completion of Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign: the renovation of our place of worship (new tile and pews). Looking ahead, our Parish Councils came up with five priority actions with one Council member taking the lead and reporting to us within two months on its feasibility. We will keep you informed.

The two Councils also expressed full support for the proposed gradual implementation of Phases 2-3 of our Capital Campaign, including its first priority project: building sliding doors in the Social Hall so as to provide two additional rooms for meetings when needed. This would allow us to make maximum use of our Social Hall, adding flexibility; at any time, our Social Hall could be used in its entirety (as now), or could be divided into two or three large meeting rooms. We are now proceeding with obtaining the approval of the Archdiocese. We will keep you informed.

We also discussed at our Councils Retreat the current crisis faced by the Church. I had spoken already about it from the pulpit. I had written about it in my earlier columns and we had shared various documents from the Archdiocese. But more sharing of information can be done as the Church crisis needs all our attention. How can we ignore the suffering of the abuse victims and their families? Communication is very important. Several of you have suggested that we should have some small group discussions, where as your pastor, I can

hear your concerns and respond to your questions. Your feedback is very important. Several months ago, we put a **suggestion box** in the Narthex. I encourage you to use it in addition to contacting me directly (phone or email). We are all suffering for the pain of the clergy’s abuse victims; my heart is bleeding for them. We need to pray for them and their families. We need to pray for the purification of the church. We need to deepen our relationship with Jesus, the head of our Church.

On a personal note, I would like to use this opportunity to express again my thanks to all our you for your prayers and get-well notes when I was recovering from open heart surgery this past May and June. God listened to your prayers! Praise the Lord! I have now been back for nearly two months and every new day God gives me is a true blessing. Every morning, I pray that God will continue to give me the strength and energy to serve you on that day! On September 15, I will have completed eight years of service at OLHOC: 8 years out of my 9 years of priesthood! You are truly my family. You are the ones who make our parish vibrant. You are the ones who evangelize and make everyone welcome in our parish. You are the ones who volunteer to lead and assist the many ongoing activities at OLHOC. I thank God for all the blessings you pour upon our parish. You are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit! May God keep sending His Spirit upon you! May the Holy Spirit make you feel the love God has for each one of you.

May God keep blessing our parish and our parishioners!

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain



# Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Religious Education PARENT UPDATES:

1. Ensure your child's online lessons are "successfully" completed from last year in order to promote to the next grade this year.
2. Registration is online. Please register now in order to be in the session of your choice.
3. There are some significant changes to the CCD and Sacramental Prep Calendars this year, so please watch your Flocknote for the schedule.

### Important Dates:

- \***Sunday, Sept. 9** - 11:30 am Parish Anniversary INDOOR Mass and OUTDOOR Picnic
- \***Monday, Sept. 10** - 7pm - Meeting for Parents who have children in grades 1-7 (ALL SESSIONS)
- \***Sunday/Monday, Sept. 16/17** - Classes begin!



## Religious Education VOLUNTEER UPDATES:

1. Catechists, Assistants, Teen Aides, and Office Helpers (esp. Monday night) are still needed for this year's classes. Even if you've taught in the past, please register at [www.olhoc.org/revolunteer](http://www.olhoc.org/revolunteer).
2. Confirmation MENTORS - Thank you to those of you who responded to the invitation after Masses last weekend! More mentors are still needed. Parents are welcome as mentors!!! Please register at [www.olhoc.org/revolunteer](http://www.olhoc.org/revolunteer).
3. Volunteer Training: Thursday, September 6, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
  - \*6 - 6:30 pm - Teen Aides and Office Helpers
  - \*6:30 - 7:00 pm - PRE-K/Kindergarten and RCIC Volunteers
  - \*7 - 7:45 pm - Grades 1-6 Adult Volunteers and Station Catechists
  - \*7:45 - 8:30 pm - Grades 7-8 Confirmation Volunteers including Mentors

For more information send an email to [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Therese, Director of Religious Education.

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FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team

Edge: Middle school youth ministry

Life Teen: High school youth ministry

For most current Youth and Evangelization events, please see our website: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org).



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### Our Younger Generation and the Catholic Faith

**Attention: Adults ages 18 - 102 yrs.** We are launching a new Confirmation initiative this year for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and need your help. Come *make a difference* and be an adult mentor to walk with these young people. Pray about your involvement and willingness to share with the next generation. It can only strengthen your personal faith journey while enriching another. Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Therese Thiedeman, at [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org) or 301-645-7112, with any questions you may have and becoming VIRTUS-compliant (Child Protection Classes and background check). Thank you!



## OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Preschool openings (3 and 4 year olds) at OLHOC! Full and half-day programs. We include children's chapel services and many opportunities for family involvement! Register now to secure your child's seat for the 2018-19 school year.



For more information send an email to [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

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### OLHOC Community Outreach

Next Shepherd's Table dinner is set for September 20 at Good Shepherd Church.



Thank you to Margo and Russell Savoy for their continuous hard work in putting together the amazing snack bags handed out with each meal. Come join us at the next Outreach Committee meeting September 5 at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall. New members and ideas are always welcome!

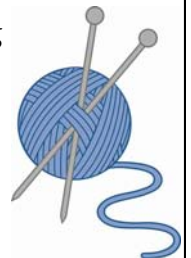
Though in the middle of a heatwave, we will soon plan to collect new and gently used winter coats, hats and gloves for Children's Aid and area shelters.

**Sharing Sunday**—Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

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### Craft Fair News

It's always a pleasure hosting the annual craft fair for you. This year, however, due to the upcoming building construction, we are unable to schedule a fair. We'll miss spending the day with you



**Prayer Requests** \*



**We are asked to pray for:** Lloyd Coadner, Kurt Coadner, Nikki Lemke, Thomas Kennane, Joe Albrittain, Lam Family, Darren Williams, Mary Delores Proctor, Pat Fisher, Antonio Torres, Chris Goldhammer, Trinidad Mercedes Santos, Shirley & Jerry Barrett, June Swann, Elsy Canare, Martone Family, Maria Mora, Nadia Toledo, Cielo Quintero, Zynae Green, Green Family, Anthony Rodriguez, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, David Parady, Linda Bourne, Rebecca “Tess” Franch, Alex Leon, Connie Miller, Wanda Roberts, Fr. Kleinstuber, Georgiana Norgren, Scott Anderson, 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.*

**Mass Intentions this Week**

- Saturday, September 08, 9:00 AM: Myrna Egbufoama**
- Saturday, September 08, 5:00 PM: Nikki Lemke**
- Sunday, September 09, 8:30 AM: Wayne Spangler (+)**
- Sunday, September 09, 10:00 AM: Rosita Gianan (+)**
- Sunday, September 09, 11:30 AM: Plaridel Bandibas (+)**
- Monday, September 10, 9:00 AM: Kurt Coadner**
- Tuesday, September 11, 9:00 AM: Donna Bowen (+)**
- Wednesday, September 12, 9:00 AM: James Albert Knapp (+)**
- Thursday, September 13, 9:00 AM: Deceased Members of Gorzyn Family (+)**
- Friday, September 14, 9:00 AM: Nery Gramajo**



***Parish Anniversary Weekend Celebration—September 7-9***

***We began with an all-night adoration that started at 3:00 am, Friday, September 7 and ended on Saturday, September 8 at 5:00 pm.***

***This Sunday, join your fellow parishioners for the***

***Anniversary Picnic after 11:30 Mass***

***Bring a dish to share and a chair!***



**RCIA Classes**

Interested in learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? Or, wishing to learn more about your Catholic faith? This group is for you! Classes are held Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. See you there!



**Mass Readings for September 16, 2018**

***24rd Sunday of Ordinary Time***

**\*First Reading**

***Isaiah 50:4-9***

**\*Second Reading**

***James 2:14-18***

**\*Gospel**

***Galatians 6:14***

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)





# The GIFT

## a *Life in the Spirit* course

*Prayerfully consider making this course part of your journey of faith in our Year of the Holy Spirit!*

*We have two session times available to choose from for this six week course. Come join us!*

### **Our Lady Help of Christians Church**

Beginning Saturday morning, October 20, 2018, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM (includes breakfast)

OR

Tuesday, October 23, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM (includes dinner)

*This year of the Holy Spirit, receive the GIFT - This is an inspiring and practical series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit. Presented by well known international speakers, the teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The cost of the series is \$10. Sign up by contacting Deacon Rich at: [deacon@olhoc.org](mailto:deacon@olhoc.org) or call the office 301-645-7112. There is also a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex. Soon to feature on-line registration.*



*“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love!”*



The Restorers of Mount Carmel are sponsoring a mini-retreat on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at Mount Carmel, 5678 Mount Carmel Road, La Plata, MD 20646. The retreat will begin with 8:00 am Mass and will end by 2:00 pm. Cost is \$30 per person and includes Mass, several talks, quiet time, confessions, rosary, benediction/exposition, continental breakfast, snacks, beverages, boxed lunch, and hand outs. Father Ken Gil, Pastor of St. Catherine's (McConchie) and also St. Ignatius (Hilltop), is the retreat master.

Please call Suzanne Carr at 301.645.5203 to make reservation. Please make check payable to Suzanne Carr and send to Suzanne Carr, 12944 Waldorf Forest Road, Waldorf, MD 20601.

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**Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**  
With visitation of the  
**International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima**



**Sunday Vigil - October 7**  
**More to come!**

**ADW Local Fall Workshops**  
**Saturday, October 27**

**\*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**  
9:00 am to Noon

**\*Lector Workshop**  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

At St. Peter's Church in Waldorf. RSVP by emailing [liturgy@adw.org](mailto:liturgy@adw.org). A \$5 registration fee can be paid at the door. Questions? Call the ADW Worship Office 301-853-4594