

November 30, 2008

Mass Intentions

November 29, 5:00 PM: M.P. Makle +
November 30, 8:30 AM: William Bescher +
November 30, 10:00 AM: Milton Truxon +

Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means that Catholics are to attend Mass on that day. The Mass schedule is as follows:

Sunday, Dec. 7 – Vigil Mass at 7:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 8 – 9:00 AM Mass & 7:00 PM Mass

First Friday

Many of our parishioners are unaware of the First Friday liturgy available at OLHC. On the First Friday of each month 9:00 AM Mass is held, followed by Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend extra time with Christ in a contemplative setting.

OLHC Penance Service

The OLHC Parish Advent Penance Service will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 7:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for each of us to prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child anew.



Christmas Food Baskets

With the Christmas just around the corner, we are seeking contributions for our holiday food baskets for those in need in the community. During these difficult times, we have found the number of our brothers and sisters in Christ needing help to have increased greatly. We are asking for very specific donations to help make the meals complete. We need canned vegetables or fruits, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, and other "holiday meal" food items. Contributions of money are also accepted to purchase turkeys and perishables for the baskets. Please place your food donations in the boxes marked "Holiday Food Baskets". Any cash donations may be placed in an envelope marked "Holiday Food Baskets" and put in the collection basket or Poor Box. By donating to this effort, as you sit at your holiday table with family and friends, you will be celebrating the "true spirit" of the season.

If you are willing to help assemble and/or deliver the baskets for Christmas, please contact Sharon Smoot at 301-645-8407.

Prayer Requests

For those dealing with illness, especially Graham Baldwin, Terry Grill, Dan Walker, Frank Quattrone, Bill Maloy and for all of our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Patrick William Kemp.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you! The national and archdiocesan offices of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development wish to thank you for your generosity in this year's Collection. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers living below the poverty line here in the United States and in our local neighborhoods and those that work to end the cycle of poverty. Your support is truly making a difference.



St. Nick's Breakfast

St. Nick's Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 9:00 -11:00 AM in the OLHC Social Hall. Tickets are: Adults- \$5; Children 3-11 yrs.- \$3; Children 2 and under- Free. The Youth Group will be selling tickets following all Masses or contact the office. This is always a very popular event and tickets go quickly, so purchase early!

Christmas Poinsettias

Help the Altar Guild decorate the altar for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Donations are \$15.00. The Altar Guild members will be collecting after each Mass beginning November 29–December 14. You may also drop off your donation at the parish office during the week. Names of the your loved ones will be listed in the bulletin at the end of December.

Baptism Class

If you are planning to have your child baptized, you must pre-register to attend the Baptism Class. The next class is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 7:00 PM. Parents must be registered and attending members of our parish to schedule a Baptism. Please call the office to sign up for the class.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Just a reminder that we have room in our **Pre-K 4** year old Religious Education class on Sunday mornings. If interested in registering your 4 yr. old, please call the office or stop by on Sunday mornings.

RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP: There is a Reconciliation Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, from 6:30-8:00 PM and Saturday, December 13, from 10:00-11:30 AM. Parent and student must attend either session.

PORTABLE CD PLAYERS & DVD PLAYERS: Since most of our music is being produced in CD format, and most of the movies in DVD format, we have a need for these items in each of our classrooms. If you have a spare CD player with speakers or a DVD player (with TV hook-up), please consider donating them to our Religious Education Program. If you have any questions, please call the office.

OLHC PARISH CHRISTMAS PLAY: Are you looking for a way to experience the true meaning of Christmas? We cordially invite all parishioners, families, and friends to attend our annual Christmas play produced under the direction of Therese Thiedman and Carol Charnoc. *The Go-fers Christmas* will be presented in our Social Hall on Sunday, December 7, at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM and also on Monday, December 8 at 5:00 PM and immediately following the 7 PM Holy Day Mass. Please come and join us for a wonderful experience.

YOUTH GROUP: Nov. 30- Thanksgiving Holiday/No Meeting; Dec. 5- Set-up for St. Nick's Breakfast; Dec. 6- St. Nick's Breakfast (7 AM-1 PM); Dec. 7- Youth Mass/No Meeting.

Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

We ask adults who have a desire to enter the Catholic Church to join our program. Also invited are Baptized Catholics who are in need of their other sacraments and those who would just like to know more about their faith. If you would like to join us, please call the office. The RCIA group meetings are held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 PM. Please join us!

Inclement Weather Policy

If the Charles County schools are either on a two hour delay or closed due to weather conditions, the weekday Mass will **not** be held.

The parish office will follow the Charles County school's closings/delays/early dismissals due to weather conditions.

Preschool News

OLLC is holding a raffle! The prize is (4) New York Passes (2 adult/2 children) with a combined value of over \$240.00. The passes provide free access and front-of-the-line placement into a variety of NY landmarks including the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, the NBC Building at Rockefeller Center, and more. (Transportation not included). Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets are available after some Masses (if volunteer present in the library), or in the church office November 24 & 25 and December 1-5. The drawing will take place December 8 and you do not have to be present to win. Please provide your name and phone number on the preschool part of your ticket to ensure we are able to reach the winner.

Our Lady's Little Christians would like to remind you to save your old ink jet cartridges and leave them in the collection container located in the OLHC Office lobby. They will be recycled and benefit the preschool as well! Unfortunately, we are not able to accept laser cartridges.



Community Bulletin Board

- ◆ **Dr. Scott Hahn**, nationally known lay Catholic theologian and writer, is coming to Southern Maryland. He will give a presentation on the Eucharist on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, 10:00 AM-3:30 PM, at Jesus the Good Shepherd in Owings, Md. (Calvert County). Tickets on sale beginning Oct. 20th; advance tickets are \$10.00, at the door, \$15.00. Send self-addressed envelope with your payment to: Dr. Scott Hahn Event, Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 1601 W. Mount Harmony Rd., Owings, Md. 20736.
- ◆ An **Advent Silent Retreat for Women** is offered Dec. 5-7, 2008 at the Dominican Retreat, 7103 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA. 22101-2799. Directed by Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM. Entitled, "Emmanuel, God is With Us; Born in Bethlehem, Born in Our Hearts." Call Sadie J. Jackson at 301-392-5452 for more information. Pamphlet on bulletin board
- ◆ **Bon Secours Spiritual Center:** an Advent Christmas Concert, Wed., Dec. 13, 7:30 PM, freewill offering. Sue & Phil Esserwein & Company will provide an evening of beautiful holiday music. A wonderful family event. Call 410-442-1320.

Sponsor Letters, School Subsidy, etc.

Please be advised that the office staff **cannot** accept requests for sponsor (eligibility) letters or subsidy needs.

You must speak **directly** with Fr. Crowley to make these requests. To be considered for sponsor letters or subsidy, **you must be registered and attending members of OLHC.** Fr. Crowley asks that you speak with him after Mass regarding these issues. Keep in mind that time is a consideration and you should not wait until the last minute.

Baptism Class

You must pre-register if you plan on attending a Baptism Class at Our Lady Help of Christians. Please call the office to sign up for the class.

Baptism classes are scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month. Baptisms are held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Parents must be **registered members** of our parish to schedule a Baptism at OLHC.

Leaders Wanted

Our parish is in need of people willing to provide a special ministry for our OLHC children. Children's Liturgy Ministers are needed for 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 AM Masses. This program was established five years ago to help our 3-7 year old children gain more understanding of the Sunday readings. Our past volunteers are no longer available due to relocation. This is a great opportunity to help the parish, especially if you have little ones yourself. Lesson plans and other resources are available. This program will cease to be without volunteers. Call the office or e-mail Chris Heilmeier at cheilmeier@comcast.net.

An Invitation

We, at OLHC, have been fortunate enough to have Fr. Robert Pittman celebrate Mass with us from time to time. He and the Body of Christ Community have extended an invitation to all to join in celebrating Fr. Pittman's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's Church in Pomfret, MD, followed by a dinner at the Parish Center. The celebration will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2008 at 5:30 PM. Please R.S.V.P. *no later than July 1* if you plan to attend. You may call (301) 888-2566 or respond via e-mail at bodyofchristfarm@yahoo.com.

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