

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Feb. 21, 5:00 PM: Andrew Gunta +
Sunday, Feb. 22, 8:30 AM: Howard Bridges +

2009 Archbishop's Appeal

These few weeks, you are asked to review the Archbishop's Appeal brochure and tabloid you received in your bulletin. The theme of the campaign is: "For the Glory of God." The annual campaign is much different than a one time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, payable over ten months.

A gift to the Archbishop's Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a positive way. As you review the information and the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the Archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the gifts God gives you.

Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our Archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond, we will conduct our in-pew process this weekend, Feb.21 & 22. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.



The Altar Guild Bake Sale

The OLHC Altar Guild will be sponsoring a **Bake Sale** after all Masses on **February 21 & 22, 2009**. The Altar Guild will hold their meeting on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:00 PM.

Note of Interest

Those parishioners requiring a 2008 collection print-out for over \$250.00, **please call the office** with your request. The forms can be picked up or mailed to your home per your preference.

Prayer Requests

For those dealing with illness, especially, Harry Sharar, Maria Hayes, Christopher Perry, Mary Rexrode, Val Alva, Lynn Norgren, Laurie and David Essert, and for all of our military and civilians serving in harm's way. Our condolences to the families and friends of Thomas Morris, Paul Murray, and Carl Meyers.



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. Parents must be **registered members** of our parish to schedule a Baptism at OLHC.

Due to the upcoming Lenten/Easter season, Baptism classes have been **re-scheduled** for the following dates: **March 4, 2009 and April 1, 2009.**

Ash Wednesday

Masses on Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009, will be held at 9:00 AM, 12 Noon, and 7:00 PM.

Guidelines for Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence is a penitential practice consisting of refraining from the consumption of meat and is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. In addition to abstinence, fasting is to be observed by all Catholics between the ages of 18-59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

Lenten Fish Fry

Sponsored by Immaculate Conception Ladies Aux. #359, Mechanicsville, MD, Friday, Feb. 27th, 12 noon to 5 PM, in the church Parish Center, 28297 Old Village Road. Carry-out Dinners: crab cakes (\$12), fried oysters (\$10), fried fish(\$9), combination (\$15), candied yams, mac n' cheese, etc. For information, call 301-884-4059 or 301-884-4423.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Confirmation Workshop: There is a Confirmation Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, from 6:30-8:00 PM, and Saturday, March 14, from 10-11:30 AM. Parent and student must attend either session.

First Communion Workshop: There is a First Communion Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, from 6:30-8:00 PM and Saturday, March 28, from 10:00-11:30 AM. Parent and child must attend either session.



YOUTH GROUP: Feb. 22: Bingo, meet at 6:15 PM in the Social Hall; March 1: No Meeting; March 8: Beginning rehearsal of Living Stations of the Cross. Note: Please mark your calendars for an overnight trip to Great Wolf Lodge (water slides and more) for May 2-3, 2009. For further info, please contact Joe Meszaros at (301-609-8761) or Machel Proctor (301-893-9410). New members are welcome!

2009 Maryland March for Life

The 2009 Maryland March for Life will be held in Annapolis on Monday, March 9th. A bus will depart from Sacred Heart Church, La Plata, MD., at 4:30 PM, and return by 10 PM. There is a nominal \$10 fee per person, students are free. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with a Mass at St. Mary's Church, Annapolis. The March begins at 7:00 PM from St. Mary's Church to the State Capitol. The evening concludes with refreshments in St. Mary's Auditorium. For more information or to sign up, please contact Chris or Crista Fawls at cfawls@hughes.net or 301-392-9065

Offertory Envelopes

Our parish records only gifts made through our envelope system. If you wish to give cash or a check, but have forgotten your envelope that week, please use our "visitor" envelopes (in the literature rack in the vestibule) and clearly print your name, and envelope number so you will receive credit for your gift. If you do not use your envelopes, putting your envelope number on a loose check will not ensure that you receive credit for your gift.

If you don't currently receive envelopes, but wish to receive them, please call the parish office. Thank you for your ongoing support of our parish.

Preschool News



Registration: is open for all classes. Our Lady's Little Christians is an early learning program for children 3 and 4 years of age. We are licensed by the MD State Department of Education, Office of Child Care. Please call 301-645-7112 and speak with the OLLC Director, Ms. Nieda Billard, to schedule an appointment to register.



Community Bulletin Board

- ◆ **February Dinner:** sponsored by 7th District Optimist Club. Feb. 22, 2009, 12 noon til... Mechanicsville Firehouse Social Hall. Fried Oysters, spiced shrimp, stuffed ham, fried chicken, free raw bar w/dinner. Adults-\$23; Kids, 6-12-\$8; Kids, 5 & under-free. Carry-outs available.
- ◆ **St Mary's of Piscataway:** Home and School Assoc. is sponsoring our 2nd Annual Longaberger Basket Bingo on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 12 noon. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For information call Dawna Brown at 301-906-7906.
- ◆ **Immaculate Conception Church:** is having a St. Patrick's Day Dance, on Saturday, March 14, 2009, from 7 to 11 PM. Corned beef and ham sandwiches available for purchase; BYOB with set-ups available. Cost is \$20 per person, \$40 per couple. Call Paula or Joe @ 301-884-5095.
- ◆ **Mount St. Mary's University:** a conference on the Teaching and Mission of St. Paul, March 27-28, 2009. It will be held at the Knott Auditorium, Emmitsburg, MD. Presenters will be Dr. Scott Hahn and Dr. Brant Pitre. Registration fee: \$20 per person (includes lunch) Deadline for registration is March 18, and seating is limited. Register at www.msmary.edu/StPaul.