

May 7, 2017

" I Wish This Mass Would Never End!"

Last week, we had to hold a special memorial Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel because of a conflict with already planned activities in our main church. I expected about 40 people to show up and knew they could all be accommodated in our Chapel. I was proven wrong; about 60 people showed up and we had to have 15 of them attend from the Narthex. We also had to find space for four musicians in the back of the Chapel. The Mass went well. People participated actively in both prayers and songs. There was a strong sense of community. After the Mass, we gathered for fellowship in the Narthex (punch & cookies). I used that opportunity to ask one of the participants, "How did you find the Mass being held in our small Chapel as apposed to the larger Church?" I will never forget the response: "Father, the Mass was great. **I wished this Mass would never end!**" In my entire priesthood (8 years next month!), I have never heard anyone say that they wished the Mass would have been longer. On the opposite side, I had received feedback from priests from other parishes that the Sunday Mass should never go beyond one hour. Have you ever thought that the Mass you attended was so inspiring that you did not want it to end? Have you ever felt such a joy to participate in the amazing Supper of the Lamb (remember Scott Hahn's book...Mass as Heaven on Earth), that you wished that this heavenly banquet would keep going on?

I am confident that you can remember a few events in your lives that you wished would never end. I, for one, remember as a child spending every month of July at the ocean. This was the best time of the whole year for me. I loved being with the entire family on vacation. My father was able to take the whole month of July off from work. We could play tennis with my father, brother and sister every morning. We could go swimming together in the big waves of the ocean. Many times during these beautiful July months, I was counting the days that were remaining...and I was hoping that the joy of these family vacations would never end. On the other hand, whether as a child or young adult, I do not recall any Mass I wished to last longer: one hour at Mass was just right! However, as I got older, I remember times where I arrived very early at Mass or stayed beyond the final hymn. As a priest, I have wished many times that we could have a longer time of meditation after receiving the **Eucharist!** The only time I have been able to do so has been when I celebrate the Mass alone at the chapel in our rectory, or when I concelebrated the Mass with other priests at our annual retreat (where I stay a long time in silence in the church after the conclusion of the Mass). If we truly believe that **Mass is Heaven on Earth**, it is natural that we would like to **stay longer with Jesus!**

Think about the above statement by one of our parishioners: "I wish the Mass would never end". How do you apply this to your own participation at Mass? Make your own conclusions. Think about dressing up on Sunday morning when coming to encounter **God** at Mass. Think about arriving early...maybe 15 minutes before Mass begins so as to find time for prayer and meditation (possibly reading the Gospel of the day). Think about staying late so as to spend more time in meditation after receiving the Body of Christ, remembering that your own body has become a living **Tabernacle!**

Mass Intention

- Saturday, May 6, 5:00 PM: Donald Hall +
- Sunday, May 7, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, May 7, 10:00 AM: Moussi Family
Thanksgiving
- Sunday, May 7, 11:30 AM: Harry Klein +
- Sunday, May 7, 1:00 PM: Maria Elvira Guerrero +
- Monday, May 8, 9:00 AM: Cerena Williams +
- Tuesday, May 9, 9:00 AM: Everlina Cordner +
- Wednesday, May 10, 9:00 AM: Peter Songui +
- Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 PM: Concepcion & Annabella Elefano +
- Thursday, May 11, 9:00 AM: George Cordner +
- Friday, May 12, 9:00 AM: Ernestine Cordner +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Don Kopanyi, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, Jessica Curry Miller, LaShay Barnes, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, John Lohman, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Elinore Fortney, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joas-saint, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr., Phillip Green, Doris Chesley, Patricia & James Robey, Dick White, Ada Johnson, James Thompson, Sean Guido, Marcus Williams, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

+++++

Mass Readings for May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading- Acts of the Apostles 6: vs. 1-7

Second Reading- 1 Peter 2: 4-9

Gospel- John 14: vs. 1-12

+++++
(cont.)

May God continue to fill your hearts with the joy of the Risen Lord during the remaining four weeks of the Easter Season! May God help you to be focused and not distracted when attending Mass! May God continue to bless the 41 youth who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 25! May God continue to bless the 65 children who received the Eucharist for the first time on this First Saturday of May (May 6)!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2016-2017 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

May 7/8- CCD Class

May 11- Conf. Yr. 1- Parent/Student Mtg. (7:00 PM)

May 14/15- CCD Class

May 21- Crowning of Mary, 11:30 am Mass, end of CCD 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 June 11** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by pizza, fellowship and FIAT, Edge, and Life Teen meetings. Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Attention High School & College Graduates

Please join us on Sunday, June 4 at the 11:30 am Mass for a special blessing. We ask that you wear your graduation robes. Please sign up after Mass or online www.olhoc.org/ym . If you have any questions, contact Marlen at: marlen@olhoc.org.

Save the Dates: Summer All Youth Nights

June 11, July 4, and August 20 beginning with Mass at 4 pm followed by a fun event. Visit the www.olhoc.org/ym or sign up on flock note to stay updated on all the upcoming youth events.

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present.

- May 18 @7 pm- St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick
- June 15 @7pm- St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112 with questions or if you need assistance with this process.

A Huge Thank You

A huge, huge thank you to all of the **volunteers** as well as to **those who donated** to the **Christmas in April House**. Once again, your generosity in time and money led to another successful endeavor and has given Mrs. Dyson a better and much safer place to live! God bless you!

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

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

- Fall registration continues for all new students.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email : preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, May 18, 2017** . The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **June 7** at 7 pm.

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

The first Sunday of the month you are invited to donate non-perishable foods for those in need. Place your items in the wooden box in the Social Hall. During the summer months when school is out, there is a greater need for peanut butter, jelly, and cold cereals for families with children. Your donations are sent directly to the Southern Maryland Food Bank located in Waldorf. Thank you!



2017 -100th Anniversary of Fatima

Celebrate this wonderful jubilee by making a pilgrimage to one or more of the six Catholic parishes in Charles County on the 13th of each month from May through October. The **first date will be Saturday, May 13th**, at **Our Lady Help of Christians**. We will begin with 8 am Eucharistic Exposition, 8:30 am Rosary, 9 am Mass, 10 am Procession, 10:15 am International Rosary, and 10:30 am Breakfast and Mission.

You Are Invited

A Saturday Night Live Gospel Night will be held at St, John Vianny Family Life Center Theater, Prince Frederick , MD . Come join us on May 20 to hear spiritual songs featuring the local group "Libation", in addition to other musicians. If you would like to perform, please sign up by contacting Eileen Doran-Smith at edsdesign@dsmith.com or Joann Scanlan at 410-414-9099.

R
E
L
I
G
I
O
U
S
E
D
U
C
A
T
I
O
N