

August 20, 2017

A New Beginning! A New Spiritual Journey!

A new beginning: Saturday, August 19! The day has finally arrived! We had long ago announced that we will leave our Summer Church (a.k.a. Social Hall) on August 16 right after the celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady and that we will re-open the main church on Saturday, August 19. We are keeping to the original renovation schedule. We can declare that Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign has now been achieved, within the original schedule and within the original costs.

Life on earth is filled with new beginnings. **Every day is a new beginning.** When we get up in the morning, we can begin the day with a simple prayer: "I thank you God for a good night's sleep. I thank you for all the blessings you have already given me. O God, give me one more day of peace. O God, help me to have the courage to take on this new day! O God, help me to do Thy will today, not mine! Oh God, help me to see Christ, Your Son, in the eyes of everyone I will encounter today! Oh God, help me to have another beautiful day, filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with peace, joy and love. As St. John Vianney told the young children of his parish at catechesis, there are only two things we need to do: to **pray** and to **love!**

We have been waiting for this new day, for this new beginning. In this Extraordinary Year of Fatima declared by Pope Francis, covering the six apparitions and going through November, (beyond the last apparition on August 13). Pope Francis has given the opportunity to all Catholics to prepare themselves, meditating on the miracles of Fatima, and praying that we will walk from **darkness** into the **light**, so that we will have a chance to obtain a **Plenary indulgence** for ourselves or for someone who has already died. I was a bit anxious when we made the **big move** from the old church to the Social Hall; I should not have worried...everything went well. Now the time has come for the reverse trip, the return from the Social Hall to our new, renovated sacred space for worship! I am as anxious as I was a few months ago. And God keeps telling me: "**Trust in me, the Lord Your God! I will provide! Do not fear! You are never alone! I am always with you!**" Like many of you, I have also been impatient. Now the time has come to reopen our church! Now I look forward to celebrating our first **Mass** in the **renovated church!** A new Mass: a new beginning!

As announced last week, and upon the unanimous recommendation of our Parish Councils (Pastoral and Finance), we have put a suggestion box at the Help Desk. Your inputs will be most valuable and will help guide our future decisions as we move into the **second** and **third phases** of our Capital Campaign. We also plan to send out a survey to all households to seek advice on priorities for further improvement. When we had chosen August 19 as the New Beginning, we had forgotten that the fourth apparition at **Fatima** took place on that very day: Mary had told Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia that she would appear to them the 13th of each month until the final apparition on October 13. However, on August 13, the local authorities, unhappy with the growing crowds coming to Fatima, had decided to make the 3 children confess that they were liars. When they refused to confess to something that was not true, they were kept in jail. When the large crowd gathered that day at the apparition site became aware that the 3 children were not coming, they

Mass Intention

Saturday, August 19, 5:00 PM: All Souls in Purgatory +
Sunday, August 20, 8:30 AM: Lourdes M. Cortes +
Sunday, August 20, 10:00 AM: Jose & Annamarie Gonzales and family +
Sunday, August 20, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, August 20, 7:00 PM: Jaime Hernan Trochez +
Monday, August 21, 9:00 AM: Jose & AnnaMarie Gonzales and family +
Thursday, Aug. 24, 9:00 AM: Anthony Williams

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Randy Howells, Connie Miller, Edmond Ferguson, Josephine Manalo, Aaron Morgan, Pat Gray, John Kopec, Maria Reyes, John Cumpion, Barbara Lagman, Joe Martinez, Ann Gillespie, Julie King, Paulette Savoy, Kelvin Young, Annie Rope, Dave Biggerstaff, Jim Ritchie, Bonnie Castro, Therese Gendron, Andy Green, Judee Parkinson, Tanya A. Viola, Dolores Proctor, April Sheffield, Dr. Suresh Verghese, Marisa Costas Pena, Marino Gadea, Monica Myers, Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, Wilbur Etbauer, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Chelseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Elinore Fortney, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, 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 August 27, 2017

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading- Isaiah 22: vs. 19-23

Second Reading- Romans 11: vs. 33-36

Gospel- Matthew 16: vs. 13-20

(cont.) were most disappointed, though some felt the presence of Our Lady without seeing her. When we chose August 19, it was for practical reasons, not for enabling our own parishioners to receive Plenary indulgences. But God had a different plan!

May God keep blessing each of us as we continue **our journey of faith** on earth, our daily pilgrimage of **conversions!** And may His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, keep protecting us!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCD Class Schedule

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

Religious Education Classes

CCD Classes begin **September 17/18, 2017!** Families must **re-register each year** to ensure contact info is up-to-date. Please register online now (www.olhoc.org) so class assignments can be made and communicated in a timely manner. If 2016-17 online lessons have not yet been completed, please complete them before the end of August in order to move on to the next level of learning about our Catholic Faith in September. If assistance or wi-fi access is needed, don't hesitate to contact Therese in the parish office.

Share the Faith!

Catechists, parent volunteers, and teen volunteers are needed for the CCD year. If you have ever considered answering the Lord's call to be a witness of the Faith to the children of our parish, please be sure to contact Therese or complete the RE Volunteer form online: www.olhoc.org/revolunteer.

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 August 20** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by a fun pool party. Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

RCIA Invitation

Registration for the 2017-2018 RCIA class has begun. We meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Anyone interested in learning about the Catholic Church for the first time, wanting to complete their Sacraments of Initiation, or wishing to learn more about their Catholic faith are welcome to join us! Interested? This is the group for you! An **Open House (for English)** will be held on **Wednesday, August 30, 2017** at 7-8:30 PM in the Social Hall. An **Open House for Spanish** will be held on **Sunday, September 3, 2017** at 5:00 – 6:00 PM in Room 105. Come and meet the Team Members. If interested call the office (301-645-7112) or email deacon@olhoc.org.

Fire Within: Maryland Catholic Women's Conference Retreat

October 6, 7, & 8. 2017. Cost \$65 or Saturday only- \$55, at St. Mary's University, Emmittsburg, MD. Our powerful line-up includes Sister Helena Burnes (international speaker, radio host, EWTN guest), Mass with Archbishop William Lori, Catholic author and speaker Jon Leonetti, closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan, and more. Details and registration at www.marylandcatholicwomen.com or call Jeanne @443-324-8487.

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.

2017 Jubilee of Fatima Schedule

Celebrate the joy of the **100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima** right here in Charles County.

- Wednesday, **September 13, St. Joseph**, Pomfret, MD at **9:00 am** (after Mass).
- Friday, **October 13, Sacred Heart**, La Plata, MD at **6:00 pm**. (Procession/Closing Mass)

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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).

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112.

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Community Outreach

The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, September 21, 2017**. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on **September 6** at 7 pm. All are welcome!

Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link, or sign-up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc



Upcoming Project

Watch the bulletin for information concerning the **OLHOC Coat Drive** coming up soon. There will be a box in the Social Hall to collect coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for adults to be donated to the shelters and Children's Aid. Although our current weather is summer – like, the cold temperatures will be upon before we know it. Those in need will be helped by your extra garments!

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