

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past Sunday our Advent Giving Trees were put in place and already all of the gift tags have been taken – almost 800 tags! Thank you for your incredible response! There is something wonderful about this time of the year as we prepare for Christmas which evokes such generosity from our hearts. Thank you for helping take care of the needs of our less fortunate children. I also want to thank the team of parishioners who are working to coordinate the Advent Giving Tree again this year – your effort and service help sustain this important ministry. Thank you!

Don't forget that our annual Advent Reconciliation Service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm in the church. A number of visiting priests will be here to help us experience God's great love in this special sacrament. Please don't miss this opportunity to get rid of the junk you've been carrying around in your heart! Also, please keep our second graders in your prayers who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Dec. 13. As always, they are probably a little nervous but we want them to have a wonderful first experience of this sacrament.

Have a very blessed new week!

Fr. Arnold



Masses For The Week

Mon., December 8	6:30 am	C. Elizabeth
	9:30am	Alphonso Nelson †
	7:00pm	Frank Schlosser †
Tues., December 9	6:30 am	Ann Wilkens
	8:15 am	Joseph Narbut †
Wed., December 10	6:30 am	Tom Dietz †
	8:15 am	Amy DeSantis †
Thurs., December 11	6:30 am	Stella Armstrong †
	9:00 am	Mary Jane Meisel †
Fri., December 12	6:30 am	Mary Ellen Sadowski †
	8:15 am	Marcella Cugle †
Sat., December 13	8:15 am	Gregory Snead †
	4:30 pm	Nicholas Mangione †
Sun., December 14	7:30 am	Kathleen Brand †
	9:00 am	The Kim Family †
	10:30 am	For the People
For the People	12:00 noon	Sarnecki Family

Please remember in your prayers the children, and their families, who will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 13th. May the Holy Spirit open their hearts and fill them with God's love during this time of preparation.

Reconciliation

Receive God's Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation is the best preparation for Christmas. Join us for our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm. God is waiting for you – don't hold back! You can also come during our regular Saturday Confessions from 3:15-4:15pm. (Come earlier – the line is shorter!)



Thank you to all who donated a RitualSong hymnal in generous support of the music ministry at OLPH!

If you still wish to dedicate a hymnal, many are still available. Please see Dana La Rosa, Director of Music.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Monday, December 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated each year on December 8 and is a holy day of obligation. This beautiful feast celebrates the conception of Mary without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. In preserving Mary from the stain of sin, the Lord was preparing her for the special role she would have as the mother of our Savior.

The Mass schedule for this holy day is as follows:

Monday, Dec. 8:

6:30am, 9:30am (with school children), 7:00pm.

Please note: Because this feast falls on a Monday, we will not celebrate a Vigil Mass the night before!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for December 13-14, 2008

Saturday 4:30 pm
 Lectors McAndrew, Rusnak
 EMHC Dolan, Dolan, Niessner
 Servers Kerstetter, Ross, Ross

Sunday 7:30 am
 Lectors Maltagliati, Zeminsky
 EMHC Mills, O'Connor, Torosino
 Servers Kim, Ward, Ward

Sunday 9:00 am
 Lectors Holda, Holden
 EMHC Ackroyd, Aucoin, Fontana, Kallmyer, McCarthy, McCormack, Niehenke, Shugars, Shugars
 Servers Koenig, Shugars, Shugars


Sunday 10:30 am
 Lectors Green, Minadeo
 EMHC Marks, Randazzo, Roche, Roth, Schwerdt, Sharp, Sharp, Wesselman, West
 Servers Krzysko, Lambert, LaPointe

Sunday 12 Noon
 Lectors McBride, Mulholland
 EMHC Crizer, Schuberth, Schuberth
 Servers Lockhart, Marshall, Martin

*Subject to change when necessary.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 

A Musical Prelude will begin one half hour before each of the Christmas Eve Masses.
 A Children's Christmas Program will begin promptly at 3:30pm, followed by the Children's Mass at 4pm.

Date	Music	Mass Times
Dec. 24th	Children's Choir	4:00pm
Christmas Eve.	Youth Choir	6:00pm
	Traditional Choir	8:00pm
	Contemporary	Midnight
Dec 25 th	Organ & Cantor	8:00am
Christmas Day	Organ & Cantor	10:00am
 Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Vigil; December 31st—7pm Vigil Mass 11:00pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Midnight Mass—Silent Mass January 1, 2009 9:00am and 7:00pm		



The Regina Caeli Schola Cantorum is singing at the 8:15am Mass on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday of the month here at OLPH. Please join us in singing and praying together with this beautiful traditional Catholic music. For more information on the schola, go to the following website:

<http://reginacaelischola.blogspot.com/>

Please contact Mia Coyne at miacoyne@comcast.net if you are interested in learning Gregorian chant with the schola.


PREPARE

Please include the sick of our parish in your prayers that they may experience Christ's comfort and healing.

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|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Carol Beall | Mary Grace Howard | Rosemarie Rippel |
| Clyde Bradley | Francis Hubbard | Mary Ann Sharp |
| Diane Buckley | Eugene Huget | Ann Shively |
| Helene Cadman | MaryAnn Humm | Mary Ellen Shotting |
| David Clark | Jack Kelly | Billy Simpson |
| Daniel Couvillion | Fred Lourenso | Jack Simpson |
| Patricia Donadio | Lois Malarkey | Ardelia Smith |
| Mike Doshim | Joyce Mathias | Julia Smith |
| Warren Drell Jr. | Lucy McKenna | Bill Snyder |
| Doris Eustis | Joseph Murray | Joanne Strock |
| Jayne Fleischer | Nathan Niessner | Edna Walker |
| Richard Flynn | Mary Joyce O'Neill | Laura Wall |
| Caroline Herrmann | Larry Putgenter, Sr. | Libby Weller |
| | Mary Reichel | Kyla Zeilinger |

If you or your loved one is on the mend, please notify the Rectory!

OLPH Bull Roast 2-21-2009	THE 2009 OLPH BULL ROAST is just around the corner!! Saturday February 21, 2009 7-11pm, Ten Oaks Ballroom. Only 400 tickets to be sold-- guaranteed to sell out--NO RESERVATIONS- Please call Vince Florenzo for ticket purchase. \$50 per person; \$450 for table of ten We have ALWAYS sold over 600 tickets for this event so book your sitter, gather your friends and get ready for a good time!! Vince Florenzo (240) 464-3415 vcmaflo@verizon.net
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 PARISH SUPPORT	
Offering for November 30, 2008	
Envelopes #463	\$16,487.00
Loose	\$2,038.70
Children	\$30.50
Total	\$18,556.20
Poor Box	\$525.00

Honoring Our Past, Preserving Our Future: Capital Campaign Update

This weekend we begin to draw greater visibility to our parish capital campaign: *Honoring Our Past – Preserving Our Future*. We will be communicating with you in a variety of ways, and today is a good example with fellow parishioners speaking at each Mass sharing their commitment to the future of our parish and asking for your support.

It seems that every day we are made aware of the financial difficulties in which our country is enmeshed. For those of you with the courage to do so, opening your retirement or investment statements or watching the financial news is a vivid reminder of how the economy has affected each and every one of us on a very personal basis. Not exactly the perfect time to be conducting a campaign!

As we begin the season of Advent, we can reflect on the many challenges that faced Joseph and Mary as they began the long trek to Bethlehem while Mary was with child. Their trip which must have been filled with uncertainty and anxiety was not at the perfect time for this young couple; nor was it the perfect situation when God sent us His only Son to be born in a stable. Maybe the lesson is our limited understanding of what is a perfect or even a good time.

We face significant challenges in our parish and we must join together as a community to respond not only with sacrifice but with faith. It is our faith that gives us the sense of assurance that God will not be outdone by our generosity.

Many fellow parishioners have already responded to Fr. Arnold's invitation to join together as a community to support our parish's campaign. We hope that when you are asked to give, you will remember that we are seeking pledges and support over a five-year period. What is a very meaningful gift - even in light of our need to raise \$1.5 million more - can actually be quite manageable when we look at what is required on a daily basis. A pledge of \$2,500, for instance, turns out to be \$1.37 a day over that time period of five years. That is the cost of a cup of coffee or a soda! We wonder whether any family cannot afford one less soda per day.

Thus far, we have raised nearly \$2 million in pledges from almost 250 parish families. The support has been strong, but we have a long way to go. Our needs are great and we must work together to raise an additional \$1.5 million to meet all of our goals. We ask that you consider giving a truly sacrificial gift to our parish. It is now our responsibility to preserve the future of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish for future generations of parishioners.

Bill Glover
Campaign Co-Chair

Crissy Reid
Campaign Co-Chair

OLPH SCHOOL GIFT CARD PROGRAM

OLPH School appreciates your support of our gift card program. Remember to go to www.shopwithscrip.com and register using the code FA8C1BF3889. Also sign up for Presto-Pay. Weekly order deadline is Sunday night for pickup the following Thursday or Friday at school, or after the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass.

CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

Join us on Friday, 12 December for our discussion of "Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life" by Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J. We will meet at two different times: 10 am in the Ministry Center or 7 pm in the Parish Center. Come to either or both. You don't even have to have read the book. Come and help us choose February 20's title. For more information, contact Fr. Larry



Advent—Peace in a time of Frenzy

- ◆ While you clean house in preparation for the holidays, make an examination of conscience. Advent is exactly the right time to reflect on the ways that we have failed to honor God or each other and to decide to start fresh. First make a heartfelt confession. Reconciliation will let you greet Christmas with a heart full of peace and joy.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CATHOLIC FORMATION MINISTRIES

Office Phone Numbers: 410-747-0131, 410-455-0399

Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9am—4pm

There are **No Pre-K and Sunday Kindergarten classes or the Nursery this weekend** so all families can enjoy "Breakfast with Santa". **Classes will resume Sunday, December 14th.** The regular monthly Children's Liturgy will be held at the 4:00 pm Mass Christmas Eve.



Attention: Elementary Religious Ed Parents!! Please make sure to check your child's folder for an important notice regarding class on **Monday, December 8th at 6:30.** **The 6:30 pm classes only, will be cancelled so all families can attend Mass at 7:00 pm to honor the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** The Monday 5:00 pm and the Tuesday 5:30 pm classes will be held as scheduled.

Revelations Movie Night is TONIGHT! (12/7) from 6:30 - 8:30 in the Ministry Center! **ALL** in High School are invited to come prepare our hearts during Advent by seeing *The Nativity*. Movie snacks will be provided!!!

ABLAZE is up, running, and ON FIRE for the Advent season! Come to the Ministry Center every Tuesday for a 90 minute retreat from 7 - 8:30. See you there!

Today, at Breakfast with Santa, the HS Youth Group will be selling Discount Cards (much like coupon books, only it looks like one gift card) to raise money for our ministry. These **reusable** cards last for an **entire year**, with discounts from **18** participating local businesses, including Play it Again Sports, Qdoba, Great Harvest Bread Co., T-Bonz Grille, all of your favorite Pizza places, and many more! Cards are \$20 each and make GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS!