

April 23, 2017

Look! He Is Alive! He Is Alive! He Is Risen! Alleluia!
Look Around! Look! You Will Find Him! HE IS ALIVE!

Since the Easter Vigil, our church looks totally different. Thanks to our Altar Guild and your own generosity, the Sanctuary filled with white flowers reminds us that something very special happened on this beautiful night of the Holy Easter Vigil, on this night when the world is transformed once for all: on this night, Our Lord Jesus Christ rises from the dead, three days after being crucified! By dying on the Cross on Good Friday, He takes away all our sins: our past sins as well as our future sins! By rising at dawn on Easter morning, He gives us Eternal Life! This is our Faith! This is our Hope that one day we will be reunited with Him in Heaven. We believe in the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ! We believe that our bodies will be resurrected on the Last Day! We believe that our souls will never die! This Great Vigil Night is the night when we are all **born again**, when we are all entering into a **new life!**

Based on feedback from many of you, this has been our **best-ever Triduum** at OLHOC! Every single activity saw a significant increase in participation, as compared with earlier years! For the first time in the last six years, our Masses on Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil/Holy Saturday were packed and we even had people sitting in the narthex! The **music** at all Masses and Services was just spectacular, helping all of us to **pray twice!** Through our six Easter Masses (Vigil and Easter Sunday), we had a record number of approximately 2,210 people participating ! We practically ran out of hosts at the Holy Thursday Mass (as priest, I had to break hosts as I was distributing them). There was a great sense of **solemnity** and **joy!** The **Holy Spirit** was truly present and at work within our church!

“Mom! Look! He is moving! He is alive!” These words were uttered with great enthusiasm to her mother by one of our First Communicants (one of the 65 youth expecting to receive **Jesus** for the first time on Saturday, May 6) at one of the Sunday Masses on April 2nd. This was the first day that our crosses and statues were covered with purple cloth, reminding us that Palm Sunday and the Holy Week were approaching! As the church was packed, the air-conditioning turned on in the middle of that Mass, and the large veil covering the large Crucifix in the Sanctuary began to move in a dramatic fashion; it seemed that Jesus Christ was trying to get rid of the large veil hiding Him so that the whole world could know that despite all the flagellations, all the beatings, the crowning with thorns, and the final piercing of **his heart** with a lance, **Our Lord Jesus Christ is moving, He is still alive!**

Yes, He is alive! He is alive not only on Easter Sunday, but on every Sunday and on every day of our lives! He is **alive in the Blessed Sacrament** reposed within our **Tabernacles** (in both our main church and our Blessed Sacrament Chapel). He is **alive** in every **Gospel proclaimed** at Mass: He is the **Word of God!** He is **really present** on the Altar from the moment of the **Consecration**: **“This is my Body ...given up for you. This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant...poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”** This is our Faith! This is our belief based on the words Jesus pronounced at the **Last Supper**. This is the reason why we can say with St. John Paul II: **“Mass is Heaven on Earth”**. Every

Mass Intention

- Saturday, April 22, 5:00 PM: Brian Arey +
- Sunday, April 23, 8:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, April 23, 10:00 AM: Jose & Anna Marie Gonzales & Family +
- Sunday, April 23, 11:30 AM: Henry Ballesteros
- Monday, April 24, 9:00 AM: Irene Onianwah +
- Tuesday, April 25, 9:00 AM: April Sheffield
- Wednesday, April 26, 9:00 AM: Deceased Children of Myrna Egbufoama +
- Thursday, April 27, 9:00 AM: Myrna Egbufoama
- Saturday, April 29, 9:00 AM: Sabina & Pionio Amper +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: 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, Michael Sofield Jr., Elinore Fortney, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joassaint, 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.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Donna Tessier**.

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Mass Readings for April 23, 2017
Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday
First Reading- Acts of the Apostles 2: vs. 42-47
Second Reading- 1 Peter 1: vs. 3-9
Gospel- John 20: vs. 19-3

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(cont.) time we come to Mass, whether Easter Mass, whether any Sunday Mass, or whether a daily Mass on any day, **God is truly present!** We can experience His Presence, we can experience His Love, as we will do when we are with Him in Heaven forever and ever.

May the continuing celebration of the **Joy of His Resurrection** fill our hearts with **His Love** within the **fifty days of the entire Easter Season!**

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Second Sunday of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy

CCD Class Schedule

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

April 23/24- CCD Classes

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 ; April 30; May 7)

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 **April 30** 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.

FIAT, Edge and Life Teen ! All Young Adults!

Everyone is invited to join us on our next **All Youth Night** on **Sunday, April 30**, starting with Mass at 4 pm. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, recently called a Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. We are inviting all young adults (18-35 years old) to join us for the All Youth Night. There will be Mass at 4 pm, followed by a pizza dinner and then a gathering with Fr. Lopez and other young adults from the area for a special discussion/listening session on the Synod. Bring some friends!

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.

- **April 24@ 6:30 pm- Archbishop Neale ES, La Plata**
- **May 18 @7 pm- 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.



Christmas in April

The **OLHOC** team project (a house) for **Christmas in April** is coming up soon. We are in need of specific job skills in addition to our volunteers. If you have experience as a **plumber/helper, carpenter/ handyman, electrician/helper**, and would like to participate on **April 29**, please contact Frank Soloninka @ 301-848-1823 **as soon as possible**.

The **Christmas in April House** will be in the narthex on **April 22 and 23** to accept donations. Please consider making a donation for this program that helps those living in inhabitable dwellings.

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 : [pre-school@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) for information.

Community Outreach

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds’ Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, May 18, 2017**. Our OLHOC Confirmation Students will be sponsoring and hosting the dinner at Good Shepherd Church. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **May 3** 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

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & France

Our parish is organizing this pilgrimage **August 6-16, 2017**, celebrating the **100th year anniversary** of the apparitions of **Our Lady in Fatima** and the **Feast of Our Lady of the Bread Giver in Aire Sur La Lys** (Home parish of Fr. Narcisse Martin). Fr. Alain will be the Spiritual Director for the pilgrimage. There are detailed flyers available in the narthex and on the parish bulletin board. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please sign up on one of the lists in the narthex or contact **May Oteyza at 301-843-7784**. Please do not delay; Seats are limited, but still available for this once-in-a-lifetime faith journey!

Mary’s Helping Hands Bake Sale

The ladies of **Mary’s Helping Hands** (Knights of Columbus Auxiliary) will hold a bake sale and raffle (Celebrate America Basket) on **Sunday, April 23** in the narthex. There will be a large variety of post-Lenten and Easter celebration treats!

Thank You

The parishioners of OLHOC showed their generosity again for the Archdiocese of Washington Lenten Food Drive. The Knights of Columbus completed the non-perishable food counts and the Southern Maryland Food Bank brought their staff and truck to bring all the items to the Food Bank which serves the hungry in this area. The total weight of the donated food was 1,888 pounds, which equals the feeding of about 90 families.