

# OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

*Allentown, Pennsylvania | Roman Catholic Parish Community*



## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

### SERVED BY

Rev. Richard Brensinger (Fr. Rich) – *Administrator*  
Ed Hudak - *Financial Secretary*  
Elaine Mitchell - *Bulletin/Parish Secretary*  
Rosanne Venditto - *Organist*  
Dina Boyer, Carolyn Johnson &  
& Lorraine Lockawich - *Cantors*  
Kathleen Godshall - *Director of Religious Education*  
Luisa Bello - *Youth Group Coordinator*

### RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

M-W 9AM-4PM | Mask is required.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr. Rich Brensinger, Karen Adams, Jose Collazo,  
Vanessa Heimbach, Carla Ortiz,  
Richard Raffensperger, Dan Schmidt,  
Melissa Velazquez, Rosanne Venditto

### PARISH FINANCIAL COUNCIL

Fr. Rich Brensinger, Ed Hudak, Jack Bolash, Sheila  
Breitfeld, Dan Schmidt, Rosanne Venditto

### MASSES (IN THE CHURCH)

Monday - Friday: 8AM  
Saturday – No Masses at this time.  
Sunday – 9AM and 11AM

### HOLY DAYS AND ADORATION

Evening Before: 7PM | Day of: 9AM  
No Adoration at this time.

### VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Wendy Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC  
1-800-791-9209 (Direct Line)

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS  
prusso@allentowndiocese.org  
610-871-5200, Ext 2204

There is a link to the Charter for the Protection of  
Children and Young People on the Diocese website at  
[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org) under "Youth Protection."

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OLHCALENTOWN](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OLHCALENTOWN)





## SACRAMENTAL AND PARISH INFORMATION



### PARISH MEMBERSHIP

In order to receive any Sacraments, you must be a REGISTERED PARISHIONER. Yellow census forms should be filled out as soon as possible to be considered an active member. Please contact us with any changes so our records can be kept current. *If you are over 18 and not in college, you should register under your own name.*

### SACRAMENT TO THE HOMEBOUND

Please call the Rectory for arrangements. Father makes First Friday Communion calls the first week of the month.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM/ BAPTISM SPONSORS

Parents and Godparents will need to attend a class before the child's Baptism. An Information Form needs to be filled out by the parent and a Declaration Form filled out by the Godparents. Godparents must be at least 16 years of age, need to be an active, registered parishioners of OLHC or will need a letter of good standing from their current Parish. Anyone requesting a Baptism for their child must be actively attending Church for at least three (3) months.



FROM JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
TO JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>

The Candle Burns in Loving  
Memory of:

**BAUMGARTNER FAMILY**

Requested by:  
Son Robert & Grandchildren  
Michael & Courtney



Please pray for our Sister  
Charlene as she is having eye  
surgery on 1/26!

### SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The process of preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony within the Church takes at least six months so we encourage you to begin this process as soon as you become engaged. No marriage dates will be taken over the phone. Parents of those to be married cannot reserve a date for their adult children.

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

At this time, Confession is by appointment only. Please call or email the Rectory for an appointment.

### SPONSORSHIP LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY

Only Catholics who are fully-initiated, regularly attending Mass and, if married, done so validly in the Roman Catholic Church will receive Letters of Eligibility.

### LEGACY

Gifts provided through wills and personal trusts can make such a difference in the continued operation of our Parish. These gifts enable a donor to make contributions that may not have been possible during their lifetime. If you value the mission of OLHC, please consider this. Thank you!

*please  
pray for  
the sick*

### PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK WHEN YOU PRAY

John Hart (brother of Mary Hart). Sister  
Charlene (eye surgery).

### HELP WITH GROCERIES

"If we want to be ready for the final encounter with the Lord, we must cooperate with Him now and perform good deeds inspired by His love," Pope Francis said in his Angelus address November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have a 91-year-old parishioner who needs help with groceries. She lives on N. Kiowa Street, right near Dieruff High, where all the high school kids (used to) greet her on their way home. If anyone can help her, please call or email the Rectory. Thanks and God bless!

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800-276-1562. Si tiene una denuncia de abuso contra un obispo, comuníquese con el Servicio de Denuncias de Abuso de Obispos Católicos en [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) o llamando al 800-276-1562.

building OUR FUTURE together.



Weekly Offerings

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP HELPS SUSTAIN US

January 3, 2020 –\$5,008

The statement printed above the amount expresses the gratitude felt in response to your continued support and generosity towards our parish. It is your weekly contributions that help sustain us and keep us active. Thanks are extended to those who use envelopes and those who contribute through the Diocese online giving ([allentowndiocese.org/parish-support](http://allentowndiocese.org/parish-support)) and E-offering. *The number above reflects collections received from mailings, online giving, Sunday's Masses and second offerings, including Diocesan collections.*

### Faith-filled Optimism

Let's face it, we all get depressed at times, it is part of being human. And this past year dealing with COVID-19 has made it even more inescapable. However, as with all things, when it becomes excessive, depression characterized by dramatic mood swings, loss of interest in things one used to do and becoming lethargic is very detrimental to our overall health. In recent years, I have heard depression in the confessional many times.

Unfortunately, those who do suffer from this ailment and have been diagnosed as being clinically depressed, question the reason for living. Some might ask, "Is there hope?" Yes, there is. It is summed up in one word; FAITH. And what is Faith? Well, according to Hebrews; "*It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen*"(11.1), in layman's terms, it is believing in what you can't necessarily see, feel or touch, but knowing that it is there and will be beneficial for you.

Remember when you may have fallen off your bike as a kid and after your mom nursed the bruise she tells you "let me kiss it so the pain goes away..."? Well as adults, we know that didn't necessarily make the hurting stop...per se, but in being told that, as kids we automatically believed "Well, if mommy says it'll go away by kissing it, then I believe it will..." The trick is the second part of that thought is what made it happen! Believing that what mom said she'd bring about will happen!

Evidently, kids in their innocence come by a natural ability to live by faith. We all were graced with this gift at our birth, but sadly then it dissipates, leaving room for such negative forces as depression, doubt, self-hatred, you name it.

It's no wonder Jesus said "*To enter the Kingdom of heaven, you must be like little children...*" He went on to say: "*The kingdom of Heaven is within you*" (Luke 17:20-21) Wow...what a statement! Now as powerful as faith is and as necessary as it is to overcoming depression, it needs to be exercised wisely to be strengthened.

Here are some tips:

1. Always act like it is impossible to fail, believe that it always works.
2. Pre-condition your mind to success in all things.
3. Realize that even the most positive people have losses, set-backs, etc.
4. Try, really try! Think, really think! Believe, really believe!
5. Perhaps most importantly, some things are too much to bear alone and sound medical advice and counsel are always aids to a healthy you.

You are what you are and will be where you want to be based on your thoughts. Admittedly, it may not always be easy, but that is what life is all about and one comforting fact is God has promised in His word: "*No temptation (problem) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted (tested) beyond what you are able, but with the temptation (problem) will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it*" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Think on that, strengthen your faith with the tips above and you too will soon be overcoming depression.

**Reading I: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7, or 55: 1-11**

God speaks as He would to a heavenly court, and promises that He will give His Spirit to the coming Messiah. We also learn about the power of God's Word, which never goes unfulfilled. The Messiah will be "a light to all nations."

**Reading II: Acts 10: 34-38, or I John 5: 1-9**

This letter of John joins obedience to love. It is incumbent on us to believe that Jesus is the Son of the Father, and that His death for sin brings us eternal life.

**The Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11**

John the Baptist again exhibits his humility before Jesus, as he declares himself unworthy to do what was normally a slave's task: loosening Jesus' sandal straps. "Wind and fire" describe the coming of the kingdom and precede the proclamation of Our Lord's true identity.



**GOD BLESS YOU ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!**

- 1/10 William Fenstermaker, Adnery de la Rosa
- 1/11 Blanca Pulla
- 1/12 Raymond Fritz
- 1/13 Vicky Kistler, Eulalio Rosario
- 1/14 Margaret Hrinevich
- 1/15 Kenia Chila, Jessica Connell

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED SOULS WHO PASSED AWAY IN JANUARY**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1/1 – William Downing ('79), Modesto Marino ('19)   | 1/19 – John Lysek ('93)                              |
| 1/2 – Albert Dorwarth ('03)   | 1/20 – Anna Reichenbach ('07)                        |
| 1/3 – Joseph Wiener ('01), Raymond Keppel ('03), Marie Brunner ('06), Daniel Gardo ('07), Dorothy "Woody" O'Donnell ('15) | 1/21 – Rita Rehling ('93), George Kinek ('95)        |
| 1/4 – Yolanda "Yolie" Sakovits ('18)  | 1/22 – Kathleen Oswald ('15)                         |
| 1/5 – Lawrence Killo ('06), James Noti ('11)  | 1/24 – Anthony Cerulli ('05), Leslie Baker ('16)     |
| 1/6 – Patricia Sokolsky ('07), Ernest John ('20)  | 1/25 – Helen Mailander ('06)                         |
| 1/9 – Edward Emery ('10)  | 1/26 – Donald Stout ('10), Patricia Nighan ('13)     |
| 1/10 – Joseph Piccerillo ('17)  | 1/27 – Geraldine 'Gerry' Christopher ('19)           |
| 1/11 – Elaine Biasiotto ('05), Ethel Mazurek ('13)  | 1/28 – Richard Perkins ('13)                         |
| 1/12 – Esther Chorney ('04), Dylan Hoang ('16)  | 1/29 – Thomas Verholy ('04), Geraldine Wertman ('17) |
| 1/13 – Catherine Marushak ('04), Arthur & Evelyn Rice ('07)   | 1/30 – Maria Stout ('17)                             |
| 1/16 – Robert Kleckner ('04), Marion Schnabel ('11)   |  |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>JANUARY</b> | <b>SUNDAY</b>  |
| <b>10</b>      | <b><u>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</u></b><br>†9AM – George Kochuparambil, Sr.<br>R/B Ann Yost<br><br>†11AM – Nancy Smolick<br>R/B Mary Psarsky                               |
| <b>11</b>      | †8AM – Rheta Botteon<br>R/B Elizabeth Smith  |
| <b>12</b>      | ♦8AM – Mass for the People of the Parish   |
| <b>13</b>      | <b>ST. HILARY</b><br>†8AM – Frank Reisinger<br>R/B Ruth Reisinger  |
| <b>14</b>      | †8AM – Regina Nagle<br>R/B Ruth Reisinger  |
| <b>15</b>      | †8AM – Victoria Ruhe<br>R/B Dennis Buchanin  |
| <b>16</b>      | No Masses  |
| <b>17</b>      | <b><u>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u></b><br>†9AM – Louise A. Wisser<br>R/B Nanette & Dolores Gillette<br><br>†11AM – Francis S. Henry<br>R/B Paul & Barbara Yost |

Birthday \* Support ♦ Anniversary ♥ Memorial †

If you would like to receive a summary statement of your 2020 contributions, please put a note with your name in the collection box or call/email the Rectory. You **MUST** include a stamped, SASE with your request or pick the statement up in the Rectory office M-W 9 to 4. Please give us a few days to get this statement together. We are grateful to all who contributed and especially those who sacrificially support Our Lady Help of Christians throughout the year.

**ENTRANCE – TO JORDAN JESUS HUMBLY CAME**

To Jordan Jesus humbly came, His Gospel mission to proclaim;  
On earth, in heav'n, God's will was done by God's beloved only Son.

God names us sons and daughters, too, in font and Spirit born anew;  
In Christ we die, with Christ we rise, through Christ we enter paradise!

**INTRODUCTORY RITE | PENITENTIAL RITE | ABSOLUTION | THE READINGS**

**READING 1**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**READING 2**

**GOSPEL**

**HOMILY | PROFESSION OF FAITH – NICENE CREED | PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**OFFERTORY – LITTLE JESUS**

(An original Christmas lullaby written to ask for healing during the pandemic)

On this day of wonder in this time of plight, We look to the Christ child as our shining light.  
He can ease our burdens and remove our fear. He, the King of glory, yet an infant dear.

Little Jesus...on this night. Heal us at this moment with Your might.  
Little Jesus....Child of light! Come into our hearts now from Your stable bare.  
Bring Your peace and comfort (bring Your peace and comfort)  
And your love and joy we'll share.

**INVITATION TO PRAYER | EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER | THE PREFACE DIALOGUE | LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION – SILENT NIGHT**

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Noche de paz, noche de amor, Todo duerme en derredor.  
Entre los astros que esparcen su luz Bella anunciando al ninito Jesus,  
Brilla la estrella de paz, Brilla la estrella de paz.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia; Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!  
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**COMMUNION | CONCLUDING RITES | PRAYER OF ST. MICHAEL**

**RECESSIONAL – ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

**Verse 1:** Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

**Refrain:** Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo. Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo.

**Verse 2:** Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song.

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Message and data rates may apply.

**What's My Name?**

The #WHATSMYNAME  
Movement asks everyone to  
simply ask drivers "What's my  
name?" before entering their  
vehicle to make sure it is the car  
they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of  
Samantha Josephson

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