

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*

Allen Zelno - *Parish Nurse* - 570-766-1622

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: 8AM

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 under "Youth Protection."

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OLHCALLTOWN





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.

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!

FUNDRAISING AT OLHC



We made \$1,474 from our extended clothing drive! Thanks so much for all participated. We will do this again in the spring!



We made \$228 from Redner's tapes. Thanks so much for putting them in the collection each week. Tell your friends and neighbors! They can drop them through our mail slot.



1 ticket...28 chances!

For only \$10 per ticket, the lucky ticket owner has several opportunities to win cash prizes. The number on the ticket needs to match the daily PA lottery evening drawing during the month of February 2021. *For every 4 tickets sold, you (the seller) get a free ticket...and when you sell all 7 tickets, you receive two free tickets!*



Season's Greetings! We are pleased you have come (or come back) to Our Lady Help of Christians for this holiday season and hope you will soon call this faith community your home. All are welcome at OLHC!



Helping Our Parish Grow
WEEKLY OFFERTORY

YOUR STEWARDSHIP HELPS SUSTAIN US

December 20, 2020 – Not provided due to early bulletin submission

Thank you for your continued support. The statement printed above the amount expresses the gratitude felt in response to your 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) and E-offering. *The number above reflects collections received from mailings, online giving, Sunday's Masses and second offerings, including Diocesan collections.*



FROM DECEMBER 27th
TO JANUARY 2ND

The Candle Burns in Loving
Memory of:

RHETA BOTTEON

Requested by:
Brother Boniface, Sherlock, FSFC



DECEMBER 31ST – NEW YEARS EVE
7:00PM Vigil Mass

JANUARY 1, 2021 –
SOLEMNITY OF MARY
9:00AM and 11:00AM Mass

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

To be cute about it, I quote here an American humorist by the name of Evan Esar (d. 1995): “Family: A social unit where the father is concerned with parking space, the children with outer space, and the mother with closet space.”

Whether Mr. Esar was fully correct or not, there is a grain of truth in what he wrote, and there is always some truth in wholesome humor. However, for my purpose I prefer this statement of Sir Winston Churchill about the nature of family. “There is no doubt that it is around family and the home that all the greatest virtues ...are created, strengthened, and maintained.”

Over this holiday time of year, we are most likely to be with family, either literally or virtually because of the virus. We can verify Sir Winston’s observation. Family also gives us the answers to most of life’s important questions.

Do you think the young Jesus had questions? Certainly, He must have, because remember He took on a human nature “like ours in everything but sin.” What is one of the principal ways we learn? Through answers to questions. Through that triple-spoke process of lessons taught, example given, and experience lived, Our Lord and Savior indeed grew in wisdom and grace.

I think it is an important detail that all this happened in the little village of Nazareth. It was located on the edge of the empire, far from the high society and corruption of Rome. So insignificant that it is nowhere even mentioned in the whole Old Testament. Great things can happen in humble places, as our family homes most often attest.

Could Our Lord have had better teachers in how to handle life than Mary and Joseph? Hardly. Without any advanced degrees after their names, we can say with conviction that both Christ’s parents had “PhD’s” in holiness. Mary who was declared “full of grace” by an archangel, and Joseph remembered as a “just man” in the Scriptural sense cannot be excelled at their task. The Holy Spirit has decided not to tell us if any peers taught Jesus things, but we can imagine they too played a part, for better or worse, in His human upbringing. So, we stand back for a time from all our concerns to admire and celebrate this Holy Family. We can see the necessity of these thirty or so years to prepare Our Lord for His incomparable mission.

That brings up the subject of our mission. Obviously, it begins in our family circle, but it has to expand from there if we are to take our Baptismal and Confirmation promises seriously. That means doing our part to tell the waiting world all about Jesus and His Good News, even if the world neither acknowledges nor cares that it is waiting. Waiting for something, or more accurately, Someone, beyond its own calculations to give it purpose. Taking up the admonitions of Sirach and Colossians, which we read this weekend, is a good place to begin. After all, that’s our way to heaven. Here is George Bernard Shaw’s take on family: “A happy family is but an earlier heaven.” Think about that! God love you and give you His peace in 2021!



Reading I: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Fidelity to the Lord implies many virtues. Chief among them is our duties toward our parents. The traditional blessings are then listed.

Reading II: Colossians 3: 12-21

This section is an early baptismal instruction. It describes the Christian community which a new member embraces through his/her baptism.

The Gospel: Luke 2: 22, 39-40

This section points out the necessity of the Nazareth years in Jesus' life. It was there that He grew strong in the full experience of a human nature. In that way, He could bring the Spirit of God into contact with every area of our lives.

GOD BLESS YOU ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!

12/27	Annamarie Casciano
12/28	Dennis Buchanin
12/29	Eric Anfuso
12/30	Rosemarie Ifill-Sander
1/1	Rudolph Gyory, Annie Nguyen

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED SOULS WHO PASSED AWAY IN DECEMBER

<u>12/1</u> – Carol Kopishke ('01), Francis Falatek ('05), Margaret Boyer ('12)	<u>12/16</u> – Lucille Simpson ('19)
<u>12/2</u> – Joseph Ganguzza ('06), Theresa Roth ('17), Jack Booros ('18)	<u>12/17</u> – Carl Stroble
<u>12/3</u> – Stephen Rengert ('07), Agnes Novak ('11), Daniel Klase ('17)	<u>12/20</u> – Alois Kropf ('03), Dorothy Burick ('13)
<u>12/5</u> – Helen Worman ('06), Mary Young ('07)	<u>12/21</u> – Virgil Biasiotta ('01), Gloria Anfuso ('09), Ann Snyder ('13), Joseph Long ('17)
<u>12/6</u> – Ann John ('00), Janet Garger ('16)	<u>12/22</u> – John Gaspar ('00), George Hart ('77), James Duffy ('05)
<u>12/7</u> – Rose Venditto ('09)	<u>12/26</u> – Edward Bushner ('15)
<u>12/8</u> – Mary Wiener (00), Richard Buchanin ('04), Jeffrey Hart ('15)	<u>12/27</u> – Gaetano Riccio ('07), John Sack ('12), Frances Fried ('13), Loretta Rohrbach ('18)
<u>12/11</u> – Louis Spironello ('86)	<u>12/28</u> – Nancy Kline ('08)
<u>12/13</u> – Louis Acosta ('10)	<u>12/29</u> – Albert Bigatel ('11)
<u>12/14</u> – William Corby ('10)	<u>12/30</u> – Anna Marie Smolick ('10), Maryellen Randolph ('11)
<u>12/15</u> – Helen Oravec ('93), Catherine Shankweiler ('08), Jennie Keglovitz ('12)	<u>12/31</u> – Joseph Temmel, Sr. ('07)

DECEMBER	SUNDAY
<i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH</i>	
27	<p>◆9AM – Intentions of Dr. Spenser Stober R/B SBM</p> <p>✠11AM – Antonio Rodríguez Eneria Del Carmen Peralta R/B Maria Peralta</p>
MONDAY	
28	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</i></p> <p>✠8AM – Anthony & Rose Venditto R/B Rosanne Venditto</p>
TUESDAY	
29	◆8AM – Mass for the People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY	
30	◆8AM – Intentions of Dr. Richard Parsons R/B SBM
NEW YEAR'S EVE THURSDAY	
31	<p>✠8AM – Frank E. Reisinger R/B Ruth Reisinger</p> <p>✠7PM - OLHC Memorial Fund</p>
SOLEMNITY OF MARY FRIDAY	
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</i></p> <p>✠9AM & 11AM – OLHC MEMORIAL FUND</p>
SATURDAY	
2	No Masses
SUNDAY	
<i>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	
3	<p>◆9AM – Michael John Horvath R/B Rosanne Venditto</p> <p>✠11AM – Dorothy "Woody" O'Donnell R/B Maureen Whitehead</p>

Birthday * Support ◆ Anniversary ♥ Memorial ✠

For 2021 we would like to publish a sick list for parishioners (past or present) and their family. This is different from the prayer intention book. This will be for people actively sick. Please put the name(s) in the offering box, email the Rectory, leave a voicemail or drop off in the mail slot. List will get updated each month.

ENTRANCE – AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the Little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes; but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

INTRODUCTORY RITE | PENITENTIAL RITE | ABSOLUTION | THE READINGS

READING 1

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

READING 2

GOSPEL

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

OFFERTORY – O COME, LITTLE CHILDREN

O come, little children, come one and come all; O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall,
And see what our Father in heaven above has sent to all people on earth with his love.

O see in the manger so meek and so mild, O see in the soft light the heavenly Child,
In swaddling clothes folded, his beauty more sweet than angels, whose voices his lowly birth greet.

His bed, little children, a manger with hay; His mother and Joseph in ecstasy pray;
The shepherds in wonder their glad worship bring, while chorus of angels sweet Glorias sing.

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

COMMUNION – IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth to
touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly
music floats o'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing
way with painful steps and slow, Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

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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