FEAST OF THE ASCENSION
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Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time (Matthew 28:20). Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power from on high on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan. When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth

Jesus' last words to his disciples point to the key mission and task he has entrusted to his followers on earth - to be his witnesses and ambassadors to the ends of the earth so that all peoples, tribes, and nations may hear the good news that Jesus Christ has come to set us free from sin, Satan, and death and has won for us a kingdom of peace, joy, and righteousness that will last forever.

How can we be effective witnesses for Christ? Jesus told his followers, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you - and you shall be my witnesses... to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus gives his followers the same power he received when the Holy Spirit came upon him and anointed him at the beginning of his mission (John 1:32-33). The Gospel is the power of God, the power to release people from their burden of sin, guilt, and oppression, and the power to heal, restore, and make us whole.

Do you believe in the power of the Gospel to change and transform your life?
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission Statement
To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ: to educate, to evangelize,
To seek and reach out, and to provide charity and service to all.

Pastor’s Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Bishop Bill Newman, who died this past Friday, was a truly wonderful man and priest. When I moved to Baltimore to attend Johns Hopkins as a graduate student, I first went to Mass on campus. While that was a positive experience, it was all students and faculty members. I realized that I wanted a little more diversity. The local church was Saints Philip and James and so I started going there. Msgr. Bill Newman had arrived as pastor, just before I began attending. It was a stunningly beautiful church, but not much was going on.

Over the next five years, it became a magical place because of him. He re-established the religious education program, as well as the pastoral council and a host of other ministries. Everyone who knew Bill Newman describes him in the same way: warm, wonderful, humble and gracious. He was so humble that you might miss just how capable and talented he was. He was effective as a priest, pastor and bishop. All his gifts were on display during those years that he was there as pastor. I know parishioners who still “adore” him some thirty-six years later. I am sure that he looked on those five years at Saint Philip and James as being very happy ones. He was so humble and unassuming that it would have never crossed his mind that he was the principle reason.

He had a distinguished career and you can read about it on the Catholic Review website. One thing that I can highlight is that Bishop Bill Newman was a great athlete. He was a star baseball player at Calvert High and was a great sports fan. One of the parishioners at Saints Philip and James was John DiNunzio, who knew him from High School and who, himself, had played AAA minor league baseball. John told me once that the Pirates were interested in Bill Newman and that he was sure Bill would have made it to the big leagues. He was that good. Bill Newman chose to go into the seminary instead. He was always choosing God and people first.

He was one of the reasons I became a priest. When he heard I was entering the seminary, he took me to dinner. He asked me “Joe, what do you want out of life?” I knew we both loved baseball and I remembered what John DiNunzio had told me, so I answered, “A ninety-five mile an hour fastball with a hop on it and a viscous curveball.” He laughed and said. “Yeah and that is the last we would see of you!” I said, “No, I would be back after a couple years in the Appalachian League.” Among all the wonderful gifts he had, was a perfectly understated sense of humor. Requiescat in Pace.

God bless you, Fr. Joe
Ministry Schedule
June 3rd & June 4th

5:00 p.m. Mass
AS: Arnie Goode, plus 1
EMS: Della DeWalt, Kathy Gidlund, Lee & Jackie Heath, Matthew Slattery
L: Pam Prewitt

8:30 a.m. Mass
AS: Joseph Loughlin, Sam Kans
EMS: BJ Lewis, Dick & Anne Maio, Denise Miller, Eileen Thaden, Eugenia Pessagno, plus 1
L: Bill Kraus, Trish Garland

11:00 a.m. Mass
AS: Liam Loughery, Debbie Wallach
EMS: Sue Clayton, Bob Doyle, Carla Duls, Sheilita Fanciulli, Betty Fox, Julie Gill, Ken Hayden, Chris Perkey
L: Joanne Chisholm, Michele Callaghan

Calendar Events

Monday, May 29 — Memorial Day
Office Closed — No Mass
No SVDP — No Bible Study

Tuesday, May 30
No Activities

Wednesday, May 31
10:00 a.m. Food Pantry

Thursday, June 1
11:00 a.m. So. River Rehab Service
7:00 p.m. Liturgy Committee

Friday, June 2
10:00 a.m. Food Pantry

Saturday, June 3
No Activities
Sunday, June 4
No Activities

From the Desk of Sr. Kass

In his apostolic letter Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis talks about a church on the move. It cannot be weighed down by grumbling and complaining, because the more we grumble, the more we are asking, “Is God in our midst or not?” In the book of Exodus, when the people of Israel find themselves in exile in Babylon, their lack of hope is characterized by their inability to sing.

A church on the move must not be a church without song! I’m thinking that every gathering, every meeting include singing, whether it be a hymn or just a refrain. Friedrich Nietzsche said, “The world no longer believes because believers no longer sing.” Are there things to complain and grumble about? Of course! However, faith and hope adamantly refuse to believe that the world cannot become a better place.

How hard would it be for us to identify ten to twelve go-to hymns and refrains that we could sing spontaneously at any parish gathering? We would want songs that are short, snappy, uplifting and easy to learn and sing.

So, here is your task for the next few weeks: make a list of ten songs, hymns, or refrains that you would like to see as the go-to songs for our parish to sing when we come together (bible study, SVDP, Haiti Committee, socials...). This can be a group process or you can submit your own personal list. Give the list to me via email (srkass@olph.net) or a written list. Remember: short, snappy, uplifting and easy to sing!

DAILY MASS READINGS

29 Monday — Easter Weekday
Acts 19: 1-8/Ps 68: 2-7/Jn 16: 29-33

30 Tuesday — Easter Weekday

31 Wednesday — Feast of the Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary
Zep 3: 14-18a or Rom 12: 9-16/(Ps) Is 12: 2-3,4bcd,5-6/Lk 1: 39-56

1 June — Thursday — St. Justin, martyr

2 Friday — Sts. Marcellinus & Peter, martyrs
Acts 25: 13b-21/Ps 103: 1-2,11-12,19-20b/Jn 21: 15-19

3 Saturday — St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, martyrs

4 Feast of Pentecost
Acts 2: 1-11/Ps 104: 1,24,29-31,34/1 Cor 12: 3b-7,12-13/Jn 20: 19-23
No sepession this week! Take this break to read Chapters 1-39 in Isaiah to prepare for next session.

Bring Home the Sunday Gospel—Jesus taught his disciples to be leaders—no different than us. They probably felt inadequate as leaders, and even after they had traveled with the master, told people what he could do for them, and tried their hand at healing, they still expected Jesus to take the lead, give the sign, and cajole them into greater faithfulness to the plan. We, today and in this place, can say we have been claimed for ministry as well. Through the fulfillment of God’s reign is closer today than when those first disciples received their call, so much more “good news’ is needed in our time. We are up to the task because our credentials are the best. We, too, have met the risen Jesus and worship him. We have known his presence every step of the way. As our song said so well, “God’s time is near.” We can go in peace, to love and serve the Lord”. How did that belief affect my behavior or choices?

Ask yourself this question....Has anyone ever seen potential in me that I could not see? How did that belief affect my behavior or choices? What difference has it made that I was baptized? How do I share the “Good News of Jesus” with those I meet?

Faith Talk for Families—“The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition, established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery.”—Catechism of the Catholic Church, #638

Does Jesus’ rising give you hope? What is one way you can share the good news of the Resurrection? Why is springtime a good season to celebrate Jesus’ rising at Easter.

Do not abandon yourselves to despair...

We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”—Pope John Paul II

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PARISH NEWS & NEEDS

Total Collection
May 21, 2017

Weekly Need: $7,642.00
Total Baskets: $4,675.00
On-Line: $1,925.00
Poor Box: $229.11
Special: $694.00
Spanish Retreat: $326.00

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Thank you for your continued generosity to your Faith Community!

Remember the sick of the parish especially: Joyce Webster, and Sally Guaragna

If you know of a parishioner or family member who needs to be placed on our prayer list please contact the parish secretary.

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Musicians Needed!

With the departure of Tom and Marcia Auth the 8:30 am Sunday Mass is in need of a guitar (or two or three) and singers. If you or someone you know might be willing to share their talents, please contact Sr. Kass.

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Sacrament of Confirmation

Bishop Adam Parker conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on our students and those of Our Lady of Sorrows on Friday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Both groups have been studying for the last two years for this important moment in their young lives.

OLPH students were: Aolani Gutierrez, James Kline V, Catherine Mahon, Ryan Mahon, Cole Pessagno and Steven Rocker.
**SVDP**—With the continued ministry to the needy of the community, our pantry shelves could use—cereals, jelly & peanut butter, soups of all kinds, Dinty Moore beef stew, tuna fish, spaghetti sauce, assorted “veggyes”, instant potatoes, juices for the kids.

**Religious Education Families**—The schedules for 2017-2018 school year are in the kiosk outside the Cry Room for you to pick up. We need to order books, supplies, etc. for next school year and “early” registration would help us. Contact Ms. Pat (443-203-1002 x3) for any other questions.

**Sacraments**

**Reconciliation**—4:00-4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment.

**Baptism Class**—will be held June 20th at 12:15 p.m. In the Chapel, please register with Ms. Pat. (443-203-1002 x3). If no one registers, there will be no class.

**Matrimony**—Couples must call the parish office for information on preparation at least six months prior to marriage.

**Gift Catalogue**

Wine for the month of July—$125

THANK YOU

**Hispanic Community News**

**Quinceañera**—Did you know that we provide 3 classes of preparation for young women and their family for the 15th Birthday celebration? Classes are held in September & March. Call Adriana Figueras to register (410)956-3786—leave message.

Class to prepare for **Baptism** is the 2nd Saturday of the month. Call Adriana Figueras to register at 410-956-3786 and leave message.

Next **bi-lingual** Mass at 5:00 pm on June 17 with Fr. Russo!