

Our Lady's Voice

The Newsletter of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

1089 Joseph Avenue

Rochester, New York

VOL. 6 NO. 3

WINTER 2005

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE SET; OTHER EVENTS ENRICH THE JOYFUL SEASON

The OLPH-St. Michael's schedule of Masses to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord has been set as follows:

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

7:30 PM Mass in Spanish
at St. Michael's Church

10:00 PM Bi-lingual Mass
at Perpetual Help

12 Midnight Mass
in English at St. Michael's

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

9:45 AM Mass in English
at Perpetual Help

NEW YEAR'S Weekend
Saturday, December 31

(Regular schedule)

5:00 PM Bi-lingual Mass

Sunday, January 1

(Solemnity of Mary)

9:45 AM in English
at Perpetual Help

11:00 AM Mass in Spanish
at St. Michael's

12 Noon Gospel Liturgy
at Perpetual Help

7:00 PM Mass in English
at St. Michael's

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The usual 8 AM Thursday Mass
at St. Michael's will be a bi-
lingual celebration on

December 8

in honor of the Feast of Mary's
Immaculate Conception. Also, a
Mass in English will be offered
at OLPH that evening at 7 PM

LESSONS & CAROLS

This most enjoyable event, held
for the first time in our parish
last year, will be repeated this
year on

Sunday, December 11
4 PM

The celebration of "lessons &
carols" during Advent originated
in England, and it customarily
begins with the carol "Once in
David's Royal City." Passages
from Scripture are read alter-
nately with the singing of
Christmas carols--familiar as
well as some of the lesser-
known music of the season.
The service will conclude with
traditional Benediction complete
with Latin hymns. Afterward--
Yuletide cookies & hot
chocolate will round out the list
of the many reasons you don't
want to miss this delightful
Advent occasion.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Enrich your spiritual apprecia-
tion of the holidays by celebrat-
ing God's forgiveness on

Wednesday, December 14
at 7 PM

The service will be offered in
both English & Spanish.

DECORATION

OF OLPH CHURCH

Yes--putting up all the holiday
decorations is a chore--but it is
also a joy, especially when many
hands "lighten" the task. Since
Christmas falls on Sunday,
decorating our beautiful church
will be done a week ahead, on

Sunday, December 18

The work will begin about 1:30
PM, after the Gospel Liturgy.

As a prelude to the hanging of
lights & garlands and arrange-
ment of flowers & creche

figures, we plan to place the
large trees in their stands ahead
of time, on Friday, December 16

at 6 PM. (Four or 5 men can
accomplish this job.) On

Sunday afternoon, there will be
plenty of tasks--we can use
YOU; just come!--the more the

DOES

your name
shine
on the OLPH
family tree?

Five or 6 years ago the parish started the OLPH Family Christmas Tree. Each household was asked to make an ornament bearing the family name so it could be hung on a special 15-foot tree placed in the alcove to the left of the sanctuary. Over time, we have acquired quite a collection of ornaments, but we know that many have yet to add their names to the tree.

Especially we want to encourage our extended parish family--those on our mailing lists--to participate in this project. Our goal (may-be impossible--but that's what dreams are for!) is to have the



Sit down right now and resolve to make your ornament. Here are the guidelines:

Your ornament should--

- 1) Be composed of unbreakable material--such as: paper, wood, fabric, etc.
- 2) Be no larger than 8 inches;
- 3) Bear the family surname.

If you attend Mass at the parish before December 19, bring it with you & place it in the special basket in the Sacred Heart alcove. Otherwise bring or send it to the Rectory by that date.

name of every family (even families of one) who has called Perpetual Help their "home" place of worship.

Church building--what's new?

ROLL OUT THE CARPET

& BRUSH ON THE PAINT

WITH SOME "Partners in Faith" funds, our parish was able to accomplish the long-overdue replacement of carpets in the church. The aisles now sport blue, maroon, gray & gold patterned carpet "tiles." That's right--**tiles**: 3' X 3' squares of carpet, made of a space-age fiber that will provide excellent wear & allow for any damage to be repaired simply by replacing one or just a few of the "tiles."

The altar area & side alcoves have deep red & maroon plush carpeting, chosen to blend with

the oriental rug in the sanctuary.

The down side of the new carpeting is that it accentuates the shabbiness of the side walls. Since the restoration of the church interior--some 15 years ago--natural wear & tear, water damage & temperature changes have left their mark. The Parish Life Committee will purchase the materials, but the Buildings & Grounds Committee is asking for some helping hands. They hope to complete the work by Easter. Any volunteers? Call Gary Knights at 467-7427.

Martha & Rafael
Inspire Ministry

OVER THE LAST few months, the important work of coordinating the volunteers who visit the sick & home-bound members of our parish has been handled by Sister Barbara Gulino. A Sister of St. Joseph & long-time parishioner, she is at the Rectory 2 days a week, usually Wednesday & Friday.

Sister Barbara and the dedicated visitors also meet frequently to check over the list of those who need pastoral care but are unable to take part regularly in the worship & other activities of the parish. Since taking on the task, Sister proposed that the name of "Martha Ministry" be changed to "Martha & Rafael Ministry," to recognize that both men & women are caring for our members who are confined or convalescing at home or in hospitals & nursing facilities.

Current medical privacy laws do hamper this ministry: the visitors must rely on specific requests by patients or their family members & friends. If you know of an OLPH member in need of pastoral care, call the Rectory. And, if you have some free time, consider becoming a volunteer. There are never too many Marthas & Rafaels! Leave your name & telephone number for Sister Barbara. You'll be glad you did!

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

The county highways that we travel have at times signs on the overpasses telling the minimum clearance for passing underneath them. Nevertheless, a tractor-trailer sometimes gets stuck beneath the overpass. At first, no one seems to know how to get the truck out, short of pushing it out the way it entered. Then someone makes the obvious suggestion: to let some air out of the tires. Then the truck, a couple of inches lower, can squeeze through.

As we journey together through the season of Advent, we are challenged to deflate our egos, much like the tires on those tractor-trailers! We are called to change our lives...to become less "me-centered" and more "God-centered!" When we accomplish this, we'll find it much easier to "squeeze ourselves into" this season of repentance--this season of forgiveness--this season of reconciliation--this season of grace known as Advent!

All of us have experienced at one time or another someone telling us to change our lives... most likely it was our parents...or it could have been a teacher, a priest or religious sister, a grandparent...it could even be your "deacon-pastor" (even as he continues to challenge himself to change!) We hear in the scriptures how John the Baptist addressed the people of his day. John was clearly Jesus' messenger, announcing a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He exhorted the people to prepare for Jesus' coming. And while John's approach was to announce, discuss and invite--Jesus' approach was quite different! Jesus didn't want to discuss things...Jesus was instead the actual experience of transformation, the actual experience of reconciliation, the actual experience of forgiveness! As the kids say, Jesus was the real deal!

One of the Advent themes that comes through loud and clear every year, at least for me, is that we are called (YES--you and me) to tell the Good News in a way that makes us "modern day messengers for Jesus." And that's an awesome responsibility that all of us must take very seriously!

However, before we can prepare others...before we can seriously act as "modern day disciples of Jesus:...we must also acknowledge our sinfulness and ask for God's forgiveness. Advent is a special time for us to do just that. And Advent, dear friends, is something we "do" together! We are called to journey together, not as individuals, but as family. We have scheduled two special opportunities this Advent for our parish family. The first will be Sunday afternoon, December 11, beginning at 4 PM--Lessons & Carols. Come and listen attentively to scripture readings that remind us of God's plan for us. We'll enjoy, as well, beautiful, peaceful Advent music to make this experience a holy one indeed. The second special opportunity is our Advent Penance Service, scheduled for Wednesday evening, December 14 at 7 PM. God's grace will flow freely and sacramentally that evening as we all take time to ask for forgiveness so that we can continue the Advent journey together and celebrate our Savior's birth at Christmas.

Christmas will be, once again, a glorious celebration! (See the Mass schedule on the front page) I do hope that you will take time to celebrate God's incarnation together as the family that worships at and calls Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church home!

My prayer for all of you, as I've mentioned several times in Church, is that this season will be a time of quiet, of reflection, of prayer, of hope, of healing, of anticipation, of love! Please try to schedule time for all of these things each and every day! And while that may sound funny...the "busyness" of the secular world almost demands that we do just that--schedule it right into our daily calendars! I'm sure you'll find that your celebration of Christmas this year will be the very best ever as a result of your determination to make Advent a little different!



And please, let me not discount the giving of gifts at this time of year! I hope people didn't think that I'm "Ebenezer Scrooge in the flesh" because my Christmas shopping was completed on Thanksgiving weekend. Giving gifts and showing our love for each other is very important indeed! Many of you will help with Christmas toys...others may choose to help the ladies who reside at Liberty Manor...others will help with food and clothing donations. God is greatly pleased with whatever we do to help celebrate the birth of His Son. May I also suggest that you financially help, as best you can, your parish this Christmas? I pray that you'll be as generous this Christmas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church as possible! And may God richly reward your kindness and generosity many times over during the new year of 2006 that is upon us!

Let us continue to pray for one another: this Advent, this Christmas, at Epiphany, and always! And one final thought...don't be afraid to "let the air out of your tires" during this holiday season!

Love and prayers,

Deacon Dan Hurley,

Pastoral Administrator



"Operation Toys" aims for December 10 & 11

TIME FOR TOYLAND



Each holiday season, indeed every day, the House of Mercy on Hudson Avenue is called upon to provide the necessities of life to the poor of the City of Rochester. The volume of requests for help received by the House is greatest during the Christmas season. Why? Winter is coming, and the emphasis by the whole culture on fulfilling wishes and expressing happiness no doubt heightens the sense of need and loss that the poorest of the poor feel...

So, during Advent, our parish thinks of the children of those cared for by the House of Mercy. We see the need for toys--new and unwrapped toys--to bring that feeling of Christmas joy.

As we gaze on the face of the Christchild in our nativity sets at home, we have a sense of peace. As we wrap our presents for family and friends, we feel joy and anticipation. How sad to imagine the disappointment of a child who receives no presents, who misses the experience of the Christmas miracle--the gift freely given from above.

As in past years, the second weekend of December--this year December 10 & 11--is designated as Toy Weekend. Our members are asked to bring new & unwrapped toys to church and place them at the altar. It is our way of reflecting our faith in the wonder that God gave to us the greatest gift: God's own Son as Savior to our world.

At the noontime Gospel liturgy on December 11, the House of Mercy will collect the gifts and begin the task of distributing them to the children who most need some sense of wonder in their lives.

Last year's toy appeal resulted in a *mountain* of toys that almost hid the altar! It seemed a miracle, for sure.

Don't you want to be a part of this Christmas-time giving? You need not buy expensive or extra-fancy toys. Dollar stores are great sources. Everyone can participate and help to spread the word that the loving presence of the Christchild is among us!

Thanks a million!

Remembering faithful members...

VIOLET VESTMENTS

& OTHER TRIBUTES

ONE KEY GOAL of this or any newsletter is keeping connections alive among the far-flung members of the group.

Recently, that ongoing purpose was fulfilled in a very concrete way...

For more than 57 years, living just around the corner from Perpetual Help Church on Wolfert Terrace, were a couple of most dedicated parishioners: Leo and Rita Roth. Leo was an active member of the Knights of St. John; Rita served faithfully in the St. John's Ladies Auxiliary. Although they had no children, they were close to several nieces and nephews.

Rita lived on as faithful member after she became a widow, until she passed away in August 2004. One of her nieces, who lives in Rochester and receives *Our Lady's Voice*, read the article in the previous issue about new white vestments at Easter and the plan to next replace the purple set used for penitential seasons. She wanted to help out--with funds she had inherited from her aunt; and she asked other heirs of the Roths if they also would like to contribute toward the purchase of the new vestments.

Their answer was yes--to the tune of \$950: 3 contributions from California and 2 from the

Farmington area, besides the niece from Rochester. All asked that only the names of her aunt & uncle would be remembered by the gift.

It was decided that the vestment will be embroidered with the words: "In memory of Leo and Rita Roth."

It is a lovely tribute to the faithfulness of the Roths and the generosity of their family members that their aunt and uncle are honored in a way that brings beauty and solemnity to the ongoing worship in their beloved parish church. Many, many thanks.

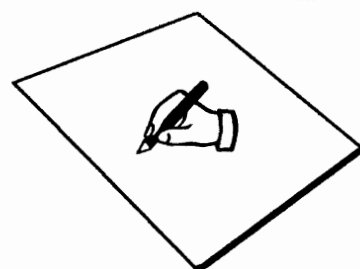
OVER THE PAST couple of months, two other long-time parishioners were called to eternal rest in the Lord. Helen Bittner, Honorary Chair of the 2004 Centennial Celebration Committee, and Wendell Kleehammer, a keystone of the Finance Committee for many years, will be remembered for their dedication to Perpetual Help Parish. We honor them and pray for their families.

**Remember:
Our Lady of Perpetual
Help Church**

is on the internet!

*Announcements, event details,
photographs & contact
information*

www.olphchurch.com



THANK YOU

from Liberty Manor

*TO OUR LADY of
Perpetual Help Church:*

This letter is written to thank you for your donation to Liberty Manor. The products donated by the parishioners for the ladies are very much appreciated. Many times these items are either bought by the Manor (Catholic Family Services) or the ladies must buy them themselves.

It is ... people like you that make the lives of the ladies here a little easier.

Many thanks for your donation.

*Bessie Dalton,
Liberty Manor Staff*

Editor's Note: Recently, personal toiletry items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, lotions, shampoo, etc. were collected and presented to Liberty Manor, the residence for recovering women & their children now housed in the former OLPH convent building. The Manor ladies could also use disposable diapers & wipes. Anyone wishing to donate items may leave them in the vestibule; please make sure your donation is clearly marked: "For Liberty Manor."

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

•PARISH LIFE:

CANDY CORN & TURKEYS

Fundraising during the fall was quite successful, beginning with the T-shirt sale, which earned \$667.

But the real "fun" in "fund-raising" this year came from a couple of new ideas. First was the Candy Corn Contest: the challenge--how many candy kernels in the big jar? For each dollar, you got a guess; 7 guesses for \$5. Top prize: \$50 for an exact guess. No one guessed the exact amount: 1732 (yes, someone actually sat down & counted every one), but Olga Viera had the closest low guess & Sister Jean was closest on the high side. Each won \$25. About \$100 was earned for our projects.

The twist on the annual Turkey Raffle was the opportunity to buy an arm's length of chances for \$5 (measuring from the shoulder to the tip of the finger). Many thanks to every who supports the Parish Life fundraisers.

--Gary Knights

•40-WEEK CLUB

FOOD, FUN FUR & FUNDRAISING

September's annual dinner was a good time all around. Besides the good food at Lodge-on-the-Green, there were raffles (a special 50/30-30-30 Raffle & another for Fun Fur scarves) & a lot of laughs & visiting with friends not seen in a while.

Special thanks to my dear sister Jean Clinton who made & donated the 8 Fun Fur scarves that netted OLPH \$102. The money raffle, besides paying 3 lucky winners \$50 each, earned \$150 for the Church.

Total 40-week Club earnings for the parish was \$1500. Thank you to all who have enrolled for the 2005-6 season. If you have not enrolled,

it's not too late--do it today. AND--here's an idea:

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS EVERYTHING?

Enroll that person in the OLPH 40 Week Club. A Club Certificate will be issued to that person along with the rules. This is a great opportunity for you to help support OLPH Parish AND give a friend or relative a chance to win cash prizes--for 40 weeks--long after the holidays are over!

Return the form at the bottom of this page, along with your check for \$40 made payable to OLPH 40 WEEK CLUB. Place it in the collection basket or mail it to the Rectory.

Questions?--contact me at 266-0797

--Ruth Russell



Play the OLPH TRIVIA GAME

If you read this issue of the Voice thoroughly, you'll find hints for the correct answers to these questions:

- 1) In what year was the most recent restoration of the church interior completed?
A. 1989 B. 1991 C. 1993
- 2) Monsignor Hoefen (pastor 1936-67) had a special saying he used often. What was it?
A. If I had a million... B. Thanks a million...
C. Give me a million...
- 3) The Honorary Chair of the 100th Anniversary celebration was...
A. Helen Bittner B. Molly Salvatore
C. Mary Bittner Koellmel

ANSWERS : ♦ ◎ ? → ⊕ ? '8(ε'q/z'q/l



40-WEEK CLUB GIFT MEMBERSHIP ORDER (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

MEMBER NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

GIVER'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____