



OUR LADY OF CHARITY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

BROOKHAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA

Parish and Mailing Address: 231 Upland Road, Brookhaven, PA 19015

Telephone: 610-872-6192 Fax: 610-872-1120

New and Improved Parish Website: www.olcbrookhaven.org

Parish Email: info@olcbrookhaven.org

Religious Education: Call Rectory or Email: olcharityprep@gmail.com

Our Lady of Charity, Pray for Us

PASTOR

Rev. Brian A. Izzo

(Email: pastor@olcbrookhaven.org)

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Richard C. Williams

*Pastor Emeritus, St. Thomas the Apostle,
Chester Heights*

PARISH SECRETARY

Mrs. Joan Boyle

(Email: secretary@olcbrookhaven.org)

DIR. OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms. Jeanne Havrilla

(Email: olcharityprep@gmail.com)

PARISH MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Pete McLaughlin

(Email: music@olcbrookhaven.org)

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT COOR.

MISS JESSICA DUBOIS

(Email: jrdubois7@gmail.com)

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

The Rectory is open for business Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays: 9:30 to 1:00 p.m.

Weeknights, Saturdays and Sundays are by previously arranged appointment only.

Please call in advance for Registration appointments or Letters of Eligibility.

Mass Schedule:

Weekend: Saturday Vigil 5:15 pm — Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass: Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (on the actual day)

Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day: 9:00 a.m.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass

Confession:

Saturdays: 7:30 to 8 a.m.; 4:15 to 5 p.m.; and other times by appointment.

Baptism:

The Sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated on the First and Third Sundays of each month at Noon. Please call the Rectory and speak to the parish priest to register. First-time parents and godparents are expected to attend a pre-baptismal formation session, which is offered on the second Sunday of the month in the Church after the 10:30 a.m. Mass as needed. To register for session, please call parish secretary before first Friday of each month.

Marriage:

Couples planning to be married should contact the Rectory at least 6 months in advance of the intended wedding date. Attendance at a Marriage Preparation program is required in accord with Archdiocesan Policy.

Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion:

The parish priests are happy to assist anyone who wishes to receive the anointing of the sick, or to receive Holy Communion. Special Ministers of Holy Communion also assist in taking Holy Communion to those parishioners who are unable to get to Mass. For more information, kindly call the Rectory.

Catholic School Policy

School-aged children of OLC may attend either **Notre Dame de Lourdes Catholic School** in Swarthmore or **Holy Family Regional Catholic School** in Aston. Our Parish does subsidize Catholic education for parishioners of OLC who are active and contributing members of the Parish, in accord with Parish Policy. For more information, please contact Father Izzo.

Children who attend public school are requested to register in our **PREP** Program beginning in first grade to seventh grade. PREP meets on Tuesday evenings from September to May from 6:30 to 7:45p.m. There is a minimal tuition requested to defray costs of the materials. No one is denied access to PREP because of an inability to pay.

Our Parish Mission Statement

We, the members of Our Lady of Charity Catholic Church, are devoted to building the Kingdom of God in our neighborhoods. Relying on the example of Mary, the first and best disciple, and our parish Patroness, we strive to encourage and promote discipleship by making her Son Jesus present to all through Word, Sacrament, love and service.

December 13, 2015 Gaudete (Third) Sunday Of Advent
December is the Month of the Holy Infancy
How can we Fully Enter into Advent? Fr. Robert Barron, WordonFire.org

I think one of the best ways to enter into Advent is to get reacquainted with the Bible. Many Catholics don't know the bible very well. We need to understand the great biblical story, the beginning with Creation and the Fall, the formation of Israel, the coming of the prophets and patriarchs, and finally the formation of a people that leads to the coming of a savior. It's only when we get the sweep of that whole story that we understand why the coming of the savior matters, and what the coming of the savior even means. When you extract Jesus from the biblical narrative, he becomes a mere guru, teacher, or philosopher. That's all our culture gives us: Jesus as another mystic, seer or sage. But when you see Jesus against the backdrop of the great story of Israel, now you see that he's the savior. So this Advent, I would recommend to all Catholics, open up your Bible and get deeply immersed in the great biblical story.

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015
 5:15 P.M. Robert Moore
 4th Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 2015
 8:00 a.m. William & Veronica Platt
 10:30 a.m. Walter and Frances Hook

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015
 8:00 a.m. Deceased of Foster and
 Mullin Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015
 8:00 a.m. Pro Populo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015
 8:00 a.m. Elaine Lockbaum

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015
 8:00 a.m. John Bingnear

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015
 8:00 a.m. Pasquale and
 Addolorata Ragni

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015
 8:00 a.m. Francis & Carol Savage

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015
 5:15 p.m. Andrea Pino

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015
 8:00 a.m. Rita & Francis Bingnear
 10:30 a.m. Deceased Members of
 Merlino Family

WEEKLY COLLECTION & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Sunday, December 6:	\$9,391
Number of Envelopes returned:	325
Number Attending Masses:	531
Collection for Retired Religious	\$1,218
Number of Envelopes returned:	93
Block Collection Tally:	\$27,000
Number of Envelopes Tally:	357

As Always, thank you for your continued support

Confessions for Christmas

Saturday, December 19
 from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22
 From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24
 From 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Greetings from Father Izzo

Special Thanksgiving Thank-Yous

Just before Thanksgiving, our St. Vincent de Paul Society was able to make and distribute 14 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in our area. Thank you for your generosity in supplying the food items for these baskets. Also on Thanksgiving day, the collection that is taken up is given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for their charitable works. This year \$319.00 was received. Thanks so much.

To the OLC Knights of Columbus and St. James Choir, who brought some Christmas cheer to our Don Guanella Residence on last Saturday. The Choir had the men singing and dancing to Christmas songs, along with the Knights. The Knights also donated a Christmas tree to the residence for their first Christmas at OLC.

Thank you to the Parishioners for your wonderful response to this year's Annual Parish Appeal (also known as the Block Collection). To date, we have surpassed last year's total. I am grateful for all that you do to support us.

The Season of Advent, Very Soon it will be Christmas

In our society, it is rather difficult to use the Liturgical Season of Advent well, which calls us to prepare spiritually for the Birth of Our Lord at Christmas. What to do? One of the best ways to observe Advent is to make a good Confession, especially if we have been putting it off for too long. Delay, as we know, doesn't accomplish anything. Our Lord is always waiting for us in the Confessional, but he waits for us, He does not force Himself upon us. Try also, to come to Mass during these last two weeks of Advent, even if only one extra day during the week.

This can be a wonderful preparation for Christmas.

Confessions for Christmas:

Tuesday Evening, December 15, 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
(our PREP Confessions, anyone is welcome)

Saturday, December 19, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24, 10 a.m. to Noon.

The Calendars have Arrived

Once again, we are grateful to the Bateman Funeral Home for providing our Parish Calendar. The Calendars are at the entrances of the Church this weekend.

The Pastoral and Finance Councils met last week

We will have a summary of the latest meeting from the Pastoral and Finance Councils in the bulletin next week, as well as posted on the Website.

Reflections by Fr. Leonard Peterson
Gaudete (Third) Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015

It is not that long ago that we can still fondly recall Pope Francis' visit to our country. We remember the extensive preparation and the dire predictions about security that preceded it. The host cities had to make sure that the thousands of people who came for what was described as "a once in a lifetime event" were safe. It turned out to be a truly joyful time despite the fears, and a special one at that.

Come to think of it, that's the way it always is when we get the good news that someone important is coming to visit. The question always arises: "How can we best get ready?" The answer always involves a combination of prep work, like cleaning the house to make it look its best, along with making sure we host our visitor well, with good food and hospitality. In that way, the visit is a success for everybody.

Christmas is, was, and always will be "good news" in terms of its message. Most of us find it our favorite time of the year. It's the anniversary of the coming of Christ: the anniversary of a turnaround in human history from doom and gloom to joy and jubilation. This Sunday the birthday of the Babe of Bethlehem draws near. Let us rejoice!

Today, in most churches, the priest and/or deacon will be wearing rose colored vestments—a mixture of the purple of penance and the white of joy. The color is meant to convey the joy that Christmas is close. But are we ready for it spiritually? The annual celebration calls for a certain housecleaning of the soul, akin to "sweeping out the stable" to use a gospel allusion. Our sins have made a mess of the place. Time to clean out His birthplace within us.

As we did physically for Pope Francis, are we ready to spread out our spiritual "red carpet" for Jesus to walk on as He comes to visit us? In practical terms that means making a good confession with its "firm purpose of amendment."

Along the papal parade route, you'll recall that each city placed welcome signs for the pope to see. Are there "prayer posters" everywhere in your heart for Christ to see? Obviously, His visit outranks that even of a pope, as our humble Pope Francis would quickly agree. So we can't just stand on the sidelines enjoying the parade. Christ wants us to commit to the plan of life He proposes. To borrow words from today's Gospel, that is a matter of being "wheat to be gathered" rather than "chaff to be burned."

Such a decision brings us the true joy of the season. Now it's time for my annual spelling lesson on "Joy." That means taking the "J" for "Jesus"; "Y" for "you"; and "O" for "nothing in between." That's sounds like a plan!

Christmas Food Help for those in need

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will sponsor a food drive this Christmas. They will be making food baskets for the needy of our parish and they would appreciate your food donations so that they can supply the baskets requested. Please leave non-perishable foods at the doors on the weekend of December 19th/20th.

If you or someone you know needs **Food** help, please call Joan at the Rectory during business hours before **Thursday, December 17th**. Please give the following information: Name, phone number and how many are in the family. Also, please let us know if you will pick it up or need the baskets delivered. **Please pick up by 12:00 p.m. on December 20th at the Rectory Meeting Room.**

(The policy of the St. Vincent de Paul Organization is to assist only those who reside in the parish boundaries.)

OLC PREP NEEDS YOU

We are looking for a few more people to assist either in the classrooms or the office. There are required Child Safety Courses and background clearances that must be done prior to the your service. If interested, please email Jeanne Havrilla
@olcharityprep@gmail.com

No Scripture Study

Please note that Scripture Study will NOT be held 12/16/15 through 12/30/15, and will resume Wednesday, 1/6/16

Reminder: Charitian Christmas Luncheon this Wednesday

December 16, Noon
Lia's Catering and Ballrooms of Boothwyn

For more info, please call Bill at
610-872-6294

Deadlines for Bulletin Submissions

December 27 Bulletin due Monday, December 14

January 3 Bulletin due Friday, December 18

All copy due by 9:30 a.m. of respective dates

Christmas Flowers

Your loved ones will be remembered at all of our Masses during the Christmas season. Please make sure that the names are clearly marked on the envelope. They may be placed in any collection during December. The flower money is used not only during the Christmas season but throughout the year.

We will publish all the names from the envelopes received in the bulletin in January.

OLCoffee Sunday—today

after the 8AM and 10:30AM Masses

In addition to our coffee and donuts, please visit our Charity Christmas Bake Table - where there will be an assortment of home-made baked goodies for sale. We also have some Christmas craft items.

Children of all ages can visit our Santa Letter Writing table where you can write your letter to Santa! We even have a special mailbox for the letters and guarantee that Santa will get every letter. Children are also invited to the craft table where they can make a Christmas craft item.

Looking For A Special Gift?

Check out the OLC kiosk in our church for some excellent pamphlets, books, CDs and rosaries. Prices are listed or you can simply make a donation.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother—A Great Adventure Bible Study

St. Mary Magdalen, Media
9:30 to 11:15 a.m.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays from Jan. to April

As Catholics, we have a profound reverence for the Blessed Mother. We turn to her in prayer, in the Mass, in the Rosary, and in Marian devotions. We honor her with special feasts—celebrating the significant events in her life. We place images of her in our churches and homes. The better we know Mary, the better we will know her Son. This Bible Study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.

Contact Nicky Verna (nicky@verna.com or 610-639-3816 by 12/28/15. Cost is \$20 for study materials.

Please Pray for those who have died

Kindly keep in your prayers

Robert DelPrato

For the happy repose of his soul and for the consolation of his family and friends.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 19, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon

MASS SCHEDULES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25
Midnight Mass
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, December 27
Saturday Vigil, 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thursday, December 31
5:15 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday, January 1, 2016
10:30 a.m.
(NO 8:00 AM on New Year's Day).

Parish Calendar of Events this Week:

Sunday, December 13

OLC Youth Group Party, 7 pm, Rec. Mtg. Room

Tuesday, December 15

Legion of Mary, 5 pm, Rec. Conf. Room
PREP, 6:30 to 7:45 pm, School
PREP Confessions, 6:45 to 7:30 pm, Church

Wednesday, December 16

Fresh Hope A.A., 5:30 pm, Rec. Mtg. Room
St. Vincent de Paul, 7 pm, Rec. Conf. Room

Thursday, December 17

Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church

Saturday, December 19

Confession, 7:30 to 8 am & 4:15 to 5 pm, Church

Liturgical Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

Saturday, December 19, 5:15 p.m.

Lector: Len Jankauskas
Special Ministers: Fred O'Malley,
Margaret Flanagan, Judy Wright



Sunday, December 20, 8:00 a.m.

Altar Server: Tom Boyle
Lector: Joan Boyle
Special Ministers: Kathy DeJohn,
Ben and Vivian Linowski



Sunday, December 20, 10:30 a.m.

Altar Server: G. Sullenberger
Lector: Irene Lyons
Special Ministers: Corinne O'Grady,
Dolores O'Malley, John Moletteri



OLC Parish Giving Tree

All Gifts for the Giving Tree are due
TODAY!

Please place them by the Statues at the
Front side of the church.

Thank you for your kindness and
generosity!

Prayers For The Sick

Peter Adamonis, Doreen Ash, Adele Blonski, Virginia Bernero, Janet Bischof, Jean Brower, Betty Burns, Shawn Burns, Theresa Carlin, Patricia Cawley, Joseph Crilly, Gerald Cucchi, Jean Curran, Josephine D'Amico, Robert DelPrato, Maria DiPaola, Louis Finsterbusch, Ruth Ford, Gina Gasiorowski, Alice Gordon, Betty Hart, Mary Layer, Elaine Loflin, Michelle (Lamont) Maher, Michael Mattera, Cameron McCarthy, Len McClintock, Michael McGettigan, Jill Nix, Sandy Partin, June Ramsey, Ted Stahl, Susan Sutsko, Maryanne Talley, Joseph & Seraphine Traub, Adelaide Vernon, Mae Wassel, Shirley West.