



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.

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

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 7:45 p.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 20, 2015 Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December is the month of the Holy Infancy

Drop down dew, ye Heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior. (Psalm) The heavens show forth the glory of God: and the firmament declares the work of His hands. Glory be to God.

December 25, 2015 The Nativity of Our Lord or Christmas

The Feast of the Birth of our Lord. "God becomes 'close to us' For we hear these words from holy Scripture: 'To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord' (Lk 2:11). The Lord is here. From this moment, God is truly 'God with us.' No longer is he the distant God who can in some way be perceived from afar, in creation and in our own consciousness. He has entered the world. He is close to us." (Benedict XVI)

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

SATURDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 19, 2015</u>
5:15 p.m.	Andrea Pino
SUNDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 20, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Rita and Francis Bingnear
10:30 a.m.	Dec'd Members of Merlino Family
MONDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 21, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Alfreda Kwaszkiewicz
TUESDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 22, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Charles (Pat) Molla
WEDNESDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 23, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Margaret C. Flanagan
THURSDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 24, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Deceased Members of Frandsen and Pirri Families
4:00 p.m.	Deceased Members of Bilotta and Finocchio Families
6:30 p.m.	Mary and Patrick Kirk
FRIDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 25, 2015</u>
Midnight	Pro Populo
8:00 a.m.	Bessie and Theresa Hastings
10:30 a.m.	Dare McBride
SATURDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 26, 2015</u>
9:00 a.m.	Bernard Devlin, Jr. 31st Anniversary

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

SATURDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 26, 2015</u>
5:15 p.m.	Deceased Members of DiNicola and DiCarlo Families
SUNDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 27, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Joseph Blair
10:30 a.m.	Edward Small

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015

CONFESSIONS

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).

Greetings from Father Izzo

This Last Week of Advent, Christmas comes this Week

During this last week of Advent, I remind you about the opportunities for Christmas Confessions this coming week. Please see below for the schedule for confessions and Christmas Masses. All

Parishioners of OLC have received a Christmas letter and schedule in the mail a few weeks ago. It is reprinted here for your convenience. There is no better way to prepare for the coming of Our Lord than by making a good confession. Just as we have to clean the house before we put up the Christmas decorations, we have to clean-up our souls to prepare them for Our Lord's birth.

Confessions for Christmas this week

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

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

Masses for Christmas

Thursday, Christmas Eve, 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass (yes, at midnight)

Friday, Christmas day, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Add OLC to your Christmas Giving List

As Christmas approaches and you are occupied with all the shopping and other preparations that goes with it, I ask that you once again think seriously about your Christmas contribution to the Parish. As you know, we are projecting a deficit this year, which will force us to use our holdings to make up for that, which we can do because we've built-up our reserves with the leasing of our school building a few years ago. I am grateful that you take seriously this request. You have always been generous, and I am grateful for that. Please know that I do not speak about our collections—in general—during the year. They are what they are. But they aren't what they should be, only because so many of our Parish choose not to contribute regularly to us. Thus, our Sunday collections aren't what they should be, so Christmas, the Annual Appeal and Easter Collections take on a special significance. Thus, far, we have surpassed last year's total with the Annual (Block) Appeal. Many thanks.

Once again, I ask that you not just put something in the Christmas envelope without some serious thought. Perhaps take a moment to think of how much you will be spending on gifts, decorations and other things this holiday season. Then think about what percentage of that you may be giving in your Christmas collection. I am grateful for those who also choose to make a major gift donation to the Parish at this time, and encourage others who are able to consider this as well.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge that the recent painting renovations of our Sanctuary were completely funded by a group of generous parishioners, who wish to remain anonymous. Their response to my rather direct request has allowed a benefit for all of us to enjoy! Please keep them in your prayers.

Reflections by Fr. Leonard Peterson
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2015

Five days out, and parishioners nearly everywhere will likely pick up the fragrance of the newly-arrived parish Christmas evergreens today: trees, wreaths and garland. White lights may be added, according to the local custom. Poinsettia plants clog the sacristy, a “sea of red” likely ordered under the rubric of “more is better.”

The “C and E” Catholics (you know the translation) are gearing up for their semi-annual visit and their unwanted phone calls to learn the Mass schedule. Meanwhile, the pastor holds out expectation that the annual collection will help defray the bills that never stop coming. All of this is typical five days out from Christmas at “St. Typical” parish nearly everywhere across the fruited plain.

There is nothing inherently wrong with all of these happenings, if you forget about the “C and E’s.” But what lies hidden is the gnawing awareness that this too is part of “our fast-paced society”. Lots of ink has been used, and much discussion given over to analyzing this subject. I do suspect that the very pace most of us follow all year contributes to the high rate of cancer among us. Our consumer culture sets the speedometer just a little too high for enjoyment of life at a more pleasant pace. Look for Valentine hearts to show up at your local drug emporium just after New Year’s.

That’s precisely why these final days of Advent 2015 have a timeless message for us Americans: “Slow down!” Sacred Scripture is always interested in getting us to do that so that we will remember the things that really matter in life.

You recall the gospel story of Martha and Mary. The two sisters who are emblematic about opposite ways to approach life. We meet Martha the activist and Mary the contemplative. Without condemning Martha, Jesus gives the nod of approval to Mary for choosing “the better part.” That means for us to realize that we will enjoy this Christmas all the more if we will take some time over the next few days to observe some “Mary moments.” That means stopping whatever it is we’re doing during these hectic days, for even just five minutes, to ponder and pray about what Christmas means.

Micah the prophet tells us how tiny Bethlehem became the birthplace of God. Have you ever felt yourself unimportant in God’s eyes? Take heart from what happened to a nearly forgotten town. Nobody is unimportant to God.

The author of Hebrews tells us today how much God prizes obedience. Are you aware that God admires your decision to obey Him? And the same for the Church’s commands? He does you know.

Five days out, every one of us could rightly say we have a lot to do before Christmas. But if you’re too busy to pray, then you really are too busy. So do calm down, and get ready for the big day the best way.

A blessed Christmas to you and yours! Father Peterson

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.

**The Rectory Office will be closed on
Friday, December 25**

Due to the early deadline of this bulletin, the listing of the Collection information will be included in the next few weeks, when we resume regular bulletin submissions.

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.

Thank You Parish Giving Tree

Thank you to all who contributed to our Parish Giving Tree. Due to the early submission of the bulletin, we do not have the count of the gifts received, but will publish it in next week's bulletin.

Scripture Study

Join us in the new year for
OLC Scripture Study resuming
**Wednesday evenings,
starting January 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**

Why not start out the New Year with a spiritual goal of gaining a deeper understanding of the Sunday Scripture Readings and how to apply them to your daily life?

Join us on Wednesday evenings, starting January 13 at 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Rectory Conference Room (enter through the rear ground floor door). Open your heart to the graces and blessings of the Bible. No Bible Study experience is necessary. Beginners are encouraged and very welcomed. Sessions are very casual and informal. Bring a friend! For more information, contact facilitator, Paty Platt, at teeta054@comcast.net or 610-494-7142.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

The St. Vincent DePaul Society will be making food baskets for those in need today. All baskets should be picked up by 12 noon today

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our food drive. Because of your generosity, many families in our parish territory will have a nice Christmas dinner.

A special thank you to the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the good work that they do for those in need.

Liturgical Ministers' Schedules for Christmas and Next Weekend

Christmas, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: M. & R. Costigan
Lector: Alice Kacheries
Special Ministers: Gail Costigan,
Lynn McMonagle, Fred O'Malley

Christmas, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

Altar Servers: A. & A. Mielechowsky
Lector: Breanne McGovern
Special Ministers: Judy Wright,
Margaret Flanagan, Janice Sawicki

Midnight Mass, December 25

Altar Servers: S. & S. Lynch
Lector: Doreen McGettigan
Special Ministers: John Moletteri

Christmas Day, December 25, 8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Russell Lockbaum
Lector: Cynthia Vicente
Special Ministers: Antoinette Bonacquisti,
Dolores Lavelle, Kathy DeJohn

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: John and Livetta DiMeglio
Lector: Irene Lyons
Special Ministers: Elizabeth Hermansen,
Eileen Wilson, June Stolnis

Saturday, December 26, 5:15 p.m.

Lector: Velma Clark
Special Ministers: Janice Sawicki,
Lynn McMonagle, Gail Costigan

Sunday, December 27, 8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: B. Stekowicz
Lector: Len Jankauskas
Special Ministers: Elizabeth Hermansen,
Dolores Lavelle, Antoinette Bonacquisti

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: G. Sullenberger
Lector: Denise DiIorio
Special Ministers: Dolores O'Malley,
Bob Losak, Vivian Linowski

Parish Calendar of Events this Week:

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

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.

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.