



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

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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 6, 2015 Second Sunday of Advent

December is the Month of Holy Infancy

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

SATURDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 5, 2015</u>
5:15 P.M.	Catherine Coccodrilli 2nd Anniversary
SUNDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 6, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Members of OLC Memorial Society
10:30 a.m.	Joseph A. and Ann R. Diggins
MONDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 7, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Anthony Sgavichio
TUESDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 8, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Ernest J. Bonacquisti
7:00 p.m.	Pro Populo
WEDNESDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 9, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Scattolino Family
THURSDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 10, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Michael L. Molla
FRIDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 11, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls In Purgatory
SATURDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 12, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	James Miele

SATURDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 12, 2015</u>
5:15 p.m.	Robert Moore 4th Anniversary
SUNDAY,	<u>DECEMBER 13, 2015</u>
8:00 a.m.	William & Veronica Platt
10:30 a.m.	Walter and Frances Hook

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception, which is *always*
a holy day of obligation in the United
States.

Masses on December 8 are:

8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

WEEKLY COLLECTION & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Sunday, November 22:	\$7,254
Number of Envelopes returned:	308
Number Attending Masses:	530

Sunday, November 29:	\$8,003
Number of Envelopes returned:	315
Number Attending Masses:	514

Thanksgiving Collection (Contribution to St. Vincent de Paul)	\$319
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Block Collection Tally:	\$21,121
Number of Envelopes Tally:	300

As Always, thank you for your continued support

A JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M., Archbishop of Philadelphia

This Article is used with Permission by Archbishop Charles, It will appear in *First Things*, December 2015

Part two appears this week in three pages. Because of this article, Fr. Peterson's weekly will not appear this week. Editors note: This is a very good article on the upcoming Year of Mercy, a good explanation on Church's teaching.

But God's mercy is active. To save us, God assumes our human condition "from within" and becomes the most human of us all. In his crucifixion Jesus offers his life to the Father on our behalf out of love, in perfect innocence and justice. In doing so, he renders us "just," refashioning a right relationship between human beings and God. Precisely for this reason, the Cross is the greatest sign of divine mercy. Nailed to it, God enters into our estrangement from himself—and bridges the gap with an act of love that frees us. Because Jesus has died for us, when he says, "Come, enter into my kingdom," we can lift up our heads and go.

Having said that, we are wise to remember that God does not owe us forgiveness or redemption—or anything else. Nor does God's mercy license us to continue in sin. It demands a response to "go, and do not sin again." To borrow a thought from -Augustine: We must not despair, one of the thieves was saved; we must not presume, one of the thieves was damned.

Mercy, like the virtue of charity (or love) from which it derives, is a virtue easily abused and misconceived. There is no mercy in "mercy killing," the taking of another's life based on the obscene judgment that some lives aren't worth living. But even in our daily routines, we're often tempted to use the language of mercy to dodge our responsibility to seek justice. We lie or dissemble rather than bruise the feelings of others whose behaviors are clearly wrong. This is a polite form of cowardice, not mercy. The moral law guides us toward choices that are life-giving, and true mercy is always intimately linked to truth. Indulging our own or another's flawed choices in the supposed service of mercy defeats mercy's true goal.

It's useful to recall that Guardini also had, along with his thoughts on justice and mercy, much to say about truth. This from *The Faith and Modern Man*:

A man's mind falls ill when he relinquishes his hold on truth—not by lying, though he lie often, for in that case the injury to the spirit can be repaired by contrition and the renewal of good will—but by an inward revolt from truth. True illness of the mind and spirit sets in when a man no longer cherishes truth but despises it, when he uses it as a means to his own ends, when in the depths of his soul truth ceases to be to him the primary, the most important concern.

Truth is essential to the sacrament of reconciliation. As sinners, we approach God seeking his mercy. In a truthful act of confession, an honest admission of our sins, we find consolation and peace. But the sacrament is not meant to confirm us in our sins, as if mechanically mentioning a list of mistakes and bad

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Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M., Archbishop of Philadelphia, Part two, Page 2

actions excuses us from renouncing them and changing the course of our lives. The Christian vocation is more demanding but also more beautiful than this. The sacrament of reconciliation, received and acted upon truthfully, is a steady path to transformation and holiness. Through it, we're given the grace to make an exodus, a going out from our destructive situations and patterns of behavior, and to attach ourselves more deeply to God. The mercy of God is meant to render us increasingly more honest, more just, and so also more loving and peaceful.

For this reason the Church has always insisted on the necessity of repentance for serious sins as a condition for receiving the Eucharist. Confession and genuine repentance—which includes a turning away from sin—must precede Communion. A sincere movement toward God always entails a movement away from sin and error.

And this leads us to current proposals that divorced and civilly remarried persons should be admitted to Communion without a change of life. These proposals—advanced as expressions of mercy—are aimed at couples who were previously married, and where annulments are not deemed possible. According to such proposals, couples who are sexually active with people to whom they are not -really married in the eyes of the Church might receive the Eucharist even without confession of their sins, and without seeking to be chaste while living as “brother and sister.”

These proposals draw strength from the fact that many of the people they seek to help are decent, well-intending persons tied to complex new relationships, often with children. Why—so the reasoning goes—would the Church want to punish and exclude them?

The answer of course is that the Church *doesn't* want to punish them and *doesn't* in fact exclude them. The divorced and civilly remarried remain welcome members of the believing community. But neither can the Church ignore the Word of God on the permanence of marriage, nor mitigate the consequences of the choices that grown people freely make. She cannot confirm human beings in patterns of behavior that separate them from God and remain faithful to her own mission at the same time. Authentic mercy is evangelical. It proceeds from the belief that God's grace has the power to transform us. Ironically, a pastoral strategy that minimizes sin in the name of mercy cannot be merciful, because it is dishonest.

The Church can be truthful without being merciful, like the scribes who wished to stone the adulteress who violated the Mosaic law. But the Church cannot be merciful without being truthful. And the truth is, we are called to conversion. A pastoral approach that ignores this truth out of a thinly veiled pastoral

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despair and accommodationism will result in less faith, not more. “The one who wants to adapt himself too much,” Henri de Lubac famously warned, “risks letting himself be dragged along.” Indeed, this is what we see happening in Europe, in those churches where the pastoral practice regarding divorce, remarriage, and reception of the sacraments has departed from authentic Catholic teaching. What ensues from an untruthful teaching about and practice of the sacraments is not a more zealous evangelical life but its collapse.

Pope Francis has spoken eloquently of “accompaniment,” the task of walking patiently with others in the tangled realities of their lives—and of our times. This is a key aspect of mercy and a vital expression of Christian love. Sin’s bonds are strong, and God’s grace often unwinds them slowly. Sometimes, the most important word that another person needs to hear is best whispered gently and patiently. We must be close to those whom we love if we’re to do our part in lifting them up to the fullness of the Gospel.

But a therapeutic age tends to translate “accompaniment” as “thou shalt not judge,” affirming people indiscriminately as they are. This is not mercy. God’s mercy always moves us forward and upward. No sin places us beyond God’s forgiveness. His mercy endures forever. That means everyone is invited when the great churches of Rome open their doors at the beginning of this extraordinary jubilee, the Year of Mercy. But again, it would be the opposite of mercy to say “come” and then imply that we need not move, need not step out of our present romance with sin and toward obedience to God’s life-giving righteousness, the law of Jesus Christ.

In the end, the ministry of mercy in the Church is Marian in character. John’s Gospel tells us that Mary was a witness to the crucifixion of her Son. She saw firsthand the forgiveness of God revealed in the face of Jesus crucified. His arms open to the world, Christ offered, and still offers, the mercy of God to all humanity. Uniting her prayer to that of Jesus, Mary herself became a mirror of divine mercy. In this, Mary is an archetype of the Church. Christians are sent into the world bearing the imprint of the mercy of the Cross on our lives. The Church seeks, then, to follow the maternal example of Mary in being the perfect servant of the mercy of the Lord.

This mercy asks us to teach the truth but also to live it. It asks us to preach not ourselves but the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. This is news not of “affirmation” but of something more powerful, more desired by all of us—redemption. The Church in this Year of Mercy invites us to encounter anew the love of our Redeemer. She opens her doors to the world and invites all to enter and join the marriage feast of the Lamb.

OLCoffee Sunday—December 13th

(next weekend)

after the 8AM and 10:30AM Masses

This month, 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.

And, our Social Committee Elves have been busy and have created some Christmas craft items -low prices and perfect for those last minute gifts.

For children of all ages (yep everyone) 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.

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, Maryanne Talley, Joseph & Seraphine Traub, Adelaide Vernon, Mae Wassel, Shirley West.

Our Parish Giving Tree

This year we are assisting Catholic Social Services, Bernardne Center, Don Guanella and Parishioners in need.

PLEASE: NEW ITEMS ONLY.

All gifts are to be returned no later than next **Sunday, December 13** at which time they will be delivered to their appropriate places. Thank you for your generosity. Any questions - please call Joan at the Rectory.

Parish Calendar of Events this Week:

Monday, December 7

Scripture Class, 7 pm, Rec. Mtg. Room

Tuesday, December 8

Legion of Mary, 5 pm, Rec. Conf. Room

Wednesday, December 9

Fresh Hope A.A., 5:30 pm, Rec. Mtg. Room

Knights of Columbus, 7 pm, Rec. Mtg. Room

Thursday, December 10

Social Committee Meeting, 6pm, rec. Mtg. Room

Choir Practice, 7 pm, Church

Saturday, December 12

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

Liturgical Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

Saturday, December 12, 5:15 p.m.

Lector: Cindy Gallo

Special Ministers: Lynn McMonagle,
Margaret Flanagan, Corinne O'Grady



Sunday, December 13, 8:00 a.m.

Altar Server: S. Lynch

Lector: Velma Clark

Special Ministers: Kathy DeJohn,
Marie Miele, Dolores O'Malley



Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.

Altar Server: B. Stekowicz

Lector: Connie Johnson

Special Ministers: John Moletteri,
Elizabeth Hermansen, Eileen Wilson



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**.