



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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Archdiocesan website: <http://www.caedm.ca>
March 7, 2010 - Third Sunday in Lent

Refugee Family Update!!

Our family arrived last Wednesday evening and are settling in very nicely. Members of the local Palestinian community spent the weekend with them and even found the dad, Ayman, a job at a local bakery within walking distance of their apartment.

We are now assisting them with the process to become landed immigrants.

They love their apartment and love Canada. They were thrilled with the reception upon arrival, and extend warmest thanks to all for the apartment and furnishings so generously provided by our parish.

Lenten Penitential Services

If you missed our Parish Penitential last Tuesday, please consider attending at one of the other parishes. All services are at 7 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| St. Thomas More Parish | Tuesday March 9 |
| St. Thomas d'Aquin | Tuesday March 9 |
| St. Michael/ Resurrection | Wednesday March 10 |
| St. Anthony Parish | Tuesday March 16 |
| St. Theresa's Parish | Wednesday March 17 |
| Assumption Parish | Thursday March 18 |
| St. Agnes Parish | Wednesday March 24 |
| St. Joseph's College | Tuesday March 30 |



2009 OLPH Financial Stewardship Statement

The OLPH Financial Stewardship Statement for 2009 has been posted on the homepage of the parish website www.olph.ca for your perusal. There are also some copies of the statement available for pick up in the foyer.

Bereavement Support:

Grief is a Journey

"..the object of grieving is not to get over the loss or recover from the loss but to get through the loss." (P. Schiebert)

Sometimes it is helpful to share this 'journey' in a group setting with a knowledgeable and experienced facilitator, and so OLPH Parish is offering a **six week** session:

"Grief is a Journey", for bereavement support.

The sessions will be held on Monday evenings beginning March 15, 2010-April 26 from 7:00-8:30 pm (excluding Easter Monday). This is open to anyone in our parish community who feels that they could benefit. Our facilitator will be Jocelyne Roy, who has a B.Ed., B.Re. and a Masters in Pastoral Counselling.

Please phone Sandra or Lucille at the parish office (780-467-5470) to register.

Thank you

Fr. Jack extends a heartfelt thank you to the Knights of Columbus, Archbishop MacDonald Council No. 6083 for their generous donation of a 40 inch large screen TV to the parish. The TV will be utilized in the lower level meeting rooms in the parish.

CORNERSTONE –

"...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34) *Cornerstone of Faith* offers the opportunity to recognize the call of the Gospel and respond in a positive manner – thus ensuring that the new seminary and college can be built. Please respond in faith and generosity. If you have not received Cornerstone information, please pick up a brochure and pledge form from the foyer.



LENTEN SOUP & BREAD SUPPER

Friday March 12

This week at our Soup and Bread Lenten Series, we will learn about the complexities surrounding the mentally disabled, from Austin Mardon, O.C. For more details on the series, including the upcoming speakers, please log on to our website: www.olph.ca on the home page select bulletin and click on OLPH-Bul-20100221.pdf
Soup is at 5:30 pm, the talk begins at 6:15 pm.

3rd Week of Lent

Prayer for God's Care

Lord God,

At the beginning of creation, you planted a garden of surpassing beauty and harmony. Out of love, you created men and women to live in unity with you, with one another, and with all your creatures.

Look on us now, for we need your tender care.

Water us with your grace;

tend us with your love;

and in the midst of this Lenten journey,

carefully prune our branches,

that we might be free from all sin

that keeps us away from you.

Be for us a burning flame once again

to remind us that we are on holy ground

and that we long to see your face.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Stewardship Reflection

God heard the cry of His people in Egypt and responded generously by bringing them out of captivity. But in the desert the Israelites began complaining to Moses. They were not grateful for the gift of their freedom – *a grateful heart silences a complaining voice!* We good stewards pray that we will always be grateful for the gifts and opportunities that we are given. When we are at times not grateful, when we are overcome with an unhealthy lust for material things, power, or prestige, we are called to repent, and we are grateful for the Lord's mercy.

Liturgy Schedule

Mon. Mar. 8- Sun. Mar. 14

Mon., Tue., Thurs.: 9:00 am Morning Prayer
Tues.: 6:45 pm Mass for engaged couples
Wed.: 8:40 am Morning Prayer, 9:30 am Mass with OLPH Grade 2 attending
Thurs.: 6:45 pm Mass - for the Bereaved & RCIA Presentation of the Creed.
Fri.: 8:40 am Morning Prayer, 9:00 am Mass, 7:00 Stations of the Cross, 7:45 pm Reconciliation
Sat.: 10:00 am Reconciliation, 5:00 pm Mass - St. Theresa School
Sunday: 8:30 am (Second Scrutiny), 10:30 am, 5:00 pm Mass.

This Week's Mass Intentions

Tue., Mar. 9: Evelyn Valenano, Anne Faryna †
Wed., Mar. 10: Carrie-Anne Mason † Dorothy Fairweather †
Thurs. Mar. 11: Ruth Spilak
Fri., Mar. 12: Rita Duchesne, Dan Corcoran † Jeanette Paskevitch

† In Loving Remembrance....

We extend our deepest sympathy and the assurance of the prayers of God's people here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help to the **families** of:
Pat Murray, Kim Toreson & Darlene Weisgerber as they mourn the death of husband, father & brother - **Gordon Murray**. Gordon died on February 12.
Virginia, Alanna & Steven O'Connor. Husband and father **Barry O'Connor** died on February 28. Funeral service was held on March 6th at OLPH.

Pastoral Team

Pastor

Msgr. Jack Hamilton

Associate Pastors

Fr. Wilf Murchland, CSC

Fr. Dan Gurnick, OFM (**Part Time**)
dgurnick@olph.ca

Pastoral Assistants

Sharon Darbyshire

Sandra King

Bonnie Kirk

Lucille Lewans Rezac

Sr. Gertrude Mulholland, SCIC

Monna Senez

Business Manager

Dorothy Rudkowski

Administrative Assistants

Brenda Frederick

Sue Boyne

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

(780) 416 - 0931

Help Line: ext 1 - Donations: ext 2

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. weekdays)

Sat. & Sun. 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation - Sat. 10:00 am or by appointment.



Reflection for 3rd Week in Lent

Water, Feed, and Prune

Anyone who has planted a garden knows the expectation of beautiful flowers, abundant vegetables, and no weeds. It is easy, then, to imagine the disappointment of the man in Jesus' parable (Luke 13:1-9), whose fig tree did not yield fruit year after year. Just as he is ready to cut it down and start over, the gardener pleads for a little more time to work with the tree, sure that with proper feeding, the fruit will be plentiful. It is a parable about God's mercy and love for us.

An old Dutch hymn, "King Jesus Has a Garden," describes each flower in that particular garden as a different attribute—the violet is humanity, the rose is patience, the marigold is obedience, and so on. The last verse of the hymn sings: "O Jesu joy, my heal and weal, my bliss complete. / Make thou my heart thy garden plot, fair trim and neat." As he did for the tree in the Gospel according to Luke, the gardener has his plans for us as well. He will prune, water, feed, and do what is necessary to help us thrive. But we must willingly, openly turn over the soil of our hearts to his grace. Perhaps this third week of Lent is a good time to think of ourselves as the garden of the Lord whose sole purpose is to yield fruit and beauty in abundance—a response to the wonderful love of God.

Children's Sacraments

First Communion Preparation (Grade 2 and above)

The Celebration of First Communion takes place during the Easter Season, and throughout the year, once the child is ready. Please check with Sr. Gertrude to schedule a date.

The March Parent-child meetings (6:30 – 8:00 pm) are as follows:

- FKK School - Wed, Mar. 10
- Madonna & St. Luke Schools -Thurs, Mar. 11
- Holy Redeemer School - Fri, Mar. 12
- Holy Spirit & Jean Vanier Schools - Tues, Mar. 16
- OLPH School, Thurs. Mar. 18

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please be aware that the celebration of reconciliation ordinarily takes place prior to the reception of First Communion. The celebration of reconciliation can be done any Saturday morning at 10:00 am. If you have not registered your child for reconciliation, please contact Sr. Gertrude at the Parish Office.

Confirmation:

The celebration of Confirmation takes place in April. Both celebrations will be on Sunday, at 2:00 pm in the afternoon.

Sunday, April 18 - for candidates from Holy Spirit, Madonna, St. Luke and St. Theresa schools, as well as those from other schools (Public, Catholic in Edmonton, home-school).

Sunday, April 25 - for candidates from Fr. Kenneth Kearns, Holy Redeemer, Jean Vanier and Our Lady of Perpetual Help schools.

A reminder that it is essential that you attend all 6 Confirmation sessions. If you have missed any sessions please contact Sr. Gertrude to arrange a time to make up this session.

The dates for Session #5 are as follows:

- Mon. Mar. 8 - Jean Vanier
- Mon. Mar. 15 - St. Luke
- Tues. Mar. 16 - St. Theresa
- Wed. Mar. 17 - FKK
- Thurs. Mar.18 - Holy Spirit & Madonna
- Mon. Mar. 22 - OLPH

Those being confirmed are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation prior to Confirmation. Plan to attend any Saturday morning at 10:00 am.

Picture: Would you like your picture on the board in the foyer so people can pray for you in preparation for Confirmation? Please bring in your picture so that we can post it in March.

RCIA for Children: If you have a child who is not baptized, or who was baptized in another Christian tradition, and you wish that child to be baptized / received into the Catholic Church, please contact Sr. Gertrude for more information 780-467-5470.

If you are interested in helping with the initiation of school-age children, please contact Sr. Gertrude.

Please continue to pray for our children and adults (the Elect) who are preparing for Baptism at Easter. On the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent they will participate in the Scrutinies. They will also be presented with the Creed and the Our Father during a weekday Mass.

Holy Childhood Association -- Children Helping Children

Each year our parish contributes financially to the Holy Children Association in a variety of ways: the children's collection each Sunday, activities through the schools, Mission banks used in families. This Lent, why not place a mission bank (jar or other container) on your table, and choose as a family ways to give to children in need. It could be giving up dessert one evening and giving that money to Holy Childhood; giving a certain amount of your allowance for those less fortunate; be creative in what you do. Then bring this money in at the end of Lent to Sr. Gertrude or Sharon at the parish office as your Lenten offering. Mission banks will be available in the foyer the weekend of March 6/7.

This year the Holy Childhood Association is working for children in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, India, Indonesia, and Thailand. By participating as "**children helping children**", our children become part of the global circle of children praying, learning, and giving whatever they can to better the lives of young people in need.

Copies of recent **Holy Childhood newsletters** are available in the foyer of the church.

The next Holy Childhood Mission Day Mass is Wednesday, May 5, 2009, at Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove.

Parish and Community News



Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School is celebrating its' 40th birthday!

A Gala Banquet is being held on April 17, 2010 at the OLPH Church Hall. This is a community event to celebrate the school's 40 years of Catholic Education and Spirit. Come and support Sherwood Park's only Catholic High School!

Dinner and Dance, Door Prizes, Auction, Raffles and More! Cocktails: 6:30 pm, Dinner: 7:30 pm.

Dance to follow. Tickets are \$60.00 each for this 18+ event. Tickets will be on sale at OLPH Church after Masses except on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Weekends. Please check the bulletin for dates. Tickets are also available at the High School.

Everyone in the community is welcome: Graduates, parents, spouses, past and present staff members.

If you wish to help sponsor this wonderful event or make a donation for a prize, please contact the school at (780)467-2121.



CWL NEWS

On Thursday March 18 at 5:30 pm, the CWL members will be hosting and serving dinner for the special people of L'Arche Community, here in the Parish Hall. We would like to see as many members as possible to join our guests in conversation, laughter and dancing. So, bring your salad or dessert.....but stay awhile and enjoy the evening.



OLPH Singles Group

A group for singles, widowed and divorced.

Our next meeting is on Monday, March 8 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

We meet for coffee on Thursdays at 2:00 pm at Tim Horton's at Baseline Rd (close to Save on Foods and on Saturdays at Café Haven at 1:00 pm (Broadmoor and Sioux)

Parents in Prayer for March

Are you looking for something special to add to your Lenten Season? Why not consider an hour of prayer for the needs of our schools' children, staff and families? The *Parents in Prayer* group will be meeting Monday, March 15th at Archbishop Jordan High School to do just that. We will meet in the chapel at 10 AM to pray the rosary, read and reflect on the scripture of the day, and offer up prayer intentions. All are welcome to join us for this special time of prayer and renewal. Call Sharon W. at 780-922-3012 with prayer requests or for more information.

LENT...EASTER OPPORTUNITIES

As we journey through the Lenten desert, equipped with the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, our parish community is committing to the following two local opportunities of caring and sharing.

#1 - Easter Hampers

Once again, we would like to ensure that everyone has all the trimmings for a traditional Easter dinner and an Easter treat. To that end we will once again be preparing Easter hampers to be distributed Saturday, March 27th. There will be a reverse collection next weekend, March 13-14. Please return the items when you come to Mass the following weekend. Help is needed on Thursday morning March 25 for sorting and packing, and as well on Saturday morning March 27 with deliveries. We welcome donations of hams, chocolate treats, children's Easter books or stuffed toys. Please contact Bonnie at the parish office (780-467-5470 or bkirk@olph.ca) if you know of anyone who might need a little extra to make this Easter special.

#2-Baggies for INNER CITY

PASTORAL MINISTRY

As we did last year, we will support the Inner City Pastoral Ministry as they serve those turning to the Bissell Center for support. They will be serving lunch to over 300 people Easter Sunday. Our goal is to provide them with a bag filled with personal care items like soap, tooth paste, chocolates and possibly a puzzle book or deck of cards. The bags and a list of appropriate items will be provided this weekend. We will also have on hand a sample to help us visualize the gift we can offer.

Shopping for and filling these bags can be a great family Lenten project. The bags can be returned any time during lent but no later than the weekend of March 20-21.

ABJ is having an Open House!

You all are invited to stop by Archbishop Jordan for an open house on March 8th from 6:30-8:30pm. Families with returning students or grade 9 children are all welcome to come by and find out what makes Archbishop Jordan so special. We have organized tours, information sessions, demonstrations, refreshments and prizes for all our guests. For more information please call 780-467-2121.

JETS

Childcare Provider Needed

JETS is in need of 1-2 childcare providers for their Friday morning sessions. We offer an honorarium and countless giggles and laughter throughout the morning. This position is from March 12 -May 28, with the possibility of continuing in the fall of 2010. Please call Karen G at 780-464-7533 for more info.



Scrumptious Parish Breakfast

Sunday, March 21
after 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses.

Come on down to the Parish Hall and take a morning away from the kitchen.

Enjoy the guys preparing a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausages, bacon, eggs, yogurt, fruit, cereals, all served with warm, cheerful smiles.

Come meet your fellow Parishioners.

\$6/per or \$20/family of four.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Did you know ?

The Knights of Columbus

sponsor and participate in many of the activities and projects of the parish.

- ◆ They are the momentum behind the refurbishing of the lower level kitchen. The ovens, stove, dishwasher and steam tables have been replaced because of their generosity.
- ◆ The youth have benefited hugely from the efforts of the Knights of Columbus.
- ◆ The Knights have sponsored our parish picnics
- ◆ They purchased a much needed 40" TV
- ◆ They do so much more.

When you attend the **PARISH BREAKFAST** you are not only enjoying a great breakfast and fellowship but you are helping to enrich our parish community.

Youth Track

March 7th - YOUTH DINNER All Youth

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to come and join us for dinner sponsored by the Franciscans (no cost) and some fun activities and reflections after the dinner. Join us for the youth led Mass at 5:00 followed by dinner in the Parish Hall.

Parents please pick youth up at the back of the church at the Parish Hall doors at 8:30.

Junior youth – activities and games following dinner

Senior youth – For youth age 14 and over or grade 9 and up

Theme : You Gotta Hear This!

LIFENite on the power of words and the ripple effects that negative statements have on others – how damaging is GOSSIP.

March 12th **Stations of the Cross**

Led by youth. Followed by a coffee night downstairs after the stations.

March 20th -21st THINKfast All Youth

Come for an overnight event for ALL youth Grades 6-12

This is an evening of fun activities, games, prayer, reflection, FASTING, Mass, sleepover and more. Through pledges and fasting participating youth show their support for Development and Peace partners in the Global South. Leading up to THINKfast youth collect pledges from neighbors, family, friends who promise a donation of a specific amount for completing the fast. Pledge sheets and registration forms are available for pickup from the Parish office.

Registrations must be handed back to the Parish by March 7th. Pledge forms can be turned in on March 20th at the start of THINKfast.

There will be separate activities junior youth and senior youth.

April 23rd -25th **Retreat for Senior Youth at the Wilderness Center**

More info to follow.



RCIA ECHOES

Reflecting on the experience of the rites of sending and election, one of the elect commented that while the Basilica celebration with the archbishop and others catechumens gave them a sense of being part of something bigger, she was at home for the rite of sending. She “knew everybody” when she looked out. No, she doesn’t know your name and may not recognize you if she was to run into you in the mall, but she knows you are there and a part of this journey. Thank you. You are exercising your ministry as community. Please continue to pray for our elect. Join them on the Thursday evenings as they prepare the scrutinies. Especially mark your calendars and plan to share in their preparation rites on Easter Saturday morning at 11:30.

LOOKING AHEAD

This weekend we celebrated the first of three scrutinies with our elect. This was a chance for us to look into our own hearts as we support them as they reflect on personal sin. Thank you to those who shared in the preparation Thursday evening. Next week, our attention is drawn to social sin. We will celebrate this scrutiny at the 8:30 Mass. (The readings for that Mass are from Liturgical Year Cycle A 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41)

On Thursday March 11, our elect will be presented with the creed at the evening Mass. The presentation is really the praying of the creed for them. This comes from the early church practice where the creed was not written down but shared by word of mouth when the individual was deemed ready and could be trusted with this treasure of the church at a time when the church was being persecuted.

JOURNEY TOGETHER

During the Lenten season, there are 3 special rites of *Scrutiny*. While we pray these with and for the elect in preparation for baptism at Easter, they are meant to support our reflection and preparation to renew our baptismal commitment. To this end, we are encouraged to develop the intentions of the prayer locally. **And so, this invitation for you to join us in an evening of prayer and reflection with our elect before each of the scrutinies. Please consider coming.**

| Thursday Scrutiny Prep | Celebrated Scrutiny |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 11 at 7:30 | Sunday, March 14 at 8:30 |
| March 18 at 7:30 | Sunday, March 21 at 5:00 |

INTERNET ALERT

As you journey to Easter, you may want to stop by www.redemptorist.net. They have short (3-4 minutes) daily reflections and a weekly written meditation.

ON-GOING FAITH FORMATION

We all want to grow in our faith, allow our faith to both challenge and support our daily responses, understand why we do the things we do, and allow the Church to guide our daily walk in Christ. But how do we do this? What tools are there? What are the needs and interest of our community specifically at this time? We have developed a short survey to help us discern the direction we should take. To date 61 people have accessed the questionnaire with 41 submitting very thoughtful responses. Can you also help us here? You will find the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DDQMJNW>. It will only take about 5 – 10 minutes to complete The survey will remain open until March 15, 2010. Please have your responses in by then.

Your assistance is appreciated.

Mother’s Morning Out

Each Wednesday morning, the program Mother’s Morning Out operates out of OLPH Parish. This allows mothers of pre-schoolers to get a break and for the little ones to socialize with others. It runs on the same schedule as the Elk Island School systems and runs 9:30 am till 12:30 pm. The cost is \$5 for 1 child , \$6 for 2 or more.

All parents must pre-register by email at [mothermout@yahoo .ca](mailto:mothermout@yahoo.ca) starting after 4:30 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Wednesday that parents want to have their children attend the program.

Please note: NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN BY THE PARISH OFFICE STAFF.

For more information contact Donna at 780-464-5012 or Nadine at 780-467-3156.