

Third Sunday of Advent

Prayer of Preparation

Lord God,
you gave John the baptizer courage
to call people to follow your law.
Now we, too, ask: What should we do?

Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation.
Open our ears to hear your voice when you call.
Open our hearts to receive your love.

Lift our voices to proclaim your Gospel throughout the world.
Strengthen our arms to embrace the poor.

Show us, Lord, how to prepare for your coming,
so that, in the end, we may be filled
with the mercy and righteousness of God
and found with our faces upturned toward
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



What Should We Do?

The last half of the season of Advent is marked by heightened anticipation of the coming of Christ. The preaching of John the baptizer is our clear answer to the question, What should we do to prepare for the coming of Christ? His words confirm that caring for others and doing justice in the world are primary concerns. He also displays the humility that allows him to point to the coming of the Lord and get out of the way. John's portrait of the one to come is not very comforting a reaper who will gather those who are worthy into his barn and dispense with the unworthy in an unquenchable fire. Yet, here is Paul, who tells us not to have any anxiety, but to rejoice in the coming of the Lord. Here also is the prophet Zephaniah who tells us that God will rejoice over us as well. Is this meant to be confusing? The readings today encourage us in this Christian life we are living between the joy of Jesus' birth, which tells us of God's love for us, and the anticipation of Christ's Second Coming in glory and the manifestation of God's mercy and justice for all creation. The joy of the first gives us grace and courage to prepare for the second in such a way that we participate in God's mercy and justice even now and until that time that Christ comes again.

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

A Roman Catholic Christian Community

*We come together at our Lord's invitation to worship God, celebrate the sacraments,
and deepen our faith. We strive to be thankful, generous and welcoming,
and are sent forth to help advance God's Kingdom on earth
by proclaiming the Gospel and serving others.*

December 11, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent A

OLPH Parish Donations Jan. 1 – Dec.4, 2016

Shortfall to Date	- \$103,926	- \$10,679
	Ordinary Receipts	Building Restoration
December 4 (49 weeks)	\$1,121,074	\$116,479
Budget to December 4	\$1,225,000	\$127,158

Together We Serve (Goal \$114,000) YTD \$107,545

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Numerous Eucharistic Ministers are still needed for the upcoming Christmas Masses. Please sign up on the sheets located in the church foyer. Signing up now will ensure that all positions are filled for these important celebrations.



Thank You to each and everyone of you who volunteer their time in all our different ministries. With your commitment you have made Our Lady of Perpetual Help a very proud Parish. Together, we can accomplish many things.



OLPH Parish Advent Potluck on Friday December 16th

Have you made your plans yet? Have you invited your friends and neighbours? Have you selected your favorite dish of the season???

Please join us for our last Parish Potluck of this year as we await the joyful arrival of Jesus the newborn Son of God. We meet in the parish hall downstairs at 6:30 pm on Friday, December 16th. Please bring your favorite dish of the season to share with everyone.

After our delicious potluck meal, we will join the **Spindlers** who will lead us in a traditional sing-along of favorite Christmas carols. Please bring your musical instruments and join in; all are welcome!

There will be some games set-up for the little ones with maybe a surprise or two as well as eggnog for everyone!

**“Please mark the date on your calendar – Friday January 27th
will be the first Parish Potluck of the New Year!”**

We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

*13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7 Telephone: 780-467-5470 Fax: 780-467-0530
email: info@olph.ca Website: www.olph.ca Archdiocesan website: <http://www.caedm.ca>*

**Liturgy Schedule and Mass Times for
Monday Dec. 12 - Sunday, Dec. 18**

Mon: 8:45 am Morning Prayer
Tues: 8:45 am Morning Prayer, 6:15 pm Mass
Wed: 8:45 am Morning Prayer, 9:00 am Mass,
3:00 pm Funeral for Bob Papineau.
Thurs: 8:45 am Morning Prayer,
10:30 am Funeral for Emil Wysocki
 6:15 pm Mass - Anointing of the sick.
Fri: 8:45 am Morning Prayer, **9:15 am Mass - Jean Vanier Grade 2 attending**
Sat: 10:00 am Reconciliation,
 3:00 pm Wedding for VonSprecken & Currie
 5:00 pm Mass/Sending Fourth
Sun: 8:30 am Mass, 10:30 am Mass, 5:00 pm Mass

Mass Intentions.....

Tues. Dec. 13: Dean Fossen† Loretta Sieban
 Sr. Annata Brockman† Stanislaus Coelho †
 Barbara Powlowki† Katelynn Baska
Wed. Dec. 14: Kenneth James† Family of Celine
 Reghelini, Fran Berry, Brian Fowler
Thurs. Dec. 15: Anthony Reghelini†
 Mother Theresa(Carmelite Sister), Mary Ann Fowler
 Family, Sr. Annata Brockman† Loraine Kallal†
Fri. Dec. 16: Bob Papineau† David Kingston, Jojo,
 Marlin McNealy†



† 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:
 Linda & Stan Poznanski and Family. Linda's brother, **Bob Papineau** died December 3rd in Edmonton.
 Marie Wysocki, Carol & Ron Yanitski, John & Barbara Wysocki and Families. Marie's husband, Carol & John's father, **Emil Wysocki** died December 8th in Edmonton.

OLPH Prayer Laudators

We pray for others. Prayers of praise and intercession are offered to God our Father. Confidentiality is respected at all times. Contact: **Doreen** at 467-0597 or **Josie** 467-0197.



Office Hours - Weekdays

Mon-Thurs

8:30 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Office is closed from

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. weekdays

***Please note that the Parish Office is closed on Weekends.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Pastor

Msgr. Jack Hamilton - jack.h.vg@gmail.com

Associate Pastor

Fr. Raj Savariappan - rajfather@olph.ca

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM
 pducharme@olph.ca

Pastoral Assistants

Betty Donovan- pastoralcare@olph.ca
 Sue Boyne - pastoralcare@olph.ca
 Monna Senez - msenez@olph.ca
 Brother Joe Glaab, OFM - jglaab@olph.ca
 Raylene Yuzyk - ryuzyk@olph.ca
 Pat Lemire-plemire@olph.ca

Business & Facility Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

Brenda Frederick - bfrederick@olph.ca

Administrative Assistants

Lorraine Dotto - ldotto@olph.ca
 Jenny Velazco - jvelazco@olph.ca

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

(780) 416 - 0931

Help Line: ext 1

Donations: ext 2

Parish News

Reminder 2016 Income Tax Receipts

PLEASE NOTE: All contributions to be recorded for 2016 must be received by the Parish **NO LATER** then Sunday, December 25th, 2016.

Parishioners using contribution envelopes

Your 2017 envelopes are available for you to pick up in the foyer of the church. **Reminder: DO NOT USE YOUR NEW CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES UNTIL 2017.**

Sunday 5PM Commentators needed!

If the 5PM Sunday is your regular Mass or you can help by being available for this Mass we would like you to join us. This is not a high volume requirement as you would only be scheduled once every 6 or 7 weeks, even less if we get more volunteers. Training will be provided. Please contact the Sunday 5PM Captain, Ed Burchmore at 780-464-4326, or call the Parish office at 780-467-5470. Your help is very much appreciated.



CWL Memberships are due by December 31st.



Poinsettias for Decorating

The Seasonal Decorating Committee would be very grateful for donations of poinsettias or other Christmas flowers to help decorate the Sanctuary and Parish Hall for our Christmas celebrations. Red, pink, white – all colours are very welcome! We are always so touched when families choose to donate flowers in memory of a loved one; it's such a beautiful way to show they are still with us at this special time of year. If you wish to donate flowers, please drop it off at the church office beginning Monday, December 19th up until Thursday, December 22nd. May God bless you as we continue to journey through Advent.

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John The Baptist.



**Welcome to our newest
OLPH Parishioners Baptized
on December 4, 2016**

Raphael Berube



CWL Christmas Social

The CWL will be hosting their annual Christmas Social on Monday December 12th at 6:00 pm in the Meeting room. Our evening will begin with a service for our deceased sisters at 6:00 pm. Please bring a friend and a SMALL plate of finger food to share. Margo, Joan and Nan will lead us in carols.



**Encore's Seniors Group
Pre-Christmas Dinner
Tuesday, December 13th**

Join us at Swiss Chalet located on Baseline Rd. for a Pre-Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 13th at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP as soon as possible to John at 780-464-5991 so reservations can be made. Everyone will be responsible for their own lunch. Looking forward to seeing you!



ARCHBISHOP JORDAN CHOIR PRESENTS

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

DINNER CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, December 13 at 5:45pm OLPH Parish Hall

Tickets are \$25/adult, \$15/Children 6 - 12 years,

Children 5 years and under free

Tickets are available from Choir Members or at the Parish Office

Tickets **will not** be available at the door

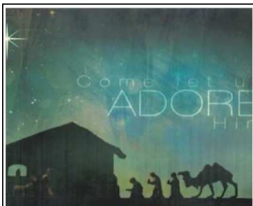
We will enjoy a spaghetti dinner and Performances by the ABJ Choirs

There will be raffle baskets, a wine basket and silent auction items for you to bid on.

(Proceeds to support the Choir's trip to Whistler in May 2017)

Cantando Music Festival May 2017

Winding our way to Whistler



Let us Adore Him Brunch

Well ladies...we've come to the end of another calendar year for the JETS Women's Group and we couldn't think of a more lovely way to celebrate *all* the great moments of service, learning, discovering, cooking, laughing, crafting, and exercising in 2016 but, to host a candlelight Potluck Brunch this coming Friday, December 16, at 9:30 am in the St. Joan Room.

This is a *special invitation* to those who have never journeyed with JETS, to those who have taken occasional flights, and to those who fly with us regularly to join us for a wonderful morning together. Please bring one brunchy or lunchy potluck dish (salad, appetizer, main or dessert) and let a morning of games begin! If you were involved with our Secret Angel Prayer exchange, also be prepared to reveal yourself to your partner and choose a new name for 2017.

At this time of the year we would also like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all those involved with JETS, including but not limited to the Parish Office Staff and our lovely Lorraine Dotto, our Priests and all the Parishioners who support us and cheer us on all year long.

God Bless each of you! Watch the bulletin in early January for a new exciting schedule of JETS flights for 2017 - you won't believe the places we're planning to explore!

THANK – YOU! THANK – YOU!

The *Society of St. Vincent de Paul* is grateful for your overwhelming response to our request for bedding for the needy in our area. We are so proud to be part of a parish that is so caring and full of generosity for those people that have so little. **Thank-you from SSVP for helping us to help the poor.**

Children's Sacraments



First Reconciliation and First Communion 2016/2017

*Congratulations to all those who made their First Reconciliation this fall!
The retreats for First Communion will be held on:*

Sunday, February 26th at OLPH Parish from 1-3pm

or

Saturday, March 11th at OLPH Parish from 1-3pm

You may book your child's First Communion for any Mass following Easter Sunday.

If you have any questions please contact Raylene at the Parish Office 780-467-5470 or ryuzyk@olph.ca



Confirmation 2017 (Grade 6 and older)

Still accepting registration for Confirmation 2017. Contact **Raylene** at the Parish office at **780-467-5470** or **ryuzyk@olph.ca**



Religion Home Program Catechetics (Religious Education) Home Program

Do you have school-aged children who are not in our Catholic Schools? If so we invite you to journey with your child at home, using the Home Program. Parents work with their children at home using materials published by the CCCB and adapted for use in the home. And there are catechists who will journey with you throughout the year offering help where needed. If you are interested in taking advantage of this program, please contact **Sr. Gertrude** at **780-417-3626** or email gemsic@telusplanet.net; or **Christine** at **780-417-4773** / email: ccustodi@shaw.ca.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL CELEBRATION

If you were unable to attend the service at our parish, please consider attending the penitential service at one of the other parishes. **All services are at 7 pm**
St. Theresa's Parish - Monday, Dec. 12, St. Anthony Parish - Wednesday, Dec. 14
Assumption & Resurrection Twin Parish - both on Thursday, Dec. 15

Message From The Patchwork Quilting Club

The Patchwork Network Quilting Club had their last meeting of the year with a pot luck and a collection for the Strathcona Foodbank. We collected \$552 for the Foodbank. We also asked for socks and underwear for the Marian Centre, the Hope Mission and the Bissell Center and received 216 pairs of men's socks, 57 pairs of ladies', 36 pairs men's underwear and 72 pairs for ladies, 24 tuques and 18 scarves and about 20 purses filled with cosmetic items.

This may be a little late, but last year (Sept. 2015 to June 2016) we produced and distributed 427 quilts. Most of them went to inner city charities, some to charitable organizations for auctions and some to Quilts of Valor, an organization that gives quilts to service members and veterans.

This year we have already made 168 quilts and are well on our way to meet last years tally.

Reflections & Readings

Stewardship Reflections: December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

We are still waiting for the world we long to see. Like our ancient ancestors, we yearn for peace and justice, healing and restoration. Today we are told that the signs of Jesus' presence are all around us, if we know how to see them. We hear in the Gospel the signs we are to look for, especially when we are distracted or doubtful, confused or disappointed. The good news is that there is even more to come. We live in an impatient world, but today we are told: "Be patient!"

"Go and tell John what you hear and see...." Matthew 11:4

Weekly Readings For: December 12 - December 18

December 12 - First Reading: Zechariah 2.10-13; Gospel: Luke 1.39-47

December 13 - First Reading: Zephaniah 3.1-2, 9-13; Gospel: Matthew 21.8-32

December 14 - First Reading: Isaiah 45.6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Luke 7.19-23

December 15 - First Reading: Isaiah 54.1-10; Gospel: Luke 7.24-30

December 16 - First Reading: Isaiah 56.1-3a, 6-8; Gospel: John 5.16-17, 33-36++

December 17 - First Reading: Genesis 49.2, 8-10; Gospel: Matthew 1.1-17

December 18 - First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14; Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24



Pray For Our Seminarians - The week of (December 11 - December 10)

This week please pray for the following seminarians discerning a vocation to the priesthood:

**(Dec.5) Barry T. (Dec.6) Bonnie F. & Brian T. (Dec.7) Chad M. & Chinh V.
(Dec.8) Christopher J. (Dec.9) Curtis B. (Dec.10) Daniel J.**

Heavenly Father,
bless your Church in the Archdiocese of Edmonton with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians.
Give those You have called to the married state and those
You have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the Special graces that their lives require.
Form us all in the likeness of Your Son
so that in Him, With Him, and through Him we may love You more
deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With the
virgin mother Mary we ask this through Christ your Son. Amen



***You could be the POOR BOX CO-ORDINATOR

Society of St Vincent de Paul is in need of someone to coordinate the Poor Box Collection which is taken on the 3rd Weekend of each Month. The position involves about 2-3 hours a month. You would be required to phone the list of volunteers to arrange to have 4 people at each of the 4 weekend Masses. Training will be provided. To volunteer or inquire please phone: Tom at 780-467-4775 or Betty-Ann at 780-464-2871.

A big **THANK-YOU** to **Ted Siwak** who has so generously given of himself for the last 12 years as our present Poor-Box Coordinator. Ted you have done a wonderful job and we will miss you.

Parish News

Reverse Collection for the needs of the Sacred Heart Church

We will be collecting food after all Masses this weekend

There are several ways to volunteer;

Dec. 10/11 - At each Mass to assist with collecting and sorting food downstairs.

Dec. 12 - "Boxing up" the food for delivery to Sacred Heart Parish.

Dec. 12-16 - Assist at Sacred Heart with hamper preparation.

Contact **Pat Lemire** at the **Parish Office** at **780-467-5470** or **Len Stang** at **780-467-8412**.

Thank you for your generosity and help.



Thank You To Our Sacristans

We are so grateful for all your help throughout the year especially during our busiest times such as Christmas and Easter where you are preparing for the extra Masses being held downstairs. You are very much appreciated!



A Special Thank You

This year OLPH has had over 40 funerals. We are blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers in this Parish who offer their time and talents to help support our families in their time of loss and grief. The grace of our adult servers, the voices of our talented music groups, and our ever generous sound and AV technicians all contribute so much to make the funeral service a meaningful time for the family. Over 80 volunteers, under the direction of extremely capable luncheon coordinators, make themselves available to provide reception services to the families. Members of the Parish provide excellent leadership and music for prayer vigils. We would like to acknowledge and thank EVERYONE who helps out in any way in the funeral ministry. Your service is greatly appreciated. This Christmas, may you find a quiet place in your heart to worship the LAMB OF GOD and to celebrate the coming KING. Thank you so very much.



Marian Gift Shop Hours

The Marian Gift Shop will be opened on Saturday after 5:00 pm Mass, Sunday after 8:30 am & 10:30 am Mass only.

A Special Thank You to our Communion Ministers to the homebound and to senior homes.



We would like to thank a special group of people who take communion to over 50 of our dear seniors who are homebound or in our Sherwood Park Care homes. We appreciate the compassion, caring and effort that is made by these men and women who take the Holy Presence of the Lord to people who are not able to join us in communion at our Eucharistic Celebrations at the Parish. May the Good Lord bring you peace, comfort, joy, and hope throughout the season and in the New Year.



A Special Thank You

At OLPH we have had over 175 baptisms this year. An enthusiastic group of volunteers delivers a program to prepare the parents for the baptism of our precious children. Other volunteers provide music, sound, audio-visual and coordinate the baptism celebrations where the children are joyously welcomed into our parish community. A special thank you to each and every one of you! May the Holy Family's love be with you this Christmas season and may Their blessings rest upon you every day throughout the New Year!

Steady your hearts. The coming of the Lord is at hand!