

Church Open/Office Hours 7:30 am to 7:30 pm 7 days a week
Mass, Adoration & Reconciliation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Weekday Mass

Mornings: Monday to Saturday 8:30 am

Evenings: Monday to Friday 6:15 pm

Sunday Mass

Saturday vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Sunday Mass in Tofield: 11:00 am St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday to Friday: *Immediately Following Morning and Evening Mass*

Saturday 9:15 am to 11:00 am

Adoration

*****EVERY FRIDAY a Holy Hour prior to each daily Mass*****

7:30 am prior to Morning Mass and 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass

Every Wednesday Holy Hour 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass:



1st Wednesday hosted by Mary's Servants for Christ: January 3, 2024

2nd Wednesday hosted by Society of St. Vincent de Paul: January 10, 2024

3rd Wednesday hosted by CWL: December 20 ***will end early at 6:00 pm prior to school Mass**

4th Wednesday hosted by K of C: December 27

For the benefit of the faithful whose health or other circumstances prevent them from attending the church in person, all Masses and Adoration will continue to be livestreamed from our OLPH website www.olph.ca/video/ or at facebook.com/olphsherwoodpark/videos



WATCH the 8:30 am Mass, seven days a week, live on Telus Optik TV Channel 877. (Must be a Telus Optik subscriber.)

LISTEN to the 8:30 am Sunday Mass live – or anytime – from your landline or cell phone. Dial 888-OLPH-808 (888-657-4808) and then follow the simple instructions.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish ~ A Roman Catholic Christian Community

Sunday December 17, 2023 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7 780-467-5470 www.olph.ca



CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Saturday December 16 – Sunday December 24

9 days of Mass at **5:30 am**

Everyone Welcome!



**POOR BOX
COLLECTION
AFTER ALL MASSES
THIS WEEKEND**



SOCIETY of St. VINCENT de PAUL (SSVP)
OUR LADY of PERPETUAL HELP CONFERENCE

HELP LINE 780-416-0931
Press 1 to Request HELP, Press 2 to DONATE



THE THIRD CANDLE IS PINK & IS THE

"Candle of Joy."

IT RECALLS THE JOY WE HAVE IN KNOWING, LOVING, AND FOLLOWING CHRIST – NO MATERIAL POSSESSION OR GIFT CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF THE JOY WE HAVE IN FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS.

We Welcome our Catholic Schools for Advent Mass

Wednesday December 20 – St. Theresa School joining the regular 6:15 pm Mass
Thursday December 21 – Holy Redeemer School joining the regular 6:15 pm Mass
Friday December 22 – Madonna School coming for a Mass at 10:00 am



Mass Schedule



4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 24
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday Morning 8:30 am,
10:30 am and 12:30 pm
Tofield 11:00 am

Christmas Eve
Sunday December 24
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00
pm, 10:00 pm and
Midnight

Christmas Day
Monday December 25
8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30
pm and 7:00 pm
Tofield 11:00 am

A humble and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has continued to support the financial needs of our parish with **(PAD) Pre-Authorized Debit** or by bringing your **Sunday Giving Envelopes** to the church. OLPH is also set up to accept donations via **INTERAC ETRANSFER** at:



OLPH.etransfer@caedm.ca

Please include your Envelope # OR address and any special instructions in the Message Box for the e-transfer, to ensure your donation is properly recorded for your annual tax receipt.



December 18 - 23

Monday ~ Olguita Acosta†, Marcel Gravelle†, Marilyn Castro†, Garry Holzman†, Anita Armstrong†, Family Donnelly Members †, Pierre & Annette Labbe, Danielle & Reese Shortman, Marcelino & Linda De Sousa, Sophie Richard, Caroline Aseron, Rene & Norma Morales

Tuesday ~ Ambrose Sieben†, Jim Mitchell†, Dolores Bourgeois†, Maurice Prince†, Ted Siwak†, Mae Andrew, The Mintenko family, Marvin & Gail Weleschuk & family, Fr. Sandy McDonald, Logan Levesque

Wednesday ~ Cheryl Robb†, Kelly Attwell†, Ted McKinnon†, Maria Kostler†, Ken Heykants†, Ryan Clement†, Denise Deblois†, Jacquie Winter, Danielle & Reese Shortman, CWL, Michelle Coulombe

Thursday ~ Annie Hnydyk†, David Yakimowich†, Al Hoffman†, Mark Gramlich†, Therese Lavoie†, Jim Mitchell†, Mervyn Lynch†, Holy Souls†, Cecile Dufault Jr. †, Marvin & Gail Weleschuk & family, Jasper Lewis, Isabelle Caddel

Friday ~ Kathleen Fleming†, Bryce Clarke†, Molly Isai-ah†, Bill Gramlich†, Denise Black†, Sim Family, Loretta Sieben's children & grandchildren, Maria Gabriela & Enzo Fiorini, Leonard Sebastian, Joshua Caddel

Saturday ~ Joseph Wesko†, Maria Lynn†, Holy Souls in Purgatory†, Loisa Lawrence†, Jennica Morrison, Noel Koo, Maria Gabriela & Enzo Fiorini, Matthew & Michelle McKay, Luke MacDonald, Bob Lashin

Your OLPH Parish Team

Pastor ~ Fr. Jim Corrigan
jcorrigan@olph.ca

Associate Pastor
Fr. Ben Makkollil, CMI
frben@olph.ca

Associate Pastor
Fr. Mario Villaraza, SDB
frmario@olph.ca

Permanent Deacon
Deacon Lynn Pion
lpion@olph.ca

Business Coordinator
Deacon Arden Playford
aplayford@olph.ca

Pastoral Assistant
Natalie Lavigne nlavigne@olph.ca

Administrative Assistant
Jenny Velazco jvelazco@olph.ca

Administrative Assistant
Angie DeWolfe adewolfe@olph.ca

Volunteer Management
vmteam@olph.ca

Other Inquiries: info@olph.ca
Parish Office 780-467-5470

Website: www.olph.ca

Follow Us on Facebook:
facebook.com/olphsherwoodpark

Archdiocese of Edmonton
Website: www.caedm.ca

In event of an emergency, call the church office to connect with the Priest On Call 780-467-5470

Sacraments



Baptism Preparation: Second Tuesday of Every Month at starting with Mass at 6:15pm, followed by Classroom Session. Both Parents must attend. Godparents also welcome. (Next class January 9) *Additional preparation will be provided for families with children age 7 and older.* **Baptism Celebrations:** 3rd & 4th Sundays of Every Month at 2:30 pm. To have your child baptized contact Jenny at the Parish office 780-467-5470 or email info@olph.ca



First Reconciliation must be completed before First Holy Communion, so preparation for these two sacraments is offered back to back, for families with children in **Grade 2 or older**. Email Natalie at sacraments@olph.ca to register for the next preparation session starting in January 2024.



Available for children **Grade 6 or older**, Confirmation preparation is a 4 month program for children and their parents/sponsors. Next session of classes will start in February 2024. Special weekly lunch hour classes available for high school students at ABJ. Email Natalie at sacraments@olph.ca to register.



Daytime please contact Fr. Jim on his cell phone 780-470-2730. If it is after hours please call the Parish Office at 780-467-5470 and follow the instructions to connect with the priest On Call.



Engaged? Congratulations! Contact Angie at 780-467-5470 or by email ADeWolfe@olph.ca to schedule your **Pre-Nuptial Meet & Greet** with Fr. Jim and find a Marriage Preparation Course.

OLPH Financial Report

Week 50 December 10, 2023	Cost of Operating the Parish	Building Fund Target Amount	“Together We Serve” Target Amount
Average weekly amount required (based on 2023 budget)	\$25,000.00	\$2,480.00	\$2,310.00
Donations this week	\$37,812.25	\$2,977.50	\$2,300.50
This week surplus/ shortfall	\$12,812.25	\$497.50	-\$9.50

- Cost of operating the parish “average weekly amount” is 1/52 of the total annual amount of ordinary receipts projected in the 2023 budget
- Building fund target average weekly amount is based on total donations projected in 2021 budget.
- Together We Serve weekly amount is based an annual target which is set by the Archdiocese.
- Together We Serve Collection - *First Sunday of every Month - January 7*
- Society of St. Vincent De Paul Poor Box Collection - *Third Weekend of every Month - December 17*

THE SECOND ANNUAL EDMONTON ARCHDIOCESE



GRADE 6 - 8
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 9:45am
RETREAT | 10am - 4:45pm

EARLY BIRD | \$40
AFTER DECEMBER 15 | \$50

COME TO ENCOUNTER THE LORD
HAVE FUN AND BE
EMPOWERED TO BECOME A
MODERN-DAY SAINT!
THE CONFERENCE INCLUDES LOTS OF FUN,
KEYNOTE TALKS, PRAISE AND WORSHIP,
ADORATION, AND MORE.
REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES LUNCH..

REGISTER HERE



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH
13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park AB | 780 - 467 - 5470

What's Happening at OLPH

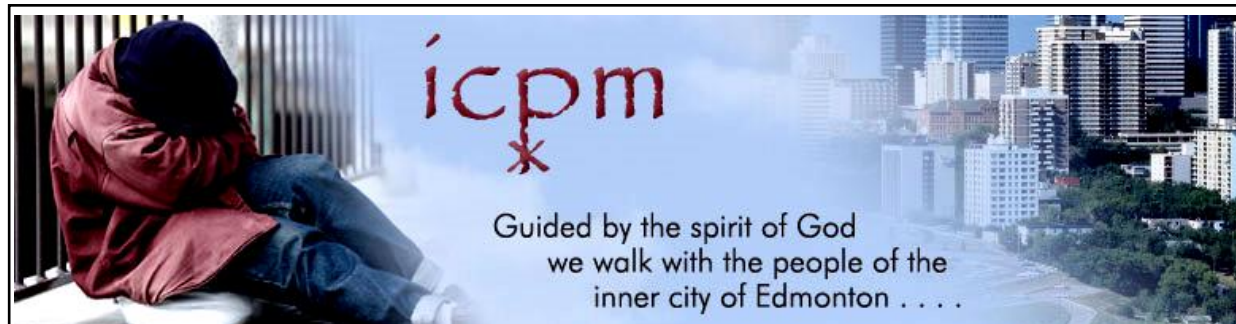
Attention Parish Groups & Ministries



The OLPH Sunday Bulletin for December 24 will be another *super-sized, full colour special edition*, and THIS is your invitation to be part of it! **What does your ministry/school/parish group have coming up for the New Year 2024 that you want EVERYONE attending Christmas Masses to be aware of?** Please send your submissions to Natalie at the parish office by Tuesday December 19 at 12 noon. (note earlier deadline) Send by email nlavigne@olph.ca or call 780-467-5470 if you require assistance.

Prayer of Condolence

Condolences to the Petras family. Joe's wife **Pharis Petras** died December 12 in Edmonton. Funeral on Monday December 18, 11:00 am at Holy Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Viking AB. To Michael & Marian Gidzinski. Marian's brother, **Herman Valckx** died on December 13 in Calgary. To Loretta Sieben, her brother **Marcus Weinkauff** died on December 14 in Red Deer.



Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) is an ecumenical Christian ministry of presence serving the people of the inner city of Edmonton. It was started in 1978 by members of the United Church who recognized a need for a church in the Inner City. ICPM is now jointly sponsored by four denominations: United, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic, including our own OLPH Parish.

One project of this rewarding outreach ministry is providing nutritious lunches 2 days each year for inner city residents at the Bissell Centre (OLPH sponsors one weekend in September, and one in February.)

The most recent OLPH volunteer leaders for ICPM have retired, so new leaders need to step up if our parish is to continue being part of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

Could the Holy Spirit be calling YOU to help lead this ministry of compassion and service to our brother and sister in need? We are hoping to find a team of 4 parishioners who will work together to coordinate our parish's ICPM efforts.

Please contact Dcn. Arden Playford at the Parish Office 780-467-5470 or email aplayford@olph.ca to learn more or to volunteer.



St. Valentines Dinner & Variety Show

Saturday, February 10, 2024

13 BROWER DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK

Live Auction & Silent Auction

VARIETY PROGRAM INCLUDES

Giselle Denis, Award Winning Local Artist and Performance Painter
www.giselledenis.com

**Swiss Men's Choir
and More!**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES

Contact: Sean Mullane

780-417-2299 or Email spmullane@shaw.ca
Table of 8 \$480.00 · Single Tickets \$65.00

*In support of Strathcona Food Bank, Robin Hood Association,
Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Women's Shelter,
Youth and Senior Programs, OLPH Parish*

What's Happening at OLPH



What We Believe

THE BEAUTY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Mondays, Jan 8 – Mar 11

6:45-8:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life. Maybe you're just beginning to explore the Catholic Faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church. Join us for this 10-session, video-based course from the creators of *The Bible Timeline*.

The course is FREE. Study set available for purchase (more information when you register).

To register, contact:

Alana at alaperle@telus.net
or 780-446-9009



THANK YOU from The Clothing Nook

The OLPH Clothing Nook volunteer team wishes to say THANK YOU for your donations of blankets, sheets, pillows & towels! We will be able to fill the requests and needs for many people. So appreciate the clean and gently used items donated by generous parishioners!

Heartfelt thanks to the JETS Women's Group also, for lending a hand to the Clothing Nook on December 8. Your hard work, both in the Clothing Nook and the Christmas Store, is very much appreciated and was a tremendous help for our upcoming shopping days. Hopefully we answered some of your questions and provided more insight on our Ministry. It was a pleasure to meet all of you.



The Clothing Nook will be CLOSED for Shopping until January 16, 2024.

(You can still drop off donations.)

FORMED

The Catholic Faith.
On demand.

Get thousands of movies, books and programs instantly. All parishioners can log in to the subscription paid for by OLPH Parish!

Go to <https://formed.org/signup> and type in "Sherwood Park" then select Our Lady of Perpetual Help from the list. **Create your FREE account on the OLPH Parish's subscription.**



Consider making a gift through **CHALICE** this Christmas!

To use the Christmas Catalogue, simply visit <https://chalice.ca> and click on "Give a Gift."

Chalice is a Canadian Catholic international aid charity focused on child, family, and community development - working closely with lay people, religious missionaries, and local communities to provide care for the many children and families caught in the dehumanizing grip of poverty.

Be the beginning of a child's education and family support. Make the first step to help the poor; your gift helps a mother, father, or child stand in dignity. Through the catalogue, children, families, and elders receive the gifts they need the most.

Your gift will reflect your desire to make a difference and will give joy and hope to a child.

2023 Reverse Collection was a Great Success!

A huge THANK YOU to the Parishioners of OLPH!

Once again, your outpouring of generosity to Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples Parish and St. Alphonsus Parish was greatly appreciated. On December 12, we were able to deliver the nonperishable food necessary to make up Christmas hampers for these Parishes, in addition to providing extra food for their food bank and regular hamper needs.

We also collected \$1,500.00 in cash donations, which will assist these Parishes with their on-going services to people in need.

We want to thank all the amazing volunteers from OLPH Parish, including the ABJ Chaplain (Miss Fichter) and the ABJ students who assisted with the collecting, sorting, and boxing of the food. Your willingness to help was such a blessing.

May God bless you all.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



Grief as a Journey

When we experience loss of a loved one, we need to grieve. OLPH offers a ten-week program called "Grief as a Journey", open to anyone who feels they may benefit from it.

Monday Afternoons

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

January 15 - March 18, 2024

(excluding Family Day on February 19)



To register for the upcoming session, please call the Parish Office 780-467-5470 or email info@olph.ca.

Do you enjoy meeting new people and socializing with **coffee & treats after Mass...**



or at our famous Parish Potlucks & Family Dances?

We're looking for volunteers to join/lead an OLPH "Social Committee" to help hospitality and friendship flourish in our parish.

Interested? Call the parish office 780-467-5470 or email info@olph.ca.



PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2024 SUNDAY GIVING ENVELOPES IN THE PARISH FOYER!

- **Don't use your new envelopes until January 1st, 2024.**
- **Be aware that some numbers have changed.**
- **Please recycle all unused 2023 envelopes.**

You can also sign up for (PAD) Pre-Authorized Debit to ensure your regular contributions happen automatically, even when you cannot come to the church in person. Contact the parish office to register 780-467-5470. You can start & stop at anytime. *Thank you for your ongoing support of the financial needs of our parish home.*



A new social group has started at OLPH Parish, offering fellowship and friendship for any single (widowed, divorced) seniors.
Meeting every Tuesday at 7:00 pm, downstairs in the St. Joan Room.
 Coffee will be provided, snacks are welcome.
Contact Lena at 780-464-1616 for more information.

"KINDNESS ENCOUNTERS" CONTINUE!

WHO HAVE YOU BEEN PRAYING FOR?

During Advent, you have been welcomed to Mass by members of *Mary's Servants for Christ* and offered a blank prayer card. You are invited to write down your own prayer request and these cards are taken to the front of the altar and prayed over during the Mass.

After Mass, the prayer request cards will be available for parishioners to pick up and take home to pray for a fellow parishioner's needs over the next week. *What a JOY it is to pray for each other!*





“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you, (Jn. 15, 11-12).”

My friends, we celebrate this third Sunday of Advent. The rose-colored vestments, the rose colored third Advent candle that we light; all speak of joy. It is the anticipation of being *almost there, but not quite yet*, as we anticipate the coming of our Saviour into the world.

Joy is profound in its simplicity. A remarkably simple word, but literally the manifestation of who and what we are called to be here in the world. The catechism reminds us; “The fruits of charity are joy, peace and mercy, (CCC 1829).” St. Augustine states; “Love is itself the fulfillment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run; we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest.” The message from John’s Gospel, from the Catechism and from St. Augustine all deliver an identical message: ***If we desire joy in our lives we must love our neighbor in the way that our God loves us.*** This is the only way in which we can attain true joy in our hearts, here in this very temporary, temporal world.

Why the comments on love and such on the third Sunday of Advent? The season of Advent may be viewed as the race and the goal that St. Augustine states we run toward. We may say that we are running through the season of Advent to arrive at the finish line, which is really the starting line. This final leg of our Advent race is an opportunity for us to reflect on that which will give us the joy our Lord desires for all of us here in the world. Jesus said, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. Love one another.”

My friends, the Advent season leads us into the most joyful time of year, for us and for our families. Explicitly it is the birth of our Lord and Saviour, the beginning of the concluding chapter of salvation history. More explicitly, it is the wonder of being together in the way that God created family to be. Praying, eating, just being with one another. The

reality of this time is that we give of ourselves and of our resources with the purpose of providing happiness for others. Note, I said happiness not joyfulness. There is an enormous difference between the two. An unexpected tax refund will make us happy. Assisting someone who is in real need, and seeing or simply knowing of their gratitude, can bring us joy. What is the difference? The tax return is something we receive, the assistance to help another is something we give. One is internal for self, the other is for exactly that, the other. It is not going inward, it is moving outward, which we know is the very definition of love. “Willing the good of the other, (Aquinas).” There is true wisdom in the maxim, “It is better to give than to receive.”

One of the activities that really fills my heart with joy during this Advent season is attending the concerts of the little ones. It is at these moments when it becomes clear to me why Jesus said, “I thank you Lord, Father of heaven and earth for hiding these things from the wise and the learned, and revealing them to children. Yes Father for such was your gracious will, (Mt. 11, 25-26).” The little ones come together by grade level, usually in ascending order. For example, St. Nicholas celebrated at OLPH on Wednesday evening. On Friday evening Madonna will offer their concert here at the Church. I attended the Holy Spirit school matinee on Thursday. They began with the pre-K class, yes the four-year-olds; finishing with a finale from the grade fours, who are all in the nine-year-old range. These children have no agenda, no concerns, no ulterior motives. They are not worried what people will think. They simply give everything they have, to make a joyful noise for the Lord. (And for anyone else in attendance.) To be clear, my heart is full of joy at these moments, because I am experiencing the unadulterated, unconditional love of these little ones. You feel it, you see it. They are full of joy, because they are giving of their very selves for the good of others.

My friends, there are certainly many ways to experience joy in our daily lives. The commonality within all these modes of experiencing joy, is that they always involve doing, sharing, or giving of oneself for the benefit of the other. If you want a free dose of pure love and pure joy, make it part of your Advent pilgrimage to attend one of our Elk Island Catholic School Advent concerts or Masses listed on the front of the bulletin.

Fr. Jim

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you, (Jn. 15, 11-12).”

