

Church Open/Office Hours 7:30 am to 7:30 pm Daily

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 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Everyone Welcome, Always Open to All!

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 a Holy Hour at 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass:

4th Wednesday hosted by K of C: December 27

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

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

3rd Wednesday hosted by CWL: January 17



We have a NEW YouTube Channel! 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 at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@olphparishsherwoodparkab/streams>

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.

Holiday Hours
The Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish ~ A Roman Catholic Christian Community
CHRISTMAS 2023 SPECIAL EDITION
December 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve
Monday December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord
We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe
13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7 780-467-5470 www.olph.ca

THE FINAL PURPLE CANDLE IS THE "Candle of Love."
IT REMINDS US THAT GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD (I.E. YOU, US, ... EVEN THAT DIFFICULT FRIEND OR RELATIVE!) THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON TO US SO WE COULD HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
DECEMBER 31

Sunday December 31 ~ Mass at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 5:00 pm (instead of 7:00 pm)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held through the night, starting at 6:00 pm (after Mass) and concluding at 8:00 am on Monday January 1. The Rosary will be prayed every 2nd hour. *Everyone is welcome!*

Monday January 1 ~ Mass at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
January 1st

A Gift offered with love to every family at OLPH this Christmas...

Our 2023 Dynamic Catholic gift book is **Beautiful Eucharist** ~ a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives. When we encounter Jesus, he changes us in powerful and unexpected ways. In the Eucharist we meet with the same Jesus who healed the blind, forgave sins, and rose from the dead. Are you ready to discover how he can transform your life too? *We have a copy for you to pick up at Mass.*

Let us never become numb to the fact that Jesus wants to give Himself fully to you and me at every Mass. That is the greatest treasure we could ever hope to have.

—Beautiful Eucharist

MAY THE birth of Christ RENEW YOU IN God's love and may you, your families & your loved ones WALK ALWAYS IN THE light OF THE Lord.



December 25 - 30

Monday ~ Christmas Day – No Intentions.

Tuesday ~ Zuleyma & Raul Acosta†, Marilyn Castro†, Chase Evan Gourlay†, Jim Mitchell†, Jack Santos†, Marvin & Gail Weleschuk & family, Danielle & Reese Shortman, Fr. Jim, Ambriella & Piero Fiorini, Dominic Tsang

Wednesday ~ Chase Evan Gourlay†, Marc Chapman†, Kayla Revoy†, Pearl Lacko†, Tammy McFarland†, Danielle & Reese Shortman, Deacon Arden Playford, Ruby & Enzo Fiorini, Terry & Diane Dunnigan, Marina & Cipriano Patarroyo

Thursday ~ Jim Mitchell†, Devasia Joseph Pallippavambal†, Holy Souls†, Leo Diederichs†, Zoria Marko†, Marvin & Gail Weleschuk & family, Matthew & Michelle McKay, Yvette Tremblay, Katherine Sapida Allenby, Fr. Mario Villaraza, Ethan Yuson

Friday ~ Herman Valckx†, Bryce Clarke†, Larry Dominiuk†, John Miranda†, Holy Souls in Purgatory†, Kasmer Melowsky†, Linda De Sousa, Monsignor Jack Hamilton, Deacon Lynn Pion, Matthew & Michelle McKay, Fr. Mario Villaraza

Saturday ~ Holly Sundquist†, Marilyn Castro†, Victor Baker, Fr. Ben Makkollil, George Balash, Sandra King, Gloria Kleparchuk, Joyce Burnard, Rizaldy Nicholas, Marianna Caldwell, Vanessa MacDonald

OLPH Weekly Financial Report

A humble and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has continued to support the financial needs of our parish with **(PAD) Pre-Authorized Debit**, by bringing your **Sunday Giving Envelopes** to the church, or via **INTERAC E-TRANSFER** to OLPH.etransfer@caedm.ca

Week 51 December 17, 2023	Cost of Operating the Parish	Building Fund Target Amount	“Together We Serve” Target Amount
Average weekly amount required	\$25,000.00	\$2,480.00	\$2,310.00
Donations this week	\$33,008.05	\$2,828.50	\$1,855.50
This week surplus/shortfall	\$8,008.05	\$348.50	-\$454.50
Christmas Giving	\$2,125.00	Christmas Book Program	\$1,025.00

- 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. TWS Collection: *First Sunday of every Month - January 7*
- Society of St. Vincent De Paul Poor Box Collection: *Third Weekend of every Month - January 21*
- **REMINDER All Sunday and Christmas offerings (including e-transfers) for the 2023 tax year MUST be received no later than December 31, 2023.**
- Donations received after that date will be included in the 2024 taxation year.

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

NEW YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@olphparishsherwoodpark/streams>

Follow Us on Facebook:
facebook.com/olphsherwoodpark

**In Event of an Emergency,
Contact Fr. Jim at
780-470-2730 (call or text)**



TOFIELD CORNER

~ St. Francis of Assisi Parish ~

AND THE LAMB OF GOD WAS BORN IN A MANGER!

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

Sunday December 24 - 11:00 am *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Monday December 25 - 11:00 am *Christmas Day*

Sunday December 31 - 11:00 am *Feast of the Holy Family*

Monday January 1 - 11:00 am *Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

REMINDER: Potluck after Mass the First Sunday Every Month EVERYONE WELCOME!

To post in the ‘Tofield Corner’ contact Kathy by email Kathleen.Anderson.one@gmail.com or phone 780-270-8652 (Weekly bulletin deadline is Wednesday.)



What’s Happening at OLPH



Gift Shop is OPEN on Sunday Mornings following 8:30 am & 10:30 am Masses.



NEW social group, fellowship and friendship for any single (widowed, divorced) seniors.
Meeting every Tuesday at 7:00 pm, downstairs in the St. Joan Room.

Coffee is provided, snacks are welcome.
Contact Lena at 780-464-1616 for more information.



Secular Franciscan Order

(Third Order of St. Francis)

Are you looking for a group of people to be with as you:

- Mature in your faith
- Learn more about St. Francis of Assisi and his spirit of love for Jesus, His church and His People
- To celebrate and pray together?

If this is happening at this time in your life, please call Ann Bingham 780-464-5941 for more info over a cup of coffee. **Peace be with you.**

Join Our Team & Volunteer for Mass!

A Great Opportunity to Meet People & Offer Your Time and Talent!

We are always looking for more wonderful parishioners to join our Liturgical Ministries, increase your involvement in Mass, and deepen your relationship with others in our Parish community. We provide one-to-one training and continuous guidance for anyone interested in volunteering with the following Ministry roles:

- ✦ Adult Servers (*requires experience in other volunteer roles first*)
- ✦ Altar Servers (grade 2 or older)
- ✦ AV Technicians
- ✦ Prayers of the Faithful Writers
- ✦ Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
- ✦ Music Ministry (musicians and singers)
- ✦ Proclaimers
- ✦ Seasonal Decorators
- ✦ Ushers

Please visit the OLPH website at <https://www.olph.ca/parishlife/liturgical-ministries/> to reach out to any of the Ministry coordinators and learn more.



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

Our Family of Catholic Schools


Merry Christmas!
 May you and your loved ones have a joyous Christmas filled with the Lord's love and blessings.



2024-2025 School Year Registration Opens February 1, 2024
eics.ab.ca/register



JOIN US AT ABJ'S **OPEN HOUSE**



Look around | Ask questions

GRADES 9-12 SEE YOURSELF LEARNING HERE
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2023
 6:00-8:30PM
ABJ.EICS.AB.CA

ST. LUKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
 22139 SOUTH COOKING LAKE ROAD
 780-722-5920

NEW NATURE BASED PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN COMING TO ST. LUKE!



Join us at our **OPEN HOUSE**
 January 17th, 2024
 6:00 - 7:00pm




Grace: Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education

Prayers of the Faithful for December 2023

- † For Catholic education: That during this season of Advent we may prepare our heart, minds and lives to welcome the Baby Jesus
- † For Catholic Teachers: That their witness to hope in the Lord will be manifest daily, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic education: That each one of our Catholic School Districts will seek to build Bethlehem in our Schools and our hearts, we pray to the Lord
- † For Catholic education: That JOY may be manifest in our every word, action and thought, we pray to the Lord

DID YOU KNOW? Each of our EICS Catholic Schools gets a visit from our clergy every week!



REAL
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR LIFE

<https://www.real-foundation.com/>

The REAL Foundation raises money through an annual **Golf Tournament** and other fundraising activities, to support **faith enrichment opportunities** in all our Elk Island Catholic Schools.

SAVE THE DATE Wednesday May 22 at Broadmoor Golf Course

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School

PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Join us for a school tour and meet our staff!
 Tuesday, January 16th 2024

Presentation begins at 6:30pm in the library with tour to follow

epk.eics.ab.ca 780-467-7135 epk@eics.ab.ca

COGITO ACADEMY MADONNA Catholic School

NURTURE HEARTS, INSPIRE MINDS

Education grounded in Catholic teachings and faith-infused Alberta curriculum with instruction focused on literacy and numeracy.

Mainstream Program

- Flexible & diverse learning environments
- Inquiry & collaborative learning
- Exploration & practice
- French language instruction begins at Grade 4
- Whole child focus

COGITO Program **

- Structured teacher-directed learning environment
- Uniform Dress Code
- Recitation & memorization
- French language instruction begins at Grade 1
- Academic focus

REGISTRATION STARTS FEB. 1, 2024

** Acceptance based on Assessment

mcs.eics.ab.ca | 780.467.7972



What's Happening at OLPH

WITH PRAYERS & DEEPEST **Sympathy**


Condolences to Flora Hoffman, her sister **Jean Martin** died December 7 in ClonDonald AB.

To the Coulombe family. Len's sister **Michelle Coulombe** died on December 20 in St. Albert.


WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER.

Contact Doreen 780-467-0597 or Josie 780-467-0197 with your prayer requests.

You can also leave a note in the Prayer Box in the Foyer.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a... Compassionate Parish



A *Compassionate Parish* is the Catholic expression of *Compassionate Communities*, a world-wide movement to build "circles of care" around people who are sick and dying.

Compassionate Parish is not a parish group or ministry. Rather, it connects existing groups, ministries and programs with new services to meet the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and practical needs of individuals, families, and caregivers in our parish and the broader community. We all have a role to play in a *Compassionate Parish*.

Watch for more information and the **NEW Compassionate Parish resource centre COMING SOON!**

Everyone Welcome!
 Sunday January 21, 2024

Pancake Breakfast

\$7.00 per person or \$22.00 per family (Mom, Dad and ALL kids 18 & younger)

After the 8:30 am & 10:30 am Masses




Save the Date for OLPH's Vacation Bible Camp!

SUMMER CAMP

July 8 - 12, 2024
 (For children finishing Kindergarten to Grade 5 in June.)

NEW~ Join us in praying the Rosary at 4:30 pm every Saturday before the 5:00 pm evening Mass.



Merry Christmas

HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

MARY'S SERVANTS FOR CHRIST

We are a growing ministry at OLPH parish focused on serving Jesus through Mary. Consider joining us in the New Year.

Please contact:
 Maureen (maureenregel@gmail.com) or Myrtle (angelintouch@hotmail.com)

"THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND AN INFANT WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES AND LYING IN A MANGER" LUK 2:12



THE SECOND ANNUAL EDMONTON ARCHDIOCESE

ELEVATE CONFERENCE
 PRESENTED BY FACETO FACE MINISTRIES

GR 6-8

GRADE 6 - 8
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 9:45am EARLY BIRD | \$40
 RETREAT | 10am - 4:45pm 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

DID YOU KNOW?

When attending Sunday Mass...

- You can request a 'low gluten' host from any Eucharistic minister who will graciously bring that ciborium to you.
- You are welcome to receive Communion in the hand or on the tongue.
- If you prefer, because of health or mobility challenges, Communion can be brought to you at your seat in the pews. Please inform an usher of your wishes before Mass begins.
- Everyone (including young children or adults not receiving the Eucharist) is welcome to come forth to receive God's blessing during Communion by placing your hand over your heart.
- Prayers of the Faithful now include a line of Scripture before each intention is read.
- You are encouraged to join in the Stewardship Prayer that is also now read by a proclaimer right after Holy Communion concludes.
- Our music is projected, but hymnals are also available to pick up inside the entrance doors to the Nave by the baptismal font. We ask you to return them to the same location after Mass.
- Offertory contributions can be made in the following ways:
 - ⇒ Mail or drop off your Sunday Giving envelope to OLPH Parish.
 - ⇒ During Mass as baskets are passed through the pews. Offertory boxes are also located at the back of the Nave.
 - ⇒ Pre-Authorized Debit (see OLPH Parish website under 'Donate' or visit/call the Parish office for more information.
 - ⇒ Interac e-transfer at olph.etransfer@caedm.ca (include your Sunday Giving envelope # or full name and address in the message box)
 - ⇒ Online donation through the Catholic Archdiocese website (**please select Sherwood Park-Our Lady of Perpetual Help from the Parish Name menu**)

Congratulations & Welcome to the Children Baptized at OLPH on Sunday December 17



Harper Ann Chartrand
 Adelaide Lauryl Holliday
 Blake Zana Mercier
 Briah Sterling Wayne Semeniuk-Hayden
 Henry Edward Williamson



Online via Zoom

Mondays, January 8 to March 11, 6:45-8:30 pm

What is the Catholic Church all about? What does it mean to be Catholic? What do Catholics actually believe?

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 GIFT-Our Lady of Perpetual Help for this 10-session, video-based course from the creators of *The Bible Timeline*.

The course is FREE. Participants are encouraged to purchase the study set, which includes workbook, book, and online access to the videos.

Cost of study set: ~\$35 (more information when you register)



To register, contact: Alana at alaperle@telus.net or 780-446-9009



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 February 19)

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

Get tickets here: caedm.ca/vocations/

VOCATIONS RALLY

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Friday, Feb 2, 2024 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
 St. Joseph's Basilica, O'Leary Hall

All Parishioners invited for this evening of information and fellowship! Come learn how to build a **culture of vocation**, whether you are discerning a religious vocation or not. Through the grace of God, the future of the Church depends on us all. *We need all hands on deck!* **Tickets available on Eventbrite or at caedm.ca/vocations/**

- Learn about "Meet Our New Priests," the brand-new study on the state of priestly vocations in Canada by Dr. Ryan Topping
- a keynote talk by Vocations Director Fr. Kris Schmidt
- a special premiere of the new vocations video series "Be Not Afraid"
- A vocations panel featuring religious sisters and priests from all across our Archdiocese.

TOGETHER we serve
 ONE CHURCH. ONE GIFT.

2023 CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$1.6 MILLION
76% RAISED

HOW DO I GIVE?

1. Prayerfully discern how Together We Serve fits into your life of discipleship.
2. Choose to give monthly, annually, or make a one-time gift.

One Church. One Gift. 12 Catholic Organizations.

70% to local Catholic organizations:
 Catholic Social Services Sign of Hope, Newman Theological College, St. Joseph Seminary, St. Joseph's College, St. Joseph's Priests' Foundation, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Edmonton Central Council, Our Lady of Victory Camp

15% to the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith and the needs of the Church in Canada.
 15% to the international needs of the Church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.caedm.ca/TogetherWeServe

SCAN HERE TO DONATE or speak with someone in the parish office.

Come and See!
Annual Live-In Weekend at St. Joseph Seminary
January 26-28, 2024

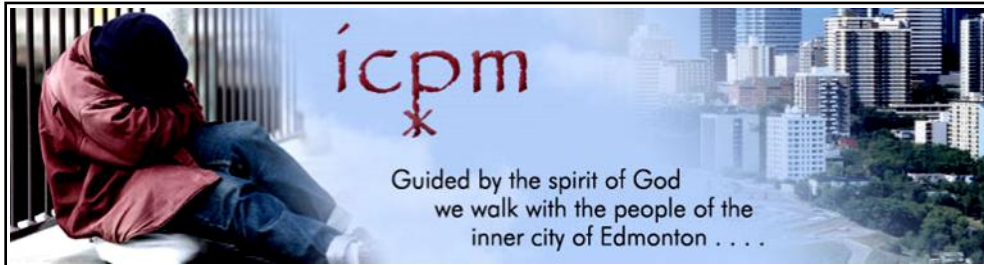
Thinking about becoming a priest? Not sure about your vocation? Just Curious? This is your opportunity to experience seminary life with other men like you who are on a discernment journey.

To learn more and to register:
 Contact Fr. Kris Schmidt, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Edmonton Kris.Schmidt@caedm.ca or call 780-672-1131 Ext. 3.

DID YOU KNOW?

This year, Associate Pastor **Fr. Benoj Makkollil** will celebrate his first Christmas in Canada – a far different experience from his previous years as a missionary priest in Africa and India. Before arriving at OLPH, Fr. Ben spent 25 years in Ghana where he built a Catholic school. Learn more about his story at: <https://caedm.ca/missionary-priest-has-heart-for-building-church-and-faith-in-ghana/>

What's Happening at OLPH



Guided by the spirit of God
we walk with the people of the
inner city of Edmonton

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.



With deep gratitude and humble hearts, the Clothing Ministry volunteers would like to thank the very generous OLPH parishioners, the hard working SSVP team and many dedicated and fun loving students for their involvement in supporting this Ministry which serves Sherwood Park and area. Because of this generosity, the Clothing Nook was able to provide essential clothing and household items to many, including Canadian newcomers and their families.

In December over 260 bags of clothing, footwear, bedding, Christmas trees, decorations and items for gifting, were sorted and enjoyed by over 345 shoppers. As many hands make light work, please consider joining the Clothing Ministry in 2024!

What's Happening at OLPH



All women of the parish, age 16 and up, are invited to join the **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

CWL's three pillars are faith, service, and social justice. Members participate in parish and community life, through prayer, education, activities and events. **CWL meetings are held the second Monday of each month.** To join (or if in need of a ride to a meeting), contact Arlene 587-982-1433 or Margaret 780-467-0443 or e-mail info@cwolph.ca or come to any general meeting or event.

faith | service | SOCIAL JUSTICE



Altar Server
Training
for current and
new servers.

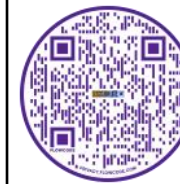
Thursday January 25

7:00 - 8:30 pm (After Evening Mass)

*For More Information Email:

amanda.gaudet15@gmail.com or christina.stockdale@me.com

Let's Stay Connected! flocknote



We want to make it as easy as possible for us to be connected, and for you to get the information you need from the parish. Along with our Archdiocese, OLPH is using a church communication tool called Flocknote to send emails and texts.

Signup is quick using the QR code above or texting OLPHSPE1 to 1-514-900-0130.

You will receive a response confirming your interest with a link to complete the sign-up. Once completed, simply click on any parish groups that you might like to hear from or learn more about. **You can even subscribe to our OLPH Sunday Bulletin by email!** Flocknote tool is safe environment compliant; all info is transmitted across an encrypted internet connection and all our personal info is stored in secure databases. You will only receive emails or texts from the groups you choose to invite communication with and you can change your communication preferences or unsubscribe at the bottom of the email at anytime.



The Sacraments

BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Classes are held the Second Tuesday of Every Month starting with Mass at 6:15pm, followed by the 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** take place the 3rd & 4th Sundays of Every Month at 2:30 pm. To have your child baptized contact Jenny at 780-467-5470 or email info@olph.ca

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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.

CONFIRMATION

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

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

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

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

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. **Irregular Marriage?** If you find yourself in this situation, contact Fr. Jim directly 780-470-2730 as a first step. *(Be at peace, everything is fixable.)*

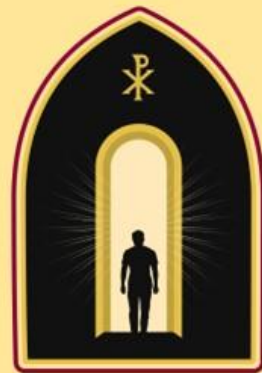
Preparing for a Happy Death ...and the Life to Come

A course for compassionate Catholics, caregivers,
and people who are dying

FACILITATOR TRAINING

Online via Zoom

Tuesdays, January 23-March 5 | 7:00-8:30 pm



This 6-module course builds on the *Horizons of Hope* course offered by our parish in spring 2023. In response to feedback from participants, the expanded course includes new content and practical tools to engage Catholics in the ancient practice of preparing for a happy death and the life to come.

Can you help present this course in our parish? Want to find out? Join us to experience the full course...and learn how to facilitate it along the way!

To register or for more information:

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

JETS = java, exercise, talk and service =

New Travel Adventures up on Destination Board!

The JETS Women's group has grounded their fleet over the Christmas season but are very excited to offer fresh destinations to explore in the new year. We soar into the skies once again beginning Friday January 12, and continue with flights right up until Friday June 14. We are offering everything from an outdoor nature retreat, a mosque tour and a spiritual faith movie, to a rosary garden and several service projects in between.

You are absolutely welcome to join us for any or all of our upcoming sessions; please board with us at our usual gate, the large Meeting Room downstairs. Any questions can be answered by contacting the Flight Captains of JETS: Aida at issaaida33@yahoo.com or Nancy at 780-464-5356.

In the words of St. Augustine, *"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."* ✈️

HELP LINE 780-416-0931

Press 1 to Request HELP
Press 2 to DONATE

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

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Sincere thanks to Parishioners, Parish Staff & Clergy, Vincentians, benefactors and clients for your prayers and support throughout the year. **A special thanks to the Youth who blessed us with their**

volunteer hours and enthusiasm throughout the fall while working in the Clothing Nook and garage! Wishing everyone peace, health and happiness in the New Year.

*In the peace and quiet of the Holy Night,
may the light of Christ shine upon you.*



First and foremost, on behalf of our OLPH parish Team and our ministry leadership, we wish you and your families God's joy-filled Christmas blessings. These blessings, as we celebrate the concluding chapter of God's eternal plan of salvation, with the nativity of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The birth of the long-awaited Messiah, incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ, begins the chain of events that brought about His life, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. In this last chapter of salvation history Jesus overcame death for one and for all; once and for all. His ascension into heaven made possible eternal life, in the presence of the glory of God; for you and me and all of God's children. With the birth of our Lord, the question, **"where to from here?"** became a real question for Joseph and Mary, as they were warned of Herod's plan to destroy the infant children of that time and place. They chose to go to Egypt until it was safe for them to return to their homeland.

So, where to from here, for us at OLPH, and the Archdiocese of Edmonton? Coming out of the pandemic years, the Archdiocese embarked on what we then referred to as a *Radical Rethink*. Partly, in response to the knowledge that we would be moving forward with about half of the resources (both people and finance-wise), to address the needs of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. We formulated twenty-five priorities. They revolved around putting infrastructure and mechanisms (communications, websites, payroll systems etc.) into place, so that we could move our Archdiocese forward from a solid foundation. Much like the man who built his house on rock (Mt,7, 25), we knew we needed a solid foundation in place. This, in order to follow up with **pastoral and evangelical priorities** that directly affect the lives of our sisters and brothers in the pews, as well as those not presently gathered. We have drawn a line under our twenty-five priorities and believe that we are ready to gather where the rubber meets the road; in the pews, in our parishes and in our community.

So, where to from here? Within a year of the Radical Rethink, Pope Francis announced a world synod. His purpose, to hear from the faithful in the pews. Pope Francis wanted their perspective on what needed to be happening in their parish communities. This was a massive undertaking. In our Archdiocese there were four thousand voices heard, over approximately 350 listening sessions of all shapes and sizes. This input was then synthesized into a ten-page report. It was included as

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (Jn. 6, 68)."
Where to from here?

part of a compiled report, a summation of the seventy Canadian Dioceses, and sent to Rome. The Canadian synodal report became part of a final document, compiled by the office of the Holy Father. We are aware, I am sure, that the Holy Father held his own world synod listening session in Rome during the month of September. These synodal documents (local, National and Vatican) can all be viewed on the Archdiocese of Edmonton website <https://caedm.ca/synod>. The interesting thing is the commonality of the people of the world, in what they saw as needs within our world Church. **"Synodal means walking together."** Providentially perhaps, the Kamloops unmarked graves became a focus two months after the pandemic began. This began a parallel synodal walk, from a Canadian perspective, with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. This, an extension of the ninety-four "Calls to Action" presented in the Truth and Reconciliation document produced in 2015; after years of consultation with, and listening to, those who had suffered ill effects from the Canadian government imposed, Residential School system. A system that was operated by multiple religious denominations and Orders. The Catholic Church played a significant role in operating these schools.

Where to from here? All of this to say, "Walking Together" (synodality) although self-evident, is clearly the way forward for us as a country (in communion with our indigenous brothers and sisters), a Church, and I daresay, our family units. Back to the Radical Rethink. We feel the foundational infrastructure is in place. Our Radical Rethink is anchored in the Pastoral Letter, *"Living in the Word of God,"* which Archbishop Smith promulgated in September 2017. The essential message of the Letter said, **"We are to hear the Word of God, and we are to do it."** The Archbishop's letter noted that we are to hear the word of God and do it in three distinct but related ways. **"Worship, Witness, and Service."** In these past months, with input from all areas of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, we have established the **Pastoral and Evangelical priorities** for the next few years. Attached to this writing is a preliminary draft that will share visually with you the essence, or broad stroke priorities, that we have come to as an Archdiocese. This is not an exhaustive list of priorities. It is based on synodal feed back, what we have heard from the priests of the Archdiocese by way of intentional input opportunities, and input from our Pastoral Administration Team. We do feel that we have done our best to be broadly

consultative in our efforts to glean input from our stakeholders (parishioners, clergy, staff), about the direction we are to walk together, as we discern **where to from here?**

So, where to from here? The eight Deaneries, (geographic groupings) that constitute all the parishes in the Archdiocese will now play a leading role in implementing these priorities. The Deans and Vice Deans of each Deanery know this and on February 1, 2024, we will roll out a more defined set of priorities to our clergy. Prior to February 1, a small working group comprised of former synod members, clergy, and PAO Team members will flesh out and further define the wording and content of our presented priorities. Currently, we are asking our pastors to gather a small group of leadership from their parishes. This to begin talking about how on a local level they will strive to implement our stated priorities within their parish community. In essence, to define how these Archdiocesan priorities will be made manifest at the local parish level. Each individual parish will provide their plan to the Archdiocese at the beginning of May, outlining what and how they will go about implementing our stated priorities at the parish level.

Suffice to say, the pastoral priorities will not replace nor displace all the wonderful present pastoral activities within our parish communities. OLPH is a particularly good example of a parish that is already doing much. However, with the skillsets and gifts that are praying in our pews on Sunday mornings, I have no doubt we can do much more. For a smaller rural parish, perhaps they may team up with another parish in their Deanery to facilitate a particular implementation.

The boots on the ground (ie: pastors and their parishioners), will make those decisions.

So, where to from here? This is an exciting time at the Diocesan and parish level. Our pastoral and evangelical priorities have been discerned in a synodal way, using the principal of subsidiarity. Meaning we have discerned together and have used a grass roots approach and not a top-down methodology. The exciting part of this is that parishes will have direct input into how they implement the priorities they have been part of establishing.

The Holy Spirit knows where to from here. For our part, if we do our best, the good Lord will supply the rest.

God bless you this Christmas my friends, *Jn. Jim*

HEARING THE WORD	Worship	Formation for Eucharistic Worship Theological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacramental encounter with Christ Towards the active participation of the faithful
	Witness	Formation for Confident Witness Rediscovering the foundations of an authentic Christian life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centrality of personal encounter with Christ Universal call to holiness and missionary discipleship Primacy of Grace The life of Virtue Stewardship
	Service	Formation for Marriage and Family Life Marriage Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen marriage preparation Accompaniment of married couples
		Family Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental accompaniment Youth accompaniment



OLPH PPC is a volunteer advisory board for our pastor, Fr. Jim, in all matters relating to the well-being of the parish. We work to create a welcoming parish and to promote the work of all parish groups and ministries. PPC meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 6:30 pm (except July and August). Learn more at: <https://www.olph.ca/about/committees/parish-pastoral-council-ppc/>

Merry Christmas! I am Bridget Kenny, chair of the **OLPH Parish Pastoral Council**. While being on this council I have been privileged to closely witness what an amazing faith community OLPH is. This faith community uses its God-given talents to ensure that we all experience the Holy Mass to its fullest, on a daily basis. We leave Mass nourished and ready to bring Christ into our individual experiences. Your prayers in the pews contribute greatly to this. Perhaps another of your gifts could add to our Holy Mass? Our OLPH faith

community is also engaged in acts of service, fellowship, support, education and future planning for all our neighbors. The more members of our community get involved in these endeavors, the more we can accomplish! **Thank you to all who help in countless ways to make OLPH the community it is - and to those who will answer the call to further engage their prayers, as well as their time, talents and treasure to help our OLPH family do that much more in the new year!** I pray you and your loved ones have a holy 2024!