

# Our Lady's Voice

The Newsletter of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

1089 Joseph Avenue

Rochester, New York

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*OLPH Feast  
Is Front  
Page News*

**Catholic Courier readers** of the Monroe/Livingston edition of July 9 & 10 got an "up close and personal" view of Perpetual Help Parish when an article about the June 26 Feast Day celebration was the lead story. Two great photos accompanied the article. WOW!

If you missed the *Courier's* coverage of this yearly event, you can read it on the parish website:  
**[www.olphchurch.com](http://www.olphchurch.com)**

Many who attended that day gathered in the parking lot before Mass to form a procession behind the canopy carried over the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Some brought flowers to place on the altar and all sang the favorite old hymn "As We Kneel Before You."

Celebrant for the Mass was retired Pastor Father Neil Miller and crowning the statue of Our Lady was Elsa Martinez, who was chosen by lottery for the honor.

After Mass, the tradition of the strawberry shortcake festival was observed, this year with the added purpose of saying farewell (via extra cake) to Father Peter Deckman, who has served as Pastor of the Perpetual Help/St. Michael's clustered



parish for the past three years. (See story about Pastoral Staff changes below)

All in all, it was a special day that was shared in the wider diocese--as the remarks of several members who were quoted in the *Courier* story showed: the spirited faith and fellowship of the parish is alive and thriving!

## **PICNIC WELCOMES NEW PASTOR**

**On Sunday, July 10** members of the Perpetual Help/St. Michael's Cluster held a joint picnic on the grounds at St. Michael's Church to welcome our new Pastor, Deacon Dan Hurley. He and his wife Joan and children Caitlin, Brendan and Kevin were on hand to meet the congregation, with everyone enjoying burgers and hots on a summer day.

**FOR Deacon Dan's  
introductory message  
as pastor, see next page.**

**STAFF INCLUDES  
NEW TITLES  
& FAMILIAR FACES**

Although it was announced in March that Father Peter Deckman was to serve as Parochial Vicar at the westside cluster of Holy Family/Holy Apostles/St. Anthony, it was not until May that the diocese announced that a new configuration for the staffing of OLPH/St. Michael's would take place. Our cluster would be served by a Pastoral Administrator. Named to this post is Deacon Dan Hurley. Dan comes to our urban faith community from Immaculate Conception School in Ithaca, where he was principal. He has had a varied background in education, including serving as a teacher of Spanish.

Near the end of June, the congregation learned that our sacramental priest will be Father Laurence Tracy--his job will be to offer Masses, perform funerals and weddings, assisted also by Father Anthony Mugavero, who works in the other half of our larger cluster with Corpus Christi/Mt. Carmel/Holy Redeemer/ St. Francis Xavier. Both these priests are familiar to our members and we welcome all to their new positions and to our ongoing work of making our parish cluster a strong beacon of light in our community.

***From the Pastor's Desk*** 

*Dear Friends,*

*I greet you with great joy as your new Pastoral Administrator! I'm so pleased to be your shepherd and I look forward to the journey we will share together. Let us make it a common practice to pray for one another. A great deal of my prayer time in the last few weeks have been prayers of thanksgiving to God for bringing me to this junction on my spiritual journey. I want you to know that I realize how blessed I am to be among all of you good and faithful people! I ask God to bless our years together with all good things!*

*There are so many great things about our beautiful parish it's hard to mention all of them in this first communication to you. One of them, however, is this newsletter, "Our Lady's Voice." It is a wonderful tool for communicating to all our parishioners about parish events, prayer requests, as well as community and diocesan events. I'm eager to write a column for each issue. I am very grateful to those who work so hard to make this newsletter a reality. Please remember them in your prayers..and please read "Our Lady's Voice" regularly ... whether in print form or on-line.*

*Please believe me when I say that it's been no easy task to remember all your names...but I continue to make it a major priority! Please help me by reminding me of your name when we meet. I'm sure with only a couple of reminders, I'll have your name and face connected.*

*September will be here very shortly...a time when parish life picks up just as family activities at home increase. I'm asking that each family make worship and faith education of children a priority! You heard me mention this in my homily recently...we must always be more than just a "gathering on Saturday evening or Sunday morning." We must take our faith into the community on a DAILY basis...bringing what we celebrate to others around us. And those "others around us" include first and foremost our children! And this charge is to ALL of us...not just those with children at home...for ALL of us can and should support those who are raising children. When I celebrate a wedding with a couple...I always include a charge to the family and friends of the couple to the effect of: "Will you do all in your power to continue to support this couple in their married life?" And if we as biological families are encouraged to do that, why shouldn't we expect the same from our church family as well? Please join me in keeping our Faith Formation and Youth programs in our prayers.*

*I am very grateful to those committees who worked throughout the summer, in lieu of their ordinary "vacation from committee work." The Finance Committee, Parish Life and Parish Council have helped me tremendously in transitioning as your new spiritual leader. Part of that leadership also comes in the financial realm. I am loathe to preach about money...in fact I joke about my family situation as a kid...it seems that just about every time my Dad heard a sermon about money, he picked us up and moved us to a different parish--a parish where "he didn't have to listen to Father talk about money!" So having said that...and having to be a part of my "history," you won't find me "harping about money too often!" However, the reality is that we have financial obligations that need to be met...and so I ask you to simply pray about how you can help on a weekly basis. Is your gift to Our Lady of Perpetual Help the same size as it was a couple of years ago...or five years ago...or even longer? If so, maybe you can consider increasing it ever so slightly.. No heavy-handed request...just a simple thought for you to consider!*

*There are so many events in the planning stages for this Fall...I can't wait to share them with all of you. God is very good...and we must always thank Him and praise Him for the graces he bestows upon us. Please know that you are in my daily prayers and Masses. Let us always serve Him and each other well. See you in Church...*

***Deacon Dan***

Reviving tradition...

## HOMECOMING 2005 OFFERS WEEKLONG DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**On Sunday, October 16** OLPH will welcome back all who were once an important part of the OLPH family. Procrastinate no longer--decide now to come and join in celebrating the century-old Perpetual Help community of faith. The festivities, as always, will begin with Mass at 10 AM --and this Mass also will be the opening of a week of events focused on the Holy Eucharist.

Since the late John Paul II dedicated the year 2005 to Eucharistic adoration and devotion, planners here at OLPH have been considering ways to revive some traditional devotional practices, such as the "Forty Hours Devotion." Older folks will remember that practice from times before the Vatican II Council. That round-the-clock exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament fell out of use in many places as the church focused on the renewals called for by the Council. An idea emerged that our social /devotional event of Homecoming could be combined with the effort to blend our past & present spiritual need to foster devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

So--as is our tradition, OLPH Homecoming 2005 again will call together the whole parish

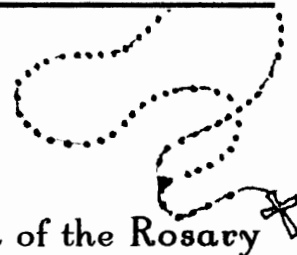
family--past and present--for a Mass of thanksgiving for our faith community, followed by a reception (with sweets & beverages, of course!) But our celebration will continue throughout the week of October 17-20 (Monday through Thursday) with special events focused on education and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

On Monday, October 17, the usual Rosary prayers will continue (see story this page), beginning at 7 PM in the Church, with additional Eucharistic devotion including Benediction. The rest of the week, each evening will have a special focus on the Blessed Sacrament, with reflections, vespers and Benediction.

This means more opportunities than ever to "COME HOME" to revive and renew your faith and community connections!

With our understanding of Eucharist refreshed, our parish will look forward to celebrating an updated version of the "Forty Hours" in the latter part of Lent 2006. So, don't miss this opportunity to enrich your faith!

For information about each day's activity, please consult the parish website or call the parish at 467-2725. All details should be available in early September.



### Month of the Rosary

#### To Be Celebrated Mondays

All are invited to pray the Rosary communally on Mondays during October at 7 PM in OLPH Church. Reflections on the Mysteries, on Mary, and (especially October 17) on the Eucharist will be followed by Benediction.

♪ *Luminae*  
*Christi* ♪  
♪ ♪

**Three years ago**, two musical groups that enhanced the liturgies at Perpetual Help --the contemporary "Son-lights" and the traditional "Heavenly Angels"--joined forces when the number of Masses was reduced.

Now that they've worked together for awhile, the combined group has chosen a new name. Under the direction of Regina Civiletti, with organist Sam Pizzo & guitarist Mike Civiletti, singers Anita Anzalone, Sam Contreras, Irene Holleran, Rose Mahoney, Jerry & Terry Patti, John Rodriguez, Ginny Sullivan, Irene Sultzbach, Sister Melita & Maryanne from Liberty Manor are now lifting their voices as the "Luminae Christi"-- "Lights of Christ" WOW! Many thanks to each and every one of them for their music ministry.

LIFE OF THE PARISH--This 'n' That

MASS SCHEDULE ADJUSTS

With the staffing changes this summer came a reduced number of Masses at OLPH/St. Michael's. For the past three years, three Masses were held at each church each weekend. While neither church was overflowing, this schedule had attempted to accommodate those with work or family obligations, but with the only two priests available, that schedule could not be continued.

After much discussion, the following Mass schedule was adopted:

- AT OLPH-- Bilingual at 5 PM Saturday & English at 10 AM Sunday AT ST. MICHAEL'S-- 11 AM Spanish & 7 PM English on Sunday

In addition, at 12 o'clock on Sunday in OLPH Church, a Gospel Mass sponsored by the House of Mercy is celebrated, usually presided over by retired OLPH Pastor Father Neil Miller.

40

WEEK CLUB

The 40 Week Club dinner will be held on Sunday, September 25 starting at 2 PM at The Lodge on the Green. All paid-up members are invited to the dinner-- and will receive notification soon. Any non-member can attend at a cost of \$15 per person. Please contact Ruth Russell at 266-0797 for further information.

The 40 Week Club is a fundraiser for the parish. The \$40 membership fee allows you to participate in weekly cash drawings, the complimentary event and grand prize drawings for cash. It's fun!!!

Join today and invite others to join too. Rules and applications are available at the entrances of the Church.



T-SHIRT SALE-BY-MAIL

IN MAY, the Parish Life Committee began a sale of OLPH Parish T-shirts. The response was very good: so far, nearly 150 shirts have been sold. We want to give everyone--including loyal "mailing list" parishioners--a chance to participate. Last date to order is September 18.



Five styles, at a cost of \$12 per shirt--5 for \$55--(this includes shipping & handling), are available:

- 1) White shirt with royal blue screen print of church building 2) Blue shirt with white line drawing of Our Lady 3) White shirt with blue screen print of Our Lady 4) Blue shirt with white screen print of church building 5) White shirt with blue portrait of Perpetual Help icon

PLEASE USE ORDER FORM BELOW (Please print clearly)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (in case of questions)

Table with 3 columns: INDICATE SHIRT 3 STYLE, SIZE (S-M-L-XL-2X or 3X), QUANTITY. Rows for Style 1 through Style 5.

Total # of shirts ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Send orders to: OLPH Shirt Sale, 1089 Joseph Ave., Rochester 14621. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery by mail.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS & INFO

### CHURCH BUILDING--



### WHAT'S NEW?

**THE PEDESTALS** that hold the statues of Mary and St. Joseph at the rear of the church have been renovated. Carpeted sides and top were removed and replaced with new painted wood panels and decorative moldings. Also, the glass tops were removed to make way for fabric tops that add extra beauty.

Individual kneelers in front of statues throughout the church, including the server and reader **chairs and kneelers**, have been updated with new or additional foam and new velour fabric.

Estimates are currently being obtained for some **paint repairs** in the church (because of water damage). Also, **new carpeting** is in the works, since the present carpeting is very puckered and quite difficult to clean. The **ceiling fans** need to be cleaned: dust from the blades rained down on people and on the altar when the fans were speeded up during the extremely hot weather. A few **floor tiles** at the entrance need work and some **minor electrical work** needs to be done upstairs.

All these projects are being planned under the diligent direction of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Wow! We also welcome the new chairman of that committee, Todd Fitzmorris. Todd's wife

Karen and daughter Victoria also help out at various parish activities. Many thanks to this committed and active OLPH family.

**THE NORTH TOWER** of the church is the shorter of the two: not too tall, no bells. It was finished off with four decorative urns, one at each corner. They were something you may have noticed but probably took for granted.



While doing some roof repairs on the convent building (Liberty Manor), a worker took some pictures of the north tower that revealed that all four urns were seriously deteriorated--one almost in pieces. As we know, in the freezing and thawing cycles, water is very destructive.

Now, you might think it would be less costly to simply remove the urns altogether. Wrong! Because of the way the urns were attached, the cost of removal would have been twice that of repair.

**SOMETHING SEEN** every Sunday, but also taken for granted, are the vestments worn by the priest as he celebrates Mass. Here at OLPH, we have many sets of vestments, some from the very early years of the parish. Some no longer clean well; some have developed an odor. Some are outdated; some just began to fall apart.

The Parish Life Committee became keenly aware of the situation when Father Peter remarked that people were commenting about the odor of the aging vestments. Through fundraising projects--specifically, the Easter Basket Raffle--the

Committee was able to present the parish with beautiful new white and gold vestments, just in time for Easter. A traditionally styled brocade garment was chosen, with the familiar "Y" shape front and back.

Planned for the proceeds of the current T-shirt Sale is the purchase of a set of green vestments, in the same style as the new white set. Hopefully, a violet set can be acquired in time for the penitential season.

So--please support Parish Life fundraisers to make our plans for updated vestments a reality!

### SCHOOL BUILDING

Over the last ten years, the City School District had leased (at first) part of, and later, the entire building that once housed OLPH School. Needless to say, the income from that rental arrangement was important for the parish budget.

In the spring, because of funding cuts and smaller numbers of enrolled students, the CSD Board voted to close two city schools and the School 22 Annex, located in our building. The loss of rental money is very serious for the parish and a concerted search for a new tenant is ongoing.

Several prospective tenants have come forward, although no firm arrangement has been made. Stay tuned for news, and pray that soon our school building will be put to productive use for our community.

