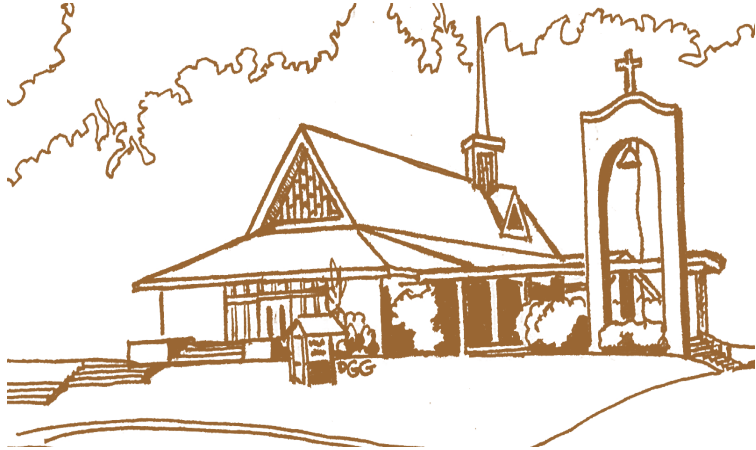


OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

3570 KING WILLIAM AVENUE, WEST POINT VA 23181



MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS: SATURDAY 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.

WEEKDAYS: 9:30 A.M. Tuesday - Friday

HOLYDAYS: 9:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

PARISH OFFICES at the MERCY CENTER

207 W. Euclid Blvd., West Point, VA 23181

Phone: (804) 843-3125 Fax: (804) 843-9158

Office Hours: T W Th 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Parish e-mail : olbs@olbs-catholic.org

Parish Web address: www.olbs-catholic.org

PASTOR

Rev. Oscar Paraiso (757) 778-5118

Rectory (804) 843-4231

Office (804) 843-3125 ext 102

Email: oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Dr. Kevin McKeever (973) 983-0511

Email: conorlew56@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pam Watkins (804) 843-3125 ext 101

Hours: T-W-Th 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Email: adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org

BUSINESS MANAGER (804) 843-3125 ext 104

Bob Ryalls (757) 207-0215

E-mail: businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org

COORDINATOR of CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Erin Hayden (804) 843-3125 ext 103

Email: DRE@olbs-catholic.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lyn LaPaglia (804) 690-9942

Email: music@olbs-catholic.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/DIRECTOR

Vangy Lawson (804) 843-4177

Email: preschool@olbs-catholic.org

van den BOOGAARD HALL RENTALS

Janice McGowan (804) 843-2870

Email: hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER (757) 585-8227

By Appointment

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Also by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday and Tuesday

Mercy Center Chapel

First Friday Adoration in the church - 6:00 p.m.
followed by the Most Holy Rosary - 6:30 p.m.

RECITATION of the MOST HOLY ROSARY

6:30 p.m. Every Friday in the church

INFANT BAPTISM

Parent preparation classes are required for each couple planning to have their baby baptized. To schedule a preparation session, please call the church office.

MARRIAGE

OLBS sponsors a preparation program for couples who intend to marry. The Pastor must be contacted at least six months prior to the date of the wedding.

RECEPTION into the CHURCH

Those inquiring into the Catholic Faith or seeking communion with the Church are invited to contact the Parish Office. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

December 9th & 10th, 2023

Saturday, December 9th *SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5:30 pm Mass offered for Tommy Sturtz, Sr. (RIP)
Anniversary of Death
Requested by Marguerite Sturtz & Family

Sunday, December 10th *SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 9:00 am Mass offered for Melvin Gooch (RIP)
Anniversary of Death on 9/7
Requested by Edna Trudeau
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 am Religious Education Sunday School

Monday, December 11th *Saint Damasus I, Pope**

- No Mass
- 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel

Tuesday, December 12th *OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

- 9:30 am Mass offered for Richard & Anna
Kozlowski (RIP)
Requested by Linda & Joe Drexler
- 12pm-10pm Adoration in Chapel
- 4:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Mercy Center)
- 6:30 pm Procession Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 7:00 pm Mass – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 13th *Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

- 9:30 am Mass offered for Joe, Sr., Elsie, & Johnnie
Drexler (RIP)
Requested by Joe & Linda Drexler

**Thursday, December 14th *Saint John of the Cross,*
*Priest, Doctor of the Church****

- 9:30 am Mass offered for Richard & Anna
Kozlowski (RIP)
Requested by Linda & Joe Drexler

Friday, December 15th

- 9:30 am Mass offered for Joe, Sr., Elsie, & Johnnie
Drexler (RIP)
Requested by Joe & Linda Drexler

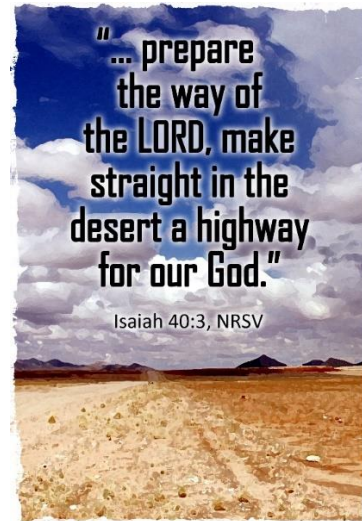
Saturday, December 16th *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5:30 pm Mass – No Mass Intention

Sunday, December 17th *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 9:00 am Mass offered for Billy McGowan &
Henry J. Kopacki, Jr. (RIP)
Requested by Janice McGowan & Family
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 am Religious Education Sunday School

**Color of letters indicates vestment colors for that Sunday or Saint's feast day. If no color, vestments are white.*



Christmas Decorating
Christmas decorating will begin on Sunday, December 10th after the 9:00 am Mass. Anyone interested please attend.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procession and Mass to begin at 6:30 pm Tuesday, December 12. This feast recalls the apparition of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac to a native convert, Juan Diego. The apparition of Mary appears as a woman clothed with the sun who proclaims the greatness of the Lord. Pope Pius XII declared her the patroness of the Americas.

Monthly Spanish Mass to Begin
On Sunday, January 7th, Father Oscar will be offering a Spanish Mass at 4 pm. Spanish Masses will be offered once a month on the first Sunday. This will continue as long as Father remains assigned as Chaplain at the Poor Clares Monastery due to the additional Masses he has there.

Religious Education & Adult Bible Study

Religious Education Sunday School is held every Sunday at 10:15 am in the classrooms at the Boogaard Hall.

December 10th classes will be followed by Play Practice/ Recording @ 11:15 am.-12:30 pm.

Sunday Adult Bible Study will be during Religious Education time, at the VDB hall on December 3rd and 10th. The Book of Matthew! We hope you will join us!

No Adult Bible study after December 10th to December 31st. It will resume on January 7th.

Tuesday night Bible Study meets at 4:30 pm. in the Mercy Center. Studies from the Augustine Institute: Eternal Rest- The Art of Dying Well. You will find answers to questions like: What happens when we die? What does scripture teach? How do we prepare for the life to come? If you are interested in joining or have questions, please call the office, so we can have your materials.



Youth Group Outing
Ice Skating outing to Liberty Ice Pavilion on December 10th. We will leave the parking lot at **3:30 pm.**, returning no later than 8:00 pm.

Questions? Contact: Erin Hayden
804-366-4435



Christmas Pageant

Christmas Play & Potluck
Save the date!

Sunday, December 17th, 5:30 pm

Save the date and join us for Christmas fellowship on Sunday, December 17th, 5:30 pm. Bring your favorite dish to share! We will have our Christmas Play showing, "The Perfect Christmas Tree."

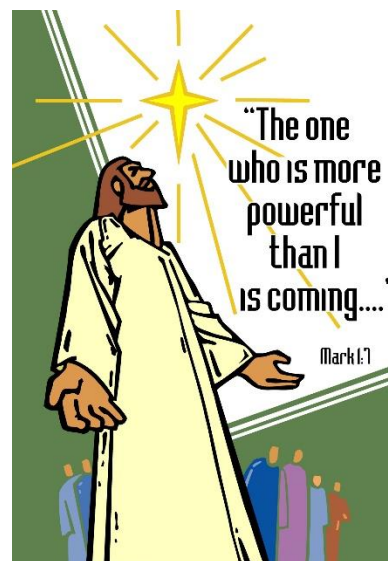


OLBS Preschool

Hello OLBS family! The preschool is excited to have our annual Christmas Program on Thursday Dec. 14th at 9:15am in the church. The children have prepared something special and it is going to be a wonderful time! Refreshments to follow afterwards. We will be finished up before 11:00 in lieu of the 11:00am Daily Mass – note the time change! All are welcome!

FORMED – This is FREE!!

FORMED is a Catholic digital platform free to our Parish this year. It has over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. FORMED has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus, with material that is professionally produced, engaging, and solid in its catechism. Best of all, this material is free to you! It has been gifted to our parish from the Augustine Institute. Thank the Lord! The Augustine Institute also gifted the digital platform for our new curriculum "Word of Life." We hope everyone takes advantage of these resources while they are available to us. We would love to have your feedback to share with the Augustine institute. Sign up as a parishioner, under our church @ www.FORMED.org. Email your feedback to: dre@olbs-Catholic.org





We will once again be collecting money to grocery shop for needy families. You can include an envelope marked Food Baskets in the offertory basket with your envelope number on it so it can be recorded correctly. Or, you can give it to Sandy Lam Dinh, Deidra Kopacki, Erin Hayden or Pam Watkins after one of the Masses. The tentative date for shopping is Saturday, December 16th. All are welcome to come and help. We just need a good head count by Wednesday, December 13th. All children not yet in high school will need to be accompanied by a parent.

If you know of a family in need of a food basket please call the Parish Office at 804-843-3125 or Pam Watkins at 919-820-1983 to let us know.

Cemeteries Cleanup before Christmas

As we approach our Christmas season, it is time to prepare our cemeteries for this joyful time of year where we beautify our cemeteries. If you have any decorations which need to be replaced the Cemetery Committee requests that this be done prior to the week of December 18th as we will be there that week. This includes both St. Theresa Cemetery and St. John Kanti Cemetery. Thank you for your assistance in maintaining our cemeteries.

Send Greetings to Vince D'Elia

Parishioner Vince is at Warwick Forest in Newport News and is doing well. You can send him a note or card at:

Warwick Forest
Room 528
850 Denbigh Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23608

Attendance

December 2 nd	Saturday	5:30 pm Mass	81
December 3 rd	Sunday	9:00 am Mass	133

Please bring any of your Blessed and dried palms and place in the basket at the back of the Church. These palms will be used for our Ashes on Ash Wednesday.



Knights of Columbus

Coats for Kids

The Father Jakubowski Council 8116 has started its annual campaign for Coats for Kids. Last year, the local council provided coats to children at West Point elementary, King William's Cool Springs & Acquinton elementary, and Lower King and Queen elementary. You can give a donation to any Knight or mail to K of C Council 8116, PO Box 707, West Point, 23181.

Christmas Cards: Knights' Keep Christ in Christmas

There are a limited number of boxes of Catholic Christmas cards in the foyer of the church for very reasonable prices. Please feel free to browse the collection.

Becoming a Knight

Father Jakubowski Council 8116 always welcomes practicing Catholic men (18 and older) to join. You can either talk to one of the Knights or simply complete an online application.

Go to www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html



December Wedding Anniversaries

Glenn & Kay Shaw	December 1, 1972
Craig & Danielle Smith	December 1, 2007
Wayne & Carole Beasley	December 12, 1980
(Francis) & Cathy Fudella	December 13, 1971
Michael & Jan Bellanca	December 29, 1963
Chris & Paula Polcyn	December 30, 1988

Parish Needs Help in These Ministries

Anyone who would like to help with Ministry to the Poor, please call the office. This would involve reviewing requests the Parish gets from people who need help.

If you wish to assist at Mass as an Usher, Altar Server, Lector (Reader), Eucharistic Minister, or Collection of Money after Mass, please call Pattie Vadas 804-241-5009 or Joe Drexler at 804-366-7563.

About Our Faith!

Mary Mother of the Church

Wholly united with her Son...

Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it. "This union of the mother with the Son in the work of salvation is made manifest from the time of Christ's virginal conception up to his death," it is made manifest above all at the hour of his Passion.

Thus, the Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross. There she stood, in keeping with the divine plan and enduring with her only begotten Son the intensity of his suffering, joining herself with his sacrifice in her mother's heart, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this victim, born of her: to be given by the same Christ Jesus dying on the cross, as a mother to his disciple, with these words: "Woman, behold your son." (CCC 964)

Year of Grace and Divine Mercy

(From The Diary of St. Faustina)

Meditation:

Jesus: My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. Who can measure the extent of My goodness? For you I descended from heaven to earth; for you I allowed Myself to be nailed to the cross; for you I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come, then, with trust to draw graces from this fountain. I never reject a contrite heart. Your misery has disappeared in the depths of My mercy. Do not argue with Me about your wretchedness. You will give Me pleasure if you hand over to Me all your troubles and griefs. I shall heap upon you the treasures of My grace. (Diary, 1485).

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, reveal to souls that Your mercy is greater than all the sins of the world. Draw us to You Sacred Heart, so our miseries may disappear in the depths of Your mercy. Have mercy on us all.

Priests for Life

The Divine Child's Birth

Advent leads the Church to the Silent Night when God Himself is revealed as one of us. This season leads us to the joy of His birth. If God has joined His nature to ours, how can we ever allow our nature to be despised? If He has come to bring us Divine Life, and will return to take us to the skies, how can it be all right to throw people in the garbage? May His birth shed protection on all about to be born, and as we work to end abortion, may we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ."



Eucharistic Revival

This year is a National Eucharistic Revival movement for all parishes. This is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"The Eucharist is also the sacrifice of the Church. The Church which is the Body of Christ participates in the offering of her Head. With him, she herself is offered whole and entire. She unites herself to his intercession with the Father for all men.

In the Eucharist the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body. The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value. Christ's sacrifice present on the altar makes it possible for all generations of Christians to be united with his offering. In the catacombs the Church is often represented as a woman in prayer, arms outstretched in the praying position. Like Christ who stretched out his arms on the cross, through him, with him, and in him, she offers herself and intercedes for all men." (CCC 1368)



DID YOU KNOW...

Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia has services and resources you may be looking for!

- Financial, Budgeting & Housing Counseling
- Adoptive Home Study Services
- Post Adoption Support
- Free Diapers, Infant Clothing and Parenting Support
- Mental Health Counseling
- In-Home Respite Care for Seniors



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CALL 757-456-2366

VISIT WWW.CCEVA.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Collections for December 2nd & 3rd, 2023

Week's Amount

Total Offertory	\$ 3,131
Christmas Flowers	\$ 50
Votive Candles	\$ 4
Total	\$ 3,185

Budgeted weekly average parish need \$ 4,596

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign	\$ 1,234
Facilities Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 100
Poor Box	\$ 20
Cemetery Fund	\$ 25

Thank You for Supporting our Parish

From the Local School System: Openings

WEST POINT MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

JOB VACANCY

AVAILABLE POSITION

WEST POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Cafeteria 3:
Cafeteria Worker/ Cook

Steps to apply or scan QR Code

Go to www.wpschools.net
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Apply today!

2023/11/21

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Choose an opportunity!

Apply now to start your career in education!

2023/11/21

804-843-4368

Collections for November 25th & 26th, 2023

Week's Amount

Total Offertory	\$ 3,325
Thanksgiving	\$ 517
Christmas Flowers	\$ 510
Religious Education	\$ 536
Votive Candles	\$ 7
Total	\$ 4,895

Budgeted weekly average parish need \$ 4,596

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign	\$ 424
Facilities Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 100
Poor Box	\$ 40
Cemetery Fund	\$ 20

Thank You for Supporting our Parish



Upcoming Schedule of Events

December 10 th	Christmas decorating begins <u>after</u> Mass
	3:30 pm Youth Group Outing: Ice Skating
December 12 th	6:30 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe procession 7:00 pm Mass – Our Lady of Guadalupe Observance
December 14 th	9:15 am Preschool Christmas Program 11:00 am Daily Mass (Note this is a change)
December 16 th	10:00 am Food Basket Ministry – Shopping
December 17 th	5:30 pm Parish Christmas Play & Potluck dinner
December 19 th	11:00 am Meeting with Hardesty about the Church roof
December 20 th	11:00 am Senior Mass: “for Healing” 11:45 am Senior Luncheon at Nick’s Rest.
December 24 th	9:00 am Regular Sunday Mass
	5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
December 25 th	9:00 am Christmas Day Mass
December 31 st	9:00 am Mass of the Holy Family 10:15 am Parish Council Meeting
January 1 st	9:00 am Mass: The Solemnity of Mary & New Year’s Day

HEALING MASS

December 20th at 11:00 am

As baptized Catholics, every one of us is rich in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, given to us in baptism and deepened in Confirmation. Among them is the gift of healing, which makes us signs of God's power and presence and allows us to make others whole for the good of the Church.

A healing Mass is a normal Mass, but it has a special focus on God's healing power; this will be reflected in the (songs,) prayers, and scripture readings.

During the Mass, the celebrant prays for those attending and anoints them with blessed oil. The priest also prays for someone else's needs as requested.

During the healing service you may experience someone falling backward and then resting on the ground. This is called being *slain in the Spirit*; it is simply an indication that the person is overcome by an awareness of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and is resting peacefully.

Remember that the healing you seek may occur over a period of time and in a way which is different from what you expected. Be consistent by praying continuously for your healing.

A healing may be physical, spiritual, or emotional; it may be sudden, or it may happen gradually, in God's time. A healing may also manifest itself in a manner that is different from what was expected. Regardless of the nature of the healing, perseverance in prayer is necessary for the healing to continue.

Of course, God alone can restore someone to health: the priest is only a vehicle for God's healing power.

The late Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission.... It can even be said that Christianity is a 'therapeutic religion, a religion of healing.'"

Fr Oscar Paraiso

November 2023

Annual Coats for Kids Campaign

For the fourth year in a row, the Knights of Columbus Council 8116 in West Point, is raising funds for Coats for Kids, a national program helping children in need.

We are asking your help with any donation to help make this program a success for children in local schools.

Last year, the Knights supplied new coats to each of **West Point Elementary, Lower King & Queen Elementary, and Cool Springs/Acquinton Elementary (King William)**. These new coats are purchased in quantity from the Knights of Columbus' national organization who sponsors this worldwide program.

This year we wish to supply as many coats, if not more as last year – depending on funds, to all three schools. Administrators at these schools have been very appreciative of having coats available for many students.

Many children in our area don't have the basic necessity of a warm coat for braving the cold weather that is right around the corner. It is even more difficult this year for many families dealing with inflation and the high costs of everything.

Please help by sending a check payable to the Knights of Columbus Council 8116, c/o Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 707, West Point VA 23181.

Donors will receive a letter from the Knights recognizing your contribution and thanking you.

Thank you for your support.

Coats for Kids Committee

Jim Vadas, chair

Sal Inga

Jonathan Kopacki

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

New members are asked to register at the Parish Office in the Mercy Center.

We invite all parishioners to join a ministry.
Contact the Chairperson of the ministry or call the Parish Office at 804.843.3125

ALTAR LINENS
Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073
vintagenotes@verizon.net

ALTAR SERVERS
Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT
artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org

BELL CHOIR

CANTORS/CHOIR
Lyn LaPaglia (804) 690-9942
music@olbs-catholic.org

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
cemetarychair@olbs-catholic.org

CHURCH HISTORIAN
Linda Drexler (804)241-4073
historian@olbs-catholic.org

CLEANING COORDINATOR

COMMUNITY LIFE

FACILITIES COMMITTEE
Jim Pyne
facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Richard Duke (804) 843-3125
financechair@olbs-catholic.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY
Nanci Hernandez
Jose Velasquez
hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org

HOSPITALITY
Glenn & Kay Shaw (804) 843-3476

JUSTICE & PEACE

KNIT, PURL & PRAY

LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE
Eric Ellingson (804) 843-2184
ericellingson@verizon.net

LIBRARY

Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073
vintagenotes@verizon.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE
Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULING
Pattie Vadas (804) 241-5009
pbv0806@yahoo.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Margaret Varboncoeur (804) 843-2867

PARISH COUNCIL
Tiffany Smith (804) 840-7984
parishchair@olbs-catholic.org

SACRISTAN
Joe Drexler (804)366-7563
Marguerite Sturtz, Sacristan Emerita

YOUTH MINISTRY
Erin Hayden (804) 843-3125 ext 103
DRE@olbs-catholic.org

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Father Jakubowski Council #8116



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Welcomed
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Contact
Jim Vadas
804.370.5341