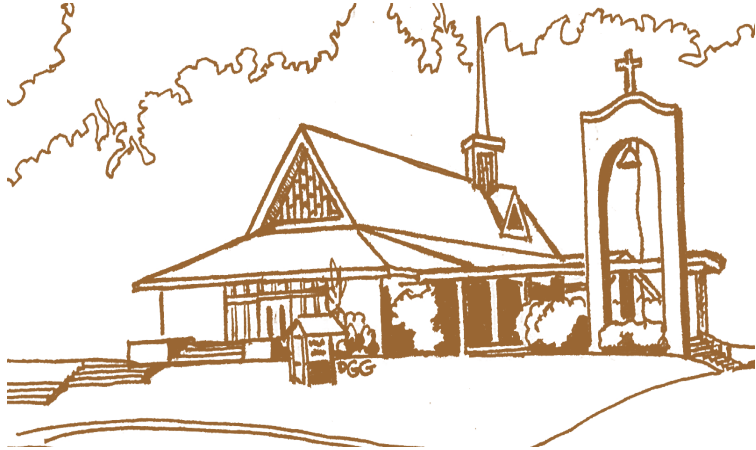


OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*
December 23th & 24th, 2023

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

Saturday, December 23rd **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 pm Mass offered for Thomas Trudeau (RIP)
Anniversary of Death
 Requested by Edna G. Trudeau
 Mass offered for Mary Kurdziel (RIP)
Anniversary of Birthday
 Requested by John & Vickie Roane

Sunday, December 24th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

9:00 am Mass – No Mass Intention
 5:30 pm Mass **VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD***
 Offered for Thomas Sturtz, Sr. (RIP) &
Thomas Sturtz, Jr. (RIP)
 Requested by Marguerite Sturtz & Family
 9:00 pm Mass **VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD***
 Offered for Scott Watkins
 Requested by the Watkins Family
 Offered for Paul McDonald (RIP)
 Requested by Edmund & Patti Staskiel

Monday, December 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY***

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00 am Mass offered for Patsy Seckora (RIP)
Anniversary of Birthday
 Requested by Donna Geron

Tuesday, December 26th **SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR***

No Mass
 12pm-10pm Adoration in Chapel

Wednesday, December 27th **SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE,
 EVANGELIST***

No Mass

Thursday, December 28th **THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS***

No Mass

Friday, December 29th **FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE
 NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

*Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr**

No Mass

6:30 pm Most Holy Rosary

Saturday, December 30th **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
 MARY, AND JOSEPH***

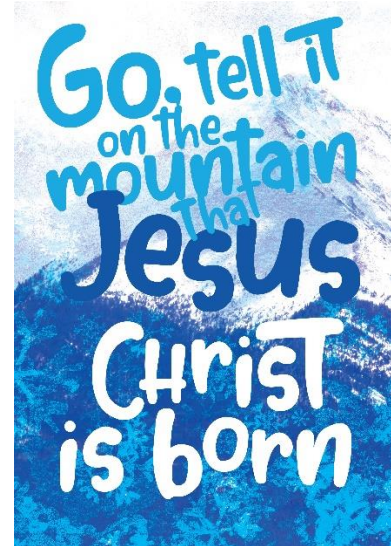
5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 pm Mass offered for Roland Klisiewicz (RIP)
Anniversary of Death (Dec. 29)
 Requested by the Watkins Family

Sunday, December 31st **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
 MARY, AND JOSEPH***

9:00 am Mass – No Mass Intention
 10:15 am Parish Council meeting

Monday, January 1st **NEW YEAR'S DAY
 THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY
 THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

9:00 am Mass – No Mass Intention



Christmas Week – Parish Office Closed

The Parish Offices will be closed from Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. The staff wishes each and every one of our parish family a Joyous Christmas Season filled with the love of family and friends and the worship of Christ, the reason for the season. We also wish all of you a safe and prosperous New Year!

NOTE!

There will be no bulletin for the week after Christmas, as the Parish Offices will be closed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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 classes will resume on **January 7th**. Enjoy your Christmas break with family, focusing on the most important part, Jesus.

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

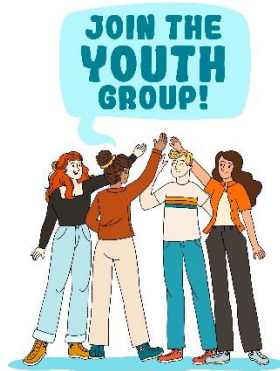
Tuesday Adult Bible Study – Will resume on **January 9th**, 4:30 pm. @ the Mercy Center conference room.

Christmas Play & Potluck

was held on
Sunday, December 17th, 5:30 pm

Our Christmas Play showing was “The Perfect Christmas Tree.” Thank you to all who drove through the rain to join our parish potluck and Christmas play! All of the kids did such a wonderful job in the play and sharing the message. Thank you, parents for encouraging your kids to participate.... They are the future of our church.

The Youth Group will meet at the hall, **6:30 pm. on January 7th!** Let's celebrate the New Year Fun!



The Giving Tree a Wonderful Success

A very special Thank You to all who participated in the Giving Tree Ministry! Overall, we were able to help 67 children with Christmas gifts to brighten their season and spread the love of Christ.

FORMED – This is FREE!!

We hope everyone takes advantage of these resources while they are available to our Parish. Look for these cards in the foyer to sign up for FORMED. 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



International Dinner

Parish Council is planning and coordinating an upcoming International Dinner to be held on Saturday, January 27th as a fundraiser for the Parish, mainly to raise money for the Cultural Prayer Gardens that are in planning stages as well as any additional funds needed for Mason Kopacki's Eagle Scout Project, the “Stations of the Cross trail.” A snow date would be a week later, February 3rd. We would ask for a suggested donation or contribution to support these projects. This first event would be planned as a Parish activity with future International Dinners as a public event if we can get over some hurdles. A date will be set in early January to plan this. Anyone interested in helping can call or text Jim Vadas at 804-370-5341 or email jimvadas@yahoo.com.

Cultural Prayer Gardens

As part of our beautifying the wooded area behind the Church and VDB Hall, plans are in the works to develop outdoor prayer gardens for our culturally diverse Parish. We hope to recognize our Vietnamese, Hispanic, Philippine, and Polish and European communities with each having a prayerful garden area with signage, statues, and shrub and tree plantings that will create beauty and a prayerful space while making use of the acreage behind our Parish buildings. A planning date will be set in early January. Anyone interested in helping can call or text Jim Vadas at 804-370-5341 or email jimvadas@yahoo.com.

We also want to thank all who came out to help shop for, pack, and deliver Food Baskets on the 16th! It could not have been done without our



wonderful volunteers!!! Thank you to Quan and Sandy Lam Dinh (who also provided a delicious lunch for everyone), Deidra Kopacki, Kevin Kopacki, Mason Kopacki, Erin Hayden, Samantha Hayden, Suzanne Hayden, Amber Gibbs, Daniel Gibbs, Jackson Gibbs, Addie Gibbs, Vickie Roane, Jonathan Kopacki, Misael Hernandez, Luis Hernandez, Jennifer Brown and Maximus Brown for all the love and care you gave in working to make sure 13 families less fortunate will have plenty of food in the house for the children during the break. We even managed to stock some of the "Sheds" around town for the needy. We had the most volunteers this year and were able to show some of Christ's love to our community!

Attendance

December 12 th	Our Lady of Guadalupe 6:30 pm Mass	65
December 16 th	Saturday 5:30 pm Mass	75
December 17 th	Sunday 9:00 am Mass	154

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



December & January 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
(Jerry) & Debbie Johnson	January 4, 1972
Quan & Sandy Dinh	January 18, 2020
Bill & Edwina Madigan	January 28, 1967

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.

Adoration in Mercy Center Chapel

Stop by the Mercy Center Chapel for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and enjoy the comfort of the new kneelers. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament usually takes place on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Chapel can also be opened for you during Parish Office hours on Tuesday through Thursday.



The rosary is said each Friday evening at 6:30 pm in the church. Please consider coming and praying together with your parish family.

Hearing Assistance

If you are having difficulty hearing the Mass in Church, please arrive a few minutes early and speak with one of the ushers, as the parish has purchased hearing assistance devices for our parishioners. Just ask one of our ushers how it works. You can even use your own earphones to plug into the device.

About Our Faith!

Mary Mother of the Church

...She is our Mother in the order of grace

By her complete adherence to the Father’s will, to his Son’s redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church’s model of faith and charity. Thus, she is a “preeminent and...wholly unique member of the Church”; indeed, she is the “exemplary realization: (typus) of the Church. (CCC 967)

Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. “In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior’s work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.” (CCC 968)

Priests for Life

“Merry Christmas”

Today, the greeting “Merry Christmas” is on our lips and in our hearts. What does this simple greeting mean? We know, of course, that for many people, things are not merry today, and that for all of us, there are certain things that cause us anxiety and sadness. There is evil in the world and in our lives. But “Merry Christmas” does not mean that we always feel happy, nor does it mean that everything is going our way. What it means is we always have access to God. Christ has come to lead us to the Father and bring us a new relationship with God and each other in the life that never ends. “Merry Christmas” means that even in the midst of sadness, we can never lose this gift. He is with us always, and that brings a peace and joy that the world can neither give nor take away. Merry Christmas!

Year of Grace and Divine Mercy
(From The Diary of St. Faustina)

Meditation:

Jesus: I am pleased with your efforts, O soul aspiring for perfection, but why do I see you so often sad and depressed? Tell Me, My child what is the meaning of this sadness, and what is it’s cause?

Jesus: You see, My child, what you are of yourself. The cause of your falls is that you rely too much upon yourself and too little on Me. But let this not sadden you so much. You are dealing with the God of mercy, which your misery cannot exhaust. Remember, I did not allot only a certain number of pardons (Diary, 1488)

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, You know my miseries better than I do. I want to do better. I want to rely more on You. Help me to plunge into the ocean of Your mercies, so my miseries may be transformed into a plea for mercy on the whole world.



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.

St. Augustine admirably summed up this doctrine that moves us to an ever more complete participation in our Redeemer’s sacrifice which we celebrate in the Eucharist:

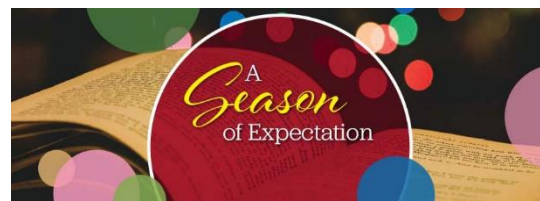
“This wholly redeemed city, the assembly and society of the saints, is offer to God as a universal sacrifice by the high priest who in the form of a slave went so far as to offer himself for us in his Passion, to make us the Body of so great a head...Such is the sacrifice of Christians: ‘we who are many are one Body in Christ.’ The Church continues to reproduce the Sacrifice in the sacrament of the altar so well-known to believers wherein it is evident to them that in what she offers she herself is offered.” (CCC 1371)

Collection for December 16th & 17th, 2023

Week’s Amount

Total Offertory	\$ 5,735
Supplemental Collection	\$ 463
Votive Candles	\$ 12
Christmas Day	\$ 50
Total	\$ 6,260
Budgeted weekly average parish need	\$ 4,596
Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:	
Capital Campaign	\$ 734
Poor Box	\$ 70
Catholic Charities	\$ 50

Thank You for Supporting our Parish



Christmas Pageant and Pot Luck Held December 17th



Our Christmas Play showing was “The Perfect Christmas Tree.” Thank you to all who drove through the rain to join our parish potluck and Christmas play! All of the kids did such a wonderful job in the play and sharing the message. Thank you, parents for encouraging your kids to participate.... They are the future of our church.

The children with Father Oscar



Great food including desserts



Video-filmed play took many weeks!



Recognizing some of the cast of many!



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

December 2023 Prayers for Healing & Good Health

Elizabeth Alley
Cheryl Antal
Jerry Armstead
Paulette Berberich
Jean Berkey
Beatrice Blacher
Linda Blevins
Todd Brown
Linda Burch
Robert Burch
Katherine Carson
Kevin Carson
Lucy Carson
Jose Castaneda
Meredith Crowe
Lydia Dehn

Vincent D'elia
Denise DePompeo
Dexter Dix
Joyce Drexler
Paul Garman
Laurie Hite
Tom Hollowack
Gigi Jordan
Gloria Kojcsich
Bonnie Kopacki
Arlene Lasch
Melissa Leger
Karen Liberato
Philip Liberato
Holly McGowan

Patrick McGowan
Lenny Ramlano
Joe Ripchick
John Ross
Barbara Schaffer
Margaret Silvia
Edmund Staskiel
Gloria Wajciechowski
Bill Webster
Steve Weems
James Wills
Andrea Berberich Wilson
Leda Zaginaylo
Abby Zwerner

Prayers for those in the Military

Tracie Gates

If you wish to add someone on the list or remove a name from the list, please call the parish office (804) 843-3125 or email Pam Watkins at adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org

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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Email: hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

Father Jakubowski Council #8116



*New Members
Welcomed
*Hall Rental Available

Contact
Jim Vadas
804.370.5341