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. 4:00 P.M. SPANISH MASS 1st Sunday of the Month 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: TWTh 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Parish e-mail : <u>olbs@olbs-catholic.org</u> Parish Web address: <u>www.olbs-catholic.org</u>

PASTOR

Rev. Oscar Paraiso (757) 778-5118 Rectory (804) 843-4231 Office (804) 843-3125 ext 102 Email: <u>oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org</u> <u>pastormcneill@gmail.com</u>

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: <u>adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org</u>

BUSINESS MANAGER (804) 843-3125 ext 104 Bob Ryalls (757) 207-0215 E-mail: <u>businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org</u>

COORDINATOR of CHRISTIAN FORMATION Erin Hayden (804) 843-3125 ext 103 Email: <u>DRE@olbs-catholic.org</u>

MUSIC DIRECTOR Email: <u>music@olbs-catholic.org</u>

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/DIRECTOR Vangy Lawson (804) 843-4177 Email: <u>preschool@olbs-catholic.org</u>

van den BOOGAARD HALL RENTALS Janice McGowan (804) 843-2870 Email: <u>hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org</u>

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER (757) 585-8227 By Appointment SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION Saturday 5:00 p.m. Also by appointment

- EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Monday and Tuesday Mercy Center Chapel
- FIRST FRIDAY BENEDICTION and 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 IN ORDINARY TIME

January 27th & 28th, 2024

Saturday, Janua	ry 27 th FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
5:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 pm	Mass offered for Phil Liberato for Healing
	and Recovery
	Requested by the Liberato Family
Sunday, January	28 th FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
9:00 am	Mass offered In Loving Memory of
	Miss Laurie (RIP)
	Requested by Your Caterpillar Students
10:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:15 am	Religious Education Sunday School
10:15 am	Parish Council Meeting
Monday, Januar	y 29 th
	No Mass
12 pm-10 pm	Adoration in Chapel
Tuesday, Janua	ry 30 th
9:30 am	Mass offered for <u>Richard Kozlowski (RIP)</u>
	Requested by Donna Geron
12pm-10pm	Adoration in Chapel
4:30 pm	Adult Bible Study (Mercy Center)
Wednesday, Jan	uary 31 st Saint John Bosco, Priest*
9:30 am	Mass offered for Sister Mary Paul
	Augustine (RIP)
	Requested by Linda & Robert Burch
6:30 pm	Choir Practice
6:30 pm Thursday Februa	ary 1 st
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Thursday Februa	ary 1 st Mass offered for <u>Sister Mary Paul</u> <u>Augustine (RIP)</u>
Thursday Februa	ary 1 st Mass offered for <u>Sister Mary Paul</u>
Thursday Februa 9:30 am	ary 1 st Mass offered for <u>Sister Mary Paul</u> <u>Augustine (RIP)</u> Requested by Erin & Greg Hayden 2 nd THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD*
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*Color of letters indicates vestment colors for that Sunday or Saint's feast day. If no color, vestments are white.



Please bring your candles to be Blessed on the weekend February 3rd & 4th. February 3rd is also the Feast of St. Blaise, so throats will also be Blessed that weekend. Friday, February 2nd is the Presentation of the Lord in the **Temple and Candlemas Day.**

With Father Oscar's added responsibilities serving as Chaplain for the Poor Clares, his availability has been more restricted. If you or you are aware of a parishioner or family member of a parishioner who is in need of or would like a visit from Father Oscar, please call the parish office Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays from 9:00am until 4:30pm to give us the name, phone number, address, and the best time to visit. Father will be able to visit at the earliest opportunity.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, at 6:30 pm (this is a time change). There will be three priests available for private confessions.



Religious Education & Adult Bible Study

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

** Thank you for continuing to nurture your children's faith at home and in the class. It's amazing what our children can learn and retain about their faith, using it to build the Kingdom of God. **

Adult Bible study will follow the 9 am. Mass.

<u>Tuesday Adult Bible Study</u> – Has resumed at 4:30 pm at the Mercy Center conference room. We have started a new session on Lectio: Salvation.



Youth Group –Outing on Feb. 4th!! If you are in 6th-HS grades and would like to join, contact the office.

<u>Ash Wednesday</u> is Wednesday, February 14th. Attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a wonderful way to begin your Lenten journey and will set the tone for your Lenten practices and might even lead you to consider new Lenten practices. Masses will be at 9:30am and 7:00pm on February 14th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE

On each Friday during Lent in the Church, we will recite the rosary at 6:30 pm followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. The following ministries/groups are asked to lead the Stations of the Cross on their given date. Please let Father Oscar and Joe Drexler know if you can help on the date your ministry/group is scheduled.

- February 16 The Liturgy Committee
- February 23 Parish Council
- March 1 Knights of Columbus
- March 8 Hispanic Community
- March 15 Finance Council
- March 22 Cemetery Committee
- March 29 3:00 pm Stations Father Oscar



<u>Get Your Ticket to Reserve a Seat</u> for International Dinner Feb. 17th

Vietnamese, Polish, Filippino, Hispanic, and Italian! The International Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 17th. as a fundraiser for the Parish, mainly to raise money for the Cultural Prayer Gardens and additional funds Mason Kopacki may need for his Eagle Scout Project, the "Stations of the Cross" path.

There are a <u>limited number of tickets</u> so get yours after all Masses or call 804-370-5341 to reserve your ticket. Parishioners and their guests or family are invited. <u>Eat in</u> only.

There is no cost for tickets but attendees are asked to make donations as this is a fundraiser.

In addition, 50/50 raffles and silent auction for gift baskets will be held.

If you wish to sponsor and put together a gift basket, please let someone on Parish Council know.

A snow date would be March 2nd.



Cultural Prayer Gardens

Preliminary plans for outdoor prayer gardens for our culturally diverse Parish are on display in the foyer of the church. This is an effort to recognize our Vietnamese, Hispanic, Philippine, and Polish and European communities and allow them to share their cultures where all can visit. The garden areas are to include signage, statues, benches, and shrub and tree plantings. This will be adjacent to Mason Kopacki's "Stations of the Cross" Eagle Scout project. These projects will make use of and beautify almost an acre and a half of the wooded behind our Parish church and hall.

New Procedure for Announcements

If you have an announcement that needs to be made at the end of Mass, you can type your announcement and place in the Orange Folder on the Cantor's Stand. The second lector will make announcements at the end of Mass. (If you need help typing your announcement, please send an email to <u>adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org</u> with your announcement by Wednesdays by 4:00pm.) For those who wish to make their own announcements, please be on the side waiting after Holy Eucharist so Father knows you need to make an announcement.

Monthly Spanish Mass

Sunday, February 4th, Father Oscar will be offering a Spanish Mass at 4 pm. Spanish Masses will be offered <u>once a month</u> <u>on the first Sunday</u>. This will continue as long as Father remains assigned as Chaplain at the Poor Clares Monastery due to the additional daily and weekend Masses he has at the Monastery.

Attendance				
January 20 th	Saturday	5:30 pm Mass	92	
January 21 st	Sunday	9:00 am Mass	120	

Collection for January 20 th & 2	21 st , 2	2024		
<u>Week's Amount</u>				
Total Offertory	\$	4,739		
Supplemental Collection	\$	203		
Votive Candles	<u>\$</u>	27		
Total	\$	4,969		
Budgeted weekly average parish need		4,596		
Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:				
Capital Campaign – note info. below	\$	1,197		
Poor Box	\$	20		
Facilities Repairs & Maintenance Fund	\$	200		
Haiti Fund	\$	120		
Respect Life	\$	458		
Thank You for Supporting our Parish				

Adoration in Mercy Center Chapel

Stop by the Mercy Center Chapel for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

Collecting Old Palms

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.



January Wedding Anniversaries

(Jerry) & Debbie Johnson Quan & Sandy Dinh Bill & Edwina Madigan

January 4, 1972 January 18, 2020 January 28, 1967



Knights of Columbus

Upcoming Lenten Fish Dinners

Here are the dates of upcoming Friday Lenten Fish Dinners by the Knights of Columbus:

Friday, February 23 rd	Fish Dinner
Friday, March 8 th	Shrimp Dinner
Friday, March 22 nd	Fish/ Seafood Combo

Tickets will be available as we get closer to the dinners. All Knights are asked to come out and lend a hand for this fundraiser.

About Our Faith!

Mary- Eschatological Icon of the Church

After speaking of the Church, her origin, mission, and destiny, we can find no better way to conclude that by looking to Mary. In her we contemplate what the Church already is in her mystery on her own "pilgrimage of faith," and what she will be in the homeland at the end of her journey. There, "in the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity," "in the communion of all the saints," the Church is awaited by the one she venerates as Mother of her Lord and as her own mother. In the meantime, the Mother of Jesus, in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven, is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected the world to come. Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God. (CCC 972)

Priests for Life

From the Catechism ...

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person -- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (Jer 1:5; cf Job 10:8-12; Ps 22:10-11). "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth" (Ps. 139:15). Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable." -- Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2270-2271



<u>Year of Grace and Divine Mercy</u> (From The Diary of St. Faustina)

Meditation:

The Lord said to me, The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness. You always console Me when you pray for sinners. The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion of sinners. Know, My daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered (Diary, 1397)

March 25, 1938. Today, I saw the suffering Lord Jesus. He leaned down toward me and whispered softly, **My daughter help Me to save sinners**. Suddenly, a burning desire to save sols entered my soul. When I recovered my senses, I knew just how I was to help souls, and I prepared myself for greater sufferings (Diary, 1645)

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, I want to respond to Your "mortal sadness" caused by the loss of each soul. Give me a "burning desire to save souls" like that of St. Faustina. Give me the graces to even suffer for the conversion of sinners.



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 Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread in to the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change, the holy Catholic Church, has fittingly and properly called <u>transubstantiation</u>. (CCC 1376)

Lenten Soup & Sermon

The Soup & Sermon series sponsored by the West Point Ministerial Association will resume this year. The dates are all on Wednesdays: February 21st & 28th, and March 6th, 13th, & 20th. The Sermon will begin in St. John's Episcopal Church at Noon and a simple Soup luncheon will take place in their fellowship hall immediately following the Sermon. All are welcome. Our Church will work with St. John's Episcopal Church to provide soups and desserts for the Soup & Sermon on Wednesday, February 28th. Please call the Parish Office at 804-843-3125 if you are willing to volunteer to lead some of our ladies in providing whatever is needed for the Soup & Sermon or just want to volunteer.



Into the Heights / Young Adult Retreat

Looking at the mountains and reflecting on creation, you can find peace and perspective that comes from the Lord. As young adults, we have the opportunity journey *into the heights* of God's love by taking a step *out* of our normal lives and *into* the Blue Ridge mountains & Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. This one-day event will include 2 talks, an easyto-moderate level hike, prayer with the Trappist-Cistercian nuns, and lunch.

Into the Heights: A Young Adult Lenten Reflection & Hike is Saturday, March 16 from 10am-6:30pm at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Crozet, VA. \$40/person includes lunch and other retreat supplies.

Who should attend this retreat?

Into the Heights is intended for young adults ages 18-39. All attendees must be out of high school. Single people and married couples are all welcome. Though this day is designed for Catholics, interested young adults of any faith backgrounds are welcome to attend. Limited space available - don't wait to sign up!

Thank you to our generous parishes and parishioners for all your Christmas support with second collection donations prayers & more. Your support helps us serve over 7,900 families across the Hampton Roads area all year long. FOR MORE INFORMATION: OLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA CALL 757-456-2366 \bigcirc VISIT WWW.CCEVA.ORG astern Virginia





Answer: power

<u>Bishop Knestout on Pope Francis' Use of Blessings:</u> <u>A Letter to Diocesan Priests</u>

On January 4th, Bishop Knestout sent a letter to Diocesan priests as guidance on the use of "blessings" as per Pope Francis' recent declaration. He states the declaration does "not entail as significant a change to Church practice." The "<u>secular media and others</u>" have failed to give adequate context of what is important in "Church teaching, i.e., how God acts toward us." *

"God's way is one of tenderness, love that is patient, kind and generous." We the Church should offer similar "care for one another," including those outside the Church.

"No teaching [of the Church] has been changed." The context is in how blessings are offered – a distinction not often discussed among Catholics.

<u>There are different kinds of blessings and the Pope's declaration covers blessings "that</u> are spontaneous, informal, non-liturgical, and brief." *

A <u>blessing is to be withheld</u>^{*} when the request is for the affirmation or celebration of a state of life considered sinful by the Church. However, a personal blessing can be of someone who is struggling with some difficulty for which they ask for a blessing – and is encouraged. Such spontaneous blessings are "intended to express God's desire that we receive his grace and help to an increase in holiness."

The priest needs to be assured of or emphasize that the request for a blessing is being made <u>not to approve of or confirm or validate an irregular situation</u>^{*} or same sex couples, but is truly a faithful person who is striving "for continued conversion and a life of holiness consistent with the practice of the Church" and <u>in no way confers</u>^{*} a liturgical blessing on any "union that presumes to be a marriage or to an extra-marital sexual practice" (taken from the Pope's <u>Fiducia Supplicans</u>: On the Meaning of Blessings or "FS").

The Holy Father's declaration is to develop a broader understanding of "blessings." There are blessings that descend from God upon man; there are blessings that ascend from earth to heaven, i.e., God.

Blessings should be approached with an attitude of faith and fatherly mercy (FS). "When one asks for a blessing...they are expressing a petition for God's assistance, a plea to live better."

A spontaneous blessing (refer to the Book of Blessings) is meant for "everyone…even if he or she lives in situations that are not ordered to the Creator's plan...God never turns away anyone who approaches him!" (FS)

* Note: Underlining has been done by the author to emphasize passages and are not underlined in the Bishop's letter.



January 2024 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 Tom Hollowack Jim Houser 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 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 <u>adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org</u>

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

Please support our sponsors. They support our bulletin!





8th & MAIN STREET WEST POINT, VA 23181

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417 11th Street West Point VA 23181 (804) 843-2550

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