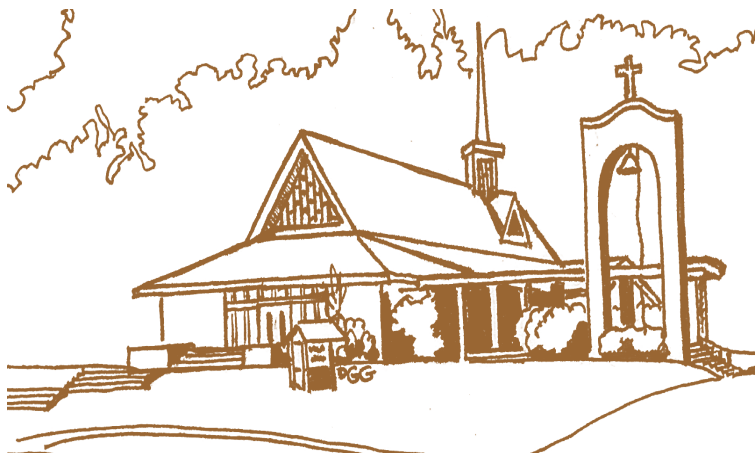


OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

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: 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
pastormcneill@gmail.com

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

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 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 17th & 18th, 2024

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

Saturday, February 17th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

- 5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5:30 pm Mass offered for Yolanda Arci (RIP)
Anniversary of Death
 Requested by the Watkins Family
- 6:00-8:00 pm **International Dinner (Boogaard Hall)**

Sunday, February 18th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

- 9:00 am Mass offered in Loving Memory of
Rose Marie O'Keefe (RIP)
 Requested by Saint Patrick Classmates
 and for Larry Laccabue (Lak-a-boo) (RIP)
 Requested by Karena & Trent Funkhouser
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 am Religious Education Sunday School

Monday, February 19th

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

Tuesday, February 20th

- 9:30 am Mass offered for Anna Kozlowski (RIP)
 Requested by Donna Geron
- 12pm-10pm Adoration in Chapel
- 4:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Mercy Center)
- 6:30 pm **Lenten Penance Service**

**Wednesday, February 21st Saint Peter Damian, Bishop,
 Doctor of the Church***

- No Mass
- 10:00 am **Deanery Meeting** at St. Bede's, W'burg
- 6:30 pm **Choir Practice**

**Thursday February 22nd THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER THE
 APOSTLE***

- 11:00 am Mass offered for Johnny Drexler (RIP)
 Requested by Theresa Moody
- 11:45 am Senior Lunch at Tony & George's Rest.
- 6:30 pm **Finance Council Meeting at MC**

Friday, February 23rd Saint Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr*

- 5:30 pm Mass offered for Von Moody (RIP)
 Requested by Theresa Moody
- 6:30 pm **Most Holy Rosary**
- 7:00 pm **Stations of the Cross – Parish Council**

Saturday, February 24th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

- 5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5:30 pm Mass offered for Phil & Karen Liberato
For Healing & Good Health
 Requested by the Liberato Family

Sunday, February 25th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

- 9:00 am Mass offered for Spencer Adsit (RIP)
1-Year Anniversary of Death Jan. 17, 2023
 Requested by Edmund & Patti Staskiel
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 am Religious Education Sunday School



"The time has come," he said.
 "The kingdom of God is near.
 Repent and believe the good news!"
 Mark 1:15, NIV

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 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.

February Senior Mass & Luncheon

The Senior Mass and Luncheon that was scheduled for Wednesday, February 21st will be **moved to Thursday, February 22nd** at the same time and same place. Lunch will be at Tony & George's Restaurant in West Point. Please don't forget to call Jeanie Sturtz by that Monday if you plan to attend. Her number is on the Calendar and in the Bulletin. Father Oscar will be attending a Deanery Meeting on that Wednesday, February 21st.

Change in Friday's Daily Mass Schedule

There will no longer be a 9:30am Mass on Fridays.
 Each Friday Mass will be at 5:30pm followed by the Rosary.
 Each **FIRST Friday Mass** will be at 5:30pm followed by the Holy Hour.
 Each Friday during Lent Mass will be at 5:30pm followed by the Rosary and then the Stations of the Cross.



Religious Education & Adult Bible Study

Religious Education Sunday School 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.

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

Youth Group News

If you are in 6th-HS grades and would like to join, contact the office.

Join us on March 3rd @ 6:30 pm.



Diocesan Youth Conference 2024

Exciting times! Four of our youth, (Misael Hernandez, Ryan Sprouse, Jovanny Velazquez, Mason Kopacki) and chaperone (Kevin Kopacki) attended the Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference with several hundred others on February 9th -11th in Richmond. This weekend was filled with activities to build our youth in faith and love for Christ. Activities included: prayer / meditation, guest speakers, breakout sessions, concerts, social time, food packaging project with Rise Against Hunger and so much more!

Little Black Lent Book

Spend time in meditation. Get your Little black Lent book on the back table of the church.

Divine Mercy Retreat

Save the Date! March 16th from 9:00 -12:00 pm at the Boogaard Hall. It is a time of Mercy that our Savior has given us. This retreat will help you to be prepared to receive the gifts given on Divine Mercy Sunday. Breakfast items will be served and admission cost is FREE. **Sign up and tickets are on the back table.** Questions? Call: Erin Hayden (804)-366-4435.



From the Preschool

Hello Church Family! The Preschool has experienced a wonderful and successful school year. All of our spots have been full and we are looking forward to another wonderful year this coming Fall. Registration is now open to the Parish. If there are any families looking for a 3-year old program, we have open spots. Thank you again for all your support over the years and your prayers. We appreciate them.



Cultural Prayer Gardens

Preliminary plans for outdoor prayer gardens are on display in the foyer of the Church in an effort to recognize our Vietnamese, Hispanic, Philippine, and Polish and European communities. The garden areas are to include signage about the different cultures and their importance in our Parish, statues, benches, and shrub and tree plantings.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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 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

Lenten Soup & Sermon

The Lenten Soup and Sermon series sponsored by the West Point Ministerial Association will be held on all Wednesday February 21-March 20. Sermons begin at 12 noon followed by a soup luncheon. **OLBS and St. John's are providing soup and dessert on February 28. We need two additional soups and 4 desserts.** If you can provide either of these, please contact Lorraine Ryalls at 757-784-7347. Please consider joining our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on Wednesdays for this time of Lenten reflection.

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 adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org 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.



February Wedding Anniversaries

(James) & Donna Geron	February 7, 1970
(Robert) & Cheryl Servonsky	February 10, 1973
Sol & Annabelle Vidal	February 10, 2001
(Henry) & Marian Kopacki	February 13, 1949
(Charles) & Margaret Varboncoeur	February 23, 1957
(Ed) & Virginia Kopacki	February 24, 1952

Collection for February 10th & 11th, 2024

Week's Amount

Total Offertory	\$ 3,262
Votive Candles	\$ 20
Religious Education	\$ 392
Total	\$ 3,674
Budgeted weekly average parish need	\$ 4,596

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign – note info. below	\$ 450
Poor Box	\$ 26
Facilities Repairs & Maintenance Fund	\$ 120

Thank You for Supporting our Parish

Attendance

February 10 th	Saturday	5:30 pm Mass	73
February 11 th	Sunday	9:00 am Mass	133



Knights of Columbus

Upcoming Lenten Fish Dinners

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

Friday, February 23rd Fish Dinner

Fried flounder, 3 sides, dessert & drink

Tickets now available after Masses or
Call 804-512-9701 to reserve your tickets

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

Brother Knights are asked to come out and lend a hand for these fundraisers.

Upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive at Boogaard Hall on Tuesday, February 27th. Go to Red Cross Blood.org or 1-800 Red Cross. See flyer in this week's bulletin.

Help our Parish!

We Need someone to head up the Committee for the Poor within our Parish. There are funds available, but we need someone willing to meet and assess the needs of those seeking help. Please pray on this and if you are interested in helping those in need, please contact the Parish Office.

*****ALERT*****

Make Your Voice Heard

Assisted suicide legislation has been introduced in the Virginia General Assembly. The Senate version of the bill is through committee and has been sent to the Senate floor. The House version is scheduled for a hearing soon. Contact your state legislators and tell them that assisted suicide can lead to dangerous decision-making for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, like the elderly, the disabled, and those with mental illness. **For more information and to call or send an email message to your representatives, go to the Virginia Catholic Conference.**

About Our Faith:

The Mysteries of Jesus' Public Life

The baptism of Jesus- Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." A crowd of sinners- tax collectors and soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, and prostitutes- come to be baptized by him. "Then Jesus appears." The Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my beloved Son," This is the manifestation ("Epiphany") of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God. (CCC 535)

Priests for Life

The cleansing power of water

Today's first reading speaks to us of Noah's Ark. The flood that God sent upon the world in Noah's day was a cleansing of evil. Now, God cleanses us not by floods, but by the waters of baptism, which bring to us a whole new kind of life: the life of God within us.

Our special efforts in Lent to come closer to God are a response to what has already happened to us! Because we have received the new life of God, we have to reform our lives and live as his sons and daughters. We have to *become who we already are*. The holy water we use when we come in and out of Church is a reminder of the cleansing waters of baptism, and a reminder of the new life we are called to live.

God is a God of life, and therefore we are the People of Life. This Lent, let's look for ways to foster respect for life, especially the sick, the disabled, and the unborn.

Year of Grace and Divine Mercy

(From The Diary of St. Faustina)

Meditation:

That evening, I remained in the chapel a little longer. I talked to the Lord about a certain soul. Encouraged by His goodness. I said, "Jesus, You gave me this Father who understands my inspirations, and now You are taking him away from me again. What am I going to do in the Vilnius? I don't know anyone there, and even the dialect of the people there is foreign to me. And the Lord said to me, **Do not fear; I will not leave you to yourself.** My soul drowned itself in a prayer of thanksgiving for all the graces that the Lord had granted me through the meditation of Father Andrasz. Suddenly, I remembered the vision in which I had seen that priest between the confessional and the altar, trusting that I would meet him (Fr. Sopocko) someday. And the words I had heard came back vividly: **He will help you to fulfill My will here on earth** (Diary, 258)

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, thank You for providing two holy and knowledgeable priests as spiritual directors to St. Faustina.)



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.

Worship of the Eucharist.

The tabernacle was first intended for the reservation of the Eucharist in a worthy place so that it could be brought to the sick and those absent outside of Mass.

As faith in the real presence of Christ in his Eucharist deepened, the Church became conscious of the meaning of silent adoration of the Lord present under the Eucharistic species.

It is for this reason that the tabernacle should be located in an especially worthy place in the church and should be constructed in such a way that it emphasizes and manifests the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. (CCC 1378)



**More News from
Knights of Columbus**

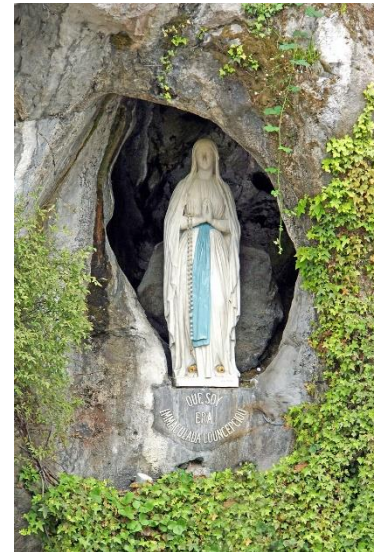


Bernadette Soubirous was gathering firewood near her home in southern France on Feb. 11, 1858, when the Blessed Mother appeared to her for the first time. Two weeks later, Mary told her to dig in the ground, revealing the spring whose holy waters have healed so many in the 166 years since. For the last decade, the Knights of Columbus has helped both American and Ukrainian service members make pilgrimages to pray for peace and healing at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Married Couples. Why not give yourselves a weekend away from it all. Time away from the pressures of work and everyday responsibilities. A chance to talk and listen to that special someone who loves you. If that sounds good to you, sign up now for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location. Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or mstang1987@aol.com with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

- April 12-14, 2024 - Herndon, VA
- May 3-5, 2024 - Hickory, NC
- September 27-29, 2024 - Herndon, VA



The Power of Lourdes for Ukraine

Pilgrims to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in France often describe it as a place full of joy and peace. Therefore, the sight of thousands of military personnel processing through the shrine in uniform may be jarring to some.

Ukraine has continued to send a small group of soldiers, chaplains and mothers of fallen soldiers to Lourdes for the annual International Military Pilgrimage despite the demands of war. At the same time, pilgrims with the Order's Warriors to Lourdes program have shown their solidarity by preparing thousands of prayer sets, containing rosaries, holy water and more, for Ukrainian troops.

Rebuilding in Maui

In the months since Sacred Hearts School in Lahaina, Maui, was destroyed by fire in August 2023, Knights have helped to keep the school up and running as the community rebuilds. "I'm just in awe of the Knights of Columbus and the overwhelming support they have shown," said Sacred Hearts principal, Tonata Losesio.

Into the Heights

Young Men/Women/Couples 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 easy-to-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!



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

February 2024 Prayers for Healing & Good Health

Elizabeth Alley
Cheryl Antal
Paulette Berberich
Jean Berkey
Beatrice Blacher
Linda Blevins
Todd Brown
Linda Burch
Robert Burch
Chris Byrd – an addition
Katherine Carson
Kevin Carson
Lucy Carson
Jose Castaneda
Marvin Croswell – an addition
Meredith Crowe

Lydia Dehn
Vincent D'elia
Denise DePompeo
Dexter Dix
Joyce Drexler
Paul Garman
Karen Haney – an addition
Tom Hollowack
Jim Houser
Gigi Jordan
Gloria Kojcsich
Bonnie Kopacki
Racheal Lafferty – an addition
Arlene Lasch
Melissa Leger
Karen Liberato

Philip Liberato
Holly McGowan
Patrick McGowan
Lenny Ramlano
Joe Ripchick
John Ross
Barbara Schaffer
Margaret Silvia
Jackie Via
Gloria Wajciechowski
Bill Webster
Steve Weems
James Wills
Andrea Berberich Wilson
Leda Zaginaylo
Abby Zwerner

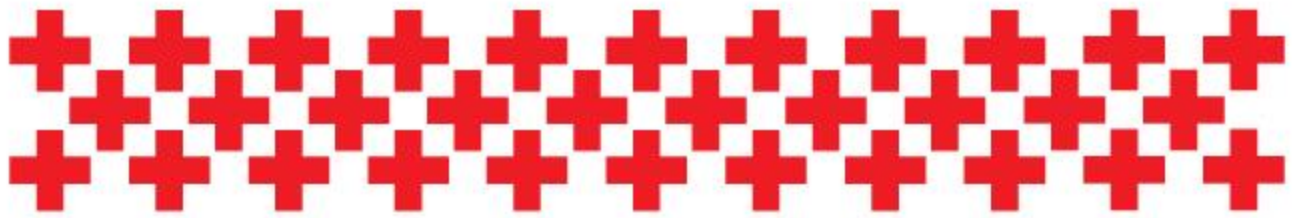
Prayers for those in the Military

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

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Knights of Columbus
West Point

Boogaard Center
West Point, VA 23181

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: [knightswestpoint](https://RedCrossBlood.org/knightswestpoint) to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20
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1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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
music@olbs-catholic.org

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
ceemeterychair@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



***New Members
Welcomed**

***Hall Rental Available**

Contact
Jim Vadas
804.370.5341