

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace

Spring Issue 2017

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace



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Fr. Peter's Note *Fr Peter Russo, Pastor*

In recent months, a chill wind has travelled the globe, cooling efforts at collaboration both between and within nations. Talk of white supremacy, isolationism, and religious barriers once thought to belong to a past era are now again front page news. Longstanding alliances are showing cracks, new budding agreements suffer frost.

“The word ‘solidarity’ is a little worn and at times poorly understood” admits Pope Francis. In the present moment, this concept-elevated to prominence in the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II only thirty years ago seems dated. But as Pope Francis reminds us, solidarity is the virtue that most needs to be stirred into action as a form of resistance to the current winds. “[I]t refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset which thinks in terms of community and the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few” (Evangelii Gaudium, “The Joy of the Gospel” #188)

What can the parish do? Certainly many parishes are already involved in acts of social justice and charitable outreach in their immediate communities. Such activities are constructive of what it means to be a Christian community and should never be undervalued. Yet the current times call for more than local involvement. They call for a greater awareness of international issues and concerns. They call for a heightened sense of how the choices we make in our country impact others. They call for a much more robust understanding of global solidarity.

(From an article “Solidarity with All Peoples” by Ann Garriro)



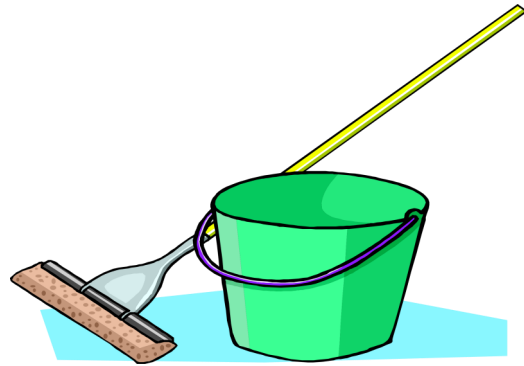
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Parish Office: 399-5713
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[http://www.rcda.org/
churches/olgchurch](http://www.rcda.org/churches/olgchurch)

OLG Mission Statement

We are a welcoming community of believers, being disciples of Christ through worship, the Sacraments, ongoing faith formation, evangelization and Christian service to others!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

By Roberta Quinn, Pastoral Associate For Faith Formation



Every year my mother would warn us, "Don't make any plans this weekend" and we all knew what that meant - Spring had sprung!

We'd remove the mattresses, take down the curtains, wash the windows and thoroughly dust everything in sight. My mom would come in to each room and give it the white glove treatment. When she was satisfied that all was clean, back went the mattresses, up went the light drapes back went the carpets, etc., etc., etc.

Now that the house is clean she'd say, we are all going to confession. We cleaned the house now it's time to clean the soul. Just in time for Easter!

The Bible says there is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, a time to die. A time...

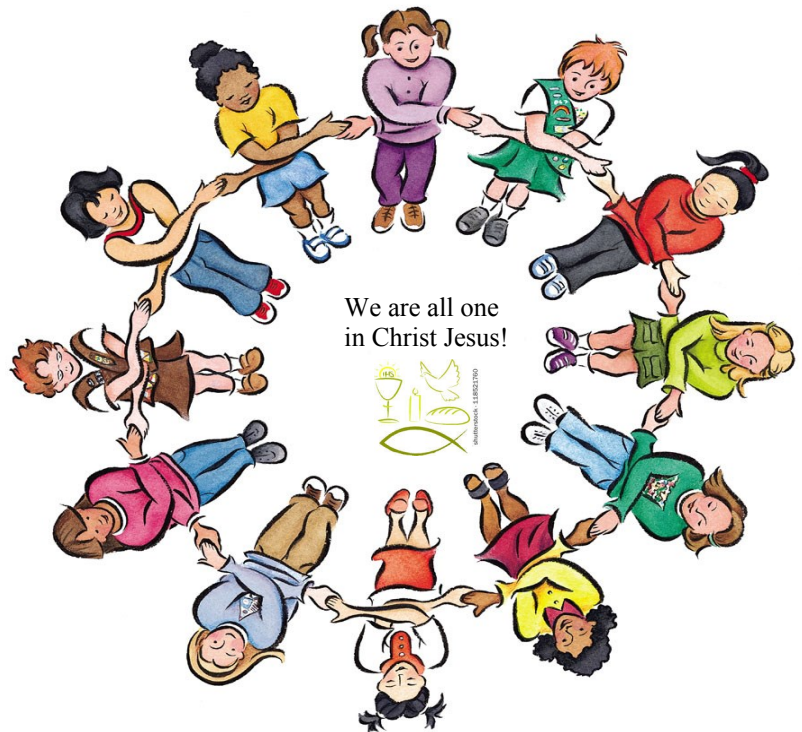
In our house it was the first Saturday in Spring!

First Eucharist Announcements

FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT DAY
Saturday, April 1, 2017
9:30-12:00

FIRST EUCHARIST REHEARSAL
Monday, April 24, 2017
6:30 p.m in Church

FIRST EUCHARIST
Sunday, April 30 @ 10:30 a.m. Mass



Rediscovering Your Gifts - A Time for Renewal

By Ann Cotrupi



Without the ongoing creativity of men and women, the vast structure of human society which includes so much of God's provision for us would fall apart. Our Creator, seems to depend largely on all of us to keep our world together by using the gifts that he instilled in us for the common good.

If we've not yet become aware of our gifts, the innate creativity that we've been blessed with may still be awaiting expression.

Unleashing our individual gifts is the first step toward realizing true joy and fulfillment in life and eases us naturally into making a difference in the lives of others. With the advent of spring and signs of renewal all around us, it seems a perfect time to ask: what am I doing to make a positive difference in our world right here and now? What are my gifts that may have lain dormant for lack of cultivation and encouragement and how do I start to use them? Each and every one of us has been gifted in some way. To discover or rediscover those gifts, take a look at the list of ministries that Our Lady of Grace recently made available. Take a few minutes to peruse all of them. Pay attention to what energizes you and what particular needs of others move you most. You are free to choose from an array of ordinary activities that can activate feelings of joyful anticipation and creative fulfillment right here and now. Everything you enjoy doing is a good indicator of the creative gifts that await expression through you. The next step is to nourish these God given gifts and abilities and put them into action.

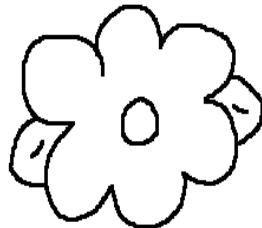
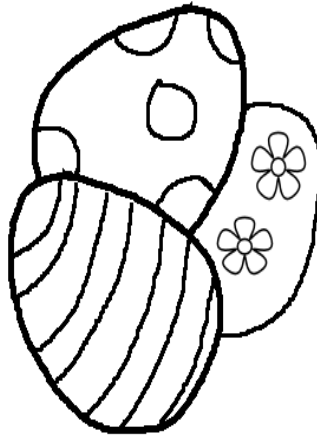
Forming associations with others who have similar interests will add to your own enjoyment of them and form a chain reaction of "paying our gifts forward." Especially when choosing a ministry, it becomes important to focus our efforts on volunteering in areas for which we know we are gifted and minimize involvement in areas for which we may not be equipped. Just by noticing and choosing a ministry that attracts our interest can put us on a path that is sure to enrich our own lives and the lives of others.

Kids Korner

Wanted

**Altar servers!
Please call the
parish office for
more information.**

**Come and be a
part of this
important
ministry!**



HIP HOP HOORAY FOR EASTER!

9FILLER

R C S S R S P I Q S R D Y B C
 E U I L U S R O B A N L L A D
 T G O L D E N E B S D U L B G
 S E F L R P G B W Y E S E Y T
 A M A C O G I C A O N M J A U
 E J U H Y T M D C A L F A V S
 J U V O S P N P E H X F N G P
 Q F Z C N U Y B O E I J L B R
 H J M O S T E K S A B C U T I
 N U L L G E G G S O G N K E N
 P A N A I P M J T E N L N S G
 J S H T B U J K P Y W G Q G V
 X O K E D E N Q L L J E S B I
 G W U Y Y E Y P E M H U Y I R
 H W I Y D N A C K B A Z J M U

BASKETS
 CANDY
 EASTER
 FLOWERS
 HUNT
 SPRING

BABY
 BUNNY
 CHOCOLATE
 EGGS
 GOLDEN
 RABBITS

BEANS
 CHICKS
 EGG
 GAMES
 JELLY
 SUNDAY



City Mission “Serve a Community Meal” Program

By Marty St. Armand

The City Mission Ministry is serving meals to the poor and homeless at the City Mission of Schenectady dining hall. We serve the meals and help clean up the dining hall after the meal. It takes about 2 hours, from 5-7 p.m. This ministry is shared with other faith communities, thus we are scheduled only 6 times a year.

As ministry representative, I send out the scheduled dates and encourage volunteers to sign up on their website for the dates they are available. This website sign-up is a new option for all of us, and is very convenient and easy. Our next date is April 25, 2017. Please check out our volunteer portal at <http://olg.citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com>

...and sign up for April 25 or any other scheduled dates. When you click “sign up” next to the desired date (reserved for OLG), it will prompt you to login or register as a new user. If you do not already have an account, please register as a new user. If you are serving with children (10 years and older,) we ask that you help them register. The same email address can be used, but each individual needs to register as a volunteer (their own account.)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or call me, Marty St. Armand, 441-0378, or marty399@aol.com.

The parish office is updating the parish email list. Many of your emails are out-of-date.

Please provide your current email so we may stay in touch!!!

Greeter Ministry

By Sharon Olshefsky

I have been a greeter at the 8:15 Mass for many years, and switched to the 5:30 p.m. when our Mass schedule changed to 5:30 Saturday, and 10:30 Sunday.

We need greeters at both Masses! Do you enjoy saying hello to Mass attendees? Easy and fun. Bring your kids! This is such an important ministry, taking one moment to say hello and welcoming all those who walk through the OLG door! This prayer-filled ministry is your smile, the hands and feet of Christ.

You can volunteer as many times per month as your schedule allows, and it only requires your arrival 10 minutes before Mass. We welcome adults and youth who would like to join the Greeter Ministry at either Mass. Please call Nancy O’Keeffe at 382-5671 or nokeeffe@gmail.com



Can you help OLG trim costs by receiving your Newsletter via email?

Please give it a try and call or email the office that you can receive this quarterly



OLG Generosity

It's springtime, but delightful to glance back and admire how generous the people of our community really are....look at the mountain of Christmas gifts!

The tree is empty, and the hearts of all recipients were full, as Helping Hands completed their mission! Thank you to all who have made this possible.

HELPING HANDS NEEDS MORE HELP! Contact Mary Ellen Hickey for more info about this ministry. mehickey36@gmail.com

Financial Report
7/1/16-2/28/17

Total Income	\$259,441
Total Expense	<u>252,263</u>
Gain	\$7,148

The expenses above include an anticipated payment of \$13,400 to the Diocese to cover the expected shortfall in the 2016 Bishop's Appeal which ended on March 15, 2017. The parish still owes the Diocese \$34,800 from past shortfalls in the Bishop's Appeal.

Starting in December 2016, offertory collections began to decline significantly when compared with the prior fiscal year. Through February 2017, OLG offertory collections are \$22,300 less than last year for the same period.

Crop Walk

This year the CROP Walk (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) will be held Sunday, May 7 in Schenectady.

Sign-ups will begin soon. Walk your own pace and be part of this uplifting event with friends and neighbors witnessing as community, ONE STEP AT A TIME! Contact Chris Costigan costigan4@hughes.net for more information.

The Gardeners of Grace

Spring is upon us and the grounds of OLG are searching for their seasonal tender loving care! Can you help? Do you have access to free mulch? Do you have 2 extra large pedestal flower pots to donate for our front door?



Dave and Ann Pierce have been our gardeners of grace in the past. Others have also given of their time and talent, and we thank them for making our entryway a welcoming place . It is too much for our groundskeeper, Jim, to do alone. If you or your children can spare an hour or two/week, please contact Dave Pierce at pep416@aol.com

Even a little help goes a long way!!!!



JOIN
Our Lady of Grace Church Community

Saturday, May 20, 2017.....



or



Family Fun from 10-4:00 p.m.

All Proceeds to Benefit Our Lady of Grace

For the Kids: Sailing in the Bounce House

Arts and Crafts, Face Painting

Cooking demos

Entertainment

For the Adults: Child's ID's by Sheriff
Vendors/Craft Booths/Raffles
"Ace" Car Wash

We need your input:

If you, or someone you know works for a non-profit organization that helps in our community, contact David Cote 399-4511 or dcote5@nycap.rr.com, if you are interested in placing an informational table at the event!



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Non Profit Org.
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Permit No.236

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Note From Editor:

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. We would like to use this newsletter to share the faith and Christian action of our parishioners. Please send stories about your ministry, e-mail photos; tell us about a person, or bible passages which have had a positive influence on you or your family, your poetry, your journey.

We are published quarterly, with deadlines as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Dec-Jan-Feb /winter	Nov 5
Mar-Apr-May /spring	Feb 5
Jun-Jul-Aug /summer	May 5
Sept-Oct-Nov /fall	Aug 5

Our Cluster Parishes:
Saint Joseph's Website:
<http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net>
Immaculate Conception Website:
<http://www.ic-glenville.com/>

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