

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace

Spring Issue

Apr-May-June 2019

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace

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From The Pastor's Desk:



On the Eucharist

Each year during Holy Week, we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday. The church teaches that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of all that we are and all that we are called to be".

In each of the Synoptic gospels, (Matthew, Mark and Luke) we can find the institutional narrative of the Eucharist. (see: Matt.26:26-28, Mark 14:22-25 and Luke 22:19-20). In each narrative we are told by Jesus to eat this bread and drink this cup. In Matthew's account is says "drink all of you from this,...for this is my blood". For the first six centuries of the church, when Christians gathered for the Eucharist they did share the one bread and the one cup in obedience to Jesus' command to eat his body and drink his blood. Over time, for a variety of reasons, in the Latin Rite, or Roman Catholic, communion from the cup by the laity went out of practice. For awhile the laity even refrained from receiving Holy Communion altogether. This is why there is a church law that requires all Catholics to receive Holy Communion at least once a year at Easter time. (Easter Duty)

The restoration of Communion from the CUP

The first document of the Second Vatican Council, *The Constitution Sacrosanctum Concillium, 1964*, reformed the Eucharist "mass" for all Roman Catholics. In accordance with decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship, the instructions *Sacramentali communiore* June 29, 1970 were published; communion under Both bread and wine was restored. (see sec. IV #244). At the time of the restoration communion from the cup was optional and it still is.

Jesus TOLD us to eat his body AND drink his blood, so why do so many Catholics still not receive the cup? As Catholics we often look to see what Jesus told us to do and we try to follow HIM. Perhaps we should re-examine why we refrain from the cup o
Have a blessed Holy Week and a happy I
ll the staff of



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!

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Faith Formation by Roberta Quinn

Advent Wreath-making Party on December 2



Breakfast With St. Nick! December 8
The Knights and Scouts did a wonderful job of setting up, cooking and serving the enthusiastic participants!



Christmas Pageant December 10



Every child in our program participated in this event. They wore costumes from angels to Mary, Joseph and the Three Kings. I was so encouraged by how many parents, grandparents and parishioners were in attendance. Many thanks to Donna Mayer and all the catechists for rehearsing and preparing them for the play. "...it takes a village!"



On Sunday, February 3, the second grade parents and children took part in The Rite of Enrollment. It was a beautiful liturgy. The parents and the OLG community repeated their Baptismal promise and the children signed the Book of Enrollment! We are preparing the children for their First Reconciliation coming up in the month of April.

March 16: Retreat Reconciliation Day

March 27: Live performance of the Children's Stations of the Cross
Mark your calendars. Last year the children enjoyed it so much, we plan to have all of them participate! We hope for a good turn-out!

April 10: First Reconciliation

April 13: All will take part in their Eucharist Retreat Day

May 5: First Eucharist, ending with the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MY WALK WITH GOD

By Mary Beth Walsh

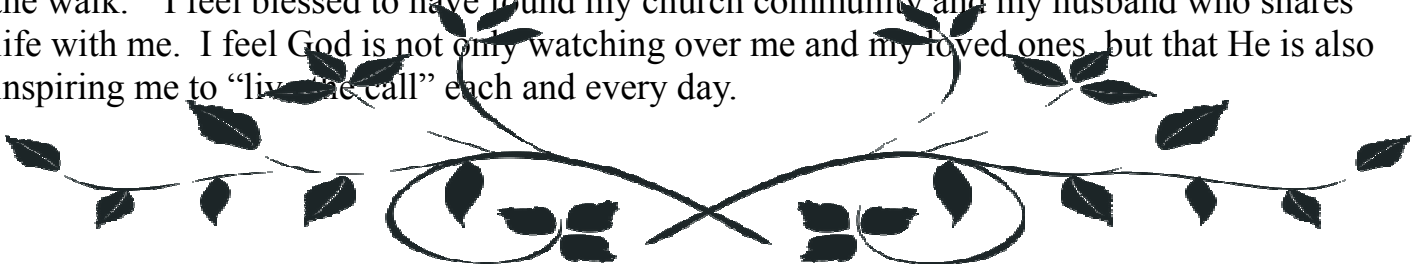
After having been raised in the Catholic church (Our Lady of the Assumption in Latham) as the youngest of five children, having attended CCD, confirmed by then-new Bishop Hubbard, and having sung in the folk choir, my college years in Rochester marked a lengthy period of distance from the Church. Marriage to my first husband, who was also raised Catholic but who had grown to be an atheist and saw the Church as an affirmative harm, widened the rift. Neither of our children were baptized.

When father died from cancer, and later when my first son was diagnosed with autism, I was profoundly changed, although these things did not lead me back to Church. Rather, after my first marriage failed and I began to date my husband Jim, it was Jim who encouraged me to return to Mass. Over these past 12 years, it has become a central part of our identity as a couple. When we are having a challenging week, I lean into God for that support we need to keep our marriage strong, centered and growing.

Although not unhappy with my law practice, I began to pray for vocation, to ask God if there was more that I could do, and in 2017, I embarked on a new adventure as a member of the State Assembly. You might think that state government is a godless place, but that is not true at all! A prayer begins every session, by a rabbi, a minister, a priest, an imam, often challenging us legislators to find wisdom, to remember who we are working for, to find common ground, to work together. I see my role as a continuation of my work as an attorney for children, helping others in my community and throughout my State. I am so grateful to have been led by God down this path of service.

As I have gotten older, my relationship with God has strengthened. Seeing my son Terry decide to become baptized as an adult and seeing him participate in mass as well as his volunteer work with the Regional Food Bank gives me such pride in his accomplishments. I have hoped to instill in my children a desire to serve others, and to see my eldest child doing this is wonderful.

My faith in God is deeply rooted in practical, daily deeds rather than ritual. "Walking the walk." I feel blessed to have found my church community and my husband who shares life with me. I feel God is not only watching over me and my loved ones, but that He is also inspiring me to "live the call" each and every day.





OLG SPRING FESTIVAL

June 1st

10am to 4pm

Come join us for our annual festival!

FOOD

VENDORS

CRAFTERS

FACE PAINTING

BOUNCE HOUSE

AND MUCH MORE!

To volunteer: Contact David Cote @ dcote5@nycap.rr.com



Nurse's Corner

by Nancy Michela, RN



ALL AGES, CALL YOUR SHOTS!

Vaccinations are vital to the health of children, but one does not grow out the need for protection against infectious diseases. Every year thousands of adults are hospitalized and/or die from diseases that vaccinations can help to prevent.

ALL adults (and children) need a seasonal flu (influenza) vaccination every year. And NO, the vaccination does not give you the flu!

Adults need a Tdap immunization after adolescence for protection from (Pertussis/whooping cough) [Brand name- *Adacel* or *Boostrix*] and a Td (tetanus/diphtheria) [Brand name-*Tenivac*] booster every ten years. Pregnant women should get Tdap with each pregnancy.

Young adults (males & females) can be protected against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) with immunization (1-2 doses depending upon age of first dose) Brand name-*Guardasil 9*].

Other vaccinations include Hepatitis A (HepA) [Brand name-*Havrix* or *Vaqta*] and Hepatitis B (HepB) [Brand name-*Engerix* or *Recombivax HB* or *Heplisav B*] given in 2-3 doses depending upon vaccine. A combination vaccine of both HepA and Hep B is available [Brand name- *Twinrix*] given in 3 doses.

There are 2 Meningococcal vaccines for different strains; Meningococcal A, C, W, Y (MenACWY) [Brand name-*Menacta* or *Menveo*] and Meningococcal B (Men B) [Brand name-*Bexsero* or *Trumenba*]. These vaccinations may be part of routine school/college immunization schedule. The *Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib)* [Brand name-[*ActHIB* or *Hiberix*] may be also recommended for young adults.

Older adults are recommended to receive pneumonia vaccinations: pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13) [Brand name-*Prevnar13*] and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23) [Brand name -*Pneumovax*]. These vaccinations protect against 13 and 23 different types of pneumonia, respectively. Pneumonia is a common complication of influenza.

Shingles can have most debilitating consequences for adults. There are now 2 vaccines for protection: Zoster live (ZVL) [Brand name- *Zostavax*] in 2 doses 2-6 months apart; and Zoster recombinant (RZV) in 2 doses 2-6 months apart [Brand name-*Shingrix*] . Adults can get *Shingrix* regardless of previous *Zostavax* vaccination. *Shingrix* is available for adults over the age of 50 years and *Zostavax* is available for adults over the age of 60 years.

Talk to your health care profess
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>.

more information:



OLG Seven Months Financial Report

7/1/18-1/31/19



Total Income	\$228,929
Total Expense	<u>233,208</u>
Gain/(Loss)	(\$4,279)

The \$4,279 loss shown above compares to a gain of \$30,023 for the 7/1/17-1/31/18 period. This is primarily because offertory collections are now \$23,895 less than for the July-January period of the prior fiscal year.

We have stopped making monthly payments to the Diocese for this year’s School Assessment. Our annual assessment is \$32,019, of which a balance of \$18,678 remains an OLG obligation to the Diocese.

Pledges for this year’s Bishop’s Appeal, which ends in March 2019, total \$73,929. This is \$2,891 less than the assessment of \$76,820.



On the right: Photos from our visit to Congregation Gates of Heaven and Rabbi Matt showing the group the Scroll of the Torah. On the left: Tori, Kyle, and Barb with Bishop Sharfenberger at the Cathedral for the Rite of the Elect., and each catechumen with their sponsor.



Update from Your Pastoral Council

By Paul Fanning



Under the guidance of Fr. Russo, the OLG pastoral council meets monthly fulfilling trends and conditions affecting the parish, and to consider strategies for improving the ability of the parish to perform its Catholic mission.

-A six-month financial report covering the period 7/1-12/31/2018 was compared with the same period in 2017. The report clearly showed that weekly offertory collections have declined significantly in 2018. The report also showed that mass attendance has been declining annually since 2016, in 2017 and again in 2018. Average mass attendance in 2016 was 369. The average in 2017 was 318. The average in 2018 is 276. Revenues from collections are shrinking and a budget deficit has grown. The parish is losing \$3-4,000 per month compared to last year.

The council is not over-looking the national impact of the ongoing scandal surrounding the Catholic Church at large, which may also be influencing mass attendance and church donations.

-As he has done during mass, Fr. Peter informed the council of his plans to retire on his 70th birthday, September 26, 2019. The diocese is expected to begin planning for a successor for both St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Grace around the 6-month mark, March 26, 2019.

-Retired priests can and often continue to serve as sacramental ministers by saying masses, performing baptisms and weddings as their health supports. The pastoral council absolutely believes that OLG will remain an active faith community after Fr. Peter's retirement but is seeking an answer on how the administrative needs of the parish will be addressed after that point.

-The Reignite the Faith Campaign at OLG held its first committee meeting on March 13. Co-chairs Dave Cote and Paul Fanning continue to work with diocesan campaign representative Diana Curran. The draft Case Statement was the primary topic at the March 13 meeting and new committee volunteers are reviewing the draft to improve it. Once completed and printed, copies will be available for every parishioner.

-Trustee Polly Van Nostrand has proposed that OLG establish a dedicated wall-mounted parish calendar, so parishioners can see what is happening and see opportunities for themselves. Thanks to Polly, this is under development. She and other members of the council have observed the declining mass attendance, fewer people lingering after mass and perhaps a loss of a sense of community. The council is deliberating on all of these issues.

-Points raised include the following: OLG needs a deliberate and consistent communication effort. We need to personally ask for help more often and seek volunteers with skills. We need to follow up more quickly on responses received and the web page needs to be updated more frequently with regular contributions. In short, the council feels OLG needs to personally invite more parishioners to participate in parish activities and make it easier for them join in to the extent they can.



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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>
Jan-Feb-Mar	Nov 25
Apr-May-Jun	Mar 1

Our Cluster Parishes:
Saint Joseph's Website:
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