

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

444 North Jasper Street, Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-432-9384

e-mail: OURLADYHLP@aol.com

Fax: 610-782-9297

www.OLHCparish.net

Rectory

Rev. George Jose "Johnson" Kochuparambil, M.A.,
Administrator

Deacon Ricardo Reyes

School

Sr. Donna Brady, SCC Principal

Secretary: Barbara Suchon

934 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109

Phone: 610-433-1592 Fax: 610-434-7123

Rectory Staff

Financial Secretary: Edward J. Hudak Jr.

Bilingual Secretary: Lissette Sanchez

Parish Nurse - Daisy Perez

Available by appointment

Phone number: (609) 827-0982 Call any time

Music Ministry

Rosanne Venditto & Patricia Guditus

Masses

Saturday: 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am

Domingo: 12:00 Misa en Español

Monday Communion Service: 8:15am

Tues - Sat Daily Mass: 8:15am

Wednesday: 5:00pm Benediction

Holy Days: 7:00 pm eve of Holy Day

8:15am and 7:00pm

Confession

Saturday: 3:45 – 4:15pm Anytime by Appointment

Marriage

Arrangements must be made with the Parish at least six months prior to the date of the Wedding.

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Direct Telephone Number 1-800-791-9209

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Ms. Wendy Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC

Direct Telephone: 1- 800- 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT

2145 Madison Ave. Beth. PA. 18017

Telephone: 610-332-0442, Ext. 2019

Fax: 610.332-0444

mcole@allentowndiocese.org

Parish Membership

New Parishioners are asked to register at the Parish Office (by appointment) as soon as possible so that you may participate more fully in the life of the parish. If you move or change your phone number, please notify the Parish Office so our records can be kept current.

Rectory Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Thursday: 8:30am-3:00pm

Closed for lunch from 12:45 - 1:15pm

Friday Closed

Memorials

Upon the death of a loved one, please consider a memorial gift to the Parish. Your Loved one will be remembered in the monthly Mass which is celebrated for all who are enrolled in the Memorial Program.

Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated the First and Third Sundays of the Month after the 10:00am Mass in English. Second & Fourth Sunday after 12:00pm Mass in Spanish. Please come to the rectory to schedule a Baptism and to register for Baptismal Prep Class which is held on the third Wednesday at 7:00pm in Spanish & fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in English.

Sacraments to the Homebound

Holy Communion is taken to the homebound by the Priest or Deacon on the 1st Friday of each month.

Eucharistic Ministers will do the same on the 2nd & 4th Sunday. The Sacraments of the Sick is available anytime upon request. Please call the Parish office to make arrangements.



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this third Sunday of Advent, the gospel says that God is truth. Yet, we can never fully grasp God with our minds or our hearts. We keep trying to come closer to the truth, the truth about our world, about each other, about ourselves as individuals, and about God. We keep questioning in the hope of getting closer to the truth.

In our search for our own personal truth, two of the big questions that drive us are, 'Who am I?' and 'Why am I doing what I am doing?' We seek after our identity. We try to clarify for ourselves the ultimate purpose that drives all we do and say.

'Who are you,'? is a question we can answer at many different levels. We can simply give our name, or give our parents' names; we can answer it by giving our professional qualifications, or by naming the role or the position we have in life. Yet, the deepest level, the most fundamental level, at which we can answer that question, is the spiritual level. "Who am I at that deepest, most spiritual, level of my being? Who am I before God? Who is God calling me to be"?

John the Baptist points out for us who God is calling each of us to be. Just like him, we are certainly not the Messiah. We are not the light. We know only too well the areas of darkness in our lives and in our hearts. However, like John the Baptist, we are a witness to the Light. Even though we are all far from perfect, we are called to be a witness to Christ.

The Lord stands among all of us, yet He remains unknown to many. Our mission is to make Him known, to allow Christ to shine forth in our world through our lives. We are called upon to allow the Lord to communicate through us--to proclaim the person of Christ, His worldview, His values and His attitudes. Who we are as witnesses to the light, as the voice for the Word, shapes how we live and explains why we live the way we do.

Advent is a good time to reclaim our fundamental identity, our Christ-linked identity. If Jesus is to be born anywhere today, it will be in the hearts of his followers.

And so, and as we watch and wait for this Advent, let us be witnesses to the light of Christ, and the joy it brings. Let us live as the people who believe that this joy, and the child who brings it, can change the world. If we do that, then we're halfway to Christmas already.

May you continue to rejoice in the coming of the Lord Jesus into your life and may you assist others in recognizing His presence by giving witness to the Light.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Johnson

Bequests

Please consider designating Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in your last will and testament so that the blessings the Lord has given you in your lifetime will continue to build up His Kingdom in the years to come.

Fourth Sunday and Christmas Monday Obligations

As you know, this year Christmas falls on a Monday. Although it is on Monday, Christmas is always a Holy day of Obligation.

Two obligations require two Masses to fulfill them. You can fulfill your Fourth Sunday Advent and Christmas obligations by attending one of the following combinations of Masses:

Saturday evening and Sunday evening
Saturday evening and Monday morning
Sunday morning and Sunday evening
Sunday morning and Monday morning

**To all CCD Parents: There are no religious education on
Dec. 21, & 28, 2017.**

Classes resume January 4, 2018.

Have a Great Holiday!

The Diocese of Allentown has a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding adverse prenatal diagnosis.

For support, contact:

Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, jjohnson@allentowndioocese.org or 610-289-8900 x 2280

The 90th Anniversary OLHC Cook books

are still available for holiday gift giving.

They are available at the rectory
or by calling Kathy Guzley.

484-866-3437

We will be happy to deliver the book to you.

The cost is \$10.

Support OLHC Online Giving

Check out Electronic Giving on the parish
website: www.olhccparish.net

We have partnered with myEoffering in order to
provide you with the convenience of online
contributions. Please call the rectory if you need
assistance.

610-432-9384

Thank you!

Grocery & Stores Gift Cards is a term that means "substitute money." When you purchase Gift Cards, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing and other essentials. With every purchase, you earn revenue for our church, school, and Pre-k. We have cards for Giant, Redners & Weis Supermarket. Orders can be dropped off at the rectory or in the Collection basket.

Checks can be made out to OLHC.

Weekly Bulletin Advertising

Please consider advertising in our weekly Parish bulletin to promote your business in the local community.

This will also help us to publish a more colorful bulletin.

**Call Wyatt Grove at 610-212-9298, our local rep at
John Patrick Publishing Company, for a cost estimate.**

Small single ads are as little as \$8-10 per week.

Thank you for your business

Sat. Dec. 23rd 2017

4:30PM Lectors: C. Bolash & E. Curran
Euch. Ministers: N. Gillette & N. Pastula
Altar Servers: J. Vu & K. Vu

Sun. Dec. 24th, 2017

8:00AM Lectors: V. Kistler & C. Kistler
Euch. Ministers: Sr. Donna
Altar Servers: S. Williams

10:00AM Lectors: S. Schmidt & D. Schmidt
Euch. Ministers: H. Schmidt

4:30PM Lectors: C. Bolash
Altar Servers: L. Kelly & A. Shelly

10:00PM Altar Servers: T. Hunger

The Sanctuary Lamp in our Church

burns every week to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus. If you wish to have the Lamp burn in memory of a loved one, stop by the parish office to make arrangements.

Requested by: Esther & Rudy

In Loving Memory of:
Haffner Family



Catholic Charities

Offers help and support to families who are relocating from Puerto Rico to Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria.

For more information call:

Catholic Charities Relocation Assistance Line
610.435.1541 ext. 286

Adoration

Join us *every Wednesday* anytime from
8:30 AM to 5 PM, for Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament in the Chapel.
Stop in to spend time with Our Lord. Join us for
Evening Prayer & Benediction at 5 PM

MONDAY DEC. 18TH

8:15 AM COMMUNION PRAYER SERVICE

TUESDAY DEC. 19TH

8:15 AM FRANK E. REISINGER
REQ. BY RUTH R. REISINGER

WEDNESDAY DEC. 20TH

8:15 AM FRANK E. REISINGER
REQ. BY RUTH R. REISINGER

THURSDAY DEC. 21TH SAINT PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST &
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

8:15 AM DINA MICHEL
REQ. BY KATHY GODSHALL

FRIDAY DEC. 22ND

8:15 AM DOMINICK PAPE
REQ. BY SHARON & DAVID BODEK

SATURDAY DEC. 23RD SAINT JOHN OF KATY,
PRIEST

8:15 AM MICHAEL ROMA
REQ. BY THERESA ROMA

4:30 PM MARY & GEORGE HART
REQ. BY MARY HART

SUNDAY DEC 24TH FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM JAMES BARNAK
REQ. BY DREW MARON

10:00 AM DICK PERKINS
REQ. BY ART & SHEILA BREITFELD

12:00 PM MISA EN ESPAÑOL

4:30 PM CHILDREN MASS

7:00 PM SPANISH XMASEVE MASS

10:00 PM ENGLISH XMASEVE MASS

Weekly Readings

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19;
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn
1:6-8, 19-28

Is your marriage going down the right road . . .

Or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. The next program begins on the weekend of February 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August.

For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site
at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call
1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Did you know that you can re-direct your state taxes to fund a need-based scholarship for a student in any of our Diocesan Schools instead of sending your money to Harrisburg?

Anyone who pays PA state income tax and qualifies as an Accredited Investor is eligible. This is defined as having individual income of \$200,000 or \$300,000 of joint income in each of the two most recent years, or a net worth of \$1,000,000 excluding your primary residence.

For more information call the Office of Education at 610-866-0581, ext. 2328.

Pro-Life Activities and Social Concerns

The December 2017 Word of Life is now available in English and Spanish and is listed here for your convenience. Please feel free to include these intercessions and bulletin briefs made available from the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat. Also included is a brief reflection inviting people to join 9 Days for Life from Jan 18-26, 2018. Thank you for building a culture of life in your parishes!

The Annual Giving Tree collection:

is currently underway in parishes across the Diocese. Since our new location has less space to store items, we are asking for gift cards to places that sell baby items (i.e. Walmart, Target, Kmart). Cards are not distributed directly to clients, but allows Catholic Charities to purchase larger items and items on an as need basis. However, we will still accept donations of any items that would be purchased.

If you have any questions.

Please contact
Jerry Landi or Tom Miller
at 610-435-1541.

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Thank you for building a culture of life in your parishes!

Weekly Financial Report Sunday Contributions Dec.10, 2017

Weekly Envelopes: \$4,135.00
Weekly Budget: \$4,425.00
Over (under) Weekly Budget (\$290.00)

Thank you for your generosity.

Your contributions are deeply appreciated

Ministros de la Eucaristía 2017

Dec. 17 R. Matos, L. Peralta & M. Gonzales

Dec. 24 C. Howard, Domínguez, L. Ureña

Dec. 31 M. Tolentino, M. Ramirez & E. Filpo

Parroquia María Auxiliadora

Programa de Lectores 2017

Dec. 17 Leída Rosario & Irving Guzmán

Dec. 24 Giral Abreu & Diomedes Matos

Dec. 31 Elizabeth Sánchez & Gloria Fuentes

El dar apoyo OLHC Online

Realizar donaciones electrónicas en el
sitio web de la parroquia:
www.olhccparish.net

Nos hemos asociado con myEoffering
para proporcionarle la conveniencia de
las contribuciones en línea.

Por favor llame a la rectoría si necesita
ayuda.

610-432-9384

¡Gracias!

Cultura del Encuentro

Horas santas familiares

La Oficina de Juventud, Adultos Jóvenes y Ministerio de Familia se ha asociado con las doce parroquias en cada decanato para ofrecer mensualmente una Hora Santa de Adoración Eucarística específicamente para las familias desde noviembre de 2017 hasta octubre de 2018.

¡Traiga a toda su familia al encuentro de Cristo! Quédense unos minutos o durante toda la hora. ¡Bebés, niños pequeños, niños, adolescentes, adultos jóvenes y adultos son bienvenidos! Se proporcionarán recursos de oración para niños y adultos en inglés y español. Algunas Horas Santas brindarán una oportunidad para la oración silenciosa, mientras que otras tendrán servicios de oración planificados. Las horas santas en las parroquias con una gran población hispana serán bilingües. Recoja una postal en la parroquia para el horario, o visite www.allentowndiocese.org/encounter.

TODOS LOS VIERNES EL CÍRCULO DE ORACIÓN

A las 7:00 PM rezamos el Santo Rosario, y se continúa con las Alabanzas, Acción de Gracias, Adoración, y Reflexión sobre la Palabra de Dios. Ofrecemos nuestras humildes Alabanzas a Dios Padre que hace TANTO por nosotros. Por medio de la oración, vivimos aún más profundamente la Celebración de la Eucaristía y vivimos más profundamente nuestra Vida Cristiana. También oremos por los enfermos y todas las preocupaciones en la vida que carga el corazón se alivian.

“Vengan a mí todos los que están afligidos y agobiados, y yo los aliviaré. Carguen sobre ustedes mi yugo y aprendan de mí, porque soy paciente y humilde de corazón, y así encontrarán alivio. Porque mi yugo es suave y mi carga liviana.”

Adoración al Santísimo Sacramentó

Únase a nosotros los Miércoles a cualquier hora, desde las 8:30 am hasta 5:00 pm para Adoración al Santísimo Sacramentó En la capilla. Visite a Nuestro Señor y únase a la Oración de la tarde y la Bendición del Santísimo a las 5:00pm

Catholic Charities

Ofrece ayuda y soporte para las familias que se están reubicando de Puerto Rico para los condados de Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton y Schuylkill como resultado de la devastación causada por el Huracan María. Para más información llame a:

La línea de Asistencia de Reubicación

Catholic Charities

610.435.1541 Ext. 286

El Grupo San Juan Evangelista

Si desea que el Grupo San Juan Evangelista visite sus hogares cada lunes, por favor, llame a
Jose Luiz Galarza 610- 570-5523 o
Casilda Lugo (718 619 5772).
Es una oportunidad para orar juntos y alimentarse con la fe.

Mis queridos hermanos en Cristo,

En este tercer domingo de Adviento, el evangelio dice que Dios es la verdad. Sin embargo, nunca podemos comprender completamente a Dios con nuestras mentes o nuestros corazones. Seguimos intentando acercarnos a la verdad, a la verdad sobre nuestro mundo, sobre los demás, sobre nosotros mismos como individuos y sobre Dios. Seguimos cuestionando con la esperanza de acercarnos a la verdad.

En nuestra búsqueda de nuestra propia verdad personal, dos de las grandes preguntas que nos motivan son: "¿Quién soy?" Y "¿Por qué estoy haciendo lo que estoy haciendo?" Buscamos nuestra identidad. Tratamos de aclararnos por nosotros mismos el objetivo final que impulsa todo lo que hacemos y decimos.

"¿Quién es usted?", Es una pregunta que podemos responder en muchos niveles diferentes. Simplemente podemos dar nuestro nombre, o dar los nombres de los padres; podemos responder dando nuestras calificaciones profesionales, o nombrando el puesto o la posición que tenemos en la vida. Sin embargo, el nivel más profundo, el nivel más fundamental, en el que podemos responder esa pregunta es el nivel espiritual. "¿Quién soy yo en el nivel más profundo, más espiritual de mi ser? ¿Quién soy yo antes de Dios? ¿Quién es Dios que me llama a ser?"

Juan el Bautista nos señala a quién Dios nos llama a ser cada uno de nosotros. Al igual que él, ciertamente no somos el Mesías. Nosotros no somos la luz. Conocemos muy bien las áreas de oscuridad en nuestras vidas y en nuestros corazones. Sin embargo, como Juan el Bautista, somos un testigo de la Luz. Aunque estamos lejos de ser perfectos, estamos llamados a ser testigos de Cristo.

El Señor está entre todos nosotros, sin embargo, sigue siendo desconocido para muchos. Nuestra misión es darle a conocer, permitir que Cristo brille en nuestro mundo a través de nuestras vidas. Estamos llamados a permitir que el Señor se comuniqué a través de nosotros, a proclamar a la persona de Cristo, Su cosmovisión, Sus valores y Sus actitudes. Quiénes somos como testigos de la luz, como la voz de la Palabra, da forma a la forma en que vivimos y explica por qué vivimos de la manera en que lo hacemos.

El Adviento es un buen momento para reclamar nuestra identidad fundamental, nuestra identidad vinculada a Cristo. Si Jesús va a nacer en cualquier lugar hoy, será en los corazones de sus seguidores.

Y entonces, y mientras miramos y esperamos este Adviento, seamos testigos de la luz de Cristo y de la alegría que trae. Déjennos vivir como las personas que creen que esta alegría y el niño que la trae pueden cambiar el mundo. Si hacemos eso, entonces ya estamos a mitad de camino de Navidad.

Que continúen alegrarse en la venida del Señor Jesús en Su vida y que puedas ayudar a otros a reconocer Su presencia dando testimonio de la Luz.

Tuyo en Cristo,

Párroco, Johnson

908 HANOVER AVENUE
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18109
610-432-8522

KEVIN P. O'DONNELL
SUPERVISOR

WILLIAM J. O'DONNELL, JR.
FOUNDER (DECEASED)



O'DONNELL FUNERAL HOME, INC.

1064 FIFTH STREET
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610-264-0161

DANIEL K. O'DONNELL
SUPERVISOR

MEGAN O'DONNELL
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

MARY ANN SNELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Wills • Trusts • Estates • Elder Law
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Suite 201
Bethlehem
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