

# The Parish Connection

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**  
13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8H 1Y7

The Parish Connection is now  
available on your school's website  
and at [www.olph.ca](http://www.olph.ca)



January 2016

**Regular Sunday Mass times: Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sundays: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 pm**

## Dates to Watch

- **Jan. 1**– 10:30am Mass
- **Jan 13**–Grade 2 students from Jean Vanier at OLPH Parish for Mass at 9:30am
- **Jan 10**–OLPH Youth Dinner following the 5:00pm Mass-Spiritual Survivor
- **Jan 11**–Confirmation Session 1-7:00pm OLPH Parish
- **Jan 12**–Confirmation Session 1-7:00pm OLPH Parish
- **Jan 15**–Youth Coffee Night
- **Jan 17**–Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus following the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- **Jan 18**–Retreat for all Grade 6 students at OLPH Parish from 9:30am-2:00pm
- **Jan 24**–OLPH Youth Dinner following the 5:00pm Mass-Family Scavenger Hunt
- **Jan 25**–Confirmation Session 2-7:00pm OLPH Parish
- **Jan 26**–Confirmation Session 2-7:00pm OLPH Parish
- **Jan 30**–WYD Family dance OLPH Parish 7:00pm



## Confirmation 2015 (Grade 6 and Older)

### Session Dates and Times

	Monday 7:00– 8:30 pm	Tuesday 7:00–8:30 pm
Session 1	Jan. 11	Jan. 12
Session 2	Jan. 25	Jan. 26
Session 3	Feb. 8	Feb. 9
Session 4	Feb. 22	Feb. 23
Session 5	Mar. 7	Mar. 8

A retreat day will be held at OLPH on **January 18, 2016 from 9:30am-2:00pm** with Face to Face ministries. The children who attend EICS schools and are in Grade 6 will be bussed to the Parish

### CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION (You will choose one of these dates at the time of registration)

**Sunday, April 17, 2016** at 2:00 pm -Children from Holy Spirit, Holy Redeemer, OLPH

**Monday, April 18, 2016** at 7:00 pm -Children from St. Luke, St. Theresa schools and Public & Home schooled.

If you would like to Register for Confirmation please contact Raylene at the Parish office 780-467-5470 or [ryuzyk@olph.ca](mailto:ryuzyk@olph.ca)

## First Reconciliation and First Communion 2014-2015



**If you have not yet registered for First Reconciliation and First Communion please contact Raylene at the Parish Office 780-467-5470**



If you missed First Reconciliation please contact Monna at 780-467-5470 or [msenez@olph.ca](mailto:msenez@olph.ca) to schedule a time for your child to receive this sacrament.

### **First Eucharist (Communion):**

In addition to the parent meeting there is a Communion retreat for the parent and child. You may choose either:

**Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016** at 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
**OR**  
**Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016** at 1:00-3:00pm

These retreats will take place at OLPH Church.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR POPE FRANCIS' YEAR OF MERCY?

- 01** Pray Pope Francis' Year of Mercy prayer daily.  
This is a quick, easy way to participate in the Jubilee Year.
- 02** Go to confession.  
We cannot give what we do not have. Experience God's mercy firsthand.
- 03** Forgive someone.  
Do you have a difficult relationship in your life? Share God's mercy with that person.
- 04** Read a good Catholic book about mercy.  
The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis is a great place to start; he talks about mercy in 36 places!
- 05** Pick one spiritual and one corporal work of mercy.  
Do not try to do them all at once! Take one of each, and focus on sharing mercy simply.
- 06** Sign up for Best Advent Ever.  
With a variety of insightful voices, this daily email series is a great way to prepare for the Year of Mercy.
- 07** Pray the Divine Mercy Novena  
Starting Good Friday, this is a typical nine-day novena to invoke Jesus' mercy.
- 08** Take a pilgrimage.  
It does not have to be far. Simply find a shrine or other spiritual site near you and spend extra time in prayer.

# Q & A with Father Antony



## What exactly is the “Year of Mercy?”

Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, **Pope Francis** called for the Year of Mercy—a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take approximately a year to **focus on forgiveness and healing** in a special way. Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church “**to be a witness of mercy**” by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy ([Pope Francis’ Announcement of the Year of Mercy](#)).

Beginning December 8, 2015, the Holy Year of Mercy will focus on studying and reflecting on mercy, receiving mercy, and being merciful towards others. To read more, visit the [Vatican’s official website for the Year of Mercy](#).

## What can I do for the Year of Mercy?

### C O R P O R A L   W O R K S   O F   M E R C Y

- **Feed the hungry**-There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.
- **Give drink to the thirsty**-Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.
- **Shelter the Homeless**-There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.
- **Visit the sick**-Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.
- **Ransom the captive**-People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.
- **Bury the dead**-Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

### S P I R I T U A L   W O R K S   O F   M E R C Y

- **Instruct the ignorant**-Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith
- **Counsel the doubtful**-Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.
- **Admonish sinners**-Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.
- **Bear wrongs patiently**-Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.
- **Forgive offenses willingly**-Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God
- **Comfort the afflicted**-Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.
- **Pray for the living and the dead**-Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.

# Sunday Youth Night

## Youth Nights

For Junior Youth Gr 7 & 8  
For Senior Youth Gr 9 to 12



### 2016 Dates

Sunday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – Spiritual Survivor  
Friday Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Coffee night  
Sunday Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – Family Scavenger Hunt  
Sunday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – 'Can It'  
Sunday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – TBA

**\*Watch for other exciting nights coming up**  
Gym nights, movie nights, coffee nights

A great way to meet new friends and connect with old ones.

### Youth Nights

#### Dec 6th – "Tackiest Christmas Sweater Party"

- Dinner served by the 'Servant Leadership Team' at Holy Spirit School.
- Come dressed in your tackiest Christmas Sweater and join us for a party.
- Cookie Decorating, crafts, games, hot chocolate and more.
- Bring a \$5.00 gift for the fun gift exchange
- Bring a gift for YESS

#### Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – Caroling and Hot Chocolate– 7:00- 8:30p.m.

Meet at the back of the parish hall doors. All other church doors will be locked.

We will be supporting 'YESS' The Youth Emergency Youth Shelter this Christmas. A Wish list will be handed out at the Nov youth dinner, or copies can be found on the youth Bulletin board in the Church foyer  
Please help those in need by bringing in an item  
For the teens at the shelter.

Please do not wrap.

Parents please note that pick up is at the back of the Parish hall doors at 8:30

For more info contact Sharon Darbyshire at [sdarbyshire@olph.ca](mailto:sdarbyshire@olph.ca)  
Or at 780 467-5470



Did you know that if you participate in the Young Disciples program for just three years, you will learn about 6 Sacraments, 17 Saints, 12 Feast days and more than 35 bible stories? (If you attend all six years you'll be more than ready to teach a class!) You'll learn all that and much, much more while having fun and making lots of good friends. Young Disciples is an interactive faith program for children in Grades one through nine. We meet each Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8 PM in the church basement. Check out our website at [www.olphyd.org](http://www.olphyd.org) Call Marla W. at 780-464-1256 for more info.

#### **Junior High Disciples**

Join us on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8. From September to January, we have had a "DQ night", watched a movie, carved saint-o-lanterns, helped at a confirmation night, joined the Living Rosary, made willow stars, wrapped CDs given out at the Christmas Masses, tidied the pews and exchanged the song books, shopped for Christmas presents for two families receiving hampers, helped sort food for the Christmas hampers, had a gift wrapping afternoon, and more!!! Contact Kelley Thompson at 780-922-0343 or [bigmamma@wildroseinternet](mailto:bigmamma@wildroseinternet) Call Marla W. at 780-464-1256 for more information.



#### **Altar Server Bowling**

**Date: January 23, 2016 Venue: Sherwood Park bowling alley Time 1 p.m.**

To confirm your attendance please email Andrew [kozitky@ualberta.ca](mailto:kozitky@ualberta.ca) or call Dian Varga (780-467-8470).

