

# The Parish Connection

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



October 2015

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

## Dates to Watch

- **Oct. 1**– St. Theresa School attending Mass at 9:30am OLPH Parish
- **Oct. 2**- 6:30pm Altar Servers Workshop
- **Oct 4**- Feast of St. Francis and the Blessing of the Animas
- **Oct. 7**– Madonna, Holy Redeemer and Jean Vanier attending Mass at 9:30am OLPH Parish
- **Oct. 19**- 7:00 Confirmation Registration
- **Oct. 23**- EPK attending Mass at 9:30am OLPH Parish
- **Oct. 25-28**-Ecumenical Mission- Reimagining the World:  
Loving our Neighbors as Ourselves

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAMS**

"The Children's Liturgy Program will start up again September 13th, at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. The program is aimed at children ages 4-6. Please sign up in the foyer before Mass. If you are interested in volunteering with this rewarding ministry, please email **Heidi Nelsen** at [bhnelsen@shaw.ca](mailto:bhnelsen@shaw.ca)



## **Catechetics (Religious Education) Home Program**

As we begin a new school year, we also think of religious instruction for our children. If you have a child who is not in our Catholic Schools, there is a Home program for Religious Education. Please contact Sr. Gertrude, **780-417-3526**, for information and materials to begin the program. A catechist will journey with you during the year to provide ongoing support. As well we will offer home program families the opportunity to come together three or four times during the year, beginning with a session just before Advent.

## **Catechists for the Home Program**

Would you consider being a catechist for the Home Program? This means connecting with one or more families to support them and help them when needed. Formation and support will be given to these catechists. Please contact **Sr. Gertrude** at **780-417-3526** or the **Parish office** at **780-467-5470**.



## **First Reconciliation and First Communion 2015/2016**



If you missed The Parent meeting for **First Reconciliation and First Communion 2015/2016** you may attend one of 2 Make up registration Meetings

**Saturday, October 3rd 9:00am**  
or

**Monday, October 5th at 7:00pm**

If you have any questions please contact **Raylene** at the **Parish Office 780-467-5470**

If your child has already prepared for First Communion please call the Parish Office to schedule a date for First Communion-  
**780-467-5470**

## **ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS**



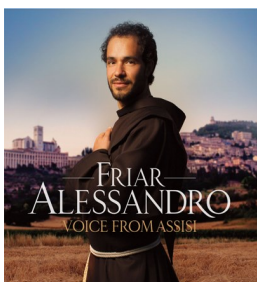
**ALTAR SERVER**  
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

Altar Server's workshop and game night will be held on Friday October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at OLPH Parish downstairs in the Meeting Room. The facilitator will be **Fr. Paul Kavanagh**. Hope to see you all! For more information contact **Fr. Antony Cruz, SAC** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish at **780-467-5470**.

## **Confirmation 2016 (Grade 6 and Older)**

The Parent meeting for Confirmation 2016 will be held at OLPH Parish on Monday, **October 19, 2015 at 7:00pm at OLPH Parish**

If you have any questions please contact **Raylene** at **780-467-5470** or [ryuzyk@olph.ca](mailto:ryuzyk@olph.ca)



**Wake up the World With The Voice from Assisi**  
**An Evening of Music with**

**Internationally Acclaimed**  
**Friar Alessandro with Guest**  
**Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School Choir**

**Thursday, November 19th**  
**Mass at 6:15pm**  
**Concert at 7:00pm**  
**OLPH Parish**  
**13 Brower Drive**



O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



Young Disciples is a children's program that teaches about Jesus and the Catholic Church, while encouraging the development of long-lasting friendships. The JD Youth Group is a recent addition to the program and provides young teens with continued Spiritual growth through various acts of service, activities and fun times. In the 17 years since the group first began the children have prayed, sang songs, performed plays, had countless visits from priests and other guest speakers, watched movies about the saints, participated as a group in the Mass, played games, washed each others' feet, re-enacted the Last Supper and celebrated Seder meals, read the bible and memorized scripture, hosted concerts, drew giant rosaries in the parking lot, gone on field trips, participated in Pro-Life walks, baked cookies, enjoyed All Saints' Day costume parties, eaten snacks, and colored, pasted, painted, cut and hammered their way through hundreds of crafts. The children (AND adults) have learned much, laughed lots, made lasting friendships, gotten dirty, sticky, wet and unmistakably holy!

Young Disciples is an interactive faith program for children and teens that meets each Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8 PM in the church basement. The cost for a whole year of faith, fun and snacks is only \$40 per child, or \$100 for a family with 3 or more children. **Please contact:** Marla W. at 780-464-1256 or email [mwaldner@shaw.ca](mailto:mwaldner@shaw.ca) to learn how you can be involved. Your help is always appreciated and very much needed!

### O.L.P.H. Children's Choir



Our children's choir has begun! Anyone wishing to join must be a strong independent reader and love music. Our practices will be on

Mondays from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Our first practice is on September 25th. For more information call 780-640-6841 or 780-267-7529 or email [raylineziegler@gmail.com](mailto:raylineziegler@gmail.com)

### Senior Youth/Adult Choir

**is looking for you! Yes! You!**



Are you talented at singing or playing an instrument and currently in Junior High, High School?

The OLPH Youth Music ministry would like to invite you to join their group. Come and have fun using your talents and meet some great people as well! To register and/or get more information please contact **Theodore Ng** [tbng@ualberta.ca](mailto:tbng@ualberta.ca) or **Billy Spindler** at [bspindle@shaw.ca](mailto:bspindle@shaw.ca) or call 780-467-1754. We look forward to meeting you!

### Joyful Hearts (SPA)

**Sing, Praise and Adore**



Relax – Refresh – Renew – Reflect and Rejuvenate your relationship with God by your involvement in Joyful Hearts – SPA. Make a resolution to create time for you and your Friend God with SPA. This Praise and worship session will be led by youth. All youth are welcome. If you are interested in being part of this team please contact

Fr. Antony at 780-467-5470 or email [acruz@olph.ca](mailto:acruz@olph.ca). Venue: OLPH Parish, Sherwood Park

### Altar Servers (Grade 4 and older)



**ALTAR SERVER**  
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

Are you able to share your time and talents in the service of God and the Church. Please consider volunteering as an altar server. An altar server helps during Mass. There is a training session to teach you what you need to do. If you are interested please contact Father Antony at 780-467-5470 or [acruz@olph.ca](mailto:acruz@olph.ca)



EICS Children's Choirs invites you to sing with us for our second season!

EICS Choirs welcomes students who have a love of singing. No prior experience is necessary. This opportunity offers children choral experience and a lot of fun!

The choirs, one for Kindergarten through Grade 2 and another for Grade 3 through 8 will rehearse once a week, Thursday evenings 6-7:15pm at St. Theresa Catholic Middle School with Conductor Elizabeth Driedger, music specialist. The choir will perform Christmas and Spring Concerts, as well as participate in local music festivals. Would your child be interested in choral experience and a lot of fun? If so, please visit the EICS Website [www.eics.ab.ca](http://www.eics.ab.ca) under Programs to download our brochure.

Please contact us today for more info!

[eicschildrenschoirs@eics.ab.ca](mailto:eicschildrenschoirs@eics.ab.ca).

**"Maranatha" (Come Lord) Social for Altar Servers on November 6th at 6.30 p.m. Join us for a celebration to prepare for Christmas.**



### The Feast of St. Francis and the Blessing of Animals



Join us with your pet for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals on **Sunday, October 4th** by our Franciscan, Fr. Pierre.

Pets and pet owners will gather at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall for the blessing. Refreshments for pets and people will be served afterwards. A reminder that all pets are to be under



**Infants Memorial Mass** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish, 13 Brower Drive Sherwood Park, Alberta. You are invited to gather for an Infants Memorial Mass on **Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in remembrance of all children lost during pregnancy or early infancy. Pat Heck and Jeri Lynn Annibale will be our guest speakers. Fellowship and refreshments will be available in the foyer after mass. Everyone welcome. For further information contact Betty Donovan/Sue Boyne, Pastoral Associates, OLPH Parish (780)-467-5470



# Sunday Youth Night

## Youth Nights

For Junior Youth Gr 7 &  
For Senior Youth Gr 9-12

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



Youth Dinners will be held the  
1st and 3rd Sunday of the month  
where possible.

Watch for future dates  
For more info contact  
Sharon Darbyshire at  
[sdarbyshire@olph.ca](mailto:sdarbyshire@olph.ca)

The OLPH Youth team is  
excited to meet you!  
'Come out and meet the Youth team.

On Sunday October 18th  
For our **"KICK OFF PARTY!"**



Join us for Sunday night Mass at  
5:00p.m.  
Followed by a Youth Dinner and  
fun activities from 6:00-8:30p.m.

In the Church Basement.  
pickup is at the back of the Parish Hall

### Help Wanted



OLPH has an opening for the position of a Building Maintenance Coordinator. This is an 18 hour a week position and the successful candidate must be prepared to share the role of after-hours emergency contact with the Business important.

This position also includes:

Providing handy man services & minor maintenance repairs to the facility, rectory & grounds

Organize volunteers for group projects

Liaising with contractors as necessary

Moving furniture as needed

Recycling of electronics and other items

Setting up and taking down of rooms for events

Applicants may forward their resumes by email to  
Business Manager, Brenda Frederick at [bfrederick@olph.ca](mailto:bfrederick@olph.ca)

# Q & A with Father Antony

## Can I be Catholic and Still participate in Halloween?



Of course you can! The name Halloween comes from All Hallow's Eve, meaning the day before All Saints Day — those we call hallowed or holy as we hear in the Our Father.

Halloween's roots lie in an ancient pagan festival for the dead. While this autumn feast can be used for evil purposes, our culture celebrates it as an innocent night of begging and fun. We who believe in the light of the world can use it to celebrate the Light. "Hallow" means holy and the word Halloween refers to the night before the feast of all holies, or All Saints Day. Emphasize all things good, joyful and pure. Let your children know that they are "children of the light" called to walk in the light.

We obviously want to steer people away from things like dabbling with the occult, or seances, or other kinds of "black magic" that would be contrary to our beliefs.

### Do you know the Christian connection to Halloween?

The true origins of Halloween lie with the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany. For the Celts, November 1 marked the beginning of a new year and the coming of winter. The night before the New Year, they celebrated the festival of Samhain, Lord of the Dead. During this festival, Celts believed the souls of the dead including ghosts, goblins and witches returned to mingle with the living. In order to scare away the evil spirits, people would wear masks and light bonfires. When the Romans conquered the Celts, they added their own touches to the Samhain festival, such as making centerpieces out of apples and nuts for Pomona, the Roman goddess of the orchards. The Romans also bobbed for apples and drank cider traditions which may sound familiar to you.

But where does the Christian aspect of the holiday come into play? In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration for all the martyrs (later all saints) from May 13 to November 1. The night before became known as All Hallows Even or holy evening. Eventually the name was shortened to the current Halloween. On November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls Day.

The purpose of these feasts is to remember those who have died, whether they are officially recognized by the Church as saints or not. It is a celebration of the communion of saints, which reminds us that the Church is not bound by space or time.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that through the communion of saints a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things (#1475).

### Carving the Turnip

Many of the customs we now associate with Halloween are also derived from ancient celebrations. For example, the current custom of going door-to-door to collect treats actually started in Ireland hundreds of years ago. Groups of farmers would go door-to-door collecting food and materials for a village feast and bonfire. Those who gave were promised prosperity; those who did not received threats of bad luck. When an influx of Irish Catholic immigrants came to the United States in the 1800s, the custom of trick-or-treating came with them.



Does your family carve a pumpkin to place on your porch for Halloween? If so, then you can once again thank the Irish for the tradition. Actually, the custom began with a turnip. People would hollow out the turnips and place lighted candles inside to scare off the evil spirits. When the Irish came to America, they discovered the pumpkin as a larger substitute for the turnip. And so, we now carve pumpkins instead of turnip.

### The Tale of the Jack-O-Lantern

So now you know why we carve pumpkins instead of turnips, but why do we call them jack-o-lanterns? The name actually comes from the legend of an Irishman named Jack who was forced to roam the earth with only a burning coal inside a pumpkin to light his way because he had never performed a single selfless act throughout his life.

Even though Halloween may seem like a very secular holiday, and in many ways it has become so, there are distinctly Christian aspects to the holiday that you and your family can celebrate. **Happy Halloween!**