

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



February 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

- **Feb. 7**-Youth Night following the 5pm Mass-Real Love is...
- **Feb. 8**-Confirmation Session 3-7:00pm
OLPH Parish
- **Feb. 9**-Confirmation Session 3-7:00pm
OLPH Parish
- **Feb. 9**-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30pm in the Parish Hall-Cost is \$5/Adult, \$2/Age 5 to 12, Under 4 Free, Family \$15. Tickets available at the door.
- **Feb 10**-Ash Wednesday Mass-9:30 at **ABJ**. Parishioners welcome to attend
- **Feb. 10**-Ash Wednesday Mass-HS/JV/St. L 9:30am at **OLPH Parish**
- **Feb. 10**-Ash Wednesday Mass-HR/Mad/OLPH/EPK 12:45 at **OLPH Parish**
- **Feb. 10**- Ash Wednesday Mass-7:00pm at **OLPH Parish**
- **Feb. 12**-Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 5:45 Parish Hall
- **Feb. 17**-Day of Confession-There will be a priest available for Reconciliation for 8:00am-8:00pm
- **Feb. 19**-Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 5:45 Parish Hall
- **Feb. 21**-Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus...come on out and enjoy a delicious breakfast after the 8:30am or 10:30am Masses
- **Feb. 26**-Lenten Soup and Bread Supper 5:45 Parish Hall
- **Feb. 20**-First Communion Retreat at **OLPH Parish 1pm-3pm**
- **Feb. 21**-Youth Night following the 5pm Mass
- **Feb. 22**-Confirmation Session 4-7:00pm
OLPH Parish
- **Feb. 23**-Confirmation Session 4-7:00pm
OLPH Parish
- **Feb. 24**-Grade 1 from Jean Vanier attending Mass at 9:30am at **OLPH Parish**
- **Feb. 28**-First Communion Retreat at **OLPH Parish 1pm-3pm**



Confirmation 2016 (Grade 6 and Older)

Session Dates and Times

	Monday 7:00- 8:30 pm	Tuesday 7:00-8:30 pm
Session 3	Feb. 8	Feb. 9
Session 4	Feb. 22	Feb. 23
Session 5	Mar. 7	Mar. 8

Please make sure you have all information required provided to Raylene at the Parish Office-Baptism Certificate, Name of Sponsor(s) and Confirmation Date

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



First Reconciliation and First Communion 2014-2015



Reconciliation and First Communion please contact Raylene at the Parish Office 780-467-5470

If you missed
First Reconciliation please
contact Raylene at 780-467-5470 or 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.



Youth Alpha @ ABJ is Back! **Starts Tuesday, February 16**

- A chance to learn more about Christian beliefs through fun video presentations and group discussions.
 - 10 weekly lunch-time sessions and a half-day retreat @ OLPH· A great way to get Catholic Faith Formation Credit (10% of Religion grade)
 - Open to all ABJ students
- Space is limited. Register today. To register, email Alana at alaperle@telus.net or text 780-446-9009

Olph Youth Ministry News

Youth Nights

Faith Fun and Fellowship!

For Junior Youth Gr 7 & 8

For Senior Youth Gr 9 to 12

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



For more info contact
Sharon Darbyshire at the Parish office
780-467-5470
or email: sdarbyshire@olph.ca

Youth Dinners and Youth Night

- Sunday Feb 7th and Feb 21st
- At 6:00, after the 5:00 mass
- Feb 7th —Real love is
- Feb 21st—TBA
- March 6—Visit to the Franciscan Friary at 2:30 pm.

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

All other doors are locked.

**Reminder for youth to bring a non perishable
food item,**



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 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 Call Marla W. at 780-464-1256 for more information.



Parish Soup & Bread Lenten Series for 2016

Once again during Lent, the Parish is hosting the Lenten Series in support of Development and Peace. Format of the evening held in the Parish Hall:

5:45 – 6:30p.m. Grace begins our delicious, but simple supper of homemade soup and fresh bread, which also supports our Lenten fasting. A suggested donation of what it costs for your own supper goes to the Share Lent program of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

(Highchairs are available for the younger ones.)

6:30 – 7:00p.m. Each week features a guest speaker on a variety of topics concerning Social Justice in our community and our world. (Please Note: Supervision will not be provided for the children).

7:15 – 7:45p.m. (approx) Stations of the Cross led by parish ministries and groups. **Reconciliation to follow.** Watch the Parish Bulletin for more details.

Date	Soup and Bread 5:45-6:00	Guest Speaker 6:30-7:00	Stations of the Cross 7:15-7:45
Feb. 12	Parish Staff	TBA	Knights of Columbus
Feb. 19	CWL	Marian Centre	CWL
Feb. 26	Young Disciples	Bruce Klanke-Catholic Social Services	Young Disciples
Mar. 4	K of C	Armand Mercier-Habitat 4 Humanity	Parish Staff & Robert Gaudet
Mar. 11	ABJ Culinary Arts	TBA	JETS
Mar. 18	Proclaimers	Sandy Prather-"Stoking the Fire"	Altar Servers

Q & A with Father Antony



Why would a loving God allow bad things to happen?

The recent tragedy at the Boston Marathon certainly brings this question to the minds of many people. If God really loves us, why does He allow us to suffer? Why does He permit terrorism, child abuse and natural disasters to occur? While the brutally honest and truthful answer is that “He’s God and He knows what He’s doing”, there are a few specific points that can help us to better understand these tragedies. And, quite frankly, understanding them can often make the difference between moving closer to the Lord or turning our backs on Him.

Free Will – God loves us so much that He gives us the gift of free will. This means that while we are free to do good, we also have the ability to do evil. The person or persons who caused the explosions in Boston chose to commit an evil act. In no way did God cause this to happen. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):

Angels and men, as intelligent and free creatures, have to journey toward their ultimate destinies by their free choice and preferential love. They can therefore go astray. Indeed, they have sinned. Thus has moral evil, incommensurably more harmful than physical evil, entered the world. God is in no way, directly or indirectly, the cause of moral evil. He permits it, however, because he respects the freedom of his creatures and, mysteriously, knows how to derive good from it. (CCC 311)

Greater Good – In his Letter To The Romans, St. Paul states that “We know that IN EVERY-THING God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28, emphasis mine) Not just the good things, but the bad things too. How is it possible that good can result from the mutilation and murder of innocent people? While I don’t claim to understand all of God’s reasons, there are a few obvious ones that stand out. When tragedy occurs, we get to see people helping one another. Every time a tragedy takes place, there are numerous stories of heroism and genuine love of neighbor that emerge. We also see an increase in prayer. Many people who aren’t used to praying suddenly “hit their knees”. We’re also reminded of our mortality and how we’re not really in control of our own destiny.

In time we can discover that God in his almighty providence can bring a good from the consequences of an evil, even a moral evil, caused by his creatures: “It was not you”, said Joseph to his brothers, “who sent me here, but God. . . You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive.” From the greatest moral evil ever committed – the rejection and murder of God’s only Son, caused by the sins of all men – God, by his grace that “abounded all the more”, brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption. But for all that, evil never becomes a good. (CCC 312)



Trust – When tragic events occur, we are given an opportunity to trust God. It is during the dark times that we must truly “walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). When skies are blue, it’s a lot easier for us to trust than during storms. However, storms often give us the best chance to grow closer to the Lord.

We firmly believe that God is master of the world and of its history. But the ways of his providence are often unknown to us. Only at the end, when our partial knowledge ceases, when we see God “face to face”, will we fully know the ways by which – even through the dramas of evil and sin – God has guided his creation to that definitive sabbath rest for which he created heaven and earth. (CCC 314)

An Invitation – When bad things happen, either in our own life or in the lives of others, we are invited to assist God in bringing good out of evil. We can do this by praying. Although the Lord doesn’t *need* our help, He allows us to help Him through the act of prayer.

Since Abraham, intercession – asking on behalf of another has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God’s mercy. In the age of the Church, Christian intercession participates in Christ’s, as an expression of the communion of saints. In intercession, he who prays looks “not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,” even to the point of praying for those who do him harm. (CCC 2635)

Heaven – As much as we’d like it to be, this world is not perfect. Pain and suffering do exist. Accepting this will cause us to remain calm when these events occur. In addition, it will increase our desire for heaven, where there is NO PAIN AND SUFFERING!

We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere “to the end” and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God’s eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ.

Although it’s not easy, it’s crucial for us to keep our eye on the Lord when “bad things” happen. Blaming Him for the suffering, although understandable, is neither accurate or wise. If we truly believe that He loves us, we should strive to see His goodness in everything. Doing so will bring us great peace, even in times of turmoil.

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Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace, to live peace... Peace will be the last word of history.

Blessed John Paul II

