



OLPH VOICE

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC MISSION OF GREATER WASHINGTON



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Beloved OLPH family members,

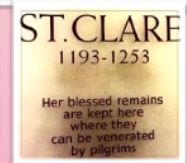
As the feast day of St. Clare of Assisi (August 11) is approaching, I wanted to share a beautiful story in the novel called St. Francis by Nikos Kazantzakis. In this story, Sr. Clare sends a message to Fr. Francis of Assisi that she wishes very much that Francis should visit her in the convent and speak to the sisters in the convent. However, Francis is hesitant because he is a monk and feels that he may be defiled if he visits the convent of women (even though they are sisters). So in reply, Francis makes a condition, that he will go to the Convent *"when the road from the Portiuncula to San Damiano's is covered with white flowers"* (see picture of road). Nobody believed this would happen, and thought that he made such a mandate because he really wanted to avoid the visit. But, when Brother Leo ran to the road to check, he let out a shout *"the entire road—hedges, stones, dirt—was blanketed everywhere with white flowers, as far as the eye could see!"*. Because of this miracle, Francis sends Clare the message, *"Yes, tell her I am coming. Tell her it is not because I wanted to, but because God commanded me. And bring her these flowers that fell from heaven"*.

Saturday, August 15th we commemorate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

As people of Indian origin, August 15th holds a special place in our hearts, as it is the 73rd Independence Day of India. I wish all our OLPH families, Happy Independence Day!

With love,
Royachan
Rev. Fr. Roy Moolechalil
OLPH Mission Director

Pictures from my visit to Assisi in 2014



Here the poor Clare slept on humble straw mats. Clare died here on 11th August 1253, 27 years after St. Francis, surrounded by his last companions (Brother Angelo, Brother Leo, Brother Juniper). Ten days before she died on the 1st of August 1253, Clare was visited by Pope Innocent IV. He gave her the document confirming her Rule.

The first biographer recounts the story thus: «She ardently desired to have the Rule approved, and so she desired to not be disappointed».

On the evening of 11th August, after twenty-eight years of illness, Clare died exclaiming: «Go in peace my blessed soul! He who created you has always loved you tenderly, as I mother love her little child. Anxious, Lord, be thou that you have created him».

On the wall a Crucifix from the 15th century.

Weekly Holy Mass & Services

TOUCH HERE to connect to OLPH YouTube channel.
Holy Mass & Services are streamed LIVE every day.

Day	Time	Worship Service	Readings (Click on boxes below to read online)
Saturday, August 8, 2020	9:30 AM	Adoration & Rosary	Reading 1: James 4:13-17 Gospel: Luke 9: 49-56
	10:00 AM	Holy Mass	
	10:45 AM	OLPH Novena	
Sunday, August 9, 2020	9:30 AM	Adoration & Rosary	Reading 1: Deut 5:16-24
	10:00 AM	Holy Mass in Malayalam	Reading 2: Isa 9: 13-21
	11:30 AM	Holy Mass in English	Reading 3: 2 Cor 10:12-18 Gospel: Mark 7: 1-13
Monday to Friday	6:30 PM	Adoration & Rosary	Read Online
	7:00 PM	Holy Mass	



Weekly Schedule

DATE	ROSARY LEADERS	DAILY BIBLE READINGS
Sunday, August 9, 2020	Noble & Annie Family	<u>Song of Songs 1-8</u>
Monday, August 10, 2020	Rani Kariyil Family	<u>Wisdom 1 - 3</u>
Tuesday, August 11, 2020	Augustine & Gladis Family	<u>Wisdom 4-9</u>
Wednesday, August 12, 2020	Bijesh & Ashy Family	<u>Wisdom 10-15</u>
Thursday, August 13, 2020	Mathew & Beena Family	<u>Wisdom 16-19</u>
Friday, August 14, 2020	Babu & Jasmine Family	<u>Sirach 1-5</u>
Saturday, August 15, 2020	Thomas & Briget Family	<u>Sirach 6-10</u>

AUGUST 9



St. Teresa Benedicta

By : Jonathan Alapatt

AUGUST 10



St. Lawrence

By : Serin Palathingal

AUGUST 11



St. Clare of Assisi

By : Anjali Thomas

**Touch Saint's image
to read about them**

SAINTS OF

AUGUST 12



St. Isidore Bakanja

By : Isabelle Thomas

THIS WEEK

**Touch Saint's image
to read about them**

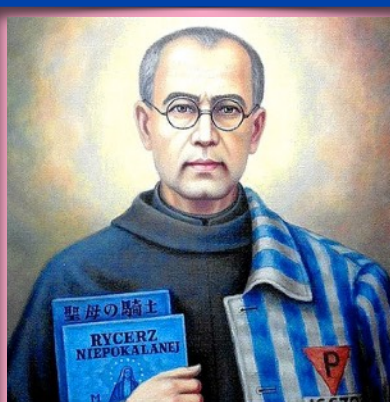
AUGUST 13



St. Hippolytus

By : Karen Boby

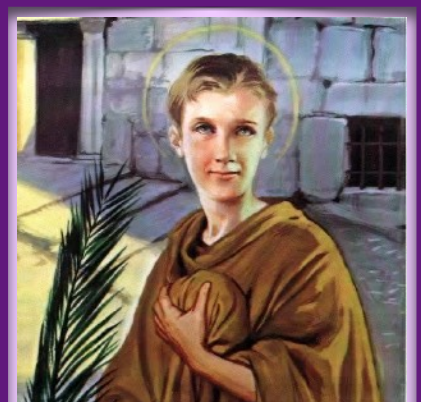
AUGUST 14



St. Maximilian Kolbe

By : Riya Roy

AUGUST 15



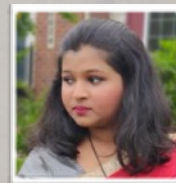
St. Tarcisius

By : Venassa Jijo



Feast of the Assumption of Mary

~By Pearl Joby
(10th Grade)



On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: “We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory.” The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In the following centuries, the Eastern Churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However by the 13th century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names—Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption—from at least the fifth or sixth century. Today it is celebrated as a solemnity.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary’s Assumption into heaven. Nevertheless, Revelation 12 speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as God’s people. Since Mary best embodies the people of both Old and New Testaments, her Assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman’s victory.

Furthermore, in 1 Corinthians 15:20, Paul speaks of Christ’s resurrection as the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus’ life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe in Mary’s share in his glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with him body and soul in heaven.

Indian Independence Day

~By Tessie Alapatt

Independence Day brings back memories of school days in India, when kids would go to school wearing saffron, white and green colored clothes to take part in Independence Day celebrations. The day would usually begin with the Indian flag being hoisted to the national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana" being sung by all. This would be followed by various speeches, songs, and dance dramas reliving stories about the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to make India a free country.

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Indian Prime Minister, delivered a beautiful speech called "Tryst with Destiny" on the eve of India's Independence, on August 14, 1947. His speech begins as quoted below, which in its entirety, is too long to publish here:

*"Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny; and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. **At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.** A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new -- when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India, and her people, and to the still larger cause of humanity."*

Many great Indian poets had dreamed of a free India, and written beautiful lines on the theme of freedom. A beautiful poem by Rabindranath Tagore (Nobel laureate in Literature) written around 1900 goes thus,

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action, **Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.**"

India was ruled by the British for more than 100 years. After the British victory in the Battle of Plassey of 1757, British East India Company started ruling in India. By 1858, the British Crown had assumed control over India. The situation after World War I was marked with suppressive and exploitative laws, which led to revolutionary calls for independence, and sparked the phase of non-violent and non co-operation movements, followed by civil disobedience movement. Beginning in 1920, many of these movements were led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi - the Father of the Nation, better known as Mahatma Gandhi. The next decades were marked with constant struggles between the Indians and the British for freedom. In 1947, Lord Mountbatten, the then Viceroy of India proposed to hand over the government to Indians owing to increased violence in the country. Although India became independent on July 18, 1947, Lord Mountbatten declared August 15, 1947 as the official Independence Day. India had no national anthem at the time of its independence. The Bengali version of Jana Gana Mana was written by the Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore in 1911, first sung during the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress and later adopted as India's national anthem in the 1950s.

Policies and Procedures for Reopening of Public Mass

We are excited to announce that Our Lady of Perpetual Help Syro Malabar Catholic Mission of Greater Washington will have Holy Mass celebration reopened to the public again on **Sunday, August 16, 2020**. Holy Mass will be held in **Mother of God Community Gym** (20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879) and not in the chapel as before. Please note that it is not mandatory that you attend public Mass. All who desire to return to Mass and are comfortable doing so, can find details below regarding the resumption of Masses. Those who are immunocompromised, at-risk, or uncomfortable being around others are encouraged to stay home and join the Live Stream Mass on [OLPH Syro Malabar YouTube Channel](#). Please see [Page 2 for Mass Schedule](#).

Please stay home if you are feeling ill, have been in contact with someone known to have COVID-19, or have any of the following symptoms: Cough, Fever (including low grade fever), Shortness of Breath, Muscle aches, Sore throat, Unexplained loss of taste or smell, Diarrhea, Headache, Fatigue.

Church Capacity and Cleaning:

We want to invite as many people as possible while honoring the recommended social distancing guidelines. We will safely be able to accommodate all parishioners at each Mass. Mother of God Community Gym maintenance will clean and sanitize the gym, bathrooms, and other rooms used by us. They will set out chairs in groups of 1-4, about 6 feet apart. After services, we would not need to stack the chairs, as they will spray and stack chairs, wipe down high-touch areas, and clean the floors.

During the Mass:

- All must wear a mask.
- Keep six feet distance between each parishioner not from the same household.
- Mass books will not be distributed
- The choir will have minimal singers.
- No passing of baskets for the offertory collection.
- Baskets will be available in which to place envelopes and money.
- If you wish to set online giving, please go to <https://membership.faithdirect.net/MD437>

Holy Communion:

- Fr. Roy and ushers will give clear instructions for the Communion procession.
- When returning to your pew, be sure to keep physical distance from other communicants.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Holy Communion will be given in the hand. Any person that is wearing gloves must remove them before processing. Keep your mask on until after receiving the Host.
- After receiving the host, step away from priest, pull down the mask and consume the Host. Replace the mask immediately after consuming the Host.
- You are not required to receive the Eucharist if you are hesitant to receive at this time.

GUESS WHAT...?

The capital letters (1-24 below) are from the grid; the letters in small case denote directions

(i.e. r = right; l = left; d = down; u = up)

Examples:

G rrd = **W**

H uur = **G**

I	G	E	C	X
N	J	P	W	V
H	A	R	Y	M
F	L	Z	B	K
D	U	S	T	O

1. **K** lld = **S**

2. Y uul = ____

3. N rru = ____

4. R drr = ____

5. J ddl = ____

6. A luu = ____

7. V lld = ____

8. K lld = ____

9. M ldd = ____

10. L rrd = ____

11. P lld = ____

12. V ll u = ____

13. R rrd = ____

14. P ll u = ____

15. E lld = ____

16. R uul = ____

17. Z lld = ____

18. Y rdd = ____

19. T uur = ____

20. Y rdd = ____

21. S ull = ____

22. W ll u = ____

23. Y rdd = ____

24. A ddl = ____

Answers in next week's issue

SOLVE THIS BIBLE VERSE

S ____
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)

(10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19)

(20) (21) (22) (23) (24)

Can you correctly guess the verse, and cite the correct Bible book, chapter and verse (without looking in the Bible)???

Last week's answers: 2. Obed; 3. Uriah; 4. Nebuchadnezzar; 5. Timothy; 6. Thomas; 7. Ananias; 8. Bartholomew; 9. Obadiah; 10. Rebekah.

Name of the place: MOUNT TABOR (located in Lower Galilee, Israel. The church in the picture is the Church of the Transfiguration).

GET TO KNOW AN OLPH FAMILY

Binoy is from Kurisummood, Changanacherry and Liz is from Manganam, Kottayam. Binoy was brought up in both Rockland County, NY and in Changanacherry. He moved back to the US in 2001. Liz was brought up in Kuwait and came to the US in 2002 to do her Master's program. They moved to Maryland in 2007. Before this they lived in Stratford, CT. Liz has an MS in Computer Science and works for Leidos as Team Lead in IT Service Management. Binoy has an MS in Biomedical Engineering and works for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a Scientific Reviewer for the Sleep Disordered Breathing Devices Team. Their son, Jaiden is 13 years old, a rising 8th grader, and their daughter, Emma is 9 years old, a rising 4th grader. Liz's sister, Elsa George lives with them.

Something you love about the OLPH community:

- We love sharing our faith with everyone in this community and taking part in various activities. We love the environment it offers all children to grow in faith and friendship.

Favorite Bible verse:

- "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Favorite family vacation spot:

- We love going to the beach.

Favorite family activity:

- Watching movies and visiting family.

Binoy & Liz

Puthenkalam

---☆ Jaiden

---☆ Emma



Binoy, Liz and family are active OLPH church members. Liz is the Youth Choir Coordinator and has also taught Sunday School. Binoy is the current OLPH Secretary, St. Mary's Ward Representative, OLPH's Child Protection Program Site Coordinator, Sunday School teacher, Building Committee member, and OLPH Voice editorial board member.

Editorial Board



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Share your thoughts

E-mail: newsletter.olph@gmail.com