



OLPH VOICE

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



From the Pastor's Desk

Beloved OLPH family members,

On **February 22nd**, we celebrate the feast of the **Chair of St. Peter**. While, it may seem odd to celebrate a Chair, the significance of this feast is that we honor the Office of Peter within the Church. In other words, we honor the Office of our Pope. On this feast day, let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis, who now sits in the chair - the office of the bishop of Rome, that he may be blessed in his leadership, service and teaching in the Church.

On **February 25th**, we commemorate the feast of **Blessed Rani Maria**. Sr. Rani was born on 29 January, 1954. She belonged to the Clarist congregation and worked in Madhya Pradesh, India, in aiding the poor to fight for their rights, which put her at odds with the landlords and the wealthy. On Feb 25th 1995, she was brutally stabbed to death on a bus by a man named Samandar Singh who was hired to kill Sr. Rani. In 2002, in a magnanimous gesture, Sr. Rani's family forgave the murderer, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder. At the family's request, he was released from prison, and later he converted to Christianity. Let us pray for the courage and boldness of Sr. Rani to be witnesses of the Gospel till the end of our life.

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

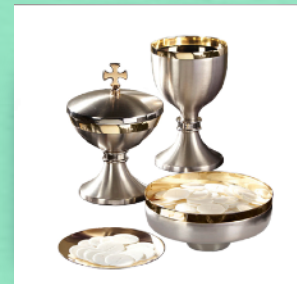
LENTEN

Sacrifices

START
HERE

Let us make our Lenten sacrifices meaningful this year!

Fill your **PIGGY BANK** with money that you save from your Lenten Sacrifices. The money collected will be used for purchasing offerings of **BREAD, WINE, FLOWERS & CANDLES** at the **FIRST HOLY MASS** offered at our new Church.



**FIRST HOLY MASS
OFFERINGS AT THE
NEW CHURCH**



Annual CCD Competition

Details of the Annual
CCD Competition 2021
will be announced
shortly. Registration is
open for CCD and non-
CCD/Adult
participants

**Click here
to register
today**

I have often wondered... Why did God make me a Christian? And... if you have asked that question too, I propose we journey back to the beginning - Genesis - the creation of Man. God created a place called Paradise (**Garden of Eden**) and he created Man in HIS OWN image to live with him there (Gen 2:8-9). The picture painted in Genesis Chapter 2 is of a blissful garden where God, man, woman, beasts and birds live in perfect harmony. There are lots of trees with delicious fruits, rivers and green landscape. Nobody to tell you to do your homework, no need to work, no fears, no tears, no fights, no wars, no disease...pure and perfect bliss...**i.e. a perfect vacation**. So, then what happened? Well... the cunning serpent tricked Eve into eating the forbidden fruit, she then gave it to Adam, and thus, they sinned and were asked to leave. Ha! I knew there was some fine-print in this perfect vacation! Except... **it was NOT fine-print**. God had clearly told Adam NOT to eat the forbidden fruit lest he die (Gen 3:2). Then after Adam and Eve disobeyed the ONE command that was given to them, God actually gave them a chance to repent and take ownership of their fault. God asks Adam, "Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you not to eat?" (Gen 3:11). Sadly, we do not hear Adam saying "Sorry God, have mercy on me". Instead, he blames Eve and still worse, blames God for creating Eve (Gen 3:13). God then turns to Eve to see if she will repent. But sadly, she too blames the serpent instead of owning up to her fault of listening to the serpent (Gen 3:14). Because of this, they are banished from the blissful Garden of Eden. But God is ever merciful (Wait! **How is God merciful if He is punishing them and banishing them?**). God is merciful because even after they sinned, He provides for them "clothes made of skin", which means something (an innocent animal) had to be sacrificed as a reparation for their sin (Gen 3:21). His mercy does not end there. He banishes them from Paradise so that NOW they shouldn't eat of the tree of life, and live forever (Gen 3:22). In other words, now that they have already sinned, if they also ate of the tree of life, they would live forever in sin, and God would lose them forever to sin. And so, He places cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen 3:24). Thus, Adam and Eve are now out in the real world and need to work hard for a living, get food on the table, suffer pains of childbirth and deal with all the sufferings of the world as we know it.

The mercy of God is revealed to us from the beginning of Creation, but sadly our sins bear consequences that we have to deal with, and generations after us also suffer the consequences of our sins. Thus, our life on this Earth is an exile - but a temporary one. Remember the words we pray every day "poor banished children of Eve" and "after this our exile". The real place where we belong is that perpetual blissful vacation in Paradise.

So...is that it?? Our life here on Earth is to suffer until we die and get to Paradise??
To be continued...

Look out for next week's reflection...in this Lenten reflection series.



Conclusion of **BIBLE** *Reading Journey*



BIBLE READING CONCLUSION

When: Sunday February 28, 2021

10:45 - 11:45 AM

Where: Mother of God Community Gym
(20501 Goshen Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879)

Holy Mass & Services

FOR LIVE STREAMING OF DAILY MASS CLICK HERE

SUNDAY MASS is also open to the public at

Mother of God Community Gym

20501 Goshen Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.



DAY	TIME	WORSHIP SERVICE	READINGS
Saturday, February 20, 2021	9:25 AM	Way of the Cross in Malayalam	Reading 1: Rom 3:21-26 Those who believed are justified Gospel: Mt 6:9-15 The prayer taught by Christ.
	10:00 AM	Holy Mass in Malayalam	
	10:45 AM	OLPH Novena	
Sunday, February 21, 2021	8:55 AM	Way of the Cross in Malayalam	Reading 1: Gen 5:19-31 Persons who lived with God Reading 2: Josh 4:15-24 God dried up river Jordan for the people to pass. Reading 3: Rom 6:15-23 Newness of life in Christ through baptism Gospel: Mt 7:21-27 The true disciple
	9:30 AM	Holy Mass in Malayalam	
Monday - Friday	6:25 PM	Way of the Cross in Malayalam	Click here to see readings
	7:00 PM	Holy Mass in Malayalam	

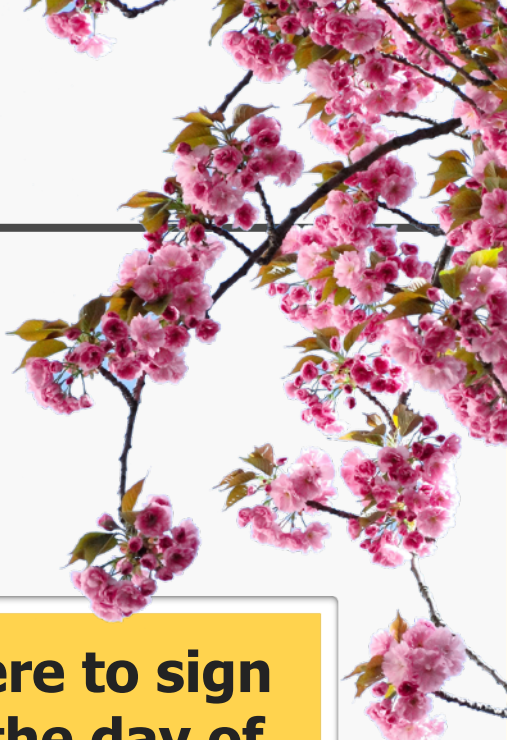
Weekday Mass Readings

DATE	DAILY MASS READINGS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021	Reading 1: Titus 3:1-7 Laws of Christian life. Gospel: Mk 7:14-23 Internal and external holiness.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021	Reading 1: 2 Cor 6:3-10 We are servants. Gospel: Lk 11:43-52 Prophets will be persecuted.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021	Reading 1: Rom 6:15-23 Eternal life is the gift of God Gospel: Mt 9:1-8 Jesus heals the paralyzed.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021	Reading 1: 2 Cor 4:7-15 The life of Jesus is visible in our mortal flesh. Gospel: Mt 10:16-25 Give witness to the Gospel
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021	Reading 1: Rom 7:7-12 Commandment of God is holy and right. Gospel: Mk 11:27-33 Authority of Jesus

February 22 - 26

Prayer & fasting for success of the Church construction

Day	Family
Monday	Sajeev & Pushpa
Tuesday	Elsamma Pachikara
Wednesday	Roby & Selin
Thursday	Thomas & Suneetha
Friday	Augustine & Gladis



Click here to sign up for the day of Fasting & Prayer

The following are suggestions for each family on their the day of prayer and fasting for the success of our Church construction:

- Participate in Holy Mass (or Online Mass)
- Fast at least one full meal if possible
- Pray the Rosary (if possible full Rosary - Glorious, Joyful, Sorrowful and Luminous)
- 1 Divine Mercy chaplet
- Pray the "Apostles' Creed" 33 times
- Pray the "Flying Novena" (Memorare) 9 times
- Confession whenever possible



CHURCH CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



CHURCH CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



GET TO KNOW AN OLPH FAMILY

Renju is originally from Changanassery, Kottayam, but went to school in Thrissur. He graduated with a BDS from Govt. Dental School, Calicut, and moved to New York in 2001, where he graduated with a DDS from New York University. He is currently employed by the US Army Reserve, where he holds the rank of a Major. He also has a private practice (Opal Ridge Dental) in Frederick, MD.

Tisha is from Ranni, Kerala, but moved to the US after High School, and lived in New Jersey. She graduated with an MSN from the University of Illinois. She currently works as a Family Nurse Practitioner in Frederick, MD. They lived in Illinois before moving to Maryland. They have two daughters, Isabel, who is in 3rd Grade and Suzanne, who is in Pre-K.

Renju's parents spend time between living with them and his sisters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Tisha's brother lives in Texas.

Something you love about the OLPH community:

- ★ Great Camaraderie, sense of belongingness and support in a faith based community.

Favorite Bible verse or phrase:

- ★ "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God" Philippians 4:6

Renju & Tisha Thachenkary

★ Isabel

★ Suzanne



Favorite family vacation spot:

- ★ Long Beach Island, NJ

Favorite family activity:

- ★ Hiking/Nature walks/Swimming/Boating

Renju and Tisha are very active OLPH Church members. Renju is a member of the Parish Council, Entertainment committee member and an OLPH Choir member. Tisha is a CCD teacher and member of the Marian Sangham.



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Share your thoughts

E-mail: newsletter.olph@gmail.com

[Click here to see past issues of OLPH Voice](#)

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