

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

Osterville, Massachusetts

76 Wianno Avenue
Osterville, MA 02655

Telephone 508-428-2011
Fax 508-428-0154
www.assumption-capecod.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Closed 12:30pm-1:30pm



Pastor Rev. Gregory Mathias

Deacons Rev. Deacon James M. Barrett
Rev. Deacon Keith R. Caldwell
Rev. Deacon Theodore E. Lukac

Director of Music
Dot Lortie, 508-771-1029; lortie@comcast.net

Director of Altar Guild Linda M. Gademan

Director of Faith Formation—GIFT
Bill Bussiere, 508-775-5744,x119;
Billb@olvparish.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Jim Hines, President; Meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Church basement at 5:00pm

Our Lady's Guild
Rosalyn Doran and Nuala Quinn, Co-Presidents
76 Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655

Knights of Columbus
508-775-4054

Bulletin Submissions
Notices must be received two Thursdays (nine days) prior to publication date. Listings subject to editing. Send to: kim@olvparish.org

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday: Vigil, 4:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am
Monday-Friday: 8:00am

Reconciliation

Saturdays from 3pm to 3:40pm
Regularly scheduled confessions are available in the Confessionals in the Church. Parishioners are asked to wear a mask due to the proximity of penitent and priest while in Confession

Baptisms

First Sunday of the month at 12:30pm
Please call the office to make arrangements.

Marriage

Congratulations!
Notice of intent eight months in advance.

Rosary

Monday-Friday, 7:35am



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

September 18 and 19

Sat 4pm Ralph Giordano
Sun 8am Louis Spinelli
9:30am Joseph Reidy
11am The Living and Deceased Members of the Habeeb and Rotando Families

September 20-24

Mon 8am For the Parish
Tues 8am Lee Healy
Wed 8am Jane Wilson Gebey
Thurs 8am Leo Gildea
Fri 8am Mary Alice Jannace

September 25 and 26

Sat 4pm Maude and Gerard J. Beaulieu
Sun 8am Mary Edmonds
9:30am Carol H. Recco
11am O'Brien, Cabral, Keander Families

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

September 18 and 19

Sat 4:30pm Ed Neally
Sun 7am People of the Parish
9am Maura Hitzenbuhler
11am Jessica Heydon
5:30pm Kathleen Spinney

September 20-25

Mon 9am Ed Neally
Tues 9am Carolyn Zona
Wed 9am Joyce Pasqualin
Thurs 9am Kevin Feeley
Fri 9am Rene Mondor
Sat 9am Community Mass
Helen Gately, Patricia O'Connell,
Veronika and John Starka, Danute Balta-Janson

September 25 and 26

Sat 4:30pm Anne Casey
Sun 7am Sylvia Mondor
9am Mrs. Dorothea Hurley
11am Elizabeth and Jack Heslin
5:30pm Michael A. Smolley

OUR LADY OF HOPE

September 18 and 19

Sat 4pm Pope Francis
Sun 10am

September 25 and 26

Sat 4pm People of the Parish
Sun 10am

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

We are blessed at Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Victory and at Our Lady of Hope to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the good works of our faith community with their time, talent and treasure. Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment to our Parishes.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

September 19: At OLV, fund collected will be used to help defray the costs of the **GIFT/Faith Formation** program. At OLA the collection is for **Parish Mission and Development**.

September 26: The second collection is for the **Cardinal Medeiros Residence**, the home to our retired priests.

Thank you for your generosity.

Electronic Giving

We understand this is a challenging time. If your means allow and you would like to mail your offering to the parish office, we are still checking our mail each day. We are also pleased to offer WeShare as a method to contribute electronically.

Visit our website:

<https://www.assumption-capecod.org/>
and see link to the We Share at the bottom of the homepage. *Thank you.*



Kindly remember in your prayers the recently deceased and all those who have asked for our prayers.

*Patricia Arnett
Ruth Callahan
David Silva
James Keville*

Today is Catechetical Sunday. We also begin another year of Generations in Faith Together (GIFT). What a great day to start our faith formation program here at Our Lady of Victory and Our Lady of the Assumption parishes.



Our Faith Formation programs goal is to give all of those who attend, the tools to not only grow in their faith but to help others grow in theirs. This is most important for families, as parents are the first teachers of their children.

Catechetical Sunday also gives us a chance to thank and pray for those who have helped us along on our faith journeys and to also give wisdom and strength to those who continue to do so. Our GIFT program has many great Catechists, but more importantly, what we learn at GIFT encourages all of us to be Catechists to those around us.

In Luke's Gospel 5:1-11 Jesus has this exchange with Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking.

Jesus challenges us to make every day Catechetical Sunday. We are to "cast our nets" of knowledge and love of the Lord and spread His word. The hope is to fill those nets so much that we need the help of others to bring them in. The Gospel reading ends with: Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

Thanks for joining me on my faith journey,

Bill Bussiere

Coordinator of Lifelong Faith Formation

Our Lady of Victory

Our Lady of the Assumption

First Reading

Wis 2:12, 17-20

The wicked say: Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

Responsorial Psalm

Refrain: *The Lord upholds my life.*

Second Reading

Jas 3:16—4:3

Beloved:

Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,
there is disorder and every foul practice.
But the wisdom from above is first of all pure,
then peaceable, gentle, compliant,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without inconstancy or insincerity.
And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who cultivate peace.
Where do the wars
and where do the conflicts among you come from?
Is it not from your passions
that make war within your members?
You covet but do not possess.
You kill and envy but you cannot obtain;
you fight and wage war.
You do not possess because you do not ask.
You ask but do not receive,
because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Verse

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel
to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mk 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise."

But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

St. Thomas Aquinas Prayer After Communion

I thank You, Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for having been pleased, through no merit of mine, but of Your great mercy alone, to feed me, a sinner, and Your unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion may not be for my judgment and condemnation, but for my pardon and salvation. Let this Holy Communion be to me an armor of faith and a shield of good will, a cleansing of all vices, and a rooting out of all evil desires. May it increase love and patience, humility and obedience, and all virtues. May it be a firm defense against the evil designs of all my visible and invisible enemies, a perfect quieting of all the desires of soul and body. May this Holy Communion bring about a perfect union with You, the one true God, and at last enable me to reach eternal bliss when You will call me. I pray that You bring me, a sinner, to the indescribable Feast where You, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, are to Your saints true light, full blessedness, everlasting joy, and perfect happiness. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Cancer Support Ministry: Please Join Us

The Celebration of Mass with Sacrament of the Sick will be held on October 4, 2021 in Our Lady of Victory Church at 6 pm. All are invited to attend this Mass as we pray together asking for God's blessings and healing health. Mark your calendars!

Thank You!

The OLA Saint Vincent de Paul Society, would like to thank all who donated to the Housing For Love second collection. The \$722 received will be combined with other conference collections to provide housing and prevent homelessness on Cape Cod.

Faith in Action Opportunity: Wedding Coordinators, A Joyful Ministry!

We are happy to offer a wonderful, rewarding ministry opportunity! We are looking for a few people to join our group of wedding coordinators. To learn more about the ministry, please contact Kelley, kjs@olvparish.org

Are You Dividing Your Perennial Plants This Fall?

The garden area in front of the statue of Mary at Our Lady of the Assumption will be replanted and refreshed. If you will be dividing any plants this fall and would like to donate them to this small garden area, please call Michelle Maher, 617-823-4914 to make arrangements.

Bible Study For All!

Tuesdays after Mass (9:30am-11am) and Tuesday evenings at 6pm-7:15pm
Come join us as for Bible Study in Room M1 at the OLV Office. Anyone contemplating attending the classes are advised to buy *Understanding the Scriptures, Didache Series, Parish Edition* (\$15) as well as having a Catholic Bible. This is the same textbook as last year, so if you have a copy, you don't need to purchase a new one. There will be copies of the book available in the OLV Office for purchase. We welcome those continuing with us and new members too! Any questions, contact Eleanor: 508-827-7926 or eleanorubaldini@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

K of C Council 2525, 500 Club monthly raffle
September winners are: \$250: Paula Valencia, Hyannis; \$100: Kevin Early, W.Hyannisport; \$50 each: Michael Silva, Hyannis; Paul Haley, Hyannis; Robert Archer, Centerville. You can join anytime for \$50.00 and you are in 12 consecutive Monthly drawings with 60 chances to win. Applications are available in the parish office or in the box outside of the K of C Hall entrance. FMI: email Council2525@yahoo.com or call 508-775-4054

GIFT Begins

September 19: 10:30am and 5pm and **September 26 :** 10:30am and 5pm. *Pick one session.*

Registration forms are available in the OLV Parish office or online OLVGIFT.com. Reminder that First Communion is a two year program that can begin as early as 1st Grade. Confirmation is also a two year program which can be started in 8th grade. The expectation is that students will attend all GIFT sessions with their family as well as all the additional classes and retreats. Please spread the word. For information, please contact Bill Bussiere, Billb@OLVparish.org

Faith in Action Opportunity:

Ministry of Hope at OLA and OLV

Are you looking for a way to serve your brothers and sisters in faith? Please consider joining our *Ministry of Hope*. You'll meet with families who have experienced a loss to help them plan a meaningful funeral for their loved one, and attend the funeral to assist as a greeter. Training is provided. Please contact Kelley at kjs@olvparish.org or Gillie at OLA, 508-428-2011, for more information.

Men's Spirituality Group: Working on Becoming Saints

Boy! Where does the time go! It is more than a year since the Men's Spirituality Group in Remembrance of Bobby Brown has met, but now our new pastor (Father Greg) has given us the green light to meet again. Deacon Ted Lukac will lead us in prayer and discussion. We will be studying the lives of saints to learn how they became holier and then have discussion on how we can emulate their great examples of love of God.

We will meet on the first Monday of each month from October to June from 7PM to 8:15 PM at the OLV Office, Room M-1. First meeting will be October 4th. It is a great day to start: the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi! All men of the parish of OLV, OLH and OLA are welcome. These men come from every walk of life and the only requirement is that you want a greater relationship with God. So mark your calendar.

Anyone needing a ride please call Dick LeJava 508-776-7194 and we will be glad to give you a lift. God bless and looking forward to another great year in sharing our unique faith experiences.

Annual Appeal at OLA and OLV

The Annual Appeal is underway. The Appeal will run through the end of the year. Donations may be made by check, credit card or pledge. Thank you for your generosity.

Annual Appeal

TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH!

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, Sep 19, 2021

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Let the Good News resound

Religion is often reduced to its most visible aspect: Sunday worship. But the church's ministry includes service, evangelization, healing, and teaching. On Catechetical Sunday we celebrate our mutual call to educate and instruct. "Catechize" means to echo or resound. Saint Paul once modeled for the Corinthians this task of "re-sounding" the Good News when he wrote: "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." Does your Catholic faith steer you when making decisions and weighing values? Does it bring consolation? Does it challenge you to sacrifice? Echo these riches to those you love.

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me."

Reading for the Week of September 19, 2021

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/
Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
[3]/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt
9:9-13
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8
[1b]/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b
[cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13
[cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45

Support Group Meetings—One Day at a Time

AA Meetings— **Our Lady of the Assumption**
Church Basement: Sun. and Wed., 7pm;
Sun., 5:30pm/Beginner Mtg
AA Meetings—**Our Lady of Victory - L.C.**
Monday – Saturday, 7:30am
Saturday, 7:30pm
AA Meetings—**Our Lady of Hope**
Monday, 7pm
Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30pm
NA Meeting—**Our Lady of Victory**
Friday, 7:30pm

Monday, Sep 20, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW KIM TAE-GÖN, PRIEST, AND PAUL CHÖNG HA-SANG, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Sound the depths of your faith

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Andrew Kim Tae-gön, the first native-born Korean priest and patron saint of Korea. He was one of an estimated 10,000 who were martyred for their Christian faith in Korea in the 19th century. The theme of the bicentenary celebration is "Are you Catholic?" because Andrew's "yes" to that question during interrogation cost him his life. The bishop of the Korean city of Daejeon said the theme "calls us to reflect seriously on our identity and our consistency as Catholics." Take this opportunity to consider what your Catholic identity means to you.

"No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed."

Tuesday, Sep 21, 2021

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

Let peace begin with me

The United Nations designates today as the International Day of Peace. It's also the feast of Saint Matthew—the evangelist whose list of Beatitudes includes the words "blessed are the peacemakers." According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the "<http://www.scborromeo.org/cc/p3s1c1a2.htm> are at the heart of Jesus' preaching." They "shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life" and are the "paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations." Matthew must have experienced such tribulations when he, as a hated tax collector, joined the other apostles. Be a peacemaker today, especially among people you're nearest to. "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."



Wednesday, Sep 22, 2021

Share the wealth
Power sharing and

collaborative ministry are thorny questions within church circles and many faith communities. Jesus can be our model and our guide, in this as in all questions. When he sent the apostles out he did so in pairs and "gave them power and authority." Add it up and it equals shared, collaborative ministry. Those who are sure of their own authority are able to share it freely and without fear. More ministries and leadership positions will open up in the church when those with power learn to trust the faith community the way Jesus did.

Thursday, Sep 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST

Be an everyday mystic

In a secular world that prizes material possessions, the mystical aspect of the church can captivate. Saint Padre Pio (1887-1968) certainly drew attention for his mystical attributes. A relatively obscure Italian Capuchin priest, he gained fame for reportedly displaying the wounds of Christ, called stigmata, and for his insightful (some called it psychic) abilities as a confessor. He spent up to 10 hours a day with people who sought guidance and forgiveness in Confession. Only a few of us become mystics, but all can seek holiness and insight. Today meditate and act on the path to holiness that God has placed before you. "Herod said, 'John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?'"

Friday, Sep 24, 2021

Grounded in a sense of belonging

In our Western mindset, we often think of land as "property," owned and available for human use. But if we hope to stem climate change, we need to realize it's really the other way around. The land doesn't belong to us; we belong to the land. Writes Pope Francis in his encyclical on caring for creation, *Laudato Si'*: "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone." How will you commit to the care of this land that sustains us in so many ways?

"In this place I will give you peace."

Saturday, Sep 25, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Ripe with possibilities

Jesus was born to Mary "in the fullness of time," as one scripture passage puts it. This rich metaphor of time ripening rings true to human experience. Think of the blessings in your own life, and how they have developed often from small beginnings or mere glimmers of hope: deep and lasting relationships, hard-earned insights, lifelong achievements and legacies. Good things take time, patience, perseverance, courage, and perhaps most of all, trust. Think of Mary's journey of trust in response to God's call, and make it your own. And may the blessings in your own life ripen in the fullness of time!

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD."

From Rome With Love

The blessing of the Most High is poured out upon us, whenever he sees a family of brothers and sisters who respect and love each other and work together. Amid all the discord that defiles our world, we may always be witnesses of peace. #ApostolicJourney @Pontifex September 13, 2021



Please Pray For A Priest Each Day

Lord God, Let us pray that our gratitude for those in ordained life may inspire us to serve with open hearts.



- September 19: All LaSalette Priests
- September 20: Rev. Arnold Medeiros
- September 21: Rev. Timothy Goldrick
- September 22: Rev. John Gomes
- September 23: Rev. Peter Graziano
- September 24: Bishop Edgar da Cunha, SDV
- September 25: Rev. Philip Hamel



Something to think about.
The Earth is 4.6 billion years old. Let's scale that to 46 years. We have been here for 4 hours. Our industrial revolution began 1 minute ago. In that time, we have destroyed more than 50% of the world's forests.

This isn't sustainable.

OLV GREEN TEAM
healthy holistic living






**Our Men and Women
in the Service**

Our parishes pray for those currently serving, at home and abroad, in the military.

PFC Grace Lehmann,
USMC
Captain Matthew R. Lutch,
USMC
Pvt. Jack DeLorey
RCT Patrick MacNeely
Warrant Officer Matthew
Plicque, USA
2nd Lt Peter Murphy,
Airborne
Chaplain Bob Monagle
Capt. Billy Murphy, USN
Cpl. Patrick J. Kelley
LCpl Andrew J. Kelley
LCPL Robert Connolly IV
Captain Sean P. Kelley,
USN
PFC William Russell Perry
Sgt. Jacob W. Morash
Capt. Jared A. Ripperger
PFC Cory Briggs
Lt. Kalen Kropa
Capt. Michael Mayo Taylor,
USA
Brig. General Benjamin T.
Watson, USMC
Major John B. VanderVoort
PFC Tim Strong, USN
LCDR Conor O'Neil
1st Lt. Hannah E.
MacLeod-Pryg USA
1st Lt. Lucas Pryg, USA
Warrant Officer Steve
Capt. Matthew Antil
Goodwin, USMC
2nd Lt Thomas O. Mullen,
USAF
Staff Sgt. Joseph Moore
Specialist Jake Bryan, USA
SO1 Michael Reeves USN
CO Rusty Williamson, USN
Cpl Alexander Kelsall, USA
Capt. Michael D. Crowley,
USMC
Capt. Christopher Roy
SPC Tucker McLoughlin,
USA
Lt. Robert Havens, USAF

Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Noddin
Poulin, USN
SFC Billy Farwell
Lt. Tucker Symes USA
Lt. Katherine Noddin
Poulin, USN
Lt. Stephen Noddin Poulin,
USA
Spc. Brooks Noddin Poulin,
USA
Lt. Cmdr. Catherine Long,
USN
Matthew Tutunjian, CG
QM2 Daniel-Lee Searfoss,
USN
Pvt Louis Barrett
Pvt 1st Class Michael
Bilodeau, USM
LT Marius Bernotas, USN
ENS Andrius Bernotas, USN
Capt. Tyler Jean Nauss,
USA
Capt. Sean Villano, USAF
Capt. Jonathan S. DeMille,
USA
Sgt. Evan Salvaggio USA
2nd Lt. Liam G. Furey, USA
Spec 4 Charles Furey,
National Guard, USA
Capt. Matthew Cavanaugh,
USA
Maj. Dennis Williams, USA
1st Lt. Ian Horkan, USA
Capt. Justin M. D'Olimpio
USAF
Maj. Andrew Ryan Wing,
USMC
Cpl. Brian J. Sullivan,
USMC



To add a loved one or to let us know when they are no longer serving:
kim@olvparish.org

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parishes



Peter Brady
Dot Ciborowski
Bill Cushing, Jr.
Nancyjane Fox
Chris Gallagher
Mark Garafano
Steve Gradie
Lorraine Gregoire
Robert Gregoire
Barbara Korkuch
Paul Lawson
Brenda Liakos
Barbara MacLean
Brad Martin
Joe Mooney
Griffin "Finn" David Munsell
Victoria Whalen
Beatrice Savio
Fred Williams
Michael Wixom

Residents of local nursing homes and the homebound
All Members of the Cancer Support Group

If you or your immediate family member need to be added to the list or removed, please contact, kim@olvparish.org. Additions to "Our Sick" list will be printed for three months.

*Almighty and Eternal God,
You are the everlasting health of those
who believe in You.*

*Hear us for Your sick servants for who we implore the
aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily
health, they may give thanks to You in Your Church.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



PRAYER SHAWL REQUEST

If you wish to request a prayer shawl, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket. You may also contact Theresa McDowell, 774-

219-2688; terrymcdowell@gmail.com

Name of recipient:

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Phone number needed for delivery of Prayer Shawl.

Mass Schedule

Although, we were scheduled to make a change to the schedule, *the present Mass schedule has been extended through Columbus Day weekend.*

**Beginning
Monday, October 11**

Our Lady of Victory
Saturday 4:30PM

Sunday 9AM, 11AM and 5:30PM
Monday-Saturday, 9AM

Our Lady of the Assumption
Saturday 4PM

Sunday 9AM and 11AM
Monday-Friday, 8AM

Our Lady of Hope
No Mass for the fall/winter



The word "catechesis" means "to echo." Literally, we are to echo the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. This is not a suggestion; it is a command of

our Lord. Some people are called and set apart in our communities as catechists, those formally trained and charged with passing on the Gospel to children and adults, inside and outside of our communities. On Catechetical Sunday, we acknowledge them and remind ourselves of the need for formation and growth in all of us. To be a catechist is a privileged calling, and today be sure to say "thank you" to one in your community.

However, it would be wrong on this day to only look to those bearing the NAME of catechist for an echoing of good news. ALL of us are called to echo and share the Gospel message. Parents are the first and primary catechists in a child's life. But we also are important catechists in the lives of our coworkers, our spouses, our relatives, and our friends. Some say catechesis begins in the home, and while that is true, it carries with it a parent/child connotation. But where does catechesis really begin? It begins in the HEART. This year on Catechetical Sunday, may your heart be moved to motivate you to share with others the good news of Jesus Christ.

The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life.

**There was a young girl
who wrote this letter to
God:**

*Dear God, I don't ever feel
alone since I found out
about you. Nora*



Have you ever wondered what it's all about? How do I find out about God? What does it mean to be catholic? Is there a process ? Yes there is, it is called the **Rite of Christian Initiation. (RCIA for short)**

The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome those who wish to become part of its faith community. The faith community of Our Lady of Victory and Our Lady of the Assumption strives to reach out to anyone interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic. This is always done in a manner where there is no pressure or obligation placed on a person to actually become catholic. Anyone seeking answers to their faith life can enter into a process where they, along with many others, search for God in a new and thoughtful way. Next session begins in October!

Come join us, if.....

You seek direction for your life....You or someone you know is hungering for a sense of belonging to God and to a Faith community.....You or someone you know is thirsting for a deeper experience of the heart when it comes to God and the Faith community.....You seek a new and better understanding of the Catholic faith.....You would like to be initiated into the Catholic Church.

We, as the RCIA team, do need your help. This process needs to be supported by the whole parish community. It is this community that supports and journeys with the candidates that seek to be come part of the full catholic community. With this in mind we invite any members who would like to assist in this process. Maybe to be a sponsor for one of the candidates by sharing your faith with them, to walk closely with them and lend your support. Maybe it is becoming part of the RCIA team to assist, when you can in helping prepare the candidates on their journey.

But most importantly there is something we all can do to be part of the process and that is pray for each one of the candidates as they head toward the Easter Vigil when they fully enter the Church and our parish community.

Now through our efforts maybe there is someone or one of us who does not need to feel alone anymore.

If you wish to join, help or just ask more questions, call Deacon Jim at the OLV Parish Office, 508-775-5744.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work, great satisfaction is achieved. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Then, be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have



things in common: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we

really desire is not the bolstering of our egos but the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, and to live peaceful lives with our sisters and brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:35b-37a

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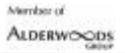
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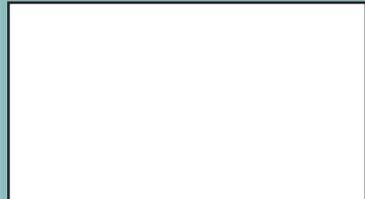
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