

December 27, 2009

Church of

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

559 PELHAM MANOR RD, PELHAM MANOR, NY 10803

Parish Office (914) 738-1449 ▪ *Fax* (914) 738-9454

Email . olph10803@msn.com - www.olph-pelhammanor.org

Rev. Robert J. DeJulio, *Pastor*

Rev. Abraham Vettiyolil, *mcbs Parochial Vicars* Rev. Oliver Offor
Weekend Associates

Rev. Edward T. Dowling, S.J., Rev. Gabriel Gonzalez, S.J., Rev. Michael Greco, OFM, Cap.

Mr. Joseph McQuade *Deacons* Mr. Daniel Murphy

Mrs. Jeanette Jackino *Parish Trustees* Mr. John Hanson

Mrs. Fabiola Brito Briseno, *Administrative Assistant*

Dr. Joseph Schippa, *Music Director*- Mrs. Elaine Ruggiero, *Organist*

Mr. Gabriel Gomez, *Buildings and Grounds*

Parish School

Pre-K – 8th grade

www.olphpelham.com ▪ (914) 738-5158

Mrs. Susan Cotronei, *Principal*

Religious Education Office

(914) 738-0670

Mr. Michael Hall, *Director*

Confessions

Saturday . 4:00 - 4:45pm & by appointment

Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month at 1:30pm. *Please call Parish Office to make arrangements.*

Marriages

There is a six month planning period required.

Please make an appointment with one of the priests for further information.

Devotions to Our Lady

Rosary . Monday - Saturday . 8:40am

Miraculous Medal Novena - Monday . 9:30am

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday evening 5:00pm ▪ *Sunday* 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am & 12:30pm

Weekdays (Mon-Sat) 8:00 & 9:00am ▪ *Holydays as announced*



Notes from the Pastor:

Dear Parishioners:

Today's feast of the Holy Family comes in the shadow of the joy of the Christmas event. There is a deliberate and strong connection between these two days that is applicable even today.

When God set in motion a plan to bring about the redemption of all people, there were an infinite number of ways that it could have been accomplished. The power and creativity of God are boundless and so were the options available. God knew that what would enable us to make the best connection with the Redeemer would be if he was 'like us'. The Church teaches that Jesus was like us in all things but sin.

The setting of a family was the way that God chose for the Redeemer to become known to us. It was in the context of that unique special relationship of people that he would come to be known first as the 'carpenter's son' and then as the 'Son of God'. The family in which he lived would give definition and support to his efforts and would enable him to experience on a human level the daily rhythms of family life. It is for this reason that we read in the Gospel that he submitted himself in obedience to his parents. This was the expected path for him to take.

Today it is not unusual to hear about families that are struggling to hold together. There are any number of reasons; marital difficulties, unemployment, health issues, children who are having difficulties. The list is extensive and I am sure that as you read this you may think of some yourself. The fact that families are working to resolve these issues is a positive thing.

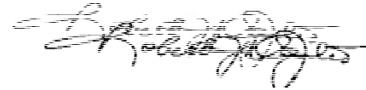
Change is not always easy and sometimes there are a number of changes that need to be made to keep making progress. In some instances, the family may not be able to remain intact and then a new list of concerns develops.

The feast that we celebrate today honors the reality that God designated that his Son was born into a family because he wanted to show the value

of this unique relationship. Just as that family wasn't always perfect, had to struggle to keep its focus, and faced the day-to-day struggles of life so too do families today.

The value of family life, as imperfect as it may be at times, is far too important to take for granted.

Sincerely,



Rev. Robert DeJulio
Pastor

THANK YOU

A special word of thanks and appreciation to those who make the Christmas season so wonderful.

- Our Music Director, Dr. Joseph Schippa; the OLPH Choir; and Organist, Elaine Ruggiero.
- Mr. Gabriel Gomez and Mr. Robert Thompson, our maintenance men who prepared and cleaned the Church and grounds.
- The Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Cantors and Altar Servers.
- The LaSala Family for the floral decorations in the Church.
- Mrs. Jeanette Jackino for decorating the altar.
- The Colangelo Brothers for the wreaths in memory of their parents, Tony and Mary Colangelo.
- To the organizers Lorri Gorman and Mary Henson, and participants in our Parish Giving Tree for a job well done.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The annual collection for Catholic University and Catholic communications will be taken at all Masses next Sunday.

MEMORIAL MASS

On New Year's Day the 9:30 AM Mass will be offered for deceased parishioners and family who have died during 2009.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 28

8:00 AM - Anna Derrico

9:00 AM - Luciano & Angela Bruno

Tuesday, December 29

8:00 AM - August Coppola

9:00 AM - Marguerite Duffy

Wednesday, December 30

8:00 AM - Antonio Fragoso

9:00 AM - Thomas G. Brady

Thursday, December 31

8:00 AM - Deceased OLPH Parishioners

9:00 AM - Maria A. Diaz

Saturday, January 2

8:00 AM - Helen Smith Cannon

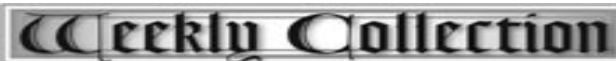
9:00 AM - Rev. Robert Dobbins, S.J.

WE'VE BEEN LAUNCHED

RECENTLY WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR NEW PARISH WEB PAGE THAT IS NOW LAUNCHED AND RUNNING. THE GOAL IS TO BE ABLE TO KEEP YOU CURRENT ON PARISH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.OLPH-PELHAMMANOR.ORG.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our parish baby bottle campaign will begin on Jan 17th. This campaign helps the work of Expectant Mother Care which assists new mothers and their babies. You have always been very generous and we look forward to another great campaign. We always need help. If you would like to help please call Joy Dechiaro at 914-803-0057.



Weekly Collection

	2009	2008
Collection for Dec. 13 th	\$9,898	\$9,379
Retired Fund	3,922	3,580

JANUARY 1ST – HOLYDAY

New Year's Day is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and it is a holyday of obligation. There will be a Vigil Mass at 5pm on Dec. 31st. Mass on New Year's Day will be at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am. Please note there is NO 12:30PM Mass.

The following letter is from Sister Marion Hughes whose work in Tanzania with AIDS Orphans we support during Lent.

Dear Parishioners of OLPH – my partners in Mission:

It truly has been a long time since I have touched base with you and I apologize for it. I am not going to offer an excuse except to say that days seem to be passing much more quickly in my old age.

There have been many highlights this past year – personal and ministerial. I celebrated my 50th anniversary as a Maryknoll Sister. There were marvelous opportunities to touch base with many I had not seen since leaving school or leaving for Africa. It is amazing how old friendships truly never died.

For the most part, the year went very well for us. No unusual surprises and the children stayed healthy as we were able to catch illness early on. Now all are on leave. Twenty four are awaiting the results of their seventh grade exams to see if they are accepted into secondary school. We ended the year by taking everyone to Butiama, the home of Julius Nyerere, first president of Tanzania. There is a museum as well as his childhood home, the house he and his family occupied and his grave. For many, it was their first trip outside of Musoma Town and for a few, the first time on a bus. All had lots of fun.

I believe that we as Christians are called to let go of what we hold necessary and trust that God's way is what we are being called to and through God's enduring love for us we will be blessed with a new heart and spirit. It is this trust which brings me back to each one of you who have given me the courage and strength in Mission. Knowing that you are sharing with me and praying for me gives me the hope for a better day for our children here in Tanzania. Thank you for your love, support and prayers.

May the blessing of Christmas be with each one of you.

Sr. Marion Hughes, M.M.



**The Story
Of the
Christmas Tree
“And this shall be
a sign to you...”**

**The Christmas tree traces its roots, so to speak, to many ancient customs. Before Christ, people decorated their homes with evergreen branches in hope that the short winter days would soon pass. In 16th century Germany, the custom began of bringing an evergreen inside and decorating it with apples. Called a ‘Paradeisbaum’, this tree was set up on December 24th to represent the tree of life. One legend suggests that a German minister, walking home one winter night, saw stars through the branches of a pine tree, calling to mind the angel filled skies above Bethlehem. He brought an evergreen home to his family and decorated it with candles to remind them of our Savior’s birth. German immigrants brought this new tradition to America, and Christmas trees grew and grew. Because the fir tree is ‘eternally green’ and because its triangular shape points to heaven, the Christmas tree is a symbol of our hope for the life everlasting
Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us.**