

January 3, 2010

Church of

# *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

**559 PELHAM MANOR RD, PELHAM MANOR, NY 10803**

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

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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 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

[www.olphpelham.com](http://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**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*





Dear Parishioners:

It seems that every Christmas season we hear stories of different groups or municipalities protesting the use of religious symbols on public property. The debates go on and people make their opinions known and ultimately a decision is made. The interesting thing is that often times they go after the wrong symbol, namely a Christmas tree, thinking it has some religious significance when in fact it does not. Those who object often want to live in a world that is devoid of any symbol of religiosity. Do you ever wonder why?

Symbols are common parts of our daily life. They provoke in us a response, a pattern of behavior, an acknowledgement of responsibility. Symbols are a non-verbal communication, taking the place of words, but powerful in their own right. The symbols are not of value in and of themselves but in what they cause us to do, how they make us react. The response we make is based on conditioned behavior patterns and re-enforced over and over again.

If we are driving along the highway and we see a police car sitting along the shoulder of the road, don't we look to the speedometer to see how fast we are going? How often do we see signs with a slash through a cell phone or cigarette to indicate that the use of these items is prohibited in a certain area? Signs that encourage us not to litter or to recycle are usually without words as well.

Today's Feast of the Epiphany involves a sign (a star) that leads three people to find the child Jesus. It is a completely nonverbal interaction between the sign and the kings, but it motivates them to

want to seek something beyond themselves and to fill a deep void in their life. That sign enables them to be in the presence of the Lord and has a transforming effect in their lives.

Each day we are called to be signs to one another of the constant and never failing presence of Jesus in our life. We may speak often on his behalf, but words at times can be quickly forgotten. What does make an impact is the way in which we choose to live. The sacrifices that are made within a family to sustain the common good, the generosity of spirit that compels us to reach out to others; the gestures of welcome and forgiveness that become part of our ordinary daily existence. All these are powerful non-verbal signs in a world that often is too noisy and sends conflicting messages.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert DeJulio  
Pastor

#### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

This is the time of the year when we hear about statistics for the year that has just ended. The coordinators of our parish Giving Tree have been keeping track of things themselves and I thought you would find it interesting. This year we had a total of 933 gifts. Of this total, 561 went to HOPE Community Services (275 for adults, 286 for children); 143 went to families in our Vicariate through Catholic Charities; and 229 went to the Wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed. Over the past 5 years, a total of almost 4700 gifts were collected with 2005 being the highest number at 1,070 and 2008 the lowest with 848. This certainly is an impressive record and a great tribute to the generosity of the members of OLPH parish. Congratulations on a job well done.

# Mass Intentions

**Monday, January 4**

8:00 AM - Vincenz Genius  
 9:00 AM - Edward Grant

**Tuesday, January 5**

8:00 AM - Miriam Sweeney  
 9:00 AM - Luke & Sabina O'Malley

**Wednesday, January 6**

8:00 AM - Nolan Cunningham  
 9:00 AM - Lucille Capalbo

**Thursday, January 7**

8:00 AM - Rose Barthel  
 9:00 AM - Richard Brown

**Friday, January 8**

8:00 AM - James O'Brien  
 9:00 AM - Genoveva Santa Teresa

**Saturday, January 9**

8:00 AM - O'Malley family  
 9:00 AM - Helen Kirby

**SECOND COLLECTION**

The annual collection for Catholic University and Catholic communications will be taken at all Masses this weekend.

**DID YOU KNOW....**

Our support of HOPE Community Service has helped to provide the following during the past year:

- 33,950 meals
- 17,288 bags of groceries totaling 466,695 meals
- Support for 1,700 families
- 

Thanks to all who helped to make this possible.

**FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Contribution statements for those who regularly use the parish envelope system will be mailed out in January so that you may have this information for tax purposes.

**H.O.P.E. SOUP KITCHEN**

The next scheduled cooking day for our Parish Chefs is Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The menu consists of frank and beans and a bag of salad greens. Food should be brought to the Church office where it will be picked up and delivered to St. Gabriel's Church. Please remember that all meals are for a minimum of 20 people. For information, call Geri Engstrom @ 738-1141.

**OLPH SCHOOL NEWS**

We are pleased to announce that Nicole Oodal has achieved Honors at Archbishop Molloy High School. This is just one more example of how well prepared the students are when they leave OLPH. Congratulations Nicole!

The Children of OLPH have been busy collecting food and coats for children and their families who are struggling in these difficult economic times. Three vans full of food and coats were sent to the Nepperhan Community Center and the Franciscan Friars missions in the South Bronx. Hats and mittens will be going to a Bronx Homeless Shelter.

## Weekly Collection

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Collection for Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>\$10,101</b>	<b>\$7,969</b>

***"Thank you for your generous support"***

**RESPECT LIFE EVENT**

In January 17th we will be distributing baby bottles to be filled with coins and donated to Expectant Mothers Care. In order to make this pro life effort successful help is need. If you can participate please Joy DeChario at 803-0057 for information.



## *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

*The Twelve Days of Christmas are from Christmas Day until the Epiphany (formerly January 6<sup>th</sup>). The tradition of giving a gift on each of the twelve days is pretty much gone but in some cultures it remains as a sign of the season.*

*There is a legend that says that the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' was written in England as a 'catechism song' that enabled catholic children to learn and sing about their faith in a country where it was not permitted to be Catholic. The words of the song had hidden Catholic meanings and the words 'true love' refer to God himself. The partridge in a pear tree refers to Jesus and the sadness He experiences over the people of Jerusalem.*

- 1.- *Partridge in a pear tree- The one true God revealed in Jesus*
- 2.- *Turtle Doves – The Old and New Testaments*
- 3.- *French Hens – The virtues of faith, hope and charity*
- 4.- *Calling Birds – The Four Gospels and/or The Four Evangelists*
- 5.- *Golden Rings- The 'Pentateuch' – the first five books of the Bible*
- 6.- *Geese A – laying – The six days of creation*
- 7.- *Swans a – swimming – The seven sacraments & gifts of the Holy Spirit*
- 8.- *Maidens A – milking- The eight Beatitudes*
- 9.- *Ladies Dancing – The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit*
- 10.- *Lords A – Leaping – The Ten Commandments*
- 11.- *Pipers Piping – The eleven faithful Apostles*
- 12.- *Drummers Drumming – The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed*

*As tempting as it seems, there is no substantive evidence to demonstrate that the song was created as a secret means of transmitting the faith or that this 'legend' is anything but modern day speculation. It does however make one think...*

