

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Community

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2009
Served by the Missionary Oblates of Mary
Immaculate

222 West Redoubt Avenue Soldotna, AK

Office Phone: 262-4749

Office Hour 9am-3pm Tuesday-Fridays, beginning November 2 —
Closed on Mondays

Parish Hall Phone: 262-5542

Web Site: - www.olph.cc

E-mail: olph@alaska.net

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

*We, the faith community,
accept the call of God to
participate in the mission of
Jesus Christ by
Proclaiming the Gospel
and living the reign of
God among us as disciples.*

		<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Marlys Verba	Parish Director	262-5542/262-4749 option 4 Home Phone: 262-8830	marlys.verba@gmail.com
Fr. Roger Bergkamp	Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	
Fr. Andrew	Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	andyomi@gmail.com
Fr. Joe	Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	joejdowling@yahoo.com
Bro. Craig	Pastoral Associate	262-4749, Option 3	cbonham0817@gmail.com

SUNDAY LITURGY: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and 11:30am

HOLYDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Noon and 7pm (see bulletin)

WEEKDAY Mass Schedule: Tuesday through Friday, 12:05pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday 12:45pm — Saturday 4:00 – 4:45pm

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays 12:30pm — Fridays Noon

Sacrament of Anointing of Sick: Available during the Sunday masses, or as needed.

Sacrament of Baptism: for children – Parents Prep class required. Call Marlys for reservations.

Best done prior to birth.

for adults – Contact the office about RCIA

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 month process (several classes and FOCUS Test and/or Engaged Encounter, or Couple to Couple...contact a priest.

Funerals: contact parish office immediately after the death

Prayer Chain: pjham@att.net, Pat Hamilton 262-5250

Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance Coordinator: Marlys Verba

Please Note: Submissions/articles for the weekly bulletin via email must be in by Thursdays at noon to Marlys: marlys.verba@gmail.com and you may send a copy to: csponsel@acsalaska.net

Advent Longing: Oh Happy Night

Longing for God creates powerful changes in our lives ... when we give God permission to transform our lives. Saint John of the Cross knows this well, and guides us through a dark night—perhaps illuminated with starlight—to receive God in our lives. Spend an evening with reflections to deepen your understanding of the Advent gift of longing for God, and darkness.

Pegge Bernecker is a local author, spiritual director, retreat leader and former campus minister who will lead us in our Advent mini-retreat.

Advent Longing: Oh Happy Night

Monday, December 14, 2009, 7:00pm

Feast of Saint John of the Cross

Year of the Priest: December prayer intention is for first Gift of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom. Wisdom “makes the soul responsive to God in the contemplation of divine things. Where faith is a simple knowledge of the articles of Christian belief, wisdom goes on to a certain divine penetration of the truths themselves. Built into wisdom is the element of love, which inspires contemplative reflection on these divine mysteries, rejoices dwelling on them, and directs the mind to judge all things according to their principles. (*Modern Catholic Dictionary*, Fr. John Hardon) For more information on Year of the Priest, **contact Joanne Biegel 262-2444.**

Retirement Fund for Religious—Religious face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today’s second collection. www.retiredreligious.org



A LOOK AHEAD:

Generations of Faith As a follow-up to the topic of “Anointing of the Sick”, on Wednesday December 16, we will have an anointing of the sick both at the noon Mass that day and at 7pm that evening.

December 14: Presentation by Pegge Bernecker at 7pm.

Supplemental CCD classes will meet this week at 10:15-11:15 in the hall; preschool to 6th grade. They will NOT meet next week, December 13.

"Calling all Bakers" On Dec 19th and 20th we will have another bake sale to help support the mission in Mukuru, Kenya, Africa. Please help us by "whipping up" some of your favorite "Holiday Treats" to share with your fellow parishioners.

Men's ACTS group December meeting is on the 19th in O'Neal Hall at 2 PM. Immediately following will be a potluck for the ACTS men and their families with Chinese gift exchange. Men are asked to bring a Christmas dinner side dish or dessert. Please call Mark Conway at 262-2200 for more information.

Music Ministry. The 11:30 AM Sunday Mass music ministry group is looking for an experienced drummer, guitarist, mandolin player and percussionist to join our group. Also needed are vocalists. Interested people please call **Mark or Maryna Conway at 262-2200** for more information.

I have a number of great Christmas CD's for sale. The Juneau ACTS group called Earthen Vessel has put together a great CD with spiritual songs. Great for Christmas gifts. A great buy at \$15 each. **Contact Alex Zerbinos at 260-4413.**

Christmas Schedule

Sunday December 20: The parish is invited to join the teens both at the 4pm Mass and the Los Posados afterwards. The Los Posados is a Mexican Christmas celebration which involves a procession reliving Mary and Joseph's search for housing; we will have a feast after the celebrations at the Hall complete with a piñata.

December 23: Cleaning/decorating of the church for Christmas at 1pm.

December 24: Children's Mass at 5pm, no adoration/reconciliation today.

December 25: Midnight Mass

December 25: Christmas Day Mass at 10am

December 31: No noon Mass; Vigil Mass at 5pm.
No adoration or reconciliation.

January 1: Mass at 10am

Calendar for December 14, 2009 – December 20, 2009, with Daily Readings

December 14, Monday: No Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Advent Longing Presentation, 7/9pm	December 15, Tuesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Teen music practice, 8pm	December 16, Wednesday: Anointing Mass Noon & 7pm Morning prayer, 7:30am	December 17, Thursday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Men's Group Breakfast 6:30am	December 18, Friday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	December 19, Saturday: 5pm Mass Reconciliation 4:00pm Music Practice, 1-3pm Bell Ringing at Fred Meyers 11:30/7:30pm Acts, 2-9pm	December 20, Sunday: 9:00am, 11:30am Masses
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9 Matthew 21:23- 27	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23 Matthew 21:28- 32	Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25 Psalm 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14 Luke 7:18b-23	Genesis 49:2, 8- 10 Psalm 72:1-2, 3- 4ab, 7-8, 17 Matthew 1:1-17	Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72:1-2, 12- 13, 18-19 Matthew 1:18-25	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Psalm 71:3-4a, 5- 6ab, 16-17 Luke 1:5-25	Micah 5:1-4a (12C) Psalm 80:2-3, 15- 16, 18-19 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:38
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: Thursday 12:30pm — Friday Noon						

Saturday December 19, 2009, 5:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Barb Dilley, Krys Williams

Lectors: 1st Reading; Jackie Swanson; 2nd Reading; Carolyn Cannava

Altar Server:

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 9:00am

Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Shazzetz, Shirley Twohy, Gloria Sweeney, Mike Sweeney, Thelma Antila

Lectors: 1st Reading: Barb O'Lena; 2nd reading: Eli Woodvine

Altar Server:

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Cindy Kircher, Dave Carey, Kate Forrest, Anna Laroche, Connie Gatling

Lectors: 1st Reading: Karl Kirsher; 2nd reading: Tamara Slone

Altar Server:

Mop & Bucket 12/14 — 12/19: Jim Truesdell Family **Collection Counters: 12/20:** Lynn & Gene Friendshuh

A DVENT SOCK DRIVE — I was naked, and you clothed me.-Matthew 25:36



This Advent, consider adding to your shopping cart a few pair of warm socks for the Brother Francis Shelter. A pair per week, or per day if you can, will help clothe our brothers and sisters who are homeless this winter. A Sock Drive Box will be set up in the foyer throughout the Advent season, please drop off as

many new, warm socks as you can — Let's fill the box! The socks will be taken to the BFS in January during a Foot Care Clinic. For more information, contact **Jen Ransom at 260-1678** or **Ruthann Truesdell at 262-4570**.

Christmas Shoe Boxes have all been picked up and sent. 120 boxes were sent this year from the parish. Thank you to everyone who participated in this yearly outreach effort. Thank you to RuthAnn Truesdell for coordinating the effort.

It's that time of the year again for the Salvation Bell Ringing. We as a parish for the last several years have volunteered to ring the bells at Fred Meyers at two entrances for two days. This year the opportunity is available on Saturday, December 19 and Tuesday December 22 — please consider participating as a family, with your Confirmation sponsor, with your grandchildren or by yourself as a way to help others in our community. The sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the foyer. More info, see Scott Earsley.

Christmas is right around the corner and if you are one of the shoppers who would like some fresh ideas on gift giving then let the SCRIP program help you. We carry many different retailers gift cards and in denominations that are great for stocking stuffers or people on your list that you would just like to thank this holiday season. Let your money work for you both by helping out our church and also by getting your shopping done quicker. The SCRIP table is in the foyer after every Mass for your convenience.

The signup sheet for the Christmas Eve/Christmas liturgies is posted on the bulletin board. Please fill in at ONE liturgy that you will be to able to help at by December 20th.

Father Tony Update

After months of tests and consultations with his doctors, it was determined that the only viable option for Fr. Tony is to treat his heart arrhythmia with a regimen of medicines (he is not a good candidate for surgery). With his medical condition in mind, the U.S. Oblate Provincial and his council have decided that Fr. Tony should not continue in this ministry on the Kenai Peninsula. He will remain with his family in Oregon for the holidays and will return to the Peninsula some time in January for a farewell celebration. (Further details will be forthcoming). Father Tony tells us that in February he will begin a 100 day renewal program for religious. Due to Fr. Tony's departure, Fr. Roger's assignment here on the Kenai has been extended through at least the end of 2010. You can pass your best wishes on to Tony at the following address:

Fr. Tony Dummer

17762 Dunn Road N.E.

Hubbard, OR 97032