

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Community

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 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

How to keep it going... the Total Consecration

I have been asked a number of times by various people how to keep the True Devotion going after those who have made the "Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary" last week and how do I renew my commitment each day?

That is an interesting question, because there are a large number of ways to do that. There is a super website by Fr. Lance Harlow of Bellow Falls, Vermont and his website: <http://www.echoofgod.com>. His commentary book on the True Devotion to Mary by Louis de Montfort is very good, but even more helpful for those who have already done the Total Consecration is the section of his website which is entitled "Monthly Supplement" and here is the web address for that: <http://www.echoofgod.com/id73.html>. There Fr. Lance Harlow has various practices offered each day of each month that will help you grow in your Total Consecration. Finally, if you look at his products part of Fr. Lance's website he offers a desktop calendar which will have a section of Montfort's book True Devotion to Mary for each day for the whole year. It is a simple way of keeping in contact with Louis de Montfort's thoughts and inspirations.

There are other ways too and the simplest was is reciting this short prayer each day: "**I am all thine, and all that I have is thine, O most loving Jesus, through Mary Thy most holy and Immaculate Mother.**" Pope John Paul II has a this intention abbreviated in his apostolic motto of "Totus Tuus" (which means "totally yours").

The real goal of this Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary is a pilgrimage to a deeper lived relationship with Jesus and Mary. Mary for me is the supreme teacher on how to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ and it takes a commitment each day to live it out, just like it takes each day a commitment to become a better spouse, parent or child and that is done daily by taking time to tell those around you that you love them and to express that care not only in words, but in loving actions. It is not that difficult to love, but we make it difficult because we do not want to be loving and that is our struggle each day.

How do I renew my consecration? Well, I say the "Little Crown" (if you need one then please see me, I have more) which I handed out each day or I say the "Angelus" (I have extra copies of this too) each day and I have a devotion to the Rosary. It is **rather a easy way** which I feel God called me to do, but I truly am living the Total Consecration when I treat my Oblate brothers (Fr. Joe, Brother Craig and Fr. Roger) in a kind and loving manner and helping the people here in Soldotna with kindness then I really know that my commitment to the Total Consecration is really being renewed each day.

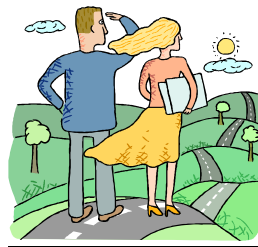
The Total Consecration for me is about **amending** my life each and every day and it is not always in some glorious manner when people will take notice, but in a simply loving way like Our Lady Mary did each day by simply loving Jesus and Joseph and ponder each day's mysteries in her heart. That is the beauty of this devotion because it helped me to ponder the daily mysteries that God sends my way and that I know deep in my heart that Mary is there to guide me to her Son Jesus, Our Redeemer.

If you have more questions and if you want to have a class on the True Devotion some time soon or a discussion or study group about Montfort's works, then please do not hesitate to ask me, email me or ask Marlys Verba to take your name down and I will bring your names and hopes to our Oblate Team of Fr. Joe, Fr. Roger, Brother Craig, because we are a team here and I need to bring it to them so we can work together in this project. I can not operate as an independent entity in sharing this devotion, because we are called by Oblate Provincial to be a "team of Oblates" working together for serving all of you. And I love this working together, because it helps me to live in the spirit of St. Louis de Montfort, and that is to practice "**obedience,**" is the first and most important step of Total Consecration.

Obedience is the gift that I have discovered through my reading and rereading the works of St. Louis de Montfort, and that is how St. Louis de Montfort has helped me to become a better Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

Blessings to you all.

In Jesus through Mary: Fr. Andy OMI



A LOOK AHEAD:

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.

Thank you to the families who participated in the Flower Remembrance for Christmas:

Please remember to pray for these loved ones during this Holy season:

Matt Johnson, Witte/Murray families, Wally Lahndt, Enid/Archie McLane, Bob Antila, Richard Ross, Charles and Jeroma Joy, Mike Hayes, Lisa Barrett, Hal Alsip, Rita and Brad Trombley, Joe Dilley, Mary Ellen Ninershiem, Rose Zerbinos, Cecelia Heier. Robert Fox, Margaret/John Fox, Fellman/Hoke families.

The Pointsettas may be picked up after the liturgy on January first.

Planning to get engaged during this Christmas Season, plan to receive a special blessing during the Midnight liturgy ; Check with Father Andy if you are!

Religious Give Thanks. Our parish contributed \$2,904.91 to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the second collection on 12/20/09. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, "We deeply appreciate this assistance, God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year." Women and men religious throughout the country send their abundant thanks for your donation.
www.retiredreligious.org

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. Bring a side dish to share; **DRESS WARM.**

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

December 24: Children's Mass at 5pm

December 25: Midnight Mass

December 25: Christmas Day Mass at 10am

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

January 1: Mass at 10am

Calendar for December 21, 2009 – December 27, 2009, with Daily Readings

December 21, Monday: No Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	December 22, Tuesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	December 23, Wednesday: Anointing Mass Noon & 7pm Morning prayer, 7:30am Decorate church, 1pm	December 24, Thursday: Children's Mass at 5pm Morning prayer, 7:30am	December 25, Friday: Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass at 10am Morning prayer, 7:30am	December 26, Saturday: 5pm Mass Reconciliation 4:00pm	December 27, Sunday: 9:00am, 11:30am Masses
Song of Songs 2:8-14 Psalm 33:2-3, 11- 12, 20-21 Luke 1:39-45	1 Samuel 1:24-28 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Luke 1:46-56	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14 Luke 1:57-66	Please see missals for readings and prayer options for December 24 and 25		Acts 6:8-10; 7:54- 59 Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17 Matthew 10:17- 22	1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28(17C) Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 1 John 3:1j-2, 21- 24 Luke 2:41-52

Saturday December 26, 2009, 5:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Barb Dilley, Krys Williams

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

Altar Server:

Sunday, December 27, 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 27, 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 12/21 — 12/26: Althea Uninko Family **Collection Counters: 12/27:** Pat & Myrna Cowan

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**.

This Saturday, eight of our students who have prepared for First Reconciliation received the Sacrament. Please continue to pray for these students and their parents as they continue preparati on for the First Eucharist: Gaylen Brantley, Christopher Conner, Mollee Verba, Faith Glassmaker, Alex Montequé, Cameron Blackwell, Candice Bowers, and Evan Stockton.

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 **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.

Thanks to Mizera plowing for clearing the parking lots this week.

Thanks also to Jose PonVives for the food preparation/serving at GOF last Sunday;

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