

The Parish Connection

The Parish Connection is now available on your school's website and at www.olph.ca

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8H 1Y7



September 2015

Regular Sunday Mass times: **Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sundays: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 pm.**

Dates to Watch

- **Sept. 23**– Holy Spirit School attending Mass at 9:30am OLPH Parish
- **Sept. 30**– Mass at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School 9:15am
- **Sept. 30**-7:00pm Registration Meeting for First Communion and First Reconciliation

CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAMS

"The Children's Liturgy Program will start up again September 13th, at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. The program is aimed at children ages 4-6. Please sign up in the foyer before Mass. If you are interested in volunteering with this rewarding ministry, please email **Heidi Nelsen** at bhnelsen@shaw.ca



First Reconciliation and First Communion 2015/2016



The Parent meeting for First Reconciliation and First Communion 2015/2016 will be held on September 30, 2015.

If you have any questions please contact Raylene at the Parish Office 780-467-5470

If your child has already prepared for First Communion please call the Parish Office to schedule a date for First Communion- 780-467-5470



Interested in going to WYD 2016?

Calling all youths and young adults above the age of 18 (on or after July 24, 2016) to 35 who are interested in going to World Youth day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. If you want to grow spiritually, travel to Poland and meet awesome people, then this is the group to be in. A second information session is being held on September 19 @ 1:30pm if you want to learn more.

If interested or have any questions, please contact **Jonhansel Ng** a call at 780-933-5988 or email jonhansel.ng@gmail.com.

Catechetics (Religious Education) Home Program

As we begin a new school year, we also think of religious instruction for our children. If you have a child who is not in our Catholic Schools, there is a Home program for Religious Education. Please contact Sr. Gertrude, 780-417-3526, for information and materials to begin the program. A catechist will journey with you during the year to provide ongoing support. As well we will offer home program families the opportunity to come together three or four times during the year, beginning with a session just before Advent.

Catechists for the Home Program

Would you consider being a catechist for the Home Program? This means connecting with one or more families to support them and help them when needed. Formation and support will be given to these catechists. Please contact **Sr. Gertrude** at 780-417-3526 or the **Parish office** at 780-467-5470.



Confirmation 2016 (Grade 6 and Older)

The Parent meeting for Confirmation 2016 will be held at OLPH Parish on Monday, October 17, 2015 at 7:00pm

If you have any questions please contact Raylene at the Parish Office 780-467-5470 ryuzyk@olph.ca



Youth Alpha @ ABJ Needs YOU! Did you know...

67% of youth who participated in Youth Alpha @ ABJ identified as "Christians" AFTER Youth Alpha compared to just 23% BEFORE?

These are amazing results! If you would like to be part of something amazing, consider becoming a Youth Alpha host. Training is provided. All you need is a heart for youth and a desire to make a difference. Youth Alpha @ ABJ begins Tuesday, September 15 and runs at lunch hour, 11:30–12:15, until November 24. To volunteer or to find out more, contact Alana at 780-922-8081 or alaperle@telus.net.

BAPTISMS



If for any reason your school aged child is not yet baptized and you would like to look into baptism for your child please do not hesitate to contact the church at 780-467-5470 or pastoralcare@olph.ca We would be most happy to help.



Young Disciples is a children's program that teaches about Jesus and the Catholic Church, while encouraging the development of long-lasting friendships. The JD Youth Group is a recent addition to the program and provides young teens with continued Spiritual growth through various acts of service, activities and fun times. In the 17 years since the group first began the children have prayed, sang songs, performed plays, had countless visits from priests and other guest speakers, watched movies about the saints, participated as a group in the Mass, played games, washed each others' feet, re-enacted the Last Supper and celebrated Seder meals, read the bible and memorized scripture, hosted concerts, drew giant rosaries in the parking lot, gone on field trips, participated in Pro-Life walks, baked cookies, enjoyed All Saints' Day costume parties, eaten snacks, and colored, pasted, painted, cut and hammered their way through hundreds of crafts. The children (AND adults) have learned much, laughed lots, made lasting friendships, gotten dirty, sticky, wet and unmistakably holy!

Young Disciples is an interactive faith program for children and teens that meets each Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8 PM in the church basement. The cost for a whole year of faith, fun and snacks is only \$40 per child, or \$100 for a family with 3 or more children. Classes will begin on September 30. Mark your calendars; we will be holding a registration night on **Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 6:30** in the basement of the church. Please watch the bulletin for more information or contact Marla W. at 780-464-1256 or email mwaldner@shaw.ca to learn how you can be involved. Your help is always appreciated and very much needed!



O.L.P.H. Children's Choir

Our children's choir has begun! Anyone wishing to join must be a strong independent reader and love music.

Our practices will be on Thursdays from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Our first practice is on September 25th. For more information call 780-640-6841 or 780-267-7529 or email raylineziegler@gmail.com



Senior Youth/Adult Choir is looking for you! Yes! You!

Are you talented at singing or playing an instrument and currently in Junior High, High School?

The OLPH Youth Music ministry would like to invite you to join their group. Come and have fun using your talents and meet some great people as well! To register and/or get more information please contact **Theodore Ng** tbng@ualberta.ca or **Billy Spindler** at bspindle@shaw.ca or call **780-467-1754**. We look forward to meeting you!



Joyful Hearts (SPA) Sing, Praise and Adore

Relax – Refresh – Renew – Reflect and Rejuvenate your relationship with God by your involvement in Joyful Hearts – SPA. Make a resolution to create time for you and your Friend God with SPA. This Praise and worship session will be led by youth. All youth are welcome. If you are interested in being part of this team please contact Fr. Antony at 780-467-5470 or_email acruz@olph.



ALTAR SERVER
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

Altar Servers (Grade 4 and older)

Are you able to share your time and talents in the service of God and the Church. Please consider volunteering as an altar server. An altar server helps during Mass. There is a training session to teach you what you need to do. If you are interested please contact

Father Antony at 780-467-5470.

Is that this weekend?

Don't miss another pancake breakfast, parish picnic or faith building event! Parish Link is YOUR link to everything that is going on at OLPH parish. New to the parish? We want to get to know you. Returning to your Catholic faith after a time away? We offer a soft landing. Looking for faith formation, volunteer opportunities or Christian community? We will send you timely information and reminders. Sign up today by visiting olph.nationbuilder.com and clicking on "Sign Up."

EICS Children's Choirs invites you to sing with us for our second season!

EICS Choirs welcomes students who have a love of singing. No prior experience is necessary. This opportunity offers children choral experience and a lot of fun!

The choirs, one for Kindergarten through Grade 2 and another for Grade 3 through 8 will rehearse once a week, Thursday evenings 6-7:15pm at St. Theresa Catholic Middle School with Conductor Elizabeth Driedger, music specialist. The choir will perform Christmas and Spring Concerts, as well as participate in local music festivals.

Would your child be interested in choral experience and a lot of fun? If so, please visit the EICS Website www.eics.ab.ca under Programs to download our brochure.

Registration is again **open** and we begin September 10th!

Please contact us today for more info!
eicschildrenschoirs@eics.ab.ca



Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before

us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen

Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom.
Pope John Paul II

Q & A with Father Antony

Pope Francis and our Environment

Laudato Si' Encyclical



Q. So what is an encyclical?

A. Originally, it was a circular letter; the term comes from the Greek word for a circle. The earliest papal encyclicals were sent by the pope of the day to members of the Catholic hierarchy, and sometimes only to those in a particular country.

Q. Is what the pope says about the environment held to be infallible?

A. No. Pronouncements held to be infallible are very rare and limited to matters of faith and doctrine. The last papal declaration indisputably regarded as falling into this category was in 1950. Whatever Pope Francis has to say about climate change or fossil fuels will carry great moral weight. But neither he nor the Vatican would claim his views on the environment are infallible.

The pope upholds the moral principle that people need to be concerned about the natural environment it will leave for future generations. He also turns it from a moral principle into a spiritual one. "This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal," he wrote. One who faces the question with courage is led to ask: "What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?"

"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others."

Our Responsibilities:

1. Accept and acknowledge issues with our environment: "Pope Francis criticized an attitude of denial toward climate change. We must come to grips with the sources of the environmental crisis.
2. Developed nations need to drastically change, not only their lifestyles, but also their methods of production and consumption.
3. The Pope calls for a variety of political changes, including "a true world political authority" that, among other responsibilities, would protect the environment.
4. Pope Francis said that a failure to respect creation is a failure to respect the Creator. How we relate to the natural environment reveals the respect we have for God"
5. Selfless Ecology-The actions of individuals and local groups are effective! "We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread"

What can I do?

- Recycle
- Buy sensibly
- Use green products
- Live a simple lifestyle
- Check out www.50waystohelp.com

The Guardian June 18, 2015, WCR June 29, 2015

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"
Saint Catherine of Siena