

Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Church Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2023

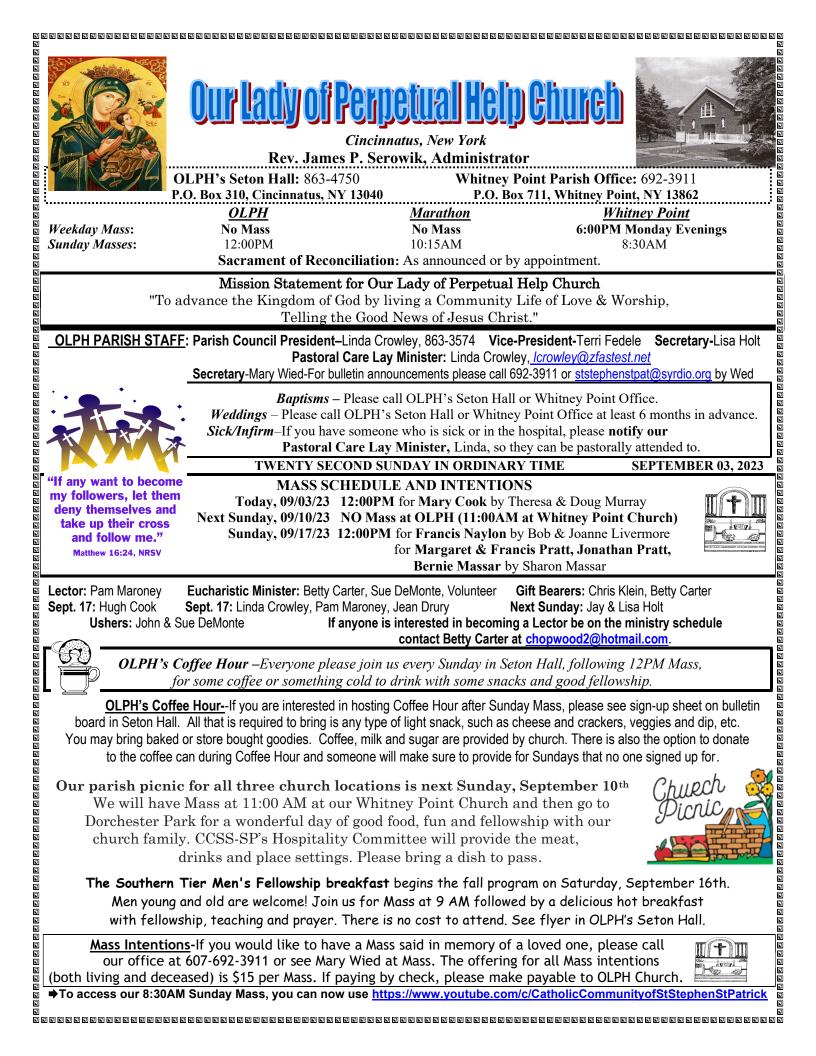
Pastor's Column - September 3, 2023

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we have to daily pick up our crosses if we want to be His disciples. This is not a very popular message in our world today. We seek to avoid pain and suffering at all cost. We don't like inconveniences in our lives and do not like having to do difficult things. Jesus tells us that discipleship is not an easy thing. It is not easy loving those who hurt and do harm to us. It is not easy to forgive as often as our God forgives us. It is not easy being compassionate in a world that seeks anger and revenge. Jesus invites us to daily follow Him by picking up and carrying our crosses, whatever they may be, for it is only by embracing our crosses that we can gain eternal life.

This Monday we celebrate Labor Day. It is traditionally the end of the summer season since school begins later this week for our young people. We take some time to thank God for the gift of work and realize that by working we are being co-creators with God. As we celebrate this late summer day, let us take some time to offer God a prayer of thanksgiving for all who work and for the gift of work. Next weekend is our Parish Picnic. We will begin with Mass at 11:00 AM at St. Patrick's Church. This is the ONLY MASS OF THE WEEKEND. We will then proceed to Dorchester Park for a fun afternoon. Make your plans now to attend this fun event. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there for this special day.

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and well wishes on my birthday last week. I really appreciate it. It is a privilege and pleasure to be here with all of you here at St. Stephen's-St. Patrick's and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parishes. HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

Fr. Jim



Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Prayer Chain - If you know of someone in need of special prayers and would like them listed on OLPH's Prayer Chain or if you're not on our prayer chain list of calls and would like to be, please contact Betty Carter at 607-863-3163 or email: chopwood2@hotmail.com.



Rural Services' Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items. Their biggest demand is for peanut butter & jelly and pasta & sauce. Items can be brought on Sunday when you come to Mass & put in the marked basket at the entrance of our church. Monetary donations are also welcome and can be marked "Rural Services" and placed in collection basket, or mail to Rural Services, P.O. Box 57, Cincinnatus, NY 13040.

Weekly Collection – Last Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023: Regular Collection: Envs: \$195. Loose: \$87. Total Reg.: \$282. **Bills Paid This Week:** \$1,542.64 (1,275.forWildlifeControl) Thank you for your ongoing generosity to our parish!

Next weekend is HOPE Appeal Weekend in the Diocese of Syracuse. It is a time when we join with members of our Catholic family to strengthen our Church and serve others in our community. You will receive a letter from Bishop Lucia asking for your support of the 2023 HOPE Appeal. Please review the information and prayerfully consider making a gift that is meaningful to you. You may bring your completed pledge card to Mass, drop it by the parish office, or use the return envelope with your letter. You can also make a gift online at www.syrdio.org.

The Catholic University of AmericaCollection:Sept.10th - The Catholic University of America is a national research university with 5.700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs on a residential campus in the heart of Washington, D.C. Founded by a papal charter in 1887. Catholic is the national university of the Catholic Church in our country and strives to educate future generations of leaders through an excellent education grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition. The collection is a critical pillar of support for students and the entire University community. Since OLPH has no Mass next Sunday, we will take this collection on September 17th. Please place your gift envelope in with the regular collection.

Broom Sticks-You probably thought it odd that someone was asking for broom handles, etc. It was my intent to turn them into walking sticks to aid those in the community who were having trouble walking. They are easy to make. Just get a rubber care tip (pharmacy) to put on the bottom and a hole can be drilled in the top to attach a cord for hanging. Gift one to a person in need. It should be used on the side of the stronger leg. The stick and the weak leg step forward together. I will still take any spare sticks. If you need any help I can be reached at 607-863-4289. With God's love, Ellie Auberger

LABOR DAY BLESSING (from USCCB.org)

As the sun rises to bring in the new day:

We remember those who descend into the earth, their work begins in darkness, pulling from the earth, the resources we steward. We remember those who work inside a building away from the light and brightness of the day.

We remember those who work outside in the harsh elements of our world, the bitter cold and sweltering heat of extremes.

We remember those who do not have a job to go to, who are struggling to meet the needs of their

daily living expenses, for whom the day becomes long and arduous.

As the sun sets to bring in the evening of rest:

We remember those who work in the night.

We remember those who are trying to recover from their labor and toils of the day.

We remember those who participate in unsafe and dangerous work.

We pray for a renewed sense of dignity in their lives and in their work.

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the worker. Make a place in our hearts for

compassion to the men and women who labor tirelessly for basic necessities. Ensure a place for the

men and women who are struggling to find work. Grant us your wisdom to greet and care for those who are unable to work due to illness or circumstances that prevent their participation. Be with the children who are not able to run and play, but instead must put in a hard day's work to help their family afford to eat, to live. Be with us all, Christ Jesus, as we go about the busyness of our work. Hold us accountable not only for our actions, but most importantly to each of our neighbors. May we continue to work together to bring about your reign! We ask this in your holy name, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Newcomers & Current Parishioners: WELCOME! If you would like register, receive contribution envelopes, Catholic SUN, have a change in address, marital status, etc., please fill out small blue form by the bulletins & drop it in collection basket.



Ø

Ø

Soothe Your Soul - Did you know St Mary's Marian Chapel, N. Main St., Cortland, is open daily from 8 AM to 7 PM for personal prayer? A visit will renew and refresh your being. Stay for a while or stop in for a short prayer. Let God's Peace envelope you each and every day of the week.



gíve yourselves fully to the work ofthe Lord ...