

Ministries & Groups

PARISH SACRAMENTAL LIFE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Lady Star of the Sea's (OLSS) Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P. formerly CCD) provides religious education to children of the parish in grades PK through 12th, as well as sacramental preparation and programs for children and teens who need Baptism or are behind in the sacraments. Our program's value is based on Tradition, Virtue and Excellence (our call to holiness). Live out your call to holiness by getting involved! Contact Joanne Pensenstadler at youthministry@olss.org or 410-326-3535 for more information.

RCIA

RCIA is the process through which persons join or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. The program exists to guide inquirers as they consider entering into the Church and does so through formal catechesis in a supportive and welcoming environment. Those who are interested in becoming Catholic are encouraged to contact Joanne McCoy at joannemccoy@comcast.net or 410-394-2605 to learn more.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Catholic parents are responsible for the proper formation of their children, which of course, begins with ensuring that they are baptized. While primary responsibility rests on the parents, as a community of faith, we are all shareholders in the sacramental life of our parish. Walk alongside those preparing to baptize their children and help them understand the pivotal role of the family in forming children in the faith. Contact Deacon Chad for more information.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Walk alongside couples preparing for the sacrament of matrimony here at OLSS. Help these couples navigate the exciting and somewhat stressful months leading up to their big day. Create a support network the help our brides and grooms to be grow in their relationship before they exchange "I do's" and in the chapter to follow. Contact Deacon Andy for more information.

OUTREACH & DISCIPLESHIP

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Join fellow parishioners willing to share the faith through education and the New Evangelization effort. The Evangelization Committee meets on a monthly basis and/or when there is an ongoing project underway. Upcoming Evangelization Opportunity: Calvert Country Fair (Sept 29-Oct 3) See the Evangelization table for more details

OLSS PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Mission of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is to provide a tangible reminder of God's love to those in need. We use our time and God-given talent to create shawls, baby blankets and lap robes while praying for the recipient. In praying, we ask for physical, mental and spiritual healing, as well as peace and comfort for those suffering from a serious illness or injury, those grieving the loss of a loved one and those confined to homes. Shawls are blessed and presented to those in need of comfort and solace, but also in celebration and joy. This offers not only a material gift, but time and love that went into creating it. Contact the parish office to get involved.

BELIZE MISSION TEAM

The OLSS Belize Mission Team supports St. Peter Claver Parish and Little Flower School in Punta Gorda, Belize. Prior to the pandemic, our team traveled to Belize annually to complete improvement projects for our sister parish. The team continues to support improvement efforts through the sale of traditional Belizean items. Even from afar, the team continues to make a difference! Stop by their table to learn more!

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), St. Mary's County Chapter is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization located at 21797 North Coral Drive in Lexington Park. We are volunteers who build beds for kids ages 3-17 who don't have a bed of their own in St. Mary's and southern Calvert counties. All beds are delivered with NEW bedding – a pillow, twin sheets, and a comforter. All sponsorship money is tax deductible, remains local, and goes toward improving the well-being of kids in southern Maryland. Volunteers are always needed to help assemble and deliver beds to local families. Contact Debbie and Gary Faller at deborah.faller@shpbeds.org to learn more.

OUR LADY'S ROSARY MAKERS

We make rosaries that are presented to those receiving the Sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion, to the Masses on Holy Days, and to those looking for a way HOME. This year, with your help, we are hoping to expand to include the Sacrament of Matrimony, our local nursing homes and 2 veteran homes. Join us and be an instrument of God's love. Contact Barbara Humphreys to learn more (grandmommykk@gmail.com).

SPIRIT & LIFE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We meet at a home at 1 p.m. every Tues. We encourage open prayer and Holy Spirit led sharing and Bible insights. Our goal is a closer personal relationship with Jesus. Please contact Joe Hamilton to learn more at joeh2@comcast.net

SMILE ECCUMENICAL MINISTRIES

SMILE is an all volunteer ministry formed in 1991 by 11 area churches and includes OLSS. We operate a thrift store that generates revenue to fund our operations along with private donations and grants. We operate a food pantry that provides free food each week. We also have numerous other programs to help those in need including clothing, home goods and financial and medical assistance. Our greatest need at this point are more volunteers to allow us to continue to serve the community.





OUTREACH & DISCIPLINE

SAFE NIGHTS

This is an ecumenical effort of many churches throughout Calvert County to offer a warm and safe place to sleep for our homeless population during the cold winter months. Our Lady Star of the Sea participates by supplying volunteers at one of the Host Churches. Typically, our commitment is for one week, however, last year we assisted other churches during their weeks. Volunteers are needed to fix, deliver, and serve meals; assist with setting up and cleaning up of the sleeping areas at the beginning/close of the week; evening hosts signing the guests in the evening and staying until the overnight monitors arrive; and overnight monitors (staying awake overnight). Contact Judy Angelheart, our parish liaison, for more details jangelheart@hotmail.com or 240-925-6565.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

As the hospital and our many elder care facilities begin opening up and loosening covid-19 restrictions, we find that we are once again able to minister to the many individuals in our parish community who are homebound. With that said, we are reinstating our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and could use your help. If you have a deep love for the Eucharist and a strong desire to serve and connect with those in our community, then this is a perfect opportunity for you. Training is required. Please contact the office for additional information.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Right to Life of Calvert County is a collective effort of people in our area who are passionate about promoting and defending the sanctity of human life. The group will be represented at the Calvert County Fair (Sept 29-Oct 3) and could use your help! This is a wonderful opportunity to educate those in our community, particularly the youth, about the value of the human person at every stage. For more information, please contact Susan Ude at shrockinsurance@comcast.net.

OLSS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our four garden boxes were donated and built by our local Sierra Club members with the understanding that all food harvested must be shared, not sold. So, technically we did just that by feeding a very hungry groundhog. However, we are hoping to put up fencing to keep our local wildlife out. The garden is semi-seasonal with spring planting and watering, summer weeding, and watering and harvesting, fall planting and watering, fall weeding and harvesting, Late fall clearing and covering in preparation for the next season's planting. Many hands make light work, especially in the garden. Contact Judy Angelheart for more details jangelheart@hotmail.com or 240-925-6565.

THE LITURGY

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers perform a very important and much needed role in liturgical services. This role includes assisting the presider so that the liturgy can be conducted with grace and reverence. It enables the presider to focus on leading all present through word, prayer and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The activities of the altar server include carrying lighted candles, holding books, vessels and other liturgical items, assisting during Baptisms, funerals, and weddings. Girls and Boys in grades 5 and up are encouraged to consider serving. Contact Seminarian Conor at hardyc@adw.org for more information.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Assist the priest and deacons during the Liturgy of the Eucharist with distributing communion to the people. This is a very important role and does require training. Contact the office if you are interested in serving.

SACRISTANS

Sacristans prepare the church for liturgy by helping the pastor to set the altar for Mass. They are available to help the priest and deacon as needed. Sacristans are needed for both daily Masses and weekend Masses. Serve on your own schedule. Training is provided. Contact the office if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

LECTORS

Proclaim the word of God joyfully during the Liturgy of the Word. Lectors read either the first or second reading and have their choice of Masses to serve at. Lectors are on a rotating schedule, typically serving at Mass 1-2 times per month.

To lector at our **Weekend Masses**, contact Joe Suarez-Murias at joesuarezmurias@icloud.com.

To lector at our **Daily Masses**, contact Virginia Brickey in the parish office olstar-sea.md@adw.org

OLSS CHOIR

The Choir at OLSS supports the liturgies at 2 Masses each month and at Christmas and Holy Week. Membership is open to all who share a love of music and a love of sung prayer. No prior choir experience is needed, just a willingness to learn and support your fellow choir members at rehearsals and at Mass. The choir enriches the liturgy and worship and supports the assembly. The OLSS choir meets on Wednesdays from September to June from 7:00-8:30 PM in the parish church. At this time, only vaccinated members may attend rehearsals. Please contact Georgia M. Harvey at keyofgmh@gmail.com for additional information.





COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP

GREETERS

Greeters welcome families to Mass each weekend, holding the door and sharing a warm greeting as families enter the church. Greeters are on a rotating schedule. Please contact Dee Hoofnagle at 410-474-5070 for more information or to be included in the next schedule

COFFEE & DONUTS

Help us cultivate community here at OLSS by assisting with our Sunday Coffee and Donuts. Help is needed after the 8am and 11am Masses. You will assist with the set up and clean-up. Serve on a rotating schedule alongside others who are passionate about creating a welcoming space for parishioners to engage in fellowship. Contact the office to get involved.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry at OLSS strives to invite youth into the parish and to be a community of intergenerational accompaniment. Youth Ministry celebrates God's love all around us through spirituality and service to our neighbors. It fosters transformative experiences in order to provide youth with the tools needed for a life of faith and action in the universal Church. Contact Joanne Pensenstadler for more information at youthministry@olss.org.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS - TROOP 1888

The American Heritage Girls Program enables your daughter to grow in her FAITH, cultivate a heart for SERVICE, and have more FUN than she can imagine! AHG focuses on providing progressive level programming rich in opportunities for girls of all ages and abilities. With each AHG Level, girls are introduced to new skills, badge work, service projects, and outdoor experiences unique to a female audience. Girls develop physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually through the support and encouragement of other fun-loving girls and engaging AHG volunteers. EXPLORER ages 9-12 PATRIOT ages 14-18 TENDERHEART ages 6-9 PIONEER ages 12-14 For more information on starting your daughter's journey with American Heritage Girls visit americanheritagegirls.org.

BOY SCOUT - TROOP 427

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life". Boy Scout Troop 427 offers a healthy balance of service, responsibility, and adventure, encouraging boys to serve their community, challenge themselves, grow as leaders, and strive to make a difference. Boys have the opportunity to try new things, learn pertinent skills, and build quality friendships. Troop meetings are Monday nights. Please contact Beth Oster at matteobeth@msn.com for more information.

WITH GRACE MINISTRY FOR MOMS - NEW GROUP!

With Grace Ministry is a new ministry at Our Lady Star of the Sea. It offers a fellowship opportunity and support network for fellow "mom parishioners" of all ages and stages of motherhood. The goal of this ministry is to support each other in our personal spiritual growth and roles as mothers in a way that is feasible for our busy schedules! The group will meet twice a week online for fifteen minutes (Tuesday, 2:00 PM and Thursday, 8:30 PM) to accommodate different schedules and once a month for social gatherings (date and time TBD). Other activities will evolve as the group grows! Contact JoEllen Byrnes at withgraceministry@gmail.com to get involved.

WOMEN OF WORSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Women of Worship annual prayer breakfast offers a morning of reflection and fellowship to the ladies of our parish and local community. The morning consists of opportunities to connect with others, share and hear personal testimonies and experiences, and simply press pause on the the chaos of life for a personal recharge. This annual tradition is hosted by a group of wonderful ladies who work together to coordinate a powerful experience for all those present. If you are interested in helping with this ministry or learning more, please contact Nancy Scott at nansago@comcast.net.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

We meet once a month from Sept through May. Women of our parish are invited to join us. This year we will view a video (The Goose is Loose) about the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Our first meeting will be Tuesday Sept. 14th at 10:00 AM in the parish church parlor. Contact Jayne Hopkins 410-279-1991 jhopkins680@comcast.net or Anne Etzel 443-684-0326, anneetzel1948@gmail.com for more information or to Sign Up.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9258

Knights of Columbus is home to men of faith and charitable action. Through fundraisers, events, service projects, and more, members of the Knights of Columbus strive to make a difference in the local community. Council 9258 supports a number of local charities and groups including Habitat for Humanity, CareNet, and the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The council offers an annual scholarship to graduating seniors and often steps up to support parish initiatives and projects that arise. Catholic men aged 18 and older are welcome to join. Please contact Vince Maldonado, Grand Knight, at tugschoo@gmail.com for more details.



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Parish Office Help
Weekly Offertory Counters
Parish Church Cleaning
Historic Church Cleaning
Church Linens
OLSS Gardening Angels (Grounds Ministry)

Sign-up sheets for these opportunities will be available at the Ministry Fair