

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church



3570 KING WILLIAM AVE • WEST POINT VA 23181



PASTOR

Rev. Oscar Paraiso (804) 843-3125 ext. 102
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oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org
pastormcneill@gmail.com

RECTORY

(804) 843-4231

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Dr. Kevin McKeever (973) 983-0511
conorlew56@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pam Watkins (804) 843-3125 ext. 101
Hours: Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org

BUSINESS MANAGER

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MUSIC DIRECTOR (INTERIM)

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PRESCHOOL TEACHER/DIRECTOR

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preschool@olbs-catholic.org

VAN DEN BOOGAARD HALL RENTALS

Janice McGowan (804) 843-2870
hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER

By Appointment (757) 585-8227

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
(also by appointment)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday and Tuesday in the
Mercy Center Chapel

FIRST FRIDAY BENEDICTION AND ADORATION

In the church at 6:00 p.m.
(followed by the Most Holy Rosary
at 6:30 p.m.)

RECITATION OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

6:30 p.m. (every Friday in the church)

INFANT BAPTISM

Parent preparation classes are
required for each couple planning
to have their baby baptized.
To schedule a preparation session,
please call the church office.

MARRIAGE

OLBS sponsors a preparation program
for couples who intend to marry.
The Pastor must be contacted at
least six months prior to the date
of the wedding.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Those inquiring into the Catholic
Faith or seeking communion with
the Church are invited to contact
the Parish Office. Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered.

HOME VISIT WITH FATHER OSCAR

To schedule, please call the church
office at the number below.

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Spanish Mass 4:00 p.m.
(first Sunday of the month)

WEEKDAYS

Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 a.m.
Friday 5:00 p.m.
(followed by the Rosary —
first Friday of the month
is followed by a holy hour)

HOLIDAYS

8:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Parish Offices

CONTACT

207 W. Euclid Blvd.
West Point, VA 23181
p: (804) 843-3125 • f: (804) 843-9158
Parish e-mail: olbs@olbs-catholic.org
Parish website: www.olbs-catholic.org

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
February 22nd & 23rd, 2025

Saturday, February 22nd **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME***

4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:00 pm Mass offered for Deceased Members of
The Kopacki Family
 Requested by Virginia Kopacki

Sunday, February 23rd **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME***

9:00 am Mass for Ralph "Tripp" Racioppi (RIP)
 Requested by Pat & Wini Barron
 10:15 am Religious Education Classes
 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
 10:15 am **Parish Council meeting (MC)**

Monday, February 24th

No Mass

12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel

Tuesday, February 25th

No Mass

12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel

4:30 pm Adult Bible Study (MC)

Wednesday, February 26th

No Mass

6:00 pm **Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, February 27th

No Mass

6:30 pm **Finance Council meeting (MC)**

Friday, February 28th

No Mass

5:30 pm Most Holy Rosary

Saturday, March 1st **EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:00 pm Mass offered for David Seckora (RIP)
Anniversary of Death
 Requested by Joe and Linda Drexler

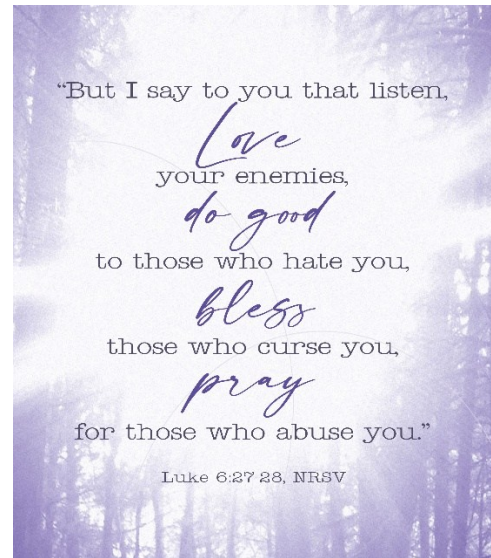
Sunday, March 2nd **EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

9:00 am Mass offered for Mike Pausic (RIP)
 Requested by Rose Marie Jesion
 10:15 am Religious Education Classes
 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
No Spanish Mass (Father is away)
 6:30 pm **Youth Group Meets (VDB)**

(MC) Mercy Center (VDB) van den Boogard Hall (Parish Hall)

* Color of letters indicates vestment colors for that Sunday or Saint's feast day. If no color, vestments are white.

Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.
 LUKE 6:36



Father Oscar To Philippines for Brother's Funeral

With the sudden passing of Father's brother, Nelson "Boy" Paraiso, he has traveled home for the funeral. There will be no daily mass from February 18th through February 28th. Our condolences to you and your family, Father.



Due to Father Oscar's absence, there will be no Spanish mass on March 2nd.

Both the Parish Council and Finance Council meet this coming week at the Mercy Center conference room (times listed to the left). Parishioners are welcome, even encouraged, to attend.

Old Palm Branches Needed
 In preparation for Ash Wednesday, March 5 this year, old palm branches are being collected which will be burned to produce the ashes used that day. Please drop off your old palms in the basket in the foyer.

Lenten Dinners Planned

Once again, the Knights of Columbus are planning Lenten Fish Dinners. Tickets are available after all masses for \$15 each or call 804-512-9701.

Save the dates:

March 7	Fried flounder
March 21	Fried shrimp
April 4	Flounder, shrimp, & Crabcakes

Religious Education



Religious Education Classes are held Sundays at 10:15 am.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study: Join us at 4:30 pm (MC). We are studying the book of JOB.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: Join us for our next Bible Study, "Mary" with Dr. Edward Siri. There is so much to know about our heavenly mother, and this study will reveal so much. We meet after the 9 a.m. Mass in the front foyer of the hall.



Open to all 6th -12th Grade.

Our next Youth Group will meet **March 2nd**.

Christ is Alive!! 6th Annual Essay Contest-

Open to children in grades 3-8th grade! You or your child may pick up a detailed information with rules from their religious ed. teacher or Mrs. Hayden. The topic: Describe a moment in the last year when you felt close to God? Deadline for turning the essay in will be by Sunday, March 23rd. Two winners will be selected from each grade level across America! Prizes to be awarded.

Update on Logan Chestnutt-

Logan is back home all done with Chemo treatments! He responded well to all his treatments with a few bumps in the road. The next phase to Logan's treatments is radiation. The family is so thankful for all of the parishioners' prayers and generosity. The light is starting to show at the end of the tunnel.

Vote for Our Parish!

Please vote for our parish! Share the Love Giveaway, and we need YOUR help! One Catholic school or parish will win an **amazing collection of faith-based educational toys**—a prize worth over **\$500!** That means one lucky community will receive **almost one of everything** to help kids **learn and grow in their Catholic faith**. Please type in the link:

<https://www.saintlyheartco.com/pages/share-the-love>

Put in your name, email and vote by putting in our parish name.

👉 **Spread the word** - The more votes, the more chances.

🕒 **Hurry! Voting closes on March 4th**



Hello church families, greetings from OLBS preschool! We hope everyone can see Spring in the near future 😊 We are having a great year at preschool and are enjoying even some winter fun. Our Fall registration has opened to our current families and alumni and is now open to the church parish. If you have a child or family/friend that may be interested in our 3 or 4 year old preschool program for the next school year, please reach out. The preschool office is 804-843-4177, please leave detailed message and I will return your call and get a form to you. There are very limited spots in the 4-year old class but many in the 3 year old class. Please get a registration form and get it back to us **before March**. In March our registration will be open to the community 😊 Blessings, Miss Vangy



I Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son Our Lord –

From this loving knowledge of Christ springs the desire to proclaim him, to "evangelize," and to lead others to the "yes" of faith in Jesus Christ. But at the same time the need to know this faith better makes itself felt. To this end, following the order of the Creed, Jesus' principal titles - "Christ," "Son of God," and "Lord" (*article 2*)-will be presented. The Creed next confesses the chief mysteries of his life-those of his Incarnation (*article 3*), Paschal mystery (*articles 4 and 5*), and glorification (*articles 6 and 7*). **(851) (CCC 429)**

Collection for February 8 & 9, 2025

Total Offertory	\$ 4,818
Debt Supplemental Collection	\$ 1,271
Votive Stand	\$ 66
Cultural Prayer Gardens (Raffle)	\$ 173
Other	\$ 122
Total received this week	\$ 6,450

Budgeted weekly average parish need \$ 4,596

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign	\$ 285
Maintenance Fund	\$ 183
Poor Box	\$ 16

Thank You for Supporting our Parish

Attendance

February 15	Saturday	5:00 pm Mass	66
February 16	Sunday	9:00 am Mass	135



STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross assigned leaders for the following Fridays of Lent:

- March 7 Liturgy Committee
- March 14 Knights of Columbus
- March 21 Hispanic Community
- March 28 Facilities Committee
- April 4 Parish Council
- April 11 Cemetery Committee
- April 18 Finance Committee

A Message from Finance Council Chair Rich Duke

Unfortunately, our parish was recently the victim of check fraud. Someone created 11 fraudulent checks, totaling approximately \$37,000, that were drawn on our parish account. The checks were not from our supply of paper checks. Rather, someone created checks using our account information. None was payable to a parishioner or anyone in our community.

We have reported the fraud to the authorities and a police investigation is underway. We also reported the situation to the Diocese, and we plan to initiate an insurance claim once the police investigation is done.

The bank has advised that we should recover approximately half through their efforts. We expect to be made whole as the investigation and insurance claim moves forward. We have taken steps with the bank to mitigate the risk of this happening again in the future. We will share more information as it becomes available.



February Wedding Anniversaries

(James) & Donna Geron	February 7, 1970
(Robert) & Cheryl Servonsky	February 10, 1973
Sol & Annabelle Vidal	February 10, 2001
(Henry J, Jr.) & (Marian Kopacki)	February 13, 1949
(Charles) & Margaret Varboncoeur	February 23, 1957
(Ed) & Virginia Kopacki	February 24, 1952

March Wedding Anniversaries

Shawn & Erin Lazar	March 6, 2004
David & Donna Haviland	March 7, 1998

Help With Hall Rentals Needed

We are seeking a Parish Hall Rental Manager to replace Janice McGowan who has faithfully filled this role for several years and would like to step down.

This position maintains a schedule of rentals for the van den Boogaard Hall (parish hall) and coordinates all uses of the facility. Some of the duties include:

- Meet with and prepare contracts for renters of the hall
- Coordinate paperwork for hall rentals in conjunction with Diocese rules and requirements
- Ensure that the hall is cleaned after each use by the renters
- Process payments and refunds for the renter in accordance with Parish/Diocese requirements

Additional information can be obtained from Janice at 804-366-4124, if interested. Contact the Parish Offices at 804-843-3125 and let us know of your willingness to serve in this role for the Parish.

From The Diary of St. Faustina

Meditation:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world (*Diary, 47*).

My Prayer Response:

Jesus, I adore You portrayed in this image as The Divine Mercy. I thank You for revealing this powerful image of Yourself to St. Faustina. May many souls venerate this image as a way of expressing their trust in You. Jesus, I trust in You!



Eucharistic Revival

Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ. Now we carry this life "in earthen vessels," and it remains "hidden with Christ in God."¹ We are still in our "earthly tent," subject to suffering, illness, and death.² This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin. (CCC 1420)



Knights of Columbus

Council 8116 (the "Father Jakubowski Council") Knights of Columbus meets on the first Monday of each month for their business meeting. If you have an interest in the Knights, just ask one of the members for information.

The Knights meet the first Monday of every month at the Columbian Club Hall at 312 7th Street in downtown West Point.

The Knights are also renting the Columbian Club Hall once again for events such as family gatherings, birthday parties, etc. Contact Craig or Danielle Smith at 804-398-8374.



It is that time of year, again, Lent will be here soon, along with the West Point Ministers Association Soup & Sermon Series. The series will run from Wednesday, March 12th through April 9th. The Soup & Sermon is every Wednesday. Father Oscar has agreed to work with the pastor at St. John's Episcopal Church on April 9th this year. We need one or two parishioners to take the lead for working with their contact to plan, set up, serve, and clean up the luncheon. We will also need to have some parishioners to cook and supply some soups and desserts. Please call the parish office if you can help in any way. We would also like as many parishioners as possible to come out join us in representing our Parish. Maybe those who are able might invite one of our parishioners who struggle to make it to Mass for a great sermon and luncheon.

Planning for Your Aging Years

Please plan to join staff from the Commonwealth Senior Living office of Gloucester House as they visit our Parish at the van den Boogaard Hall **on Wednesday evening, February 26th at 6:30pm.** They will share information about their various programs and provide a general overview and resources on options for Seniors, finding the right fit for their care, legal documents, financial planning, caregiver support, and additional resources. We understand that most Seniors want to stay home as long and as safely as possible. We are here to support that desire, but also provide you with peace of mind knowing your options if necessary.

This program should last approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours and is located at the van den Boogaard Hall.

Jubilee Year of Hope

A jubilee year, also known as a "holy year," is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years. According to the Vatican website for the jubilee, these years in Jewish history were "intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields."

There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. "There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest. [CCC 982]

Help Wanted

Retired gentleman (Catholic parishioner) in Colonial Heritage Club subdivision between Norge and Williamsburg is looking for a reliable housekeeper to clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath home approx. once per month. Call Carl 910-967-3199.





Faith and Healing in Lourdes

Today [article in February 11 Knights newsletter], the Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, commemorating the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette, beginning in 1858 at a grotto in Lourdes, France. For over 150 years, millions have visited the miraculous site in search of physical and spiritual healing, and since 2014, the Order has assisted service members and their families to make the journey through the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage, co-sponsored with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. In his message for the 33rd World Day of the Sick, which annually coincides with the feast day, Pope Francis reflects on how God can use suffering to cultivate virtue and communion. "Places of suffering are frequently also places of sharing and mutual enrichment," he wrote. "We realize that we are 'angels' of hope and messengers of God for one another, all of us together."



Charna Seibert (second from left) and her husband, retired U.S. Air Force Major Jordan Seibert, speak with a priest during the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage in May 2024. (Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)

As a cancer survivor, Charna Seibert, the wife of a U.S. Air Force member, has learned to embrace her illness as a journey of sanctification. Last year, she participated in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage with her family. "Our faith ... has united us tremendously," she said. "To be in Lourdes, it's a world of joy and unity and peace that's so different from the rest of the world."



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly (second from right) and his family stand with staff of the Dicastery for Communication, including prefect Paolo Ruffini (third from right), and Enrico Demajo (right), director of the Knights of Columbus office in Rome, outside the dicastery's new mobile broadcasting unit in Rome on Dec. 21. (Photo by Vatican Media)

Broadcasting from the Heart of the Church

The Knights of Columbus recently donated a state-of-the-art mobile broadcasting unit to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication, unveiling the vehicle in Rome just days before Pope Francis inaugurated the Jubilee Year 2025.

Priests for Life

For Life and Mercy

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who has similarly been tested in every way yet without sin." ... "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." Most people who have had an abortion later deeply regret that action. We must be the heralds of hope and welcome. Yes, we must invite them to come back home, to Jesus, Who stands ready to forgive them. Indeed, having the mind and heart of Christ, we offer hope, welcome and practical help to those struggling with making a decision about abortion and other life issues and to those who have wrongly decided. They will be forgiven if they are truly contrite and seek out Christ in the person of the priest in the confessional. The call to be "for life" is intrinsic to Christ's call to us at Baptism: "Follow me." Asking the help of our blessed Mother, let our witness for life be clear, convincing and, above all, Christ-like. After all, as baptized members of the Church, we are "the people of life and for life, and this is how we must present ourselves to everyone" (cf. Evangelium Vitae, 78).

-- Most Rev. Paul Loverde, Bishop Emeritus of Arlington

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

New members are asked to register at the Parish Office in the Mercy Center.

We invite all parishioners to join a ministry.
Contact the Chairperson of the ministry or call the Parish Office at 804.843.3125

ALTAR LINENS

Ginger (757) 912-3025

ALTAR SERVERS

Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org

BELL CHOIR

CANTORS/CHOIR

Mary Jackson (757) 515-8398
music@olbs-catholic.org

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Terry Frederick (804) 843-3125
cemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org

CHURCH HISTORIAN

Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073
historian@olbs-catholic.org

CLEANING COORDINATOR

COMMUNITY LIFE

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Eric Ellingson (804) 843-3125
facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Richard Duke (804) 843-3125
financechair@olbs-catholic.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Nanci Hernandez
Jose Velasquez
hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org

HOSPITALITY

Glenn & Kay Shaw (804) 366-7518

JUSTICE & PEACE

KNIT, PURL & PRAY

LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE

Eric Ellingson (804) 843-3125
ericellingson@verizon.net

LIBRARY

Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073
vintagenotes@verizon.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Deacon Kevin McKeever
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liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULING

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OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

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PARISH COUNCIL

Tiffany Smith (804) 840-7984
parishchair@olbs-catholic.org

SACRISTAN

Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563

YOUTH MINISTRY

Erin Hayden (804) 843-3125 ext 103
DRE@olbs-catholic.org

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