

OLQP MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church is dedicated to witnessing the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46. Our mission is to nurture the spirit and to encourage the potential of those we serve through liturgical celebration, educational endeavors and social ministries. The parish will continue to identify with its origin as a Black parish. As a multi-ethnic congregation we will seek to promote racial harmony and social justice. While our primary focus is within the immediate community, we will also work to provide for the well-being of the downtrodden everywhere. In this we strive for our parish community to be a caring, sharing, and loving family.

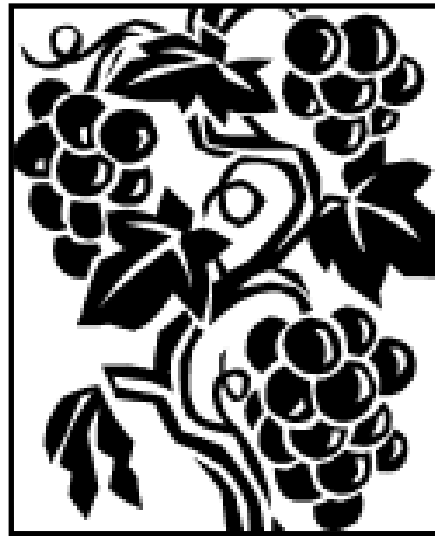
OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

April 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Whoever remains in me
will bear much fruit.

John 15:5



Yo soy la vid, ustedes los sarmientos;
el que permanece en mí y yo en él,
ése da fruto abundante.

Juan 15,5

Welcome to OLQP Catholic Church!

¡Bienvenidos a OLQP Iglesia Católica!

Contact / Contacto:

2700 19th St S, Arlington VA 22204

703-979-5580, office@olqpva.org

Office Hours

Horas de oficina

Monday-Friday — 8:30am to 4:30pm

Lunes a viernes — 8:30am a 4:30pm

Website / sitioweb:

www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org

Live Stream Mass Schedule:

Horario de Misas de transmisión en directo:

April 27-28 — 6pm and 1pm Spanish

27-28 abril— 6 pm y 1pm en español

Masses / Misas:

Weekdays / *Días laborables:*

Mon-Fri. 12pm / *lunes a viernes 12pm*

Weekend Mass Schedule /

Horario de misas de fin de semana:

Saturday Vigil — 5:30pm

Misa de vigilia sábados - 5:30 pm

Sundays — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am,

1:00pm (Spanish) & 6:00pm (Young Adult)

Domingos — 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,

1:00 pm (español) y 6:00 pm (Misa de

jóvenes adultos)

DECLARACIÓN DE MISIÓN DE OLQP

La parroquia de la iglesia católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dedica a dar testimonio de las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, especialmente el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25:21-46. Nuestra misión es nutrir el espíritu y alentar el potencial de aquellos a quienes servimos a través de la celebración litúrgica, labores educativas y ministerios sociales. La parroquia continuará identificándose con su origen como una comunidad afro-americana, pero reflejando una congregación multi-étnica y continuará promoviendo la armonía racial y la justicia social. Si bien es cierto que nuestro enfoque principal es la vecindad comunitaria, continuaremos trabajando para proveer por el bienestar de los más necesitados en general. Es así como nos esforzamos para hacer de nuestra comunidad parroquial una familia que comparte y se preocupa por sus miembros.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA:

MISIONES CATÓLICAS DEL INTERIOR



NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ

28 de abril de 2024

Quinto Domingo de Pascua

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION / PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL

Baptism / Bautizo:

Please email Baptism Coordinator Mary Ann Suhocki,
baptism@olqpva.org.

Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los bautizos, Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

Marriage Preparation/ Preparación para el matrimonio:

Please contact the parish office at least six months before your wedding date to complete requirements.

Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia seis meses antes de su matrimonio para completar todos los requisitos.

Reconciliation / Reconciliación—Confesión:

Fr. Ray Hall Library

Biblioteca Fr. Ray Hall

Sat, 4:45-5:15 pm, & by appointment.

Los sábados: 4:45-5:15 pm y por cita previa.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$10,207

Faith Direct (April Average /

promedio del mes de abril): \$14,9272.75

WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/

MISAL PALABRA Y EUCARISTÍA

Today's readings can be found on page 528

Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 529

BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN

Wednesdays 9am — office@olqpva.org

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US /

NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR: Suri Barahona, Sheila Betit, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Chris Comer, Jeff Cory, Adele Crump, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiCerbo, Patricia "Pat" Dowd, Calista Downey, Tim Felker, Irene Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yvette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Joseph Funk, Iva Futrell, Karen Gammache, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Jean Giambalvo, Fred Gladbach, Nancy Gormley, Yolanda Gregorio, Joe Marie Griesgraber, Melanie Guitreaux, Joe Harrington, Harris Family, Sally Harris, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Patrick Hynes, Lillian Jay, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, John Lawyer, Kathleen Love, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Eileen Melia, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrissey, Luis R. Muñoz, Chelsea Murray, Connie Murray, Paul Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Carol Pacello, Roy Paco, Neil Parent, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Paul Ramirez, Santos Ramirez, Jeanna Reynolds, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Jane Shepard, Mary Shookhoff, Donna Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Lora Smolenski, Eva Souza, Grace Starbird, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Carmelita and Roy Tucker, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Utley, Alma Reyes Valentin, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Jim Webster, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods, Claudia Zapata.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY

QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Acts 9:26-31 (53B); 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8
Hechos 9,26-31 (53B); 1 Juan 3,18-24; Juan 15,1-8

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY

SEXTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 (56B); 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17
Hechos 10,25-26, 34-35, 44-48 (56B); 1 Juan 4,7-10; Juan 15,9-17

MASS INTENTIONS, APRIL 27-MAY 3

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY

INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 27 ABRIL-3 MAYO

QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Saturday, April 27th

5:30 pm Sally Krahn (D) by Kate Wilson

Sunday, April 28th

8:00 am the parish

9:30 am Patricia Wand (D) by Ann Johnson

11:15 am Pat Cullen (D) by Pat Carty

1:00 pm Concepción Paniagua Palomo (D) by María Palomo

6:00 pm Gerald "Jerry" Kuklok (D) by Julene Jarnot

Monday, April 29th

12:00 pm Marina Fajardo (D) by William Barbieri

Tuesday, April 30th

12:00 pm Ernesto Yadao (D) by the Yabes family

Wednesday, May 1st

12:00 pm Mercedes García (D) by Cecilia López-Oetgen

Thursday, May 2nd

12:00 pm Corazón Yabes (Birthday) (D) by the Yabes family

Friday, May 3rd

11:00 am - Memorial Mass - Cecilia Cassidy

OLQP PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL DE LA PARROQUIA

Pastor / Párroco: **Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp**, thickey@olqpva.org

Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado: **Fr. Martin Vu, CSSp**,
mvu@olqpva.org

Ministerio Latino: **Fr. Joseph Nangle, OFM**,
j.nangleofm@yahoo.com

Deacon / Diácono: **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org

Parish Office / Oficina parroquial

Business Manager / Gerente de Negocios: **Christina Kozyn**,
ckozyn@olqpva.org

Social Justice & Outreach Minister / Ministro de Justicia Social y

Acercamiento (bilingüe): **Sally Díaz-Wells**, sdiazwells@olqpva.org

Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos:

Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe):

Cecilia López Oetgen, clopez@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Assistant: **Tom Parisi**, tparisi@olqpva.org

Office Manager (bilingüe): **Ligia Loza**, lloza@olqpva.org

Administrative Support:

Jeannette Gantz Daly, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

Mike Leahy, mleahy@olqpva.org

Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):

Mel Cabrera, mlvncabrera@gmail.com

Michael Hill, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

Zulema Ramallo

FR. TIM'S JUST A THOUGHT...OR TWO...

In this section of John's Gospel, we find Jesus, having just finished the Last Supper, after having made the amazing "servant gesture" of washing the disciples' feet. He now sets out explaining to his closest friends what he expects of them, and helps them to understand all that he has taught them.

He tells them that they are intimately connected to him, like vines to a branch; that it is from him that they draw their sustenance; their very life. They have life in and through him. He shares with them they have already been pruned and will bear great fruit.

Jesus wants them to remain in him as he remains in them! What a wonderful image for us to ponder, this indwelling of Christ. In the verse that comes immediately following the final verse we heard in today's Gospel reading, Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love".

These are amazing images of love and intimacy being shared between Jesus and his disciples. As he knows his life with them is about to change dramatically, he tells them that they will be able to continue on, and they are ready to produce great fruit and that they are connected to one another and to him, and will always remain so.

In the first reading we heard of some of the fruit born of these relationships and this enduring Divine presence amongst Jesus' disciples. We heard how the nascent church was rapidly spreading and growing, filled with the Holy Spirit. But we also know that there were great struggles as well, even in the midst of the presence of the Risen One.

The disciples were human -- they argued and disagreed -- and still they produced great fruit. Even in the midst of human weakness and failures, Christ's presence has the power to save us from ourselves, and help us to do amazing things!

Today we find ourselves in scary, strange and difficult times. So much of the world seems angry and to have lost its

way, seemingly bent on regressing to former less just and more divisive time. We find ourselves in a cycle of unbelievable mass shootings, over 125 in the first three months of this year! Ongoing law enforcement shootings and uncalled for uses of deadly force on our black and brown brothers and sisters and shocking violence towards Asians and Pacific Islander sisters and brothers as well as other minorities and women.

And we are witnessing a shocking rise in White Christian Nationalism, which threatens our national values to their very core.

There is so much discord in our world, in our country and even in our lives in general, for many of us, we ask ourselves, how do we hold it together?

I believe that the way we hold it together is through maintaining a conscious connection and awareness of the presence of the risen Christ within us and with us at all times, even when we can't seem to feel that divine presence and we feel like we are running out of hope. Even in the midst of chaos Christ is still there, still loving us through our darkest moments. This is at the heart of the Gospel message -- we are never abandoned by God.

Our discipleship calls us to stand up to the discord and injustices of the world, to speak out on behalf of the abused -- those denied justice and those whose voices are ignored or silenced. We are able to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Risen Christ who has promised to remain with us for all time.

How or when have I let the power of the Holy Spirit's presence within me shine through, guiding my thoughts and actions? Jesus spoke of pruning...what pruning might I need to allow Jesus to do, to make my life more Christ centered that I might abide in his love more fully and share that love with others through my daily decisions and actions?

Easter Blessings,

Fr. Tim

THE IMPACT OF OLQP'S SOLAR PANELS

In 2019 solar panels were installed on the roofs of the parish church, the rectory and Father Ray Hall. The solar panels produced electricity used in these buildings, reducing the electric bills for OLQP with the remaining electricity being sold to Dominion Energy which generates funds for the church's use. Financing was provided by a parishioner.

Over their lifetime the impact of these solar installations on the environment is estimated to equal the planting of 5,456 trees, the removal of 71 cars off the road or the avoidance of burning 358 lbs of coal. All small steps in OLQP's effort to contribute to a healthier environment.

EL IMPACTO DE LOS PANELES SOLARES DE OLQP

En el 2019 se instalaron paneles solares en los techos de la iglesia, la rectoría y Father Ray Hall. Los paneles solares produjeron electricidad que se usó en estos edificios, reduciendo las cuentas de la electricidad para OLQP. La electricidad que no se usaba se le vendía a Dominion Energy, lo cual generaba fondos para el uso de la iglesia. Una persona miembro de la iglesia proporcionó el financiamiento para el proyecto. Durante su vigencia se estima que el impacto de estas instalaciones solares sobre el medio ambiente es igual que sembrar 5,456 árboles, la eliminación de 71 automóviles de las carreteras o la abstención de la quema de 358 lbs. de carbón. Todos estos son pequeñas medidas en el esfuerzo de OLQP de contribuir a un medio ambiente más saludable.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Join us for **Father Martin's Second Annual Pho Dinner** on Saturday, May 18th following the 5:30pm Mass. Dine in or take out the three-course dinner. \$30 suggested minimum donation. Proceeds from the dinner will go to youth ministry programming. Contact Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgantjenkins@olqpva.org for details. Reserve your spot: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPFRMARTINPHO> or scan the QR Code :



MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES

Únase as nosotros para la **Segunda comida Pho anual del Padre Martin** el sábado, 18 de mayo después de la Misa de las 5:30pm. Coma aquí o lleve a casa la comida de tres platos. Sugerimos una donación mínima de \$30. Las ganancias de la comida van a beneficiar al ministerio de los adolescentes. Contacte a Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgantjenkins@olqpva.org para obtener detalles. Para hacer su reservación vaya a <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPFRMARTINPHO> o escanee el código QR:

ARE YOU IN 7th-12th GRADES? Join us for Teen Nights on Sundays after the 6pm Mass at 1915. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

¿ESTÁS EN LOS GRADOS 7-12? Únete a nosotros para las Noches para adolescentes los domingos después de la Misa de las 6pm en 1915. ¡Únete a nosotros para disfrutar de comida, compañerismo y diversión!

TAU YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TAU Young Adult Ministry is having a **retreat at Lake Anna**, May 31st to June 2nd. The Theme is *Feed Your Fire: Faith, Inspiration, Renewal, and Engagement in the Holy Spirit*. Please see the fliers in the back for more information or contact Rebecca Grant Jenkins; her information is on page 2 of the bulletin. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPFEEDYOURFIRE> or scan here:



MINISTERIO TAU PARA JÓVENES ADULTOS

El Ministerio TAU para jóvenes adultos va a tener **un retiro en el lago Anna** del 31 de mayo al 2 de junio. El tema es *Feed Your Fire: Faith, Inspiration, Renewal, and Engagement in the Holy Spirit*. Por favor busca los volantes en la parte de atrás para obtener más información o contacta a Rebecca Grant Jenkins. Su información está en la página 2 del boletín. Apúntate en: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPFEEDYOURFIRE> o escanea aquí:

MASS TO PRAY FOR HEALING OF VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

All of the faithful are invited to attend a Mass to Pray for Healing of Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse celebrated by Bishop Burbidge at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Arlington on Thursday, June 20, at 6:30pm. Reception to follow. Please join us as we gather to pray for the healing of victims/survivors, their loved ones, and for the Church. This event is hosted by the Diocese of Arlington's Office of Victim Assistance. For more information, please call 703-841-2530 or email victimassistance@arlingtondiocese.org.



MISA PARA ORAR POR LAS VÍCTIMAS/ SUPERVIVIENTES DEL ABUSO

El jueves, 20 de junio a las 6:30pm, todos los feligreses están invitados a asistir a una Misa celebrada por el Obispo Burbidge en la iglesia católica en Arlington Our Lady of Lourdes para orar por la sanación de víctimas/supervivientes del abuso sexual. Habrá una recepción después. Por favor únase a nosotros cuando nos reunamos para orar por la sanación de las víctimas/supervivientes, sus seres queridos y por la Iglesia. La Oficina de la asistencia para víctimas de la Diócesis de Arlington patrocina este evento. Para obtener más información, por favor llame al 703-841-2530 o mande un correo electrónico a victimassistance@arlingtondiocese.org.

PARDON OUR NOISE AND DUST

PLEASE PARDON OUR CONSTRUCTION MESS

Thank you for your patience while the Ministry Center's elevator is being replaced. Good News — the company is looking to finish by the end of May.

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP REFUGEE FAMILIES...

Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services seeks your help to secure desperately needed household goods for our new arrivals. Donations directly benefit refugees settling inside our Diocese by outfitting their apartments with basic household necessities. Using our Amazon Gift Registry (<https://a.co/3CwyIQ9>), linens, kitchen, bedding, or other household items can easily be purchased.



SU OPORTUNIDAD DE AYUDAR A FAMILIAS DE PERSONAS REFUGIADAS...

Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services busca su ayuda para obtener artículos para el hogar que las familias recién llegadas necesitan desesperadamente. Las donaciones benefician directamente a las personas refugiadas que se establecen en nuestra diócesis al habilitar sus apartamentos con necesidades básicas para la casa. Usando nuestro Amazon Gift Registry (<https://a.co/3CwyIQ9>), fácilmente puede comprar ropa de cama y toallas, artículos para la cocina u otras cosas para la casa.

*Programs that are open to the entire community, but offered in English only.
Programas que le dan la bienvenida a toda la comunidad, pero que solo se ofrecen en inglés.*

LETTER FROM FATHER FRANTZ, PASTOR OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH IN MEDOR, HAITI TO THE CONFIRMATION CLASS AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

On behalf of the parishioners of Medor, in particular the children in Medor, and on my own behalf: I say a big thank you to the children of this year's confirmation class at Our Lady Queen of Peace, our sister parish.

Thank you for organizing a dinner to raise funds to help Medor. I learned, dear children, that you sold tickets, prepared the meal, set the tables, arranged the flowers, served the food, and cleaned up afterwards!

May the resurrected Lord in his omnipotence fill you with his grace and blessings for having taken the initiative to help. He will reward you a hundredfold. One day he will say to you: "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Mt 25:34).

May the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit that you will receive on the day of your confirmation always be your faithful guide, advisor, and companion throughout your life!

*Kind regards, dear children,
With joy and gratitude,
Father Frantz Aimé,
Pastor Saint Joseph of Medor*

ECO-TIP: Avoid Waste: Shop less, reuse, refurbish, donate, and buy more durable things. Buy less plastic. Choose clothes made with natural materials like cotton, wool, or silk. Reduce waste by at least 75%.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 8 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Come celebrate Freedom Day from 11:00am- 3:00pm at St. John Neumann, Reston. Family fun— food. Entertainment, vendors, games, and more!! Mark your calendar! Sponsored by the St. John Neumann Racial Justice Ministry.

REGISTER WITH THE PARISH / UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION / LET US KNOW YOU'RE MOVING

If you have never officially registered with the parish, we invite you to do so. It is very helpful to us to have accurate information. Visit the parish website (www.olqpva.org) click on about us >> register >> register with us. If you need to update your record or would like a copy of the information we have on file for your family, please send a message to Jeannette Gantz Daly, jgantz Daly@olqpva.org.

RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY ZOOM

PRESENTATION -- Please join the St. John Neumann Racial Justice Ministry and Father Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph,D, for a Zoom presentation, *Understanding Asian-American & Pacific Islanders' Responses to Anti-Asian Racism Through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching*, at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 15. To receive the Zoom link, please register [here](#) or use the QR code.



SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

We are delighted to see how many of you so enjoy time with family and other parishioners over coffee, treats and donuts after the Sunday morning Masses (8am, 9:30am & 11:15am). As you know, ALL are invited to join us in Fr. Ray Hall!

A sincere note of appreciation to all who help with hospitality and clean up after 8:00 and 9:30 Masses. **For the 11:15 Mass, we seriously need volunteers after Mass.** Do you think you can help one Sunday a month? You can come in just for the 11:15 Mass or join the teams after the earlier masses.

If you volunteer you will assist with setup and be free to have social time with your family and friends, and then stay a while to help us leave the kitchen clean. Please contact Mary Jo Johnson:

johnsonmaryjo@hotmail.com. Thank you!!

MINKISI SCRIPTURE PRAYER GROUP

May 22 Event by Zoom

For OLQP Minkisi's "Sr. Thea Bowman-Who Will Be a Witness for My Lord?" event, Wednesday, May 22 pm, 7:00-8:15 pm in Zoom. Be inspired by Servant of God Sr. Thea's witnessing in silent prayer, gospel music and reflection. Questions to Cecilia Braveboy, Jisaac3@verizon.net and Julia Rocchi, rocchijulia@gmail.com. Eventbrite registration by Sunday, May 19: <https://bit.ly/Minkisi22May2024>.

St. Thomas More Cathedral School

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

May 14, 8:30-9:15am

Register at stmschool.org under Admissions/Visit Us
What you can expect at St. Thomas Cathedral School:
Balanced approach to learning through play embedded in academic- focused pedagogy; Curriculum programs: Orton-Gillingham approach to literacy, Comprehension Toolkit, Daily 5 and Mathematical instruction based on strong number sense; Attend weekly all-school Mass on Fridays, beginning in October; Daily Religion instruction through prayer and Bible stories; Prayer Partner program with older students; Once-weekly Specials to include Art, Spanish, Library, Music, Technology and P.E.; 2-3 recesses per day; 3+ performances per year.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

Join us on a pilgrimage to Poland! Highlights include Jasna Gora Monastery, home of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy and the Divine Mercy Image, the Museum and Chapel of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the cell where he was martyred in Auschwitz, the birthplace and baptismal Church of St. John Paul, Wawel Cathedral where he was ordained a Bishop and so much more! Daily Mass. October 3-12, 2024. \$3695/per person based on double occupancy. \$150 discount if you enter coupon code Bulletin150 on the registration form. For more information, please visit www.QoHTours.com <<http://www.QoHTours.com>> or call us at 1-800-213-4295.

FALLS PREVENTION PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Please join us Saturday, April 27, from 10am-12pm at Mount Olive Baptist Church (1601 S. 13th Road, Arlington) to view a documentary presented by Marymount University Center for Optimal Aging on fall prevention. This information is vital for seniors to learn about and be reminded of the issues that can arise from a 'simple' fall. All are welcome. Hosted by St. John's Baptist Church, Arlington, Health & Wellness Ministry.

REV. JOHN DEAR -- BOOK LAUNCH

Rev. John Dear - author, peace activist, and founder of the Beatitudes Center for the Nonviolent Jesus - will present the message of his new book, *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence* on Wednesday, May 15, 7 pm at Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land (1400 Quincy Street NE, Washington DC). Don't miss this opportunity to hear John's compelling teaching about the essential message of Jesus about nonviolence, as presented in his new commentary on the synoptic Gospels. An open discussion will follow. The book will be available for purchase for \$30.00 by cash, check, or credit card. RSVP required: Please [RSVP by clicking here](#) or emailing info@franciscanaction.org
This event is cosponsored by the Franciscan Action Network, Pax Christi USA, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the Order of Friars Minor/Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

MARIAN HOMES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Marian Homes Inc., a Catholic, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing safe, supportive living environments for intellectually disabled adults, announces the purchase of its ninth home in Virginia. The latest purchase is in Winchester, VA, representing an expansion out of the Northern Virginia area. This significant expansion is part of a broader Capital Campaign to raise \$250,000 for the purchase and refurbishment of the home, which will accommodate four to five intellectually disabled adults seeking independent living solutions. Can you help with our campaign? We need hearts and hands. If you would like to volunteer with this organization, please contact Lisa Anthony-Price (marketing@marianhomes.org). To donate to our Capital Campaign, navigate to <https://www.marianhomes.org>.

Thank you for your prayers and care!

Christian prayer service for Gaza

White House, Washington DC

12 PM Friday, May 3

Members of the ecumenical Christian faith community will gather outside the White House to pray for a speedy and just resolution to the conflict in Gaza and Israel, to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the U.S. Catholic bishops' pastoral letter, "The challenge of peace," and to offer an open letter from U.S. Catholics on the urgent need to end the devastation on the people of Gaza.



Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

... Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Excerpt: Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Full text: [En Español](#) [English](#)

Patriarch Sabbah: The real cause of the war in Gaza— and the only path to peace

Michel Sabbah

*Editor's note: **America** is committed to publishing diverse views on the pressing issues of our time. For additional perspectives on the war in Gaza, read "[There Is a Right and Wrong Way for Catholics to Criticize Israel](#)," by Karma Ben Johanan, and [Gerard O'Connell's interview with David Neuhaus, S.J.](#)*

We have already seen six months of war in Gaza. Now, it seems that Israel is beginning its last phase of conquest, after ordering a million and a half people to take refuge in Rafah, a border town with Egypt. Soon, there may be almost no one left in the rest of Gaza.

There have been several wars in Gaza, but this time there are thousands of human victims, and ruins like never before, and peace does not seem to be near. More than suffering, more than the loss of men and women, children and babies, humanity is lost.

Why this new war? The immediate cause is the horrific Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023. But another direct cause is the permanent siege imposed upon all Gazan territory in 2007, when the Hamas political party became the governing authority of the enclave. Since then, the entire territory—2.5 million people over an area of 141 square miles—has been under total military siege imposed by Israel and Egypt. And since Oct. 7, Israel's military operations have limited even the most necessary humanitarian aid for Gaza, to the point that it now stands on the cusp of famine.

The *real* cause is the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, begun in 1948, which no peace agreement has been able to end and which the international community seems to have neglected.

Under Israeli military occupation, Gaza—and all of Palestine—has suffered thousands of deaths, thousands more taken as political prisoners, demolished houses, military checkpoints on all roads that disrupt freedom of movement and daily life, and a paralyzed, dependent Palestinian economy. In short, we are in a permanent state of war. This is the root cause of all wars in Gaza, including the one following Oct. 7. And despite the useless, inhuman violence of the present war, more will come if a just and

lasting peace is not reached between the two peoples.

The war must stop without further delay because it is no longer a war. It is a massacre. But what comes after the war?

Israel, as the occupier of Gaza, must take responsibility for seeking a sustainable peace with equal justice for all. Otherwise, we will see an unnecessary defeat for all. It is time for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be put back on the international agenda and for the global community to take responsibility for building peace, which has seemed impossible until today.

Peace means the security of Israel and, at the same time, the security of the Palestinian people. In fact, the fundamental question that arises today is: Do the Palestinian people have the right to stay at home, on their own land, in their own towns and villages? To this question, the current government in Israel has said no. Instead, Israel has been trying to forcibly displace the Palestinian people, making it virtually impossible for them to live a normal, humane life and raise their families on their own land. That cannot be a path to peace or security for anyone.

To achieve peace, we must simply admit that even in this conflict, human beings are equal. Israelis and Palestinians are equally created by God, in the image of God, and are capable of loving as opposed to killing. On this holy land, there is room for both peoples to exercise the same political rights: two states, each at home, independent, free and capable of resisting a return to war. We have experienced war for decades; we now need a new way of thinking that brings about a lasting peace.

Who is responsible for building this peace? First, the two peoples themselves, Israeli and Palestinian. Then, the international community, the friends of Israel and Palestine. The true friends of Israel are those who help Israel achieve peace. Making Israel militarily stronger, to win wars but remain insecure, is not friendship or true help to Israel.

One can ask the question: Are the two peoples capable of living in peace, each in their own state? Why not? There is much suffering and injustice in living memory, that is true. But there is also the will to live and the

fundamental goodness that God has placed in everyone. God created the human being capable of life rather than death, love rather than killing.

The surest path to peace is direct engagement with the enemy, especially when two enemies share the same land. A sustainable peace cannot be brokered by outside forces. So for Israel, peace must be made first with the Palestinian people, then with all the nations in the region. But improving relations with other nations in the region, in what has been called the "[Abrahamic alliance](#)," while maintaining hostilities with the Palestinian people, does not ensure peace. First comes peace at home, then it is possible with the neighbors.

It should also be noted that peace among current regimes in the region is not the same as peace with the *peoples* of the region. Peoples can remain enemies despite peace treaties between governments. Peace will come only when peace is made with the Palestinian *people*. The world powers can try to impose solutions, but these do not erase the determination of the oppressed.

Therefore, the international community must finally take the necessary steps to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people, and end the 1948 war with a peace treaty between the two peoples.

The world's religions can and must help. Pray, raise your voice and act. The Holy Land is both Israeli and Palestinian, and the Christian community there is part of the two peoples. Everyone needs peace. You can help them. Christ came to bring peace to the world—and to his Holy Land, too. The church has the same mission today.

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