

# Light of Christ Catholic Church

*Light of Christ Catholic Church is a full  
stewardship faith community centered in*



*Jesus Christ.*

*The mission of the parish is to use God-given  
time, talent, and treasure to bring all people to a  
knowledge, love and service of God*

2176 Marilyn Street  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
(727) 441-4545



Dear Parish Family,

The Parish family of Light of Christ is grateful to have been a continuing sign of Christ's Love in Clearwater for over 50 years. As the parochial administrator of this faith community, I am grateful to all who make and have made this parish a vibrant sign of the Holy Spirit moving in the world.

I am also grateful for the dedication and efforts of those in our parish family who participate and contribute to the various ministries of Light of Christ. In a family situation, all members of the family have multiple opportunities to contribute to that family. Our parish is a family; it's our faith family! As a member of this parish, I encourage you to share your gifts with your faith family.

All parishioners are encouraged to reflect on the meaning of Our Parish Family throughout the year. Participation in this faith family will help all of us to grow in our understanding of God's love.

This directory invites you to review the activities of the various committees and organizations of our parish. Find that place where you would like to contribute. You may find more than one activity of special interest to you. There is a form in the back of this directory that will help you become involved.

I ask you to please review this directory to find an area where you can become involved, putting your faith into action. Your contribution of time, talent and treasure is saying "Thank you" to God for the many blessings you have received from Him.

I hope to see you soon involved in a ministry of your choice.

May God bless you and St. Joseph protect you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Bill Wilson".

Reverend Bill Wilson

***Priests***

Rev. Bill Wilson Parochial Administrator

***Deacons***

Rev. Mr. James Gibson

***Church Office***

2176 Marilyn Street, Clearwater, Florida 33765 Phone (727) 441-4545  
Fax (727) 441-8771

Monday -Thursday 9:00 am -4:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am -12:00 pm

***Online***

Parish Web Site: **www.locchurch.org** Office E-Mail: **info@locchurch.org** Life  
Teen E-Mail: **loclifeteen@loclifeteen.org**

***Parish Lay Staff Support Services Coordinator:***.....Mary Beth Dittmer  
***Director of Early Childhood Center:***.....Rebecca Daschbach  
***Pastoral Care Coordinator:***.....Jean Ropp  
***Music Ministry:*** ..... Mary Obray  
***Maintenance Supervisor:*** ..... John Mulesky  
***Parish Bookkeeper:***.....Pat Brunette  
***Receptionist and Bulletin Editor:***.....Elisa Simpson  
***Receptionist for Early Childhood Center:***..... Tanya Burbee

***Important Phone Numbers***

**Parish Office**.....727-441-4545..... fax 727-441-8771  
**Religious Education Office** ..... 727-442-7081  
**Early Childhood Center** ..... 727-442-4797  
**Youth Ministry Office** .....727-442-3418

## *Schedule of Masses*

**Saturday Vigil & Sunday:** Consult Bulletin

**Daily:** Monday-Friday -8:30 a.m.

**Holy Days:** Consult Bulletin

We at Light of Christ Church welcome and invite all parishioners to take an active role in the life and ministries of our Church. We want to encourage you, the Spanish speaking parishioner, to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to a ministry which will make this a community that is vibrant and united in Christ. Come, join us!

BIENVENIDOS!

Nosotros en la Iglesia Light of Christ le damos la bienvenida y exhortamos a todos los feligreses a que tomen una parte activa en la vida y ministerios de nuestra iglesia. Le estamos invitando a ustedes, los feligreses de habla hispana, que con la ayuda del Espíritu Santo se unan a nosotros en uno de estos ministerios para que seamos una comunidad unida y vibrante en Cristo. Ven únete a nosotros!

## *Devotionals*

**The Rosary** -Monday -Friday morning prior to 8:30 am Mass. Saturday afternoon prior to Vigil Mass

**Exposition and Adoration of Blessed Sacrament** -Consult Bulletin

**Novena Devotion to Our Blessed Mother** -Wednesday following the 8:30 am Mass

**Mass Cards and Intentions** -Can be arranged in the church office during business hours. **Votive Candles** -Available after Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses in church and at other times in the church office.

## *Sacraments*

**Reconciliation** -Saturday before Vigil Mass and by appointment.

**Holy Matrimony** -Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Please contact the parish office at 441-4545.

**Anointing of the Sick** -Anointing of the gravely ill at any time, please call the Rectory at 441-4545. Anointing for anyone who is entering the hospital for a serious operation or medical condition. Please call the parish office a week before and give your name and phone number. A yearly Anointing Mass is held in December for parishioners 70 years of age and older.

**Baptism** -Jesus said “Let the children come to me”. We do this by baptizing our children. If you are a parent, or are expecting to be a parent, the parish invites you and encourages you to have your child or children baptized. Informal classes are presented by parishioners each month in order to help prepare you for this sacrament. For further information or to sign up for this class and schedule your child’s baptism, please call 442-7081

**First Holy Communion and First Rite of Reconciliation** -These sacraments are coordinated through the Office of Religious Education. At least one year of religious education prior to the year of immediate preparation for these sacraments is necessary. This guideline is met through participation in a Catholic school or parish religious education program. Each free-standing preparation program involves the collaborative effort of the parish community and the families of those presented for sacraments. Please contact the Office of Religious Education for further information at 442-7081.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Teens (RCIT)** -R.C.I.T. provides instruction and formation to high school students (grades 9-12) who desire to receive any of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation). The R.C.I.T. process works in conjunction with the High School Youth Ministry program called Life Teen. Contact the Youth Ministry office at 442-3418.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** -RCIA is the normal way in which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. Every Thursday evening from September to Pentecost there is a class designed to bring people interested in joining the Catholic faith into a full knowledge of the church. This gradual development culminates in the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation) at Easter. Please contact the church office for further information, 441-4545.

## ***Parish Pastoral Council***

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a representative body of men and women from all areas of our parish community. Its primary role is to serve as a consultative and advisory board to the pastor in all matters which ensure implementation of the parish mission statement.

## ***Parish Finance Council and the Finance and Administration Commission***

The Parish Finance Council is a consultative and advisory body that serves the Pastor in all financial matters, and serves the Parish as good stewards of its God given treasure.

## **Communications and Technology Ministry**

This ministry serves as a resource to the Pastor, staff, and parish organizations by assisting in both internal and external communications to increase timeliness, consistency, and accuracy of information across the available communication channels. By implementing technology and resources effectively we can educate, inform, inspire, evangelize and stay connected with our parishioners by providing information on the many aspects of our parish organizations and the community at large to enable us to better live in the “Light of Christ”. Take advantage of the many ways Light of Christ has to communicate with you.

**Parish Bulletin Parish Annual Report Parish Web Site:** [www.locchurch.org](http://www.locchurch.org).

**Weekly E-Mail Message** You can register online on the web site or just provide your e-mail address to the rectory staff.

**We Are Listening Program** – We would like your ideas, comments or kind words regarding our parish community. Just send an e-mail message by filling out the form on the web site or address a message directly to: [info@locchurch.org](mailto:info@locchurch.org)

## WORSHIP AND LITURGY

**Altar Servers** -Boys and girls 10 years or older, who assist the priest at Mass.

**Adult Choir** -This group sings at the last Mass on Sunday morning and major liturgies.

**Cantors** -Cantors lead congregations in liturgical music and act as psalmists during weekend and major liturgies.

**Family Mass Music Ensemble** (*Sunday Morning*) – We are a group of faithful musicians, diverse in age, dedicated to serving as music ministers at Family Mass on Sunday mornings. Our musical style is lively and prayerful. Our goal is to foster family worship within the community at Light of Christ on Sunday mornings through quality music and worship. We use a full band and choir to accompany congregational singing.

**Life Teen Worship Team** (*Sunday Evening*) -We are a group of faithful musicians dedicated to engaging the congregation in quality worship through a deep commitment to music ministry and living our faith. Our musical style possesses a “youthful spirit” and uses a full band and vocal ensemble to accompany the congregation in singing. We view our role in the liturgy as servants to the word of God.

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** -The Extraordinary Ministers are members of the parish community commissioned to assist the Clergy in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist at Mass.

**Greeters** -Welcome church members with a warm handshake, a smile, a “good day” greeting and hold the door for them to enter.

**Ushers** -Ushers welcome those attending Mass. They assist in seating, especially visitors and the handicapped. The ushers are responsible for taking up the collection and directing attendees to Communion. They also distribute bulletins and prepare the church for the next Mass.

**Lectors** -Readers for weekend liturgies.

**Interpreters for the Deaf / Friendly Hands** -Light of Christ has a close community of deaf and hearing impaired individuals. A Sunday morning Mass is interpreted. Friendly Hands and the deaf community gather for fellowship on Sundays.

**Prayer Chain** -Every Friday, parishioners who volunteer will receive a new list of prayer requests which come in through the parish office.

**Daily Rosary** -Recitation of the daily rosary (8:05 am) prior to the 8:30 am weekday morning Mass, Monday thru Friday.

**Saturday Recitation of the Rosary** -Leading the recitation of the rosary prior to the Saturday Vigil Mass



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND RENEWAL

**Adult Retreats** -The Adult Retreat Ministry is dedicated to presenting spiritual retreats to adult men and women in a way that provides us the opportunity to reflect on where we are on our journey through this life and what it is that God is calling us to do.

**Centering Prayer** -To open our awareness to God, Whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing -closer than consciousness itself. Every Monday at 7:00pm in Church.

**Immaculate Conception Prayer Group** -A group of families who meet in a member home to have fellowship and pray the Holy Rosary and novena to honor the Immaculate Conception.

**Light of Christ Rosary Cenacle** -Prayer Group meets every Friday night starting at 7:00 p.m. in someone's home to pray the Rosary. We pray for those who have contacted us for special prayer intentions. We also meet at Light of Christ Church every third Friday for Adoration and prayer at 7:00 p.m.

**Marriage Preparation Program** -Diocesan guidelines require a six-month notice period, which gives the priest and the Parish Engagement Ministry Team ample preparation, and the engaged couple time to attend required parish and diocesan programs.

**Men's Retreat** -An annual spiritual and fellowship retreat. Open to all men of the parish. Usually held in March, at St. Leo's Abbey. An informal weekend of prayer, reflection and fellowship.

**RCIA** -The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a comprehensive catechetical process. The classes are designed to bring people interested in joining the Catholic faith. Classes are also designed for Catholics who desire to deepen their Faith Journey.

**Vocations** -To make parishioners aware of vocations and to promote new vocations. To encourage all parishioners to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. To also promote interest in the youth to think about their vocation, possibly to religious life.

**Bible Study** -A Bible study based on the Little Rock Scripture Study program. It is a parish-based program that leads people to a greater understanding of the Bible.

**Women's Retreat** -The Women's Retreat Group is dedicated to the spiritual growth of the Light of Christ Parish. The annual weekend retreats are held in the fall.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** -Weekend designed for married couples to make a good marriage great. The emphasis is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other.

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE

**Abraham's Angels** -A group of parishioners who attend funeral Masses for deceased members of our parish community. This ministry is especially important when the deceased person has no family or no one to attend the funeral Mass.

**Armed Forces Ministry** -This ministry is designed to keep in touch with servicemen and women.

**Bereavement Support Group** -This group provides support for family members of the deceased. **Divorce & Beyond** -This ministry is spirituality based, self-help support group for divorced or divorcing Christians. It is a ten week program sponsored by The Family Life Office of the Diocese.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Homebound and Nursing Homes**

The Extraordinary Ministers are members of the parish community commissioned in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist to the nursing homes and homebound.

**Hands of God** -The Hands of God group does physical labor projects for the church and the community. It is an informal group with abilities ranging from pro to amateur.

**Health Ministry** -On the first Sunday of the month (the second if the first falls on a holiday) nurses from our parish are available in Room 7 of the Parish Hall from 9:00 -11:00 am to take your blood pressure. There is no charge for this service.

**Respect Life** -Respect for ALL life -this is the goal of the Respect Life Committee. Keeping the parish community informed and involved in all areas where life is being disregarded or threatened. This may be the unborn, the elderly (Euthanasia), disabled or on death row. When we Respect All Life it is from conception through natural death.

**Samaritan Ministry** -The Samaritan Ministry was formed to give comfort, support and assistance to the elderly and shut-ins of the parish. Samaritans visit the lonely both at home and at the nursing homes. They also help package and deliver holiday gifts during the year.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul** -Spiritual development of our members through prayer and home visitations to those in need living within our parish boundary. We also do volunteer work at the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, The Thrift Store in Clearwater and "Free Meds" program.

## PARISH COMMUNITY

**Bingo** -Bingo is offered in the Parish Hall every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm for anyone in the local community to attend. Refreshments and fellowship are available. All profits are contributed to the parish.

**Catholic Men's Association (CMA)** -The primary purpose of the CMA is to assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the men of the parish, encourage by word and action the practice of Christian principles in the community, promote and enhance fellowship and social activities among all members and guests and to develop and support projects of interest in Light of Christ Catholic Church.

**Child Care For Special Events** – Child care will be organized by the parish office as needed.

**Gabriel Group** -This group assists with new parishioner registration at a monthly welcoming breakfast. This breakfast is held the second Sunday of each month at in the Parish Hall.

**Girl Scouts** -A group of girls, grades 2-8, learning and growing in the community.

**Golf Tournament** -The tournament is an annual October activity in memory of Monsignor Allman to benefit the youth programs of our parish. It is not necessary to be a golfer to join in the fun.

**Hi-Liters** -An organization of men and women 50 and older founded to promote social, cultural and spiritual fellowship.

**Hospitality** -Our mission is to foster a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all parishioners and guests -whatever their interaction with the church might be. Our primary goal is to provide appropriate food, beverages, and decorations for church and diocesan functions hosted by Light of Christ throughout the year.

**Parish Campout** -This event takes place once a year, the second weekend in November, at Fort DeSoto Park.

**Parish Picnic** -Faith -Fun -Family. Starts with our last Sunday morning Mass and continues throughout the day. Games for all ages, music, bingo, inflatable rides, drawings, and food.

**Council of Catholic Women (CCW)** -The CCW sponsors and promotes projects for the purpose of raising funds to be used to help meet the financial needs of the parish. The activities allow the ladies of the parish to become better acquainted with each other while completing the projects and raising funds.

### *Annual Community Events*

Check the parish bulletin and web site for announcements about these and many other community events throughout the year.

*Parish Picnic Indoor Yard Sale Golf Tournament Parish Mission Holly Festival Retreats Stewardship Weekend Respect Life Garage Sale Blood Drives Pancake Breakfasts Parish Campout Social Events*

### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Youth Religious Education** -The mission of parish religious education is to assist all people in learning and living the mystery of Jesus Christ. To serve this mission, through the help of God's grace, we offer formal and informal instruction and formation whereby each individual may embrace a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live as His follower for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. *The goal of all catechesis is connecting faith to life and life to faith.*

**Early Childhood Center** -The Early Childhood Center (ECC) is a Catholic Childcare Center offering both full and half day programs for children age 2 to 5 years. We also participate in the state Voluntary Pre -K program, which allows all children that turn 4 by September 1 to attend our morning program for free.

**Elementary Religious Education Volunteers:** Each role is completely supported by staff so that all are successful every step of the way.

**Middle School Youth Ministry (The Edge)** -Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry for early adolescents in grades 6-8. It is designed to meet the catechetical, educational, spiritual, emotional and social needs of young adolescents. Edge approaches catechesis to middle school youth using the Life Teen model. Middle-school youth are removed from behind classroom desks and brought into a large-group environment for gathering activities, teachings and prayer. In small groups, they break open the teachings and build solid, Christ-centered relationships that allow them to comfortably explore their catholic faith and make it relevant to their everyday lives. This helps build safe relationships during some of the most formative years of a teen's life.

**Life Teen High School Youth Ministry** – High School Life Teen Youth Ministry is focused on leading teenagers closer to Christ through prayer, service, community and liturgical involvement with a strong focus on the truths of our Catholic faith and the Eucharist.

**Vacation Bible School** -A week of summer fun for children.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Stewardship Committee** meets monthly to plan events and explore ideas to educate and encourage Light of Christ parishioners to grow in their relationship with God through stewardship.

**Lay Witness** -A group of lay people (individuals, couples and families) who will give personal witness of their experience and conversion to a stewardship way of life.

**Parish Evangelizing Publications** – Informs parishioners of stewardship activities and opportunities for growing their faith and fellowship through the use of the Evangelizer publication, bulletins, posters, announcements, website, and other media as appropriate.

**Stewardship Weekend** -The event, featuring the Ministry Fair, is an annual occurrence during the kick-off of the new stewardship year.

As a faith community, we are not only comprised of many families, but at Light of Christ, we are *a family*. As a family, we have a diverse yet deeply connected community of members participating actively in their faith through ministries such as the Catholic Men's Association, Life Teen high school ministry, the Mulch ministry, and many, many more. Blessed John Paul II wrote: "since in God's plan it has been established as an 'intimate community of life and love,' the family has the mission to become more and more what it is, that is to say, **a community of life and love**, in an effort that will find fulfillment, as will everything created and redeemed, in the Kingdom of God." We at Light of Christ are a family-a community of life and love-made up of generations of parishioners building the Kingdom of God in our hearts, our families, our parish, and the Clearwater area. We recognize that "if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us." (1 John 4: 11-12). Uniting ourselves to the Church's and Christ's mission to build a community of life and love, we invite you to join our parish family as we receive and serve though our God-given time, talent, and treasure.

Notes:

Heavenly Father,

We give You thanks for the gifts with which you have blessed us. life, family, friends...and so much more.

All that we have comes from you. Help us to be mindful of this and grateful for Your Goodness.

You have made us your daughters and sons in Baptism. Be with us Father, as we celebrate the year of the family. Send your Holy Spirit upon us so we may have the grace to respect one another, worship together, support each other, and provide helping hands to extend Your Kingdom in this world.

Open our minds and hearts that we may accept Your challenge to build and strengthen our Christian community at home and in our parish.

We ask this prayer be answered through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

