

**Our Lady of Grace & St. Joseph**  
**Pastor's Message and Parish Announcements**

**May 8, 2021**

**Our Fourth Annual Pride Mass is Sunday, June 27, 2021**

On a recent episode of the CBS police drama, Blue Bloods, detectives are investigating the murder of a trans woman in a bar that caters to trans individuals. The woman detective does not seem to be interested in working this case. She tells her partner that she does not know much about trans life. Couldn't she be speaking for most of us? Do we know a trans person? What does this mean since it is foreign to most people? We sometimes become victim to stereotypes and do not bother to learn more. Join us for our next Zoom discussion on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, when Christine Zuba will share, "A Personal and Faith Journey as a Trans Catholic." She is a parishioner and Eucharistic Minister at Ss. Peter and Paul parish in Turnersville, NJ. Christine has attended all of our Pride Masses. I hope you will sign up and hear a devout Catholic help us understand.

Back in 2010, Tyler Clementi left Ridgewood to start school at Rutgers, New Brunswick. Prior to leaving home, he informed his parents that he is gay. One night, he invited a man back to his dorm room and his roommate, unknowing to Tyler, live streamed this very private encounter online. Tyler was a very shy and private young man and was just beginning to share his orientation publicly. As Tyler continued to read the jokes and comments online about his encounter, his reality spiraled out of control and he made a permanent decision to a temporary situation. On September 22, 2010 Tyler died by suicide. After a period of grieving, his parents Jane and Joseph Clementi formed the Tyler Clementi Foundation. Jane is now the CEO. She will be our June Zoom guest and speak about the need to end all online and offline bullying, in schools, workplaces, and faith communities.

They are asking parishes to sign on to the pledge. If you go to our parish website, [www.olghoboken.com](http://www.olghoboken.com), you can find the pledge and opportunity to sign on the right bottom. There is colorful art that says, "Support Our LGBT Youth." Click on the art. Your name will not be released but is simply for parish purposes. And no one will see any other name so only you and I will know that you signed.

We began our LGBT outreach called, "LGBTQ at Grace," after our archbishop, Cardinal Joseph Tobin welcomed a gay pilgrimage to our Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark in May 2017. The following year he invited 20 LGBT Catholics to the cathedral for dinner and a discussion. Our LGBT leader, Gary Stavella, and Christine Zuba attended. Since then, we have held meetings pre-COVID and now on Zoom. People ask me, "Why do you have a Pride Mass?" Because we believe the lives of all people are worth dignity and respect and we have failed as a Church to do that with our LGBT brothers and sisters. That is part of our official catechism.

Pope Francis has asked us to go to the peripheries to find people who have been estranged, disenfranchised or rejected and bring them into the fold. As we prepare to celebrate our Fourth Annual Pride Mass, we reflect on how inclusive Jesus was and how we need to bring that quality to our parish and Church.

Peace,

Fr. Alex Santora

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**Please Sign the Tyler Clementi Pledge:** If you go to our parish website, [www.olghoboken.com](http://www.olghoboken.com), you can find the Tyler Clementi Foundation pledge against LGBT youth bullying and the opportunity to sign on the right bottom. There is colorful art that says, "Support Our LGBT Youth." Click on the art. Your name will not be released but is simply for parish purposes. And no one will see any other name on the pledge list.

**Zoom Chat on Trans Life:** Join us on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, from 7:30 to 9 PM when Christine Zuba from South Jersey will share, "A Personal and Faith Journey as a Trans Catholic." If you would like to participate, you can contact the parish directly at [olgrace@optonline.net](mailto:olgrace@optonline.net). We will send the Zoom invite the day before the discussion.

**Celebrate the Confirmation Mass:** We celebrate Confirmation for our teens on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 7:30 PM in OLG Church with Bishop Gregory Studerus. All parishioners are invited. There is no 7 PM Mass in the Chapel that evening.

**Ascension Feast on Sunday, May 16:** Cardinal Tobin has moved the Feast of the Ascension to Sunday, May 16, 2021, for this year only. Thursday, May 13, 2021, therefore, is a regular weekday.

**Philippines 500th Anniversary:** The local Filipino community in the Archdiocese of Newark has prepared a yearlong Pilgrimage to mark the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines. Obtain a "Pilgrim Passport" with a list of the churches and prizes eligible for those who visit 10 of them. They are on the church tables.

**Mother's Day:** Mother's Day remembrance envelopes may be found on the church tables. We print your submissions in a future bulletin.

**Easter Collection:** Our Easter collection goal for both churches is \$37,000. Your generosity enables us to complete the work that will position our churches for the rest of this century. If each person, couple or family donates \$100, we will go over our goal. We hold the collection open until the Feast of Pentecost, May 23, 2021, and then publish a list in the bulletin unless you ask us to omit your name.

**AAA Pledge Redemption:** We thank you for helping us reach our Archbishop's Annual Appeal goal. Now if we can redeem the goal in paid pledges by June 30, 2021, we get a 2% reduction in our 2022 annual assessment to the Archdiocese, which is a significant amount of savings. Please go to our parish website for an AAA link.

**June 50/50 Raffle:** June 28 tickets are available after Mass. You may contact Socorro Martinez at the Parish Center and she can mail them to you.

**Supporting our parish:** Our parish relies on the support of parishioners and friends. We welcome you to contribute in one of the following ways:

- Drop off your donations in church or in the secure mailboxes in front of the OLG office at 411 Clinton St. or the St. Joseph Rectory at 61 Monroe St.
- Mail your donations to either church: OLG at 400 Willow Ave. or St. Joseph Church at 61 Monroe St.

- Contact your bank or financial institution and designate a set amount each week or month that will be mailed as a check to either church: OLG at 400 Willow Ave. or St. Joseph Church at 61 Monroe St.
- Donate using Venmo or Zelle. For info, please visit: [www.olghoboken.com/images/pdf/Parish\\_Support\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.olghoboken.com/images/pdf/Parish_Support_Guide.pdf)

Peace and God Bless