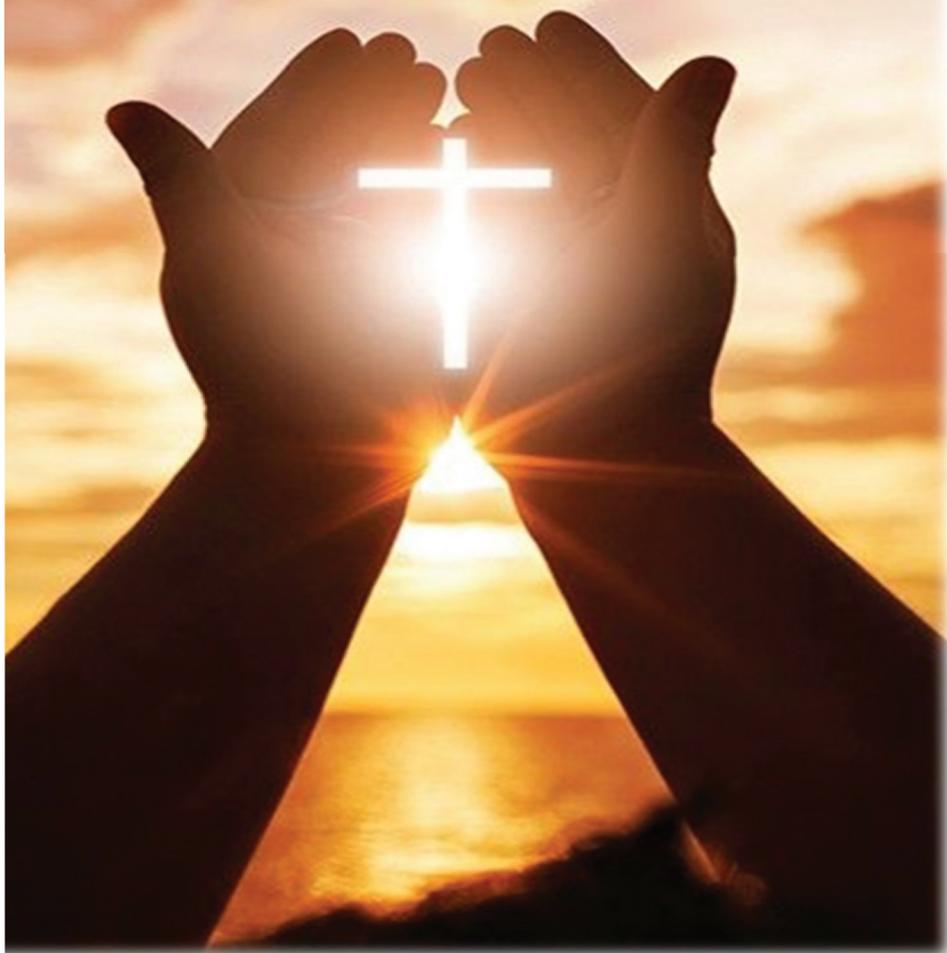


Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2021 Guidebook & Directory

Spiritual Revolution



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church

8151 Poplar Avenue
Germantown, TN 38138-6138
901-754-1204

<http://www.olphgermantown.org>



Saturday: 4:30 pm Sunday Vigil Mass
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:30 pm, 6:00 pm
Nursery at 4:30 pm, 9:00 am & 10:45 am

Mon thru Fri Mass 6:15 am in the Chapel
Mon thru Fri Mass 8:15 am in the Chapel (Tuesday in the Main Church)
Mon thru Fri Mass 12:00 pm in the Chapel

My dear brothers and sisters,

I am so glad to be home and back with you as your pastor! The Lord has appointed me to start a spiritual revolution here at Our Lady and to shepherd you as we journey together from where we are to where Jesus wants us to be. That is to say taking our parish from “maintenance to Mission.” We have one mission: to know Jesus and to make Him known. For such a time as this, the Lord is calling us from a cultural Catholicism to courageous, faithful sacramental living.

Are you ready for a spiritual revolution, renewal, and transformation in your own hearts? May we make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit, so the Lord will allow us to see this revolution come to fruition.

It is my responsibility, as your shepherd, to take as many people to heaven with me as I can. As we begin this transformation, this renewal, this revolution, may we heed the guiding wisdom of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and remain rooted in the Eucharist. Let us together be warriors in this fight, standing firm and living courageously for the greater glory of God.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

In Christ,

Rev. Jolly Sebastian, MCBS,
Pastor

Mission Statement

The Mission of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Community is to practice the teachings of the Roman Catholic Faith, and to convey to the community the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- We are committed to establishing the educational facilities, dedicating the resources, and supporting the Catholic educational programs for children, youth, and adults of our community.
- We are dedicated to promoting unity and peace within the community, and being instruments of reconciliation, evangelization and service to others.
- We shall sustain this mission faithfully through the power of the Holy Spirit and to pursue the mission with the time, talents and treasures of the members of our Parish.

Sacraments

Reconciliation	3:00 pm-4:30 pm Saturdays &	30 minutes prior to all Sunday Masses
Baptism	By appointment-Parental preparation required	
Matrimony	Please contact priest at least 6 months prior to Wedding as required by Diocesan Guidelines	
Anointing of the Sick	Please contact Parish Office	

Parish Staff

Parish Office.....	901-754-1204
Pastor.....	Rev. Jolly Sebastian, MCBS
Senior Priest.....	Rev. Msgr. Victor Ciaramitaro
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Peter Nguyen
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Kris Rusin
Deacon.....	Rev. Mr. Dave Lucchesi (Janet)
Deacon.....	Rev. Mr. John Moskal (Carol)
Deacon.....	Rev. Mr. Steve Mangin (Deidre)
Parish Secretary	Janet Lucchesi - Ext. 302 j lucchesi@olphgermantown.org
Accounting Manager	Elizabeth Sullivan - Ext. 308 esullivan@olphgermantown.org
Technologies Coordinator	Eric Gallimore - Ext. 304 egallimore@olphgermantown.org
Church Office.....	Amanda Moskal - Ext. 325 amoskal@olphgermantown.org
Sr. High Youth Director (9-12)	Deidre Mangin - Ext. 322
Jr. High Youth Director (5-8)	Roberta Hamblen - Ext. 316
Facilities Manager	David Kiehna - Ext. 307
Music Director.....	Shane Cole - Ext. 330
Organist	Melanie Marcom - Ext. 330
Athletic Director.....	Diana Davis-Harviel - Ext. 350

Church Web Site	www.olphgermantown.org
Church Email Address	church@olphgermantown.org
Parish Religious Education	754-1204 - Ext. 316
Director of Religious Education.....	Craig DeMille - Ext. 318
PRE Secretary	Michal Farrar - Ext. 316
Service Ops 7th-12th grade.....	Roberta Hamblen - Ext. 316
PRE Web Site	www.olphgermantown.org/faith-formation/
PRE Email Address.....	pre@olphgermantown.org
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	753-1181 - Ext. 340
Fax #.....	754-1475
Principal.....	Cristy Sneed - Ext. 341
Vice Principal	Elise Rodriguez - Ext. 347
Secretary	Angela Saba - Ext. 340
Home and School Association.....	753-1181 - Ext. 340
School Web Site	http://www.olphowls.org
School Email Address.....	asaba@olphgermantown.org

Parish Finance Council

President	Rev. Jolly Sebastian, MCBS
Chairman	Greg Wanta
Ex-officio Members	Msgr. Victor Ciaramitaro, Rev. Peter Nguyen, Rev. Kris Rusin, Elizabeth Sullivan, Cristy Sneed

Finance Council Members

Tammy Davis	Stephen Mangin	James Clark
Mary Anne Wehrum	Steve Fracchia	

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

<http://www.olphowls.org>

SCHOOL MISSION

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School's mission is to instill in our students the fundamental beliefs of the Roman Catholic faith, ensuring quality learning experiences with the highest regard for individual differences, while preparing them to live in a changing world as self-directed, caring, responsible citizens.



SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School's philosophy is firmly built on the "Cornerstone of Christianity," Jesus, Our Lord.

Dedicated to Our Lady, who was entrusted with the care and formation of the Child Jesus, we seek to imitate her gentle love in nurturing our children. We strive to create an atmosphere which promotes our children's spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical growth. Developing well-rounded students steeped in Catholic doctrine will ensure that the Church, supported by her "Cornerstone," remains strong and true to Catholic beliefs.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School is a meeting place for those who wish to express Christian values in education. The aim of the Catholic school community is the transmission of values for living. Its work is to promote a faith relationship with Christ in whom all values find fulfillment. Faith is principally assimilated through contact with persons whose daily lives bear witness to Christ. Christian faith is born and grows within a community.

Our school community generates an environment where our children gain a sense of responsibility for themselves and for the rights of others. Building on a foundation of faith, our children, like Mary, will have the courage and wisdom to serve their world community.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School is dedicated to providing an accredited, co-educational, child-centered school of developmentally appropriate excellence, serving all qualified children of any race, creed, national or ethnic origin. Christian values and an environment designed for the optimal development of the whole child are emphasized throughout the school program.

- Emphasizes Christian values, rooted in the tenets of the Catholic faith.
- Offers daily religious classes in Catholic faith formation and planned worship activities for all students.
- Provides a safe and loving environment.
- Maintains an accredited, coeducational, child-centered school of excellence.
- Serves qualified children of any race, creed, national or ethnic origin.
- Encourages each child to reach the full potential of his or her God-given abilities.
- Fosters cognitive development, social skills, and physical motor development within a faith-based environment.
- Accredited by Cognia (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School's Early Childhood Program offers programs to meet the needs of children age one year through Kindergarten. We have both part-time and full-time classes. Our youngest children learn by experiencing the world around them through play, guided activities, and creative art projects with time spent outdoors at our playground. Students' imaginations and knowledge of the world are cultivated during story time in the school library, and they develop a love for rhythm and dance in their dynamic music class, Musik Adventures. Students receive age appropriate religious education daily and learn prayers, Bible stories, and Jesus' love and compassion for us all.



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The curriculum focuses on cognitive preparation, social skills development, emotional growth, and enhanced physical coordination. Cognia and the Tennessee Early Learning Development Standards and corresponding criteria serve as a foundation for curriculum planning.

One and Two-Year-Olds

Classes meet Monday through Friday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. The One-Year-Old Program is available for children who are one-year-old on or before August 15 and who are walking. The Two-Year-Old program is available for children who are two-years-old on or before August 15.

Three and Four-Year-Olds

Classes are available Monday through Friday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday. Classes meet from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm. Children must be fully potty trained. Children must be three on or before August 15 for the three-year-old class. Children must be four on or before August 15 for the four-year-old class.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Children in grades kindergarten through five are immersed in a traditional academic program and formal religious education. Sacramental preparation in second grade prepares students to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. Students' math foundation is built using a rigorous math program in the lower grades. ALEKS Math is used for self-paced instruction to enrich the classroom experience. Instilling the love of reading is a fundamental goal throughout the school, and grade-level reading is planned along with individualized, leveled reading. The Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reader program is used to help students develop comprehension strategies and allow them to track their reading progress. Students also learn more about their community and world through our engaging, hands-on FOSS Science program and social studies curricula. Students are introduced to our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focus during the elementary years with hands-on, problem solving experiences. Students also have Spanish, Music, Art, PE, Library, and Computer to help round out their academic experience. Students are prepared for Middle School through our rigorous curriculum that is aligned with national standards, Diocesan curriculum, and state standards. Our academic curricular resources include textbooks, workbooks, online experiences, teacher created materials, iPad enrichment, student driven projects, field trips, guest speakers, and teacher chosen supplements. Our religious formation resources include textbooks, weekly Mass, weekly prayer service, daily prayers, sacramental preparation and participation, examining lives of the saints, history of the Catholic church, guidance from priests and deacons, and the history of the Diocese of Memphis and OLPH parish.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School encompasses grades six through eight. Religious education, weekly Mass, weekly prayer services, retreats, service projects, and preparation for Confirmation help the students grow their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Students are given a substantial foundation in their faith and are well prepared for life's tough decisions. In addition to all of the subjects offered in Elementary School, Middle School students have an immersive STEM experience that helps develop their problem-solving skills, inquiry, and scientific based research techniques. The rigorous math curriculum continues to build on previous math concepts by offering Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and an Honors Algebra in 8th grade. The study of Latin is used to promote deeper reading, enhance English grammar, and better develop the students' vocabulary. In preparation for their trip to Washington, D.C., 8th graders spend the school year learning about our government and the many monuments, museums, and government buildings they will visit. Students continue to work on writing skills by refining their understanding of grammar and writing. The reading program focuses on novel studies where students can analyze components including character development, genre conventions, and types of writing. Students continue to enrich their experiences with Spanish, Music, Art, PE, Library, and computer to help round out their academic experience. Middle school students benefit from a one-to-one Chromebook program to prepare for the work environment of high school. Students also have the opportunity to participate in Beta Club, Student Council, Forensics, Yearbook, Owl Watch, Scouts, Parish Athletics, Instrument lessons, Academic Team, and others as available.

Our engaging program prepares students to enter into the best high schools in the area with the confidence and knowledge they need to be successful. All of our graduating students have been accepted into the high school of their choice. High school principals have confirmed that our students are well prepared for the rigors of their next academic step.

KINDERGARTEN-EIGHTH GRADE SCHEDULE

Classes meet Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. To enroll in Kindergarten, children must be five years old, on or before August 15th. The school calendar follows the Diocesan schedule.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Before and After School Care is offered for all children (one-year-olds through 8th grade) for an additional fee. Extended Care opens at 7:00 am and closes at 6:00 pm. Students have time to play, complete homework, interact with others, have snack, and rest.

Parish Religious Education (PRE)

<http://olphermantown.org/?q=premain>
Faith Formation classes for parish children and youth

WHO

Children ages 4 years-8th grade

WHY

When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to bring up their children in the practice of the faith and to see to it that the divine life that God gives them always grows stronger in their hearts. (Rite of Baptism of Children, No. 56) Children not attending Catholic schools should be enrolled in a regular faith formation program in their parish.

HOW

Following the directive of the Catechetical Directory, our parish program includes Prayer, Instruction, Service, Community, and Morality.

Children ages 4 years-5 years

Use an instructional program that will focus on scripture stories and connect them to children's lives through an easy to understand, real-life story.

Children in Grades 1-6

Use an instructional program that in very motivational ways draws on the teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Youth in Grades 7 & 8

Confirmation preparation is a 2 year process that begins in the 7th grade and continues through the 8th grade. The Sacrament of Confirmation is generally administered during the 2nd semester of 8th grade.

Grade 7

The first semester curriculum includes a Catholic Bible study created specifically for middle school children and a program designed to inspire young souls to a deep and lasting love for the Mass. The second semester introduces a curriculum consisting in part, of video and discussion that engages young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about Catholicism.

Grade 8

The Confirmation preparation program used in 8th grade is designed to provide the essential intellectual and spiritual catechesis that is so vital to sacramental preparation. During the course of the year, the candidates for confirmation will be invited first to hear, then to respond with faith to the voice of God who has called us to become his sons and daughters - simply because "he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

WHEN

All classes meet Sunday mornings.

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Parish Organizations & Ministries

ALTAR SERVERS

Group of dedicated men, women and children called to serve by assisting at Mass.

Michele Riolo

BEREAVEMENT RECEPTION COMMITTEE

A ministry to assist families in the parish who wish to have a gathering of family and friends at the church following the funeral of a loved one.

Laura Cardelli

Howard & Lucy Giffin

OLPH Bridge Club

Mary Castelli

CARING COOKS

Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to families in crisis such as illness or other tragedy.

Kathleen Edelmuth

CAREERS IN TRANSITION

Provides a network of support, counseling and resources to those in transition between jobs.

Pat Hayden

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Work with the children during the Liturgy of the Word on Sunday to help them better understand the message of God.

Gina Eddleman

CHOIRS

Adult Choir, Adult Contemporary Ensemble

Shane Cole - 754-1204, Ext. 330

FISHERS OF MEN

Men joined together in prayer and community to grow spiritually and to serve as Disciples of Christ.

Bill Platten - 861-4183 (Tuesday Morning)

Jim Smith - 606-7016 (Wednesday Evening)

GYM/ATHLETICS

Parish sponsored sports for the youth and adults to participate in.

Soccer, Baseball, Golf, Volleyball, and Basketball are just a few:

Athletic Director - Diana Davis-Harviel - 754-1204, Ext. 350

HEALTH MINISTRY/LIFE BLOOD

Coordinates health related needs and outreach of the parish, including the semiannual parish Life Blood Drive.

HIS WILL PRAYER GROUP

His Will is an intercessory prayer group that focuses on praying for the various civil and religious matters that impact our world today. Join us in prayer and study afterwards, Tuesday at 9:30 am or Thursday at 7:00 pm.
Jean Carr

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

This parent group supports the school in activities to help the school provide teaching aids for the teachers.
olphpto@gmail.com
Jason McBride

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Individuals that serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Ushers who are committed to serve in the gathering of the Body of Christ in Liturgical celebration.
Deacon John Moskal

MEN'S CLUB

This group of Parish men combines fellowship and parish community service. Members need not be Catholic.
President: Chris Curry
mensclub@olphgermantown.org

MERRY MAKERS

For those 50 and over who want to enjoy travel, good fun and parish community activities.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Members visit and take communion to hospital patients and shut-ins.

NEWCOMER COMMITTEE

Welcomes new families to the parish.

PANTRY COMMITTEE

Volunteers who gather and sort food and all items donated to the parish pantry.
Bill & Virginia Kilgore

PARISH OUTREACH

People that would like to participate in various programs throughout the diocese that assist the poor and needy.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Advise the pastor and help frame and realize the parish vision.

PRAYER GROUP

Come together to pray the rosary and grow spiritually as a community.
Calma Hobson

PRAYER PARTNER

Prays, sends cards to, and affirms children in First Eucharist class.
PR.E. Office - 754-1204, Ext. 316

PR.E. TEACHER AIDE

Volunteers teach religion and prepare our children for the sacraments.
PR.E. Office - 754-1204, Ext. 316

PRISON MINISTRY

Individuals willing to assist at prison liturgies and spend time with prisoners.

R.C.I.A.

Welcomes and assists adult inquirers to become active participants in the Catholic Church.
Craig DeMille

ROSARY MAKERS

A group of people who meet to make rosaries and provide them for the parish and community needs.
Mike Taylor

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

St. Vincent de Paul Society is active in the entire community serving the poor. This organization is looking for volunteers to help in many different programs, including serving food to homeless people at the downtown Soup Kitchen.
Judy Sahn

TREES OF LOVE

Parish Christmas project to help the needy with clothing, food and special Christmas gifts.
Gretchen Kirk
Barbara Woodward

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHER/AIDE

Assist in Summer Vacation Bible School.
PR.E. Office - 754-1204, Ext. 316

WOMEN'S GUILD

Members support and maintain the sanctuary, sponsor social events and support parish community service.
President: Florence Busey

WORD OF LIFE SCRIPTURE STUDY

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YOUTH GROUPS

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

For 9th through 12th graders. Focuses on social and spiritual development and community service.

Diedra Mangin - 754-1204, Ext. 322

NWJ (NOT WITHOUT JESUS)

Youth Group for 7th & 8th graders.

Roberta Hamblen - 754-1204, Ext. 316

FROG (FULLY RELY ON GOD)

Youth Group for 5th & 6th graders.

Roberta Hamblen - 754-1204, Ext. 316

Non-Parish Organizations Associated with the Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council #7449 combines active community service, charity fund raising and fellowship.

OLPHKofC7449@aol.com

Grand Knight: Ed Cabrera

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Francis of Assisi is known as Everybody's Saint. In fact, many men and women love him so much that they make a lifetime commitment to follow his way of life.

Nancy Adair - 901-755-7452

BOY SCOUTS

Provides boys between the ages of 11 to 18 outdoor adventure, service projects, leadership skills and responsibilities to grow into strong confident adults. (Troop 74)

CUB SCOUTS

Adventure for boys & girls in the 1st through 5th grade enabling them and their parents to work together while enjoying the family fun of Cub Scouting.

Deacon Steve Mangin

DCCW - DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Diocesan group of women who offer service to the wider Memphis Community. Supported by the membership of O.L.P.H. Women's Guild.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church History 1950-2020

In October of 1948, C. O. Franklin wrote to the Most Reverend William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville, expressing a need for a worship space in Germantown. Due to the shortage of priests and the greater need of Catholics in outlying areas, Bishop Adrian responded to Mr. Franklin by saying that he found it difficult to fulfill this need but would give it serious thought. During the next few years, further appeals were made to the bishop for a Catholic church to be erected in Germantown. Mr. Franklin contacted the bishop again in June of 1950 asking permission to have Mass celebrated in the city hall. In a letter dated August 26, 1950, the bishop appointed Fr. Joseph P. Gresham to create in Germantown a mission from St. Anne Parish on Highland. This parish would be the eighteenth parish in the vicinity of Memphis. Fr. Gresham was named Assistant Pastor of St. Anne's, though his duties were to celebrate Sunday and Holy Day Masses in Germantown at the city hall.

The original membership of the mission parish consisted of thirty families. Father Gresham celebrated Mass using a portable altar, while a folding screen set up in the corner of the building served as a confessional. Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Whalen cared for the vestments. When a Mr. Clayton, a charter member, died, he was buried from St. Anne Church since the new church in Germantown was not complete.

In May of 1951, an Altar Society was established in the mission parish. Mrs. C. O. Franklin was elected president; Mrs. R.L. Stevens, vice president; Mrs. Alex Barzizza, treasurer; and Mrs. Jay Crawford, secretary. Funds to build a permanent church were raised and the property for the church site was donated by an Episcopalian family, Mr. and Mrs. Jere L. Crook, Jr., and children, Senter Crook, II and Jere Crook, III of Germantown in honor of Mr. Crook's father, Dr. Jere Lawrence Crook, M.D., L.L.D., F.A.C.S. The original property consisted of seven and a half beautiful wooded acres, situated on one of the highest elevations in Shelby County.

On June 1, 1952, the first Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Germantown. Formal dedication ceremonies were held on October 19 of that same year. The Most Reverend William D. O'Brien of Chicago, and President of the Catholic Extension Society which donated \$2500 to the building fund, was celebrant of the dedication liturgy. Twelve days after the dedication of the new church, Fr. Joseph P. Gresham died at the age of thirty-nine from complications of pneumonia and a reaction to penicillin.

On November 8, 1952, Bishop Adrian appointed Fr. James Driscoll to succeed Fr. Gresham as pastor. During Fr. Driscoll's pastorate, the parish was certainly not idle and many improvements were made.

In November of 1952, a Fall festival was held to raise funds to help pay for the new church. The festival was promoted, with a barbecue supper being the main event, in a letter from Jack Erb and J.W. Wrape informing the parishioners: "We need a pig! It seems that Jim Nelles had received a donation of one pig and there was a need for another!"

The parish continued to grow and in April of 1953 the Holy Name Society presented an evening of song performed by the world-famous tenor, Christopher Lynch. In May of the same year, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary was dedicated to Father Gresham's memory by Bishop Adrian.

On July 15, 1954, Father Paul J. Morris was appointed pastor of the mission parish when Father Driscoll was transferred to Chattanooga to become principal of Notre Dame High School. During Fr. Morris' fifteen years as pastor, the parish experienced much growth. The first parish council was formed with John D. Canale, Jr., as its first president. The parish religious education program was formalized under the guidance of the Sisters of Mercy. The first parish census was conducted and bus service from the Catholic schools in Memphis was extended to include the OLPH children.

By 1965, the rectory was built and Father Morris had moved from a rental house on Dogwood Road to the present rectory. The parish membership had grown to about 100 families. The opportunity soon presented itself for the parish to purchase an additional fifteen acres of land adjoining the property. With the renewal of the liturgy called for by the Second Vatican Council, the interior of the church was redecorated and rearranged and an adult choir was organized.

In June of 1969 when Fr. Morris was named Superintendent of Education, Fr. Edward C. "Ned" Elliott was appointed pastor of the parish. Father Elliott soon recognized the great need for an all-purpose building to accommodate the many activities of the growing Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish family. William P. Brennan, Jr., constructed the building and Marshall Tillman volunteered to oversee the construction of the facility. The total cost of the new building was \$47,000. John D. Canale donated the office and Martin Shea the wall paneling. The building was named in honor of the parish's first pastor, Father Gresham.

During Father Elliott's pastorate, the parish continued to grow and soon the need arose for greater C.C.D. work. Sr. Clement Marie, O.P. (now Sr. Mary Della Quinn) was asked to direct this program, and later on, an adult education program. In the spring and summer of 1970, the CYO was having dances; C.C.D. was held every Sunday; the Altar Society voted to have the red drapes hung in the church and air conditioning was installed.

On January 6, 1971, the Diocese of Memphis was created with the Most Reverend Carroll T. Dozier being ordained the first Bishop of Memphis. In the same year, the 5:30 pm Vigil Mass was added to the weekend schedule.

As we move into our new church, it is interesting to note that the following announcement ran in the church bulletin for Sunday, September 26, 1971: "Our attendance at Masses last weekend-Saturday evening 65 people; Sunday morning at 7:30, 82; at 10:00, 276, and at noon 97. Total of 520 persons at Mass here last week."

Father Gresham Hall was dedicated April 22, 1972. The church was painted and new carpet and drapes installed in 1973. In 1974 plans were initiated for a new parish council. On January 11, 1975, Fr. Michael L. Stewart was ordained to the priesthood. The same year saw Marilyn Guilliams come on the scene as parish secretary-the position in which she continued to faithfully serve our parish for many years. In 1977, the parish celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the original church. The year 1978 saw parishioners Walter Chandler and Ned Turner ordained as permanent deacons. And in 1979, the current practice of the offertory or "honor" family was introduced. In the summer of 1979, Father Elliott completed his first decade as pastor of the parish. At the end of the same year, the Knights of Columbus held their first meeting here.

Parish records show that in November of 1980 there were 478 families registered in the parish. As the parish continued to grow, Callie Johnson and Joseph Brown were hired full-time to care for the maintenance needs of the parish plant. (Callie and Joseph were married on June 23, 1984, by Fr. Ned Elliott.) The growth of the parish in the early eighties necessitated larger offices, which in 1982 were added to the existing rectory.

Recognizing the increased pastoral needs of our thriving parish, the Most Reverend J. Francis Stafford-the second Bishop of Memphis-appointed Fr. Ed Byrnes the first Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the summer of 1983. A reception welcoming Father Byrnes was held in Fr. Gresham Hall in mid-August of that year. Meanwhile Germantown and the parish family continued to feel the population boom. July of 1985 saw a note in the parish bulletin asking parishioners to begin to jot down ideas for the design of a new and larger church.

During all of these years the parish religious education program flourished under the direction of several gifted leaders. Sr. Mary Agnes Sullivan, O.P. followed under Sr. Clement Marie as Director of PRE. Sr. Mary Michael Greaber, O.P., who served as director for five years, succeeded her. Our present PRE secretary, Michal Farrar, came on the scene in August of 1985.

Many changes were seen in our parish during 1986. Fr. Ned Elliott, who served as pastor for seventeen years, announced his retirement. Bishop Stafford appointed Fr. Michael L. Stewart to the pastorate of our parish in the spring of that year, though he would not take possession of the parish until the summer. Also in the summer of 1986, Fr. Gary Lamb was appointed associate pastor of Little Flower parish in Memphis. At the same time, Florence Moisan joined the parish staff and worked two days a week in the parish office.

A farewell reception was held for Father Elliott in July of 1986, followed by a reception welcoming Father Stewart and Father Lamb in August. In the same summer, the diocese bade farewell to Bishop J. Francis Stafford, who had been named by our Holy Father to become the Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Denver. It was in August of this same year that Father Stewart hired Gretchen Smith as director of parish religious education.

Under the excellent leadership and pastoral spirit of Father Stewart, our parish continued to grow and prosper. Many dedicated men and women became involved as lectors, ushers, and extra ordinary ministers of the Eucharist at liturgies. Many of these people became involved as a result of the Ministries Commitment Sunday held in August of 1989. Several hundred responses were received with commitments not only to the liturgical ministries but also to the many and varied ministries in the realm of education and community service.

In September of 1989, a reception was held in Father Gresham Hall to honor Rose and Raoul Vanelli for their eighteen years of dedicated service to our parish. During these years, the CYO flourished under their capable and loving leadership. Knowing their shoes would be hard to fill; Maggie Kluthe rose to the challenge and joined the staff as youth director. It was at the same time that Shona Moore, another parishioner, joined the staff as director of music.

As the parish plant itself continued to grow and all the facilities were being used more and more, so too did our maintenance needs. In March of 1990 Wesley Moore was hired as director of Maintenance.

When Father Stewart was appointed pastor in April of 1986, Bishop Stafford discussed with him the need for building a new church to accommodate the 650 families registered in the parish at that time. By the time Father Stewart's appointment became effective in July, Bishop Stafford was leaving for Denver. Monsignor Paul Morris, a former pastor of our parish, was called out of retirement to serve as administrator of the Memphis Diocese. He and Father Stewart discussed the plans for future building and it was decided to set forth with the plans to build a new church and family life center.

In January of 1987, Father Stewart met with the parish council to form an ad hoc committee to establish a building committee for the proposed construction. On February 17, the building committee was named and approved as follows: "Nine Elected Members: John Bies, Margie Brennan, Joe Costa (chairman), Rosemary Courtney, Joyce Kelly, Bill Moisan, Greg Rich, Jack Richey, and Carol Walls. Four Alternate Members: Jim Whalen, Bobby Fisher, Linda Cerrito, and Les Edwards. Ex Officio Members: Father Michael Stewart, Father Gary Lamb (replaced by Fr. John Aiello in July of 1987), and Deacon Walter Chandler."

An ad hoc committee of finance was established in April of the same year and an open parish meeting was held to discuss and evaluate the parish building philosophy. In the same month, a pledge drive was begun under the title "Challenge to Build." The pledge drive was organized by the Community Counseling Service of New York and Chicago.

In June of 1987, Granville Taylor of the Firm Taylor, Gardner, and Montgomery was selected as the architect for the project. Father Stewart and representatives of the building committee and finance committee met with the newly appointed Bishop Daniel M. Buechlein to discuss the plans and needs for the new church and family life center. This meeting resulted in a “phase down” from all needed facilities to the “first phase” of a church building.

At an open meeting of parishioners in January of 1988, Granville Taylor presented a project cost summary of \$2,450,654.00. Shortly thereafter, John Heirigs of John J. Heirigs Construction Company was selected as our general contractor. Several months after the beginning of construction, his son Jim took charge of the project.

The blessing and groundbreaking ceremony, with Bishop Buechlein presiding, was held on Sunday, May 15, 1988, at 2:30 in the afternoon. Although the original completion date for the new church was scheduled for fall of 1989, many unforeseen delays ensued. The first Mass in our new worship space was celebrated on Saturday evening, April 7, 1990. The celebration began with the commemoration of the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Passion Sunday. The Solemn Dedication Liturgy was held on May 6, 1990.

In 1992, Father Stewart was assigned by Bishop Daniel M. Buechlein to be the founding pastor of the new St. Brigid Church on Lowrance Road. Father Milton Guthrie was assigned as Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on July 1, 1992.

In discussion of the appointment of Father Guthrie by Bishop Buechlein, the bishop asked that Father Guthrie promote the development of a Catholic School. At the beginning, Father Guthrie met with the school building commission consisting of Mary Anne Wehrum, chairman, Jack Domer, Stan Kristo, Mike Mattingly, and Gretchen Smith. This commission was later realigned into education and building committees.

The education committee was made up of the principals of Holy Rosary School, and St. Louis School; Lee Smith, Assistant Principal of St Benedict High School; Dr. Alicia Tilley, Dean of Graduate School of Education at Memphis State University; Dr. Carol M. Kulpa, Superintendent of Memphis Catholic Schools; Brother Chris Englert, principal of Christian Brothers High School; parishioners Mary Anne Wehrum, Mike Mattingly, Jack Domer, and Gretchen Smith, PRE director of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. At this same period, the finance council was re-activated. This council consisted of: Bill Moisan, Dick Guilliams, Frank Lamanna, Mike Mattingly, Jack Richey, Carlos Cantu, Sr., Deacon Walter Chandler (ex-officio member), and Fr. Milton Guthrie.

Considering the task ahead, it seemed necessary to rejuvenate the parish council with the following members: J. Michael Taylor, president, Marilyn Guilliams, secretary, Rosalie Pecoraro, Mike D’Addabbo and Gretchen Smith. At this time it was decided to hold elections in September of 1992 to build the parish pastoral council. Out of these reactivated groups came the plans for the Family Life Center. Ben Beer served as the first phase chairman, and Frank Herbers was selected as the second phase chairman.

The Family Life Center soon incorporated the plans for a school. These plans became the Family Life Enrichment Center which would contain classrooms, a great room for parish gatherings, a nursery for infants and small children, a new bride's room (so that the original bride's room could be transformed into a vesting room for the priests and deacons), new offices so that the entire staff at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church could work together more efficiently. The plan consisted of eight classrooms, four meeting rooms, and office space for every staff member, and out-of-doors secured play area for the children.

Included in this elaborate plan were a soccer/baseball field, parking lot expansion and improvement, opening for a new picnic area with a pavilion seating up to 100 people, large barbecue and permanent picnic benches. Eagle Scout Michael D'Addabbo, Jr. and Phillip Counce, Jr. spearheaded the work that saw park benches surrounding the picnic area and the Stations of the Cross Trail completed.

In August of 1992, Fr. Edward Fisher, a newly ordained priest, was assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. During that same time, Fr. Adolpho Valanzuela, a native of the Philippines, was assigned to our parish as well. Sr. Grace Saia, SCN, arrived in 1993 to become director of pre-school and kindergarten.

In 1994, Fr. Joseph Nguyen and Fr. Marian Spadini arrived to serve our membership. Fr. Nguyen was the first Vietnamese priest to be ordained for the Diocese of Memphis. The same year, a welcome addition to our parish, was the Korean community. The blessing and dedication of the new Parish Family Life Enrichment Center, with Bishop J. Terry Steib presiding, was held on Sunday, October 20, 1996, at 2:00 pm. Bishop Steib blessed the building, accompanied by Fr. Joseph Nguyen and James Quinn, Chairman of the building committee. During the sprinkling of the building, Fr. Guthrie led the people to the Cornerstone area where a Time Capsule was placed. A reception followed in the church Narthex. In September of 1996, the blessing of the Pavilion took place, a gift of the Knights of Columbus, Council 7447 and a key was presented to Fr. Guthrie by the Grand Knight, Ray Goetze.

In the summer of 1998, Fr. Guthrie retired and a reception was held for him in July. Rev. J. Edwin Creary was appointed to succeed him and came to the parish in August 1998 and a reception was held to welcome him. With great joy we also welcomed Fr. John Kim in July of 1998. Fr. Kim was sent to us from the Diocese of Birmingham to serve our Korean Community and the parish family.

The chapel, which once was referred to as "the Church," is now called the Chapel and is used for daily Mass, weddings, and funerals. It is the first foundation of our community and is cared for lovingly. We continue to grow and our facilities are brimming with activity every day of the week and there is an organization for everyone in the parish community and always a need for more active members.

We are very proud of our parish family here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Germantown, Tennessee and pray for its growth in service to its members and the community at large, always in the spirit of love and charity with the guidance of our Pastor Father J. Edwin Creary, and Associate Pastors, Fr. Marian Spadini and Fr. John Kim. In the year 2000 as we entered the New Millennium we celebrated our 50th Anniversary at Our Lady, with many festivities and a special Mass of Thanksgiving.

On June 10, 2000 Richard Dennis Coy a parishioner of Our Lady was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ by the Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, SVD, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Memphis. He celebrated his first Holy Mass of Thanksgiving here at Our Lady on Sunday, June 11th. Fr. Coy was the first parishioner to be ordained from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The year 2001 marked another great milestone in the growth of our parish; we were very proud to dedicate our new Education and Recreation Facilities, Bishop Steib officiated, Fr. Creary our pastor and Fr. Spadini our associate assisted. On this same day, September 23rd, we also rededicated our parish hall in honor of Saint Therese of the Infant of Jesus.

Reverend Marian Spadini retired due to poor health in March 2003 and Reverend Michael Werkhoven was assigned to the parish as Associate Pastor in July 2003. On October 1, 2004 we welcomed Rev. Jolly Sebastian, Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, from India as our new Associate Pastor.

After nineteen years as Director of Religious Education, Gretchen (Smith) Kirk left her position and was honored on July 22, 2005 at the closing dinner for VBS. All parishioners were invited to wish her a fond farewell. Mrs. Mary Jo Healy was hired as the new DRE.

In June of 2007 we said goodbye to Rev. Joseph L. Tagg, III and welcomed our newly ordained associate, Rev. Krzysztof (Christopher) Rusin from Poland.

Parishioners John Moskal and Adam Rust were ordained into the Diaconate, and Father Creary celebrated 10 years as Pastor of Our Lady. The church acquired a Columbarium through the generous donations of Fran Costa.

In July 2009 we said goodbye to Mary Jo Healy as Parish Religious Education Director and welcomed Craig DeMille in her place. Mrs. Healy retired to join her husband traveling. Mr. DeMille was the Adult Sunday Study facilitator before becoming Director of Religious Education.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, bestowed a wonderful honor on the Diocese of Memphis, the entire priesthood, and our Parish in 2009. The title of “Chaplain to His Holiness,” with the title of Monsignor was given to our Pastor, J. Edwin Creary, and five other priests in the Diocese: Monsignors Albert and Thomas Kirk, Victor Ciaramitaro, John McArthur and Valentine Handwerker. The ceremony of Investiture was conducted at the Cathedral on September 8, the Feast of the Birth of Mary, our Diocesan, and parish Patroness. A public reception was held at Our Lady in St. Therese Hall on September 23, beginning with Evening prayer at 6:30 pm in the Church.

Deacon Paul Hamblen passed away on April 7, 2010. The conference room 109 complex in St. Therese Hall was named in his honor with a commemorative plaque installed outside the main entrance to the rooms. Deacon Dave Lucchesi and his wife Janet Lucchesi, our parish secretary of 22 years, joined the parish in June of 2010 coming to us from Incarnation parish in Collierville, TN. Deacon Dave was ordained in June of 2007. Father Johnnie Smith, a former parishioner at OLPH, was ordained on June 5 and joined the Parish June 23 as its newest associate when Father Krzysztof (Kris) Rusin was transferred to Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Christopher Schaeffgen (Friar Thomas Schaeffgen, O.P.) of our parish professed his Solemn Vows to the Dominican Order of Preachers on May 25, 2011. Brother Thomas spent the summer in residence at St. Peter Church in Memphis and preaching in Spanish at Resurrection Parish also in Memphis.

In July of 2011, Fr. Jolly Sebastian, MCBS, was transferred to St. Francis of Assisi Parish. In June of 2012 we said goodbye to Father Johnnie B. Smith who left to become Pastor at St. Paul’s in Memphis. Father Gary Lamb transferred from Lexington, TN in the Deanery to OLPH and newly ordained Father Patrick Hirtz joined our staff. Renovations to the exterior of Father Gresham were completed in early 2012.

The roof, windows and doors were replaced and all new landscaping added. In July 2012 we acquired the property next to the rectory known affectionately as “The Lil White House” from the owners and parishioners Al and Gerry Darr. In early August we added two new Columbariums to each side of St. Francis in the Garden area between the Gym and Church.

John Paul Miles of our Parish entered the Jesuit, St. Stanislaus Novitiate in August of 2012 and Rev. Br. Thomas Schaeffgen, O.P. was ordained to the diaconate on September 15, 2012 in St. Louis, MO.

Dn. Christopher Thomas Schaeffgen’s priestly ordination took place on June 22, 2013 at Saint Peter Church, the Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, SVD, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Memphis presided. Rev. Christopher Thomas Schaeffgen’s first Mass was celebrated at Our Lady on June 23rd at the 12:15 pm Mass.

2014 was a year of fine-tuning at OLPH. The renovations in Father Gresham Hall along with the new furniture and audio/visual facilities became home base for a number of parish ministries. The school's addition of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum resulted in recognition as a NASA Honor School and a \$5,000 grant for 3D printing capability. OLPH was also named as Germantown's best school for the 9th year and was recognized as the winner of the Memphis in May Best School-wide Salute to Panama. The columbaria niches in the Garden of Saints, opened in 2008 and added to in 2012, reached the 100% reserved level during the summer. The original floor in St. Therese Hall and Rooms 109 A-B was upgraded to a more modern, lower maintenance wood toned vinyl that adds a new feeling of warmth and welcoming to the Family Life Center.

During 2016, Our Lady of Perpetual Help observed the ordination of three parishioners to the Permanent Diaconate at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Mike D'Addabbo, Philip Moore and Stephen Mangin. Rev. Mr. Deacon D'Addabbo has been assigned to St. Louis Church; Deacon Moore to St. Brigid Church; and Deacon Mangin is assigned to us at Our Lady. In June of 2016 we said goodbye to Father Patrick Hirtz who left to become Pastor at St. Andrew the Apostle in Lexington, TN in the Deanery. Father Eric Peterson joined our staff after serving as chaplain at CBHS.

In June we said goodbye to Patricia Wyckoff as Principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and welcomed Cristy Sneed in her place.

2017 brought a new round of evolution to OLPH and to the Diocese. The Chapel renovations were completed in late May, welcoming back daily masses, first Friday adoration and the OLPH Korean community. At that time, after 40 years as a priest and nearly 19 years as pastor at OLPH, Bishop Holley approved Monsignor Creary's request to retire. Father Mathew Panackachira, MCBS joined OLPH as Parochial Administrator succeeding Monsignor Creary. In July Monsignor Victor Ciaramitaro joined as the senior priest. In July of 2018 Very Rev Fr. James Clark, the Chancellor and Judicial Vicar of the Diocese joined us and served as the priest in residence until June 2020.

In June of 2019 we said goodbye to Fr. Cain Galicia (St. Brigid) and Fr. Eric Peterson (retired) and welcomed Fr. Peter Nguyen as the new Parochial Vicar. In August of 2020, amidst the Covid19 pandemic, Father Mathew Panackachira, MCBS was made pastor at Holy Spirit, and OLPH welcomed back Fr. Jolly Sebastian, MCBS as Pastor and Rev. Krzysztof (Christopher) Rusin as Parochial Vicar.