



Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Website Freshly Updated with Improved Features and Usability

If you haven't visited our parish website in a while, now is a good time! The website has a fresh new look with lots of clean, easy-to-navigate features to enjoy. The need to change the website was identified during early 2025, when website provider LPI announced that they planned to discontinue the existing website system and replace it with a new platform in 2026. The website revamp started more than a year ago, when the parish signed a new agreement with LPI for the continued website service.

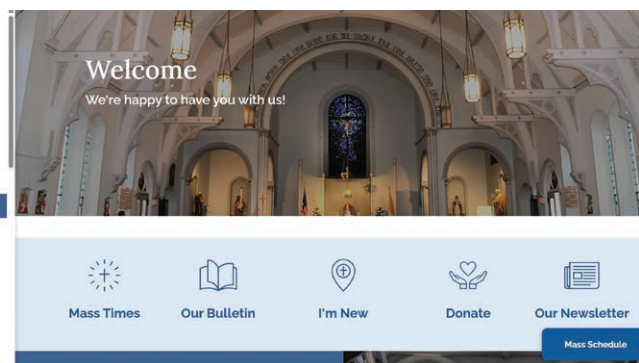
Since LPI was moving to a new platform, this meant a major upgrade to the Our Lady of Hope website. It also meant there was going to be a need for a significant amount of time and effort to outline the screens and requirements for the new site, determine the existing information to transfer from the old website, and to gather and provide new information to LPI for the new website.

"Before retirement, my career and engineering education provided me with a technical background," says Bill Killion. "So, working with new website systems is something I've done on three or four occasions in business and for a personal application. Therefore, I was familiar with working with a provider for launching new websites."

Our Lady of
HOPE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Select Language ▼

Home
About Us ▼
I'm New Here ▼
Our Staff ▼
Parish Calendar
Online Giving ▼
Stewardship ▼



The website can be viewed at www.ccrwash.org.

Bill said his involvement began as a result of the Stewardship Commission wanting to add a "Stewardship" section to the website and to change and simplify the "Join a Ministry" process on the old website.

"I'm part of the Stewardship Commission, so I volunteered for that project," Bill says. "I met with Fr. Juan Ramirez, who had a responsibility to help maintain the original website. He suggested I contact the provider of the website about modifying the 'Join a Ministry' process. When I contacted them, I was told that the present platform was going to become obsolete by the end of 2025."

Bill met with Fr. Paul Ferguson to discuss the project and volunteered to lead this project for the parish.

"There was a questionnaire, including project specifications that the provider, LPI, required for our parish to complete to get on their schedule," Bill says. "I completed the survey, reviewed it with Fr. Juan and Fr. Paul, and submitted it."

The new website launched in March. Parishioners will notice not only a new look, but new features, information,

continued on page 2

Parish Website Freshly Updated with Improved Features and Usability

continued from front cover



Bill Killion believes this project has been a journey of stewardship for him.

and simpler navigation. The new website also includes several areas for users to send a message or make inquiries to the Parish Office. We would like the website to be an effective communication resource for everyone in our parish.

“Another very important feature is the ability to view the website in multiple languages,” Bill says. “Our parish is very diverse. Our parishioners are mostly English-speaking, but we have a substantially large Hispanic community. We also have an active and growing Haitian membership. With that diversity, we felt a website that could communicate in all three languages was extremely important.”

Viewers can choose to view the website in English, Spanish, or Haitian Creole. Hopefully, by understanding what is being viewed in their native language, viewers will be more comfortable using the website.

“The old system was rather outdated,” Bill says. “It was difficult to navigate. Having an easier navigation system on the new site is a true benefit. We wanted something more welcoming and inviting, so people could feel more at ease when navigating the site. We wanted more pictures of our church and parishioners, and to be able to feature upcoming events, highlights of ministry activities, and involvements within the parish.”

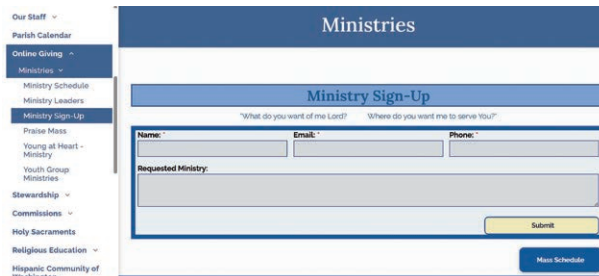
The left side panel shows the menu and allows easier navigation throughout your visit, allowing you to find what you’re looking for quickly. There’s also a quick “Contact Us” link, which reaches the parish office. Plus, the Mass times are always accessible in the lower right corner of the home page.

“Our staff page shows our priests and deacon,” Bill says. “Each priest has a bio about their background. It’s more personal. I thought that was a great addition. Additionally, the staff page highlights the people who work in the parish office as well as our school administrators.

“One of the things we struggled with on the old site was requesting to join a ministry,” he adds. “It went through about six screens. Now, under ‘Ministries,’ we added a summary of each ministry. Parishioners can read about the ministries and make an informed decision if they are interested in joining a new ministry. If interested in joining a ministry, a parishioner can request to join a new ministry online at any time. When received, the request is forwarded to the ministry leader for them to contact the interested parishioner.”

For Bill, this project has been a journey of stewardship as he is using his time and talents to make our parish website better for everyone.

“It’s turned out to be quite rewarding to me,” he says. “I encourage everyone to look through it and see how it can benefit them. I believe the new website is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the vitality of Our Lady of Hope Parish.”



A list of ministries can be found under “Ministries,” along with an easy-to-fill-out request form to join.



To reach out, scroll down to our “Contact Us” link at the bottom of the left side panel.

To see the website, visit ccwash.org. If you have questions or suggestions, you may contact Bill Killion at 812-698-7540 or billkillion2015@gmail.com, or you may contact Melissa Cox at the Parish Office

Stewardship and the Miracle of *Multiplication*

Dear Parishioners,

One of the most familiar miracles in the Gospels is the feeding of the multitude. It is a story we know well — a large crowd, very little food, and the Lord multiplying what was given so that all were fed.

What is easy to overlook is how that miracle begins. It does not start with abundance. It starts with a simple act of generosity — one person willing to offer what little he had. From that small gift, Christ provided for thousands.

That same principle is at work in the life of the Church today. We are not asked to give what we do not have. We are asked to offer what we have been given. Our time, our talents, and our resources may seem limited when viewed on their own, but when placed in the hands of the Lord, they become part of something much greater.

Stewardship is rooted in this understanding. We provide the gifts, and God provides the growth. It is not our role to measure the outcome or to see all the results. Our responsibility is to respond with generosity and trust, believing that God will use what we offer in ways we may never fully see.

It can be easy to think that our contribution does not matter. But the life of the parish depends on the willingness of many people to offer what they can. Every act of generosity — no matter how small — becomes part of the larger mission of the Church.

The summer months often bring a change in routine, and with that can come a shift in priorities. Yet the call to stewardship does not change. The needs of the parish remain, and the opportunity to give continues.

As we reflect on this Gospel message, we are reminded that God does not ask for perfection or abundance. He asks for willingness. When we respond with open hearts, He takes what we offer and uses it to accomplish far more than we could on our own.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Ferguson

Fr. Paul Ferguson
Pastor



A Look at the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** *Accompanying Souls on the Journey*



There's a real beauty to being raised in the Catholic Church and continuing to practice the Faith from childhood to adulthood. But there's also beauty in finding the Catholic faith as an adult and going through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults process, or OCIA.

Pam Freyberger, PCL at Our Lady of Hope, assisted Kande with the OCIA process this year. The English-speaking adults met on Tuesday evenings, and most enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This past school year, there was a group of Washington Catholic students seeking the Sacraments of Initiation. Their classes were held over their lunch break. Many of the Latinos who entered the OCIA process were baptized as Catholics but were never catechized. Baptized Catholics in OCIA typically do not enter the Church at the Easter Vigil but do so a few weeks afterward. Two groups within the Hispanic community — one of children and one of adults — received the Eucharist and Confirmation on separate dates. The adults received formation every Monday evening in Spanish, and the children attended classes on Wednesday evenings.

Pam has done similar work for other parishes, but recently moved to the area to be closer to family. So, this last Easter Vigil was the first group she saw through the OCIA process at Our Lady of Hope.

"It was beautiful to watch their journey and their growth — like light bulbs going off for them," she says. "Then just the joy that they had at the Easter Vigil and after. That is certainly going to be one of the highlights of their life."



Christian Initiation of Adults

Journey to the Catholic Faith

In previous roles, Pam worked primarily with children going through the process, so accompanying adults on their journey into the Church — and getting to know them so personally along the way — was a new and meaningful experience for her.

“It was a beautiful journey,” she says. “Accompanying them and helping answer their questions as they processed the faith on this journey — just being available to help them — was a beautiful opportunity.”

Pam would love to see more people go through the process to become Catholic. She knows many people faithfully attend Mass who need a little nudge to take that next step.

“The people who are Catholic and know someone sitting in the pews with them every week need to extend the invitation,” Pam says. “Reach out to those people. We want them here, and it’s part of the mission of the Church to help draw people in.”

Rachael Wilhite and Corben Peach came into the church at the Easter Vigil in 2026. They, too, want people to seek the fullness of the Catholic Faith through OCIA.

“The Easter Vigil will by far be one of my most treasured memories,” Rachael says. “Feeling so loved and encouraged by everyone in our church is truly amazing.”

“The Vigil was beautiful,” Corben adds. “I can see why it was called ‘the mother of all liturgies,’ and it hearkens to the mystery of God’s love to us. Ever since the Vigil, people have repeatedly said ‘welcome home,’ which I didn’t really understand until I came into the Church. It really is the fullness of the faith.”



To learn more about the OCIA process, contact Kande or Pam at the parish office, 812-254-2883.



The
Liturgy of the Hours:
Sanctifying the Day With Prayer

What if the busy present moments that constitute our daily lives were consecrated to Christ? Each insignificant moment or mundane activity becomes another opportunity to glorify Him.

The Liturgy of the Hours is a means of not only centering the day on Christ but also sanctifying the day, offering these moments to Him. It is a prayerful, habitual practice of the clergy and religious — yet, in ever-increasing numbers, the laity is also gravitating towards these daily prayers.

Though it has undergone various developments over the years, the Liturgy of the Hours — also known as the Divine Office or the Breviary — actually finds its origins in the Old Testament. Colin B. Donovan, a writer for EWTN, explains that in the years of the Babylonian Exile (587-521 BC), synagogue services of reading the Torah at fixed hours throughout the day began, thereby creating a “sacrifice of praise.”

The practice continued with the Early Church. Then, in the sixth century, St. Benedict’s Rule offers an example of an established psalm cycle with readings for different hours throughout the day.

The basic structure of the Liturgy of the Hours has remained relatively the same since the 11th century. The Hours are divided into five parts of “canonical hours” — Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer.

Each of the Hours includes readings of the psalms. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, the two most important Hours, include a Gospel canticle.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops describes the prayers as “a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ.” Through Scripture, the Hours invite us into this dialogue, a prayerful conversation that can undergird our daily moments.

From helpful instructional videos on YouTube to written resources through EWTN and the USCCB, there is a wealth of resources for the laity on learning how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

Many Catholic bookstores and even Amazon.com sell the four-volume book set that contains the complete Hours. The prayer books *Christian Prayer* and *Shorter Christian Prayer* offer an abbreviated version of the Hours and could serve as an accessible introduction to the prayers.

If using the actual four-volume set seems daunting, www.divineoffice.org offers the entire Liturgy of the Hours online for free. An app is also available to download, therefore providing us with a means of keeping the prayers within reach throughout the day.

Whether with a faith community or in solitary prayer, saying the Liturgy of the Hours situates us within a rich tradition of Catholic prayer and consecrates the present moments of our lives to Christ.

Looking Back on a Joyful First Communion Celebration *Children Receive Essential Sacrament and Grow Closer to Christ*

The reception of First Holy Communion is a significant event in the life of a Catholic. Signifying an element of Christian initiation, First Holy Communion is a joyful and exciting moment. This year, we were blessed to witness 17 students from Washington Catholic and Public Schools receive their First Communion on May 12.

"I enjoy the happiness that shows on the face of the kids receiving Jesus for the first time," says Kande Batz, the director of the religious education program. "I'm grateful for the teachers who volunteer their time — even with busy schedules — to teach our children the love of God. I pray that parents may be aware of the step their children are taking, and that they commit themselves to remaining persistent in supporting their children as they grow in love for our Lord."

The children spent two years preparing in their Religious Education classes to receive their First Communion thanks to the help of our teachers and catechists. They used the *Word of Life* books and met once a week on Sunday mornings. The program asks parents to reinforce the lessons with their children at home, since the students only have one hour a week with the teacher, and it can be challenging to cover the full curriculum in a short session.

"Teachers send homework from the book, hoping parents work with the kids," Kande says. "We ask them to participate in our parish life."

This includes Mass attendance, church events, and other activities.

The children also attended a retreat on the Saturday before the First Communion, which was a time of preparation and prayer before the big day. Yvonne Evans, who has taught religion in our parish for over 50 years, prepares this retreat.

"She does a wonderful job preparing them for the big day," Kande says. "During the retreat, the kids have time to pray, to ask about the readings in preparation for the Mass, to write a letter to Jesus, and to make symbols with molding clay to remind them of this important day in their lives. Then we go to the church where they can practice readings, songs, etc., and we go through the Mass."

continued on back cover



315 N.E. Third Street
Washington, IN 47501
812-254-2883
www.ccwash.org

Looking Back on a Joyful First Communion Celebration

continued from page 7

The formation and education of the students in our sacramental preparation classes is important for the present and future generations of our parish.

“As a religious education teacher, one of the most rewarding aspects of my role is helping children deepen their understanding of the Eucharist and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,” says Kelli Barner. “There are certainly challenges in helping children truly understand that they are receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. However, through prayer, faith, and consistent guidance, we can help them grow in their understanding and appreciation of this sacred gift.”

On the day of their First Communion, the children and teachers gathered to pray together before the Mass. They

processed towards the church, and the children actively participated during the Mass, including welcoming their family members, helping with the readings and petitions, and bringing up the gifts during the offertory.

The joyous day can serve as a reminder of the importance of educating the children in our community, as well as reflecting on the opportunity for our catechists to share in this teaching.

“Every year is a new adventure when you work with kids,” Kande says. “Every year you have opportunities to be grateful to God for having kids and parents who want their children to receive Jesus in their lives, but it is also a challenge for us as catechists to support them in continuing to grow in their faith.”

This program needs catechists and helpers. For more information or to get involved, please contact the parish office at 812-254-2883.

