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# MEET THE OLA PREP CATECHISTS

## LEVEL 1



### **Barbara Koppa Gerolamo**

My husband, Frank, has been a member of the OLA Parish since the 1970s when his family moved into the area. Frank and I were married at OLA in 1985 and have been members these past 32 years! Our three sons were baptized here and participated in numerous church activities, including Preschool, PREP, Vacation Bible School and altar-serving. I serve as a Lector at the 8:00 Mass. When my children were younger, I was a PREP aide for one year and a catechist for five years, teaching Level 1. In the past, I also helped organize and run OLA's Vacation Bible School. I returned to teach Level 1 PREP several years ago, after a five-year hiatus. It is wonderful! I find it especially rewarding to talk to the young children of our parish about Jesus and his teachings.



### **Paula Sweeney, Assistant**

My husband, Tim, and I, along with our four children, have been members of OLA since 1993. All four of our children have gone through PREP at OLA, receiving First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. I have been active as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Lector. I enjoyed being part of the PREP program teaching Level 5 two years ago, and this year I will assist in Level 1.



### **Catherine Darlington, Assistant**

I am an artist and an educator. I live in Devon and currently run a freelance design business along with teaching Sewing, Jewelry, and Illustration classes at Wayne Art Center. I also have two children, Brooklyn (6) and Tommy(11). I look forward to working with your children.

## LEVEL 2

### **Mary Ellen Smith**

This will be my third year teaching at Our Lady of the Assumption, and I look forward to it with great joy and anticipation. This is a very special year, because it is the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions to the three children of Fatima. We will be celebrating this year, by learning to say the Rosary in class, and I encourage you and your children to make time to say it as a family at home. As this new season begins, may God and Our Lady bless all our efforts to grow in the Faith and to grow closer to them through the Rosary.



### **Soreth Stancroff**

My name is Soreth Stancroff. I am married to Mark and we have a daughter Marisa. I am from Colombia. Since I moved to the United State in 2009 I have been a member of OLA. Last year I was very happy assisting Ms. Mary Ellen, and now I am very excited to be serving as a Catechist and helping my students develop their faith. Being considered for this position is a great honor and responsibility. I hope God, the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary will guide both myself and the children.





## LEVEL 2 (cont'd)

### **Chanda Octavio, Assistant**

My husband, Esmer, and I and our three daughters, Anjela, Anya & Anika, became members of OLA in 2015. Anya is entering Level 3 and Anika will be in Level 2 PREP. We moved here to the U.S. in May 2014 from the Philippines, and are very devoted Catholics. I am excited to help and assist the young ones of Level 2 to the best of my knowledge and ability.



## LEVEL 3

### *Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of Holy Communion*



### **Christine Gaeto**

My husband, Mark, and I and our three children became members of OLA in 1993. I began assisting at PREP when our youngest began Level 1. This is my 17th year as catechist, mostly teaching Level 3, preparing children for their First Penance and First Holy Communion. I also help in other OLA organizations, including Lectors, Festival, History Committee, and Cemetery. My experience teaching PREP has been immensely rewarding in my own journey of faith, and I look forward to another fruitful year for both the children and me.



### **Anne-Claire Dolley, Assistant**

My name is Anne-Claire Dolley. I have been a parishioner at OLA for 14 years. I have three children: my daughter is a sophomore at Saint Joseph University, my son James a junior at Conestoga High School and also an altar-server at OLA, and my youngest is in sixth grade at Valley Forge Middle School. He is also going to be in Level 6 PREP this year. I am very excited to be helping Mrs. Christine Gaeto again in Level 3, preparing the children for their Holy Communion.



### **Marybeth Walsh**

My husband, Pat, and I joined OLA in 2017. Our wedding was held at OLA and we couldn't be more thrilled to call OLA our parish! This will be my eighth year serving as a catechist. For seven years I taught at St. Isaac Jogues in Wayne; six of those years were spent in 2nd grade. I was excited to be a part of such a crucial year in CCD—Penance and First Holy Communion. I'm excited and blessed that I will be able to continue teaching these sacraments at OLA.



### **Delia Biddison, Assistant**

I have been a member of OLA for four years. My husband, David, and I have two children: Henry and Elizabeth. Henry is in Level 4 PREP; Elizabeth is entering Level 1. I look forward to helping out with the PREP education program.



## LEVEL 4

### **Cathy Kunsch**

My husband, Mike, our daughter, Sophie, and I have been members of OLA since moving to Devon in 2007. Sophie, an altar server and Assumption Academy alum, will be in Level 6 PREP this year. This will be my second year teaching Level 4 PREP, and I was a classroom assistant for 3 years. I am also a lector, greeter, and Assumption Academy board member. Outside of OLA, I am a professor at Eastern University and teach graduate students in the school psychology program. I look forward to being part of this great PREP program again and spending time with the students as we learn and grow together!



### **Gail Marcil, Assistant**

My husband, Bob, and my family have been members of OLA since we moved to Pennsylvania sixteen years ago. Our oldest son has completed the PREP program here at OLA and attends West Chester University. Our youngest son is in Level 6 PREP this year. I am currently entering my tenth year as a teacher's aide at OLA Preschool and my fifth year working with the PREP students. I am happy to be assisting Mrs. Cathy Kunsch this PREP year.



## LEVEL 5



### **Gussie Solis**

My husband, Jay, and I joined OLA in May of this year. We feel fortunate to be a part of OLA. In June I retired from the West Chester Area School District after teaching Learning Support for 35 years. Twenty-four of those years were at Stetson Middle School and 11 were at the newly opened Rustin High School. I am looking forward to serving as a Level 5 catechist.

## LEVEL 6

### *Sacrament of Confirmation*

### **Dr. James Matthew Wilson**

My family joined OLA Parish just over nine years ago, when we moved to Pennsylvania, and it has become a true spiritual home for all of us. Livia Grace (11) went through OLA Preschool and is entering her fifth year of PREP; James Augustine (8) also attended Assumption Academy and is now in second-grade PREP, while Thomas Avery (5) just began school at Regina Luminis Academy, near our home in Berwyn, and has a fantastic enthusiasm for churches and Church organs. Little Cecilia Rae (almost 3) enjoys staring up at her Patroness Saint, on the ceiling, during Mass. When I am not watching the Cubs, the Fighting Irish, or a certain local basketball team, I serve as associate professor of religion and literature in the Department of Humanities and Augustinian Traditions at Villanova. I am very much looking forward to leading the children of our parish as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our potential to know and love God defines us as human beings, and so I feel especially blessed to be entrusted with helping young people become "ever more fully human" as they draw closer to our Lord.





## LEVEL 6 cont'd

### **Marge DiGiacomo**

I am Marge DiGiacomo, and my husband, Michael, and I moved to Wayne in 1997. We feel very fortunate to be a part of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. I am a newly retired teacher from the School District of Philadelphia. I taught in South Philadelphia for 39 years, 11 of those at Epiphany of our Lord School. Since joining OLA, I have taught Vacation Bible School, am a lector and am a proud member of LOLA (Ladies of OLA). Teaching the sixth-grade PREP class with Dr. Wilson is an honor and a privilege.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION



### **Angela Sofianos**

I have been a member of OLA since 2013. It is with great pride that I am a part of such a wonderful parish community. Attending Catholic schools from grade school to college, I realize the importance of my faith everyday. Having taught at various PREP programs, schools and colleges, I am excited to bring my experience of teaching to all grades and special education to the church. Sharing my love of God to the children is of great importance to me. *Looking forward to a fantastic year at OLA!*

## PREP HALL MONITOR

### **Meg Taft**

My husband and I have been OLA parishioners for nine years. My daughter, Molly, is in Level 6 and my son, Ryan, is in Level 3. This is my second year as Hall Monitor and I am very excited for the 2017-2018 PREP year!



## SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST



### **Maura Daniels**

I have been a member of OLA for nine years. My husband and I have four children: Olivia, Luke, Colette and Brooks. Olivia is in Level 6 PREP, Luke is entering Level 4, and our two youngest attend St. Katharine of Siena School. I will be happy to help as a substitute catechist when needed this year.