

A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we begin the Third Week of Advent the focus of our season turns to the Incarnation of Jesus Christ - the highpoint of all human existence. When we talk about the Incarnation, it's not just an event at one time and place, but literally something that transcends our idea of linear history. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, the Son of God, the Eternal Word becomes one of us. God becomes human so that humans can become like God. Everything that is lost through the first act of sin is not simply regained by the act of Christ taking on our humanity - it is brought even further beyond what we would have possessed if sin had never occurred. We now have a share in God's divine life, something that we cannot even comprehend. Wow.

Or maybe not. Until my late twenties, I would have read the paragraph above and thought: great, yeah, sure... but so what. I just want to stay out of Hell and hope that God will put up with me. I'll do what I can, try to do my best (losers like me always whine about doing their best) and hope that I can sneak in on the coattails of my most holy grandmother or someone else who takes this faith thing seriously. WOW! What a terrible attitude! I really was a loser.

The focus I would love for every member of this parish to have is that Jesus Christ has come among us in order to invite us into a deep and personal relationship with Him. I can't have a relationship with someone I don't know and I can't really know the Father the way I wish because He is not human. But His son is! Jesus comes to introduce us to His Father who He lets us know is his Abba - or Daddy, if you will. Have you ever had to ask your father for something and knew in advance that it's a big ask? Are you going to approach him and say: Father, I have a request for you and hope you will consider this logically? I really hope not. Rather, we might say - Daddy, I love you and really hope you love me too - and I have a big favor to ask you. That sounds better - I bet the car keys (or whatever you are asking for) will be handed over by that big teddy bear you call Daddy!

This is what Christ wants to show us - His Father is infinite love and mercy, not finite in a begrudging way. We can come to know our Father through his Incarnate Son and receive all the benefits and privileges that come with being a part of such a great family. And it's all there for the taking. But we have to stop thinking like God is trying to take something from us (freedom, happiness) and realize he offers us so much more - real freedom of knowing that He is our Daddy, the Joy that comes with really following Him and making Him our one true God.

We continue to walk towards Christmas where we celebrate the Incarnate God who's name is Jesus. He offers us real relationship with His Father and our Father. Don't miss this great opportunity this year to say yes to this amazing gift - better than anything you'll find under the tree this December 25th.

In Him,

Fr. Rob

Masses for the Week

Monday, December 14 (Gospel reading: Mt. 21: 23-27)

7:00 AM + Gary Coulter, Sr.

12 NOON Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 15 (Gospel reading: Mt. 21: 28-32)

7:00 AM + Paul Nugent, Jr.

12 NOON + Ileana Comas

Wednesday, December 16 (G reading: Lk. 7: 18b-23)

7:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

12 NOON Int. Kathy O'Connell

Thursday, December 17 (Gospel reading: Mt. 1: 1-17)

7:00 AM + Steven Hoffman

12 NOON + Patricia Bowe

Friday, December 18 (Gospel reading: Mt. 1: 18-25)

7:00 AM + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham

12 NOON + Mary & Edward Kearns

Saturday, December 19 (Gospel reading: Lk. 1: 5-25)

8:00AM Int. Katherine Black

11:00-11:55 AM Confessions

12 NOON + Kathleen Kelley

4:00-4:45 PM Confessions

5:00PM + Helen Reilly

Sunday, December 20 (Gospel reading: Lk. 1: 26-38)

7:30 AM Int. Gene DeLaCroix

9:00 AM + Msgr. James Beattie

10:30 AM Souls in Purgatory

12 NOON People of the Parish

1:30 PM Int. Maureen & John McNamara

Due to the suspension of the Monday - Friday 8:00am Mass, the intentions scheduled for those Masses will be transferred to Sunday Masses.

The graces of each Mass are applied to the persons listed in the book regardless of whether they appear in the bulletin or are mentioned during the Mass.

Third Sunday of Advent



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We encourage our online contribution program, Faith Direct.

Visit our website: lourdesbethesda.net to sign up or scan the QR code below:

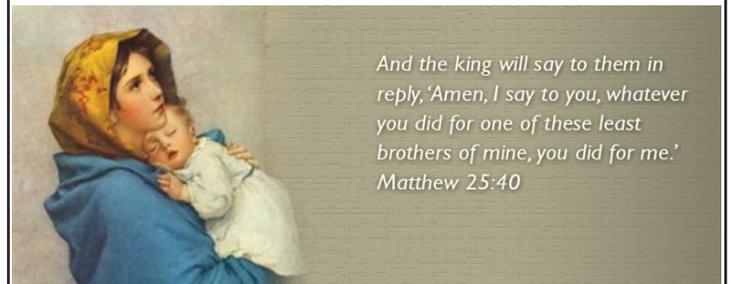


Contact Claire Toms at ctoms@ololrcc.org with any questions.

Due to the pandemic The Ladies of Lourdes has been unable to have our monthly meetings and our December Pot Luck Dinner and Baby Shower for the Blessed Mother. However the Gabriel Project continues have needs. Here is a list of commonly requested items:

- > Gift cards in any amount (Giant, CVS, and/or Target)
- > Newborn/Size 1 diapers
- > Baby Bible books
- > Size Birth to 3-month clothing
- > Onesies
- > Infant socks
- > Receiving blankets
- > Newborn hats
- > Infant coats
- > Infant bath towels and washcloths
- > Infant thermometers
- > Diaper bags
- > Crib sheets
- > Bottles (for newborns)
- > Pacifiers (for newborns)
- > Diaper cream
- > Soap/lotion

Jill Gadwood has kindly agreed to collect the donated items by **December 17** and drop them off on December 18. Please contact Jill at jill.gadwood@gmail.com or text at 949 280 9494. Thank you for your generosity.



Volunteers Needed on Christmas Day:

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide meals for hundreds of poor, homeless, elderly and needy individuals living in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas on Christmas Day.

This year, all meals will be for delivery and take-out only.

Volunteers are needed to fill many different positions.

Those interested in signing up should visit: www.nationalshrine.org/christmasdinner.

Angel Tree 2020:

Each year, Catholic Charities helps hundreds of families during the holiday season by providing each of their children, ages 16 and younger, with a Christmas gift. This holiday season, Angel Tree will continue to occur with COVID-19 precautions. Due to the pandemic, we are asking for community sponsors to make a monetary donation to purchase gift cards for these families.



Help make a family's Christmas wishes come true! It is more than giving presents, it is giving a family joyful holiday memory for years to come.

Visit our website at: catholiccharitiesdc.org or email christmas@cc-dc.org for more information.

Coat Drive 2020-2021:

Join Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of the Washington for our eighth annual Coats of Many Colors Coat Drive! Each year we provide coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to members of our local community. New and gently used coats that are clean and in good condition are being collected from November 2020 until January 2021. We are also seeking volunteers to help on the day of the event to help set up the Coat Drive and assist with the distribution to clients. For more information on how to donate and volunteer, please visit our event page at: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/coats/>.



Winter Recruitment Campaign: Volunteer for A Good New Year!

Catholic Charities is recruiting 30 volunteers to take on a weekly, year-long commitment to service. To volunteer: submit an application, have a conversation with program staff about expectations, and commit to at least 75 hours of service including orientation and training. Except for medical professionals, volunteering is done remotely via video chat, phone calls, email, and regular mail.

Visit our website at: catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer/ongoing/ to learn more and to apply.

Study of Saints (SoS):

Have you ever prayed for the intercession of a Saint? Often times when we do, we are invariably in need of something. Praying for the intercession of a Saint is like sending out an S.O.S. call for help. In this book club, we will read works by or about Saints. Through this Study of Saints (SoS), we will learn about the martyrs and religious who have dedicated their lives to God and learn what they are the Patron Saints of. By knowing our patron Saints, we can understand better whose constant intercession we can rely upon in sending our own SOS.

Meets on fifth Sundays 3:00-4:00pm.

Next will be a two part series on Saint Pope John Paul II with a biography in November followed by one of his encyclicals in January.

January 31, 2021 EVANGELIUM VITAE Encyclical:

http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html

Christmas Mass Schedule:

**DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SIGN UPS
WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL OF THE
CHRISTMAS MASSES:**

- * **Please look out for a Flocknote email that was sent out on Sunday, December 6 with the sign up information**
- * **You can also find the sign up link at: lourdesbethesda.net**
- * **Or you may reserve your spaces by calling the rectory office at: 301-654-1287**

**Spaces are extremely limited so please be sure to sign up as soon as possible.
Thank you for your understanding.**

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24:

5:00pm Vigil Mass
10:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25:

8:00am
10:00am
12:00 Noon (Spanish)

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Mass Schedule:

Thursday, December 31:

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Friday, January 1:

8:00am
10:00am
12:00 Noon (Spanish)



**The rectory office will be closed
Thursday, December 24 through January 1.
We will reopen Monday, January 4.**

Email Sheri Golden at sgolden@ololrcc.org with any urgent matters.

Three to Get Married Marriage Prep
January 28-31 (In-Person Only)
Feb 11-14, 2021(Virtual Only)

The Three to Get Married Marriage Preparation Program is a Catholic Pre-Cana program for engaged couples.

This marriage preparation course is an intensive preparation experience true to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Convenient one-weekend schedule. FOCCUS administration is included. \$315 per couple. Space will be limited and these weekends fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today!

Find more information on the website:
<https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/marriage/virtual-marriage-prep>.

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, Bethesda, MD.



Attend a Retreat From Wherever You Are!
Virtual Spiritual Retreats, with Spiritual Direction
Upcoming dates: Jan 22-24

As we move into the end of the year and uncertainty lingers, Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is providing virtual retreats so that you can connect with others and feed your soul, all from the safety of wherever you are.

Detox from the noise of the media, work demands and Netflix and find new focus in your life through a personal encounter with Christ.

Find more information and more upcoming dates on the OLB website: www.ourladyofbethesda.org.

Experience the dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises from your own home and for only \$75 per person.
Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center,
A Virtual Place to Encounter Christ!



This year, we will look closely at the stories of Holy Scripture and find the love story God has inserted to light our hearts on fire. This monthly program will meet virtually until further notice. Next Sessions: Evening retreat Wed, Dec 16, 7:00pm-8:15pm; Morning retreat Thurs, Dec 17, 9:45am-11:00am. The mini-retreat includes: Directed meditation, practical talk, and time for personal reflection. Cost is \$10 per person. Advance Registration is required so that we can send you log-in information. Visit our website to register www.ourladyofbethesda.org.

Men's Advent Retreat:

Cost is \$250 per person. Registration is required. Find more retreats and links to register on the website www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817



Stay Connected with Flocknote!



Sign up to receive text and email updates from Our Lady of Lourdes.

Visit: lourdesbethesda.flocknote,
Text FNOLOL to 84576 or Email
Claire Toms at ctoms@ololrcc.org.

*Please send any bulletin requests by Friday
a week before the requested bulletin date to
Claire Toms at ctoms@ololrcc.org.*

Finance & Administration:

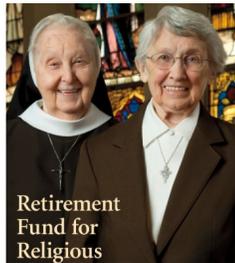
*“How shall I make a return to the
Lord for all the good He has done
for me?” (Psalm 116:12)*



Our December Poor Box will be going to the DC Diaper Bank. This program empowers families in need throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia, by providing a reliable source for basic baby needs and personal hygiene products. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Second Collection for the
Retirement Fund for Religious,
December 12-13:**

Today, hundreds of religious communities lack enough savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital support for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Thank you for your generosity.



*Please give to those who
have given a lifetime.*

Our Lady of Lourdes Registration:

Please either fill out the form below or email Claire Toms at ctoms@ololrcc.org with your information.

You will then be emailed a link to a registration form for you to fill out.

You can also go directly to lourdesbethesda.net to access our parish registration form.

Thank you and we are happy to welcome you to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Please remember to pray for our brave parishioners, relatives and friends of our Parish family who are serving their country in the Armed Forces. We ask the Lord to keep them safe from harm, and we pray for their families while they are away from home.

The dispensation issued by Archbishop Gregory from the obligation to attend Mass during this time remains in effect. All persons who are subjects of the Archbishop of Washington no matter where they may be, and all other persons who are actually present in the Archdiocese of Washington who are under the obligation, are dispensed from the obligation until further notice (cann. 87 §1, 91).

**For a complete list of Masses and updates during this time, please visit:
adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/.**

Moving In, Out or Within the Parish?

Please help us keep our records up-to-date by filling out this form and dropping it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot. Thank you.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- _____ I/we am/are new to the parish. Welcome!
- _____ Change of address within the parish. Thank you!
- _____ I/we am/are moving out of the parish. God be with you!

***Tiempo de Adviento:
estar despiertos... preparar el camino***

La Iglesia Católica propone antes del 25 de diciembre, fiesta de Navidad, un tiempo de preparación espiritual que abarca cuatro domingos. A este tiempo se le llama Adviento, que quiere decir "venida". Por eso durante este tiempo está caracterizado por la súplica ***¡Ven Señor Jesús!***

También durante este tiempo litúrgico nos unimos a la Santísima Virgen María en la espera de su Hijo Jesús, que ya lleva en su seno. Pero ¿cuándo inicia y cuándo termina el Adviento? Este año 2020, **el tiempo de Adviento va del domingo 29 de noviembre al jueves 24 de diciembre**, en la víspera de Navidad.

Durante este tiempo Jesús, en su Palabra, nos invita constantemente a estar despiertos. Pero ¿qué significa ***estar despiertos*** en el Adviento? Significa vivir en la **ESPERANZA**, en la espera gozosa de que algo grande va a suceder. A veces no es fácil esperar, sobre todo cuando hay incertidumbre, o simplemente no sabemos cuánto tiempo debemos esperar. Hemos aprendido que no tener tiempo y correr es lo normal. Por eso el Adviento nos invita a despertar, detenernos y respirar. Hacer un espacio en nuestra vida ocupada, para ser llenado por la Esperanza del Salvador. Despertar, es la alegría de confiar que en medio de las tinieblas brillará una gran luz.

Estar despiertos también significa tener el corazón libre y dispuesto para ponerse al servicio de los demás. A veces el sueño de nuestros propios problemas nos impide ver las necesidades de los que nos rodean.

Despertemos pues, para ver al Señor que llega y viene en cada momento, en cada persona y en cada acontecimiento.

tengas miedo".

Que mi corazón en amarte eternamente se ocupe, Y mi lengua en alabarte Madre Mia de Guadalupe.

**Regístrese o mantenga Actualizada su información:
Recorte el siguiente formato de inscripción y entréguelo en la
Misa junto con la colecta o llévelo a la Rectoría.**

- Soy (somos) nuevo(s) en la Parroquia. **Queremos inscribirnos.**
- Llevo (tenemos) ya tiempo asistiendo a esta parroquia y **queremos inscribirnos.**
- Estoy (estamos) inscritos y **esta es la nueva dirección.**
- Ya no podré volver a esta parroquia. **Favor eliminar mi nombre de la lista.**

Por favor marque
con una según
corresponda

NOMBRE: _____

DIRECION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____