

A Letter from Our Parochial Vicar

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! The Church entrusts each new year to our Lady on January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I offer for your reflection this timeless homily composed by St Bernard of Clairvaux:

“You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death.

This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary.

Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.”

Know of my continued prayers,
Father James

Masses for the Week

Monday, January 4 (Gospel reading: Mt. 4: 12-17, 23-25)
7:00 AM + Msgr. James Beattie
12 NOON + Ellen Caprio
Tuesday, January 5 (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 34-44)
7:00 AM + Asuku Family
12 NOON + Charles Orison Magnetti
Wednesday, January 6 (G reading: Mk. 6: 45-52)
7:00 AM + Paul Nugent, Jr.
12 NOON Int. Charles Lunden
Thursday, January 7 (Gospel reading: Lk. 4: 14-22a)
7:00 AM + Marge Langan
12 NOON + Stephen Robert O’Neil
Friday, January 8 (Gospel reading: Lk. 5: 12-16)
7:00 AM + Riley Mack
12 NOON + Thomas O’Malley
Saturday, January 9 (Gospel reading: Jn. 3: 22-30)
8:00AM + Rob Hamers
11:00-11:55 AM Confessions
12 NOON Int. Jullia Pastewka
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions
5:00PM + Beverly Stouffer
Sunday, January 10 (Gospel reading: Mk. 1: 7-11)
7:30 AM + Christine Pardee
9:00 AM + Charles Thomas Magnetti
10:30 AM + Joseph Patrick McMahon
12 NOON People of the Parish
1:30 PM + Frances & Tyler Williams

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.



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Mission in Action:

Every baptized person is a missionary. We are all called to be witnesses of the love and mercy of God found in the person of Jesus Christ. The Office of Missions promotes this universal missionary spirit in the hearts and minds of the people of God including children through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), the Society of St. Peter Apostle, Missionary Cooperative Plan (MCP) and Missionary Union of Priest and Religious.

The faithful plays a vital role in the worldwide evangelistic mission of the Church. Your prayers and support ensures that people around the world will experience the joy and hope of the encounter with Christ through the missions.

For more information, please review the Mission's webpage: <https://adw.org/about-us/who-we-are/missions/>.

An Excerpt from Pope Francis' Christmas Homily:

"A charming legend relates that at the birth of Jesus the shepherds hurried to the stable with different gifts. Each brought what he had; some brought the fruits of their labour, others some precious item. But as they were all presenting their gifts, there was one shepherd who had nothing to give. He was extremely poor; he had no gift to present.

As the others were competing to offer their gifts, he stood apart, embarrassed. At a certain point, Saint Joseph and Our Lady found it hard to receive all the gifts, especially Mary, who had to hold the baby. Seeing that shepherd with empty hands, she asked him to draw near. And she put the baby Jesus in his arms.

That shepherd, in accepting him, became aware of having received what he did not deserve, of holding in his arms the greatest gift of all time. He looked at his hands, those hands that seemed to him always empty; they had become the cradle of God. He felt himself loved and, overcoming his embarrassment, began to show Jesus to the others, for he could not keep for himself the gift of gifts.

Dear brother, dear sister, if your hands seem empty, if you think your heart is poor in love, this night is for you. The grace of God has appeared, to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you."

Guide us to Thy Perfect Light

Have a Happy and Blessed Epiphany!



Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

To help ensure the health of our community
we ask you to observe the following requirements:



1
Wear a mask when
inside the Church for
private prayer or when
attending Mass



2
Please observe social
distancing between groups



3
After receiving communion
in the hand, step aside
before taking down your
mask and consuming the
Eucharist



4
If you wish to receive
communion on the tongue,
please come at the end of the
line in order that the priest may
purify his fingers.

Stay Connected with Flocknote!

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



Visit:
[lourdesbethesda.flocknote](https://lourdesbethesda.flocknote.com),
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.*

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.

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.



Dorothy Day Place

Dorothy Day Place is a transitional housing program in Montgomery County, MD. This program offers case management and ongoing support to residents.

Dorothy Day is seeking volunteers to provide dinner for approximately 25 guests. Meals can be dropped off daily between 8:00am - 5:00pm. Dinner is served at 6:00pm. Please note there is not a full kitchen available so meals can only be refrigerated and heated by the staff. There is a freezer available for any foods that are to be served at a later date.

Not sure what to cook? Here are some ideas:

Soup, salad and bread

Grilled or roasted chicken with rice
and a salad or vegetables

Casseroles

Stew or chili

Pulled chicken, rolls, salad

Pasta and a salad or bread

Pizza and salad

Dorothy Day Place is located at 5320 Marinelli Road,
Rockville, MD 20852.

Questions? Email Kenneth.Swift@cc-dc.org
or call 301-907-9597.

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>.



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



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!

Altar Flowers:



If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers for a special intention, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please call the parish office or email: sgolden@ololrcc.org or ctoms@ololrcc.org. The donation for the flowers is \$150.00.

Finance & Administration:

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



Our January Poor Box will be going to the Father McKenna Center. It serves as a food pantry, hypothermia center, and a safe and drug-free environment for the poor. The center is primarily funded by private donations in order to continue to offer its many services. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and support.

**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.

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.

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/>.

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!

Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor Sentido de la adoración



En el Evangelio (Mt 2,1-12) escuchamos que los Magos inician su viaje diciendo: «Hemos visto su estrella y venimos a adorarlo». La adoración es la finalidad de su viaje y el objetivo de su camino. De hecho, cuando llegaron a Belén, «vieron al niño con María, su madre, y cayendo de rodillas lo adoraron». Si perdemos el sentido de la adoración, perdemos el sentido nuestra vida cristiana, que es un camino hacia el Señor, no hacia nosotros.

En el Evangelio, también aparecen otros personajes que no buscan adorar a Jesús. En primer lugar, está el rey Herodes, que usa el verbo adorar, pero de manera engañosa. En realidad, Herodes sólo se adoraba a sí mismo y, por lo tanto, quería deshacerse del Niño con mentiras. ¿Qué nos enseña esto? Que el hombre, cuando no adora a Dios, está orientado a adorar su yo. Es decir, se adora a sí mismo. Además de Herodes, hay otras personas en el Evangelio que no logran adorar: son los jefes de los sacerdotes y los escribas del pueblo. Ellos indican a Herodes con precisión dónde nacería el Mesías: en Belén de Judea. Conocen las profecías y las citan exactamente. Saben a dónde ir, pero no van. También de esto podemos aprender una lección. En la vida cristiana no es suficiente saber. Sin salir de uno mismo, sin encontrar, sin adorar, no se conoce a Dios. La teología y la eficiencia pastoral valen poco o nada si no se doblan las rodillas. Cuando adoramos, nos damos cuenta de que la fe no se reduce a un conjunto de hermosas doctrinas, sino que es la relación con una Persona viva a quien amar. Conocemos el rostro de Jesús cuando estamos cara a cara con Él. Al adorar, descubrimos que la vida cristiana es una historia de amor con Dios, donde las buenas ideas no son suficientes, sino que se necesita ponerlo a El en primer lugar, como lo hace un enamorado con la persona que ama.

Al inicio del año descubramos la adoración como una exigencia de nuestra fe. Si sabemos arrodillarnos ante Jesús, venceremos la tentación de ir cada uno por su camino. Adorar es poner al Señor en el centro para no estar más centrados en nosotros mismos. Es poner cada cosa en su lugar, dejando el primer puesto a Dios. Adorar es poner los planes de Dios antes que mi tiempo, que mis derechos, que mis espacios. Adorar es presentarle nuestras vidas a Dios y permitirle que entre en ellas. Adorar es descubrir que para rezar basta con decir: «¡Señor mío y Dios mío!» (Jn 20,28), y dejarnos llenar de su ternura. Presentemos a Dios el inicio de este nuevo Año. Con profunda confianza dejemos que sea el Dueño de nuestros días, de nuestro tiempo, de nuestro amor. Aceptemos la invitación de Dios a adorarle y con fe seguir caminando con la confianza de que los encontraremos presente y cercano en el lugar donde menos nos imaginamos.

Feliz y Bendecido Año 2021

**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: _____