



SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

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www.blessedsacramentdc.org

December 21, 2008

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

MASS  **SCHEDULE**

Presiders For Masses December 27-28, 2008 (The Holy Family)

Saturday, December 27

5:30 p.m. Father Byrne

Sunday, December 28

7:30 a.m. Father Hegedusich

8:45 a.m. Msgr. Duffy

10:15 a.m. Msgr. Duffy (Church)*

10:15 a.m. Father Ben (Gym)*

12:30 p.m. Father Ben

5:30 p.m. Father Ben

**Nursery services available in the kindergarten room under the school gym.*

Poor Box Donations in December will benefit Bethlehem House, a group home for the developmentally disabled. The small community, located in Northeast Washington, is modeled on the philosophy of Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche.

Coffee and Doughnuts Sunday, January 4 — Join fellow parishioners for coffee and donuts in the school auditorium next month on **January 4**, following the 8:45 and 10:15 Masses. Enjoy time catching up with friends and the opportunity to meet new parishioners we are welcoming to Blessed Sacrament as well as learning more about the ministries under our Outreach Commission.

Outreach Weekend — **January 3-4** is the next Outreach Weekend for our Soup Kitchen Ministry. When making a donation by check, please make the check payable to "Blessed Sacrament Outreach—Soup Kitchen".

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*from the
Pastor's desk* 

Dear Friends:

There is great excitement in the Parish this weekend as children prepare for the wonder of Christmas and we adults celebrate in a very profound way the gift of the Savior. There is a different spirit in the community and a different spirit in the Parish as well. First of all, let me thank all those who contributed in a special way to the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive, the Christmas Giving Tree and the many other opportunities for giving through the School, the School of Religion and the Parish throughout the Advent season. It has been a very special Advent at Blessed Sacrament.

As I mentioned last week, we have 12 priests scheduled to join us for Confessions Monday evening from 7:30 – 9 PM. St. John says "if we say we have no sin, we make Jesus a liar because Jesus came to save us from sin." So, we need to admit our own sinfulness. The Church invites us to celebrate God's merciful forgiveness in a Sacrament called Reconciliation or the Sacrament of Peace. Every one of us desires peace, every one of us needs reconciliation – would you come celebrate these gifts from God on Monday night? For those who have trouble coming out after dark, we have a second Penance service from 9 to 10 AM on Tuesday morning. Only Fr. Ben and I will be available that morning.

Finally, I look forward to seeing all of you at one of the Christmas Masses. It is such a glorious time for every parish. Please be welcoming to our many visitors, especially those who may not regularly attend Sunday Mass. This is true evangelization. The very first step in bringing people back to the Church is their sense of being welcomed. We all share that responsibility!

Merry Christmas to all. May the joy of the Savior's birth bring fulfillment and happiness to each and every one of our Parishioners.

Fr. John

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

The Liturgy

We have reached the final Sunday in this journey of preparation and active waiting. Recounting where we have been, the readings on the first Sunday looked toward the purpose of Jesus' coming; eternal life in God's kingdom. The readings stressed the need to be prepared to be called to God's kingdom. That message "be prepared" continued on the second Sunday, coupled with a message of comfort, both from Isaiah and from John the Baptist. Last week, the rose colored vestments and decorations, along with the theme "rejoice," brought hope that the Lord is near. However, the preparation theme continued: John subtly reminded us to watch carefully in case, while looking for something else, we miss the Lord. "But there is one among you *whom you do not recognize* . . . whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This fourth Sunday is still about preparation; God's earthly preparation for the coming of Jesus. We are back to the dark blue-violet colors, a reminder of the active waiting for a great guest. In King David's time, the Ark of the Covenant, containing the stone tablets with God's law, still existed. Since the time of Moses, God had been present in the Ark, which had been carried through the desert, to the Promised Land, where it remained in a tent. David's felt guilty living in a house while God lived in tent. God spoke through Nathan, saying, in paraphrase "You want to build a house for *me*? I will build a house for you, which will last forever." That is Jesus, the Messiah. In fact, David did not build a temple to house the Ark; that was left to his successor, Solomon.

Mary is always the central figure on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The story of the Annunciation in the Gospel continues that recounting of Jesus' earthly origins. Mary was the wife of Joseph, whose family was descended from David. Thus, Jesus would be born "of the house of David," fulfilling that prophecy. The angel directed her to name the baby "Jesus," a Hebrew name meaning "savior" or "God is salvation." Notice the decorations around the statue of Mary in the parking lot transept. In addition to the garland of roses, there are dried flowers and herbs, a medieval custom.

A Saint From Blessed Sacrament?

From the Retreat Notes and Resolutions of Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder of the Christ Child Society, and "Servant of God:"

"The coming year, Oh my God, I give to Thee. I welcome all it holds and I am glad, O glad to think that Thou holdest the future in Thy hand. I cast all my care on Thee."



Daniel Patrick Weller



Patricia Ann Flynn Grundeman

Retro Salvi

Robin Toner

Max Elbin, father of Peggy Elbin Crockett & Nancy Elbin Abell
(father-in-law of Tony Abell)

Please include our sick in your prayers
that they may experience healing and

Julia Bail

Susan Drake

Edwin Finbar Goetz

Lisa Kannapell

Annette Kloc

Suzy Kuczynski

Bridie Rafferty

Jane Shay

Rita Stoerlein

Stephen Vermillion

Religious Education News

Young Adult Bible Study (Single & Married 20s – 40s)

The group will not meet Tuesday, **December 23**, or Tuesday, **December 30**. Join the group again Tuesday, January 6 (and the first and third Tuesdays of the month thereafter) to meet new people and apply your Catholic faith to everyday life from 7:30 – 9 p.m. for prayer, fellowship, and a study of the Sunday Mass readings. The group meets in the Duffy Parish Center. Contact: Rob Maro at 202-449-3989 or rmaro@blessedsacramentdc.org.

No School Of Religion Classes Sundays **December 21 and 28** or Tuesdays **December 23 and 30**. Classes resume on Sunday, January 4, and Tuesday, January 6.

The Sacrament Of First Reconciliation at Blessed Sacrament will take place on Saturday, **January 17**, at 9 a.m. (Group I) and 12:30 p.m. (Group II) in the church. Group assignments were made available at the parent meeting in November. Please contact the Carolyn Harrelson at 202.449.3973 if you have any questions.

RCIA Classes resume on Monday, **January 4**.

Bulletin Announcement Deadline — Due to the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, the announcement deadline for the January 4 bulletin will be this Monday, December 22. Note: No bulletin will be published for the weekend December 27-28.

Are You Interested in Being An Altar Server?

Training sessions for new altar servers will begin in January. Interested **fifth graders or older** can pick up information from the sacristy between Masses on Sunday or at the front desk of the Parish Center during business hours."

Youth Corner

Question of the Week — Gabrielle's greeting to Mary was "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us - he loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

Open House At Blessed Sacrament School —

The next open house event will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, **January 8**. No pre-registration or sign-up required. For more information call 202.966.6682.

MOMS News — Would you like to feel more connected with other mothers in our parish, achieve a greater sense of spirituality and experience significant personal growth? Join MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) and participate in our 8-week encounter! 2009 winter group is currently forming. We will meet for 8 consecutive Mondays—7:30 to 9:30 p.m., beginning **January 26**. Contact Katy Anderson at 301.657.4637 or kathleen.anderson@comcast.net.

From The Social Concerns Office ...

Collection Of Personal Care Items For The Homeless — Donations of the following regular-sized unwrapped items—soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, ChapStick®, & razors—concludes **this weekend**. During the offertory, you will have the opportunity to place items in baskets on the altar or, other time, in boxes at the entrances to the church.

The Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network needs volunteers to supervise homeless families on weekend nights and/or prepare meals during January & February. Young people with an adult may receive service hours for this activity. Call Rosemary Collopy-202.244.9393 or Ann Lee-301.652.6566.

Join A Volunteer Team — The Peace Meal food kitchen needs 3 men and women who are willing to work as assistant chefs once every 4-6 weeks—Wednesdays 3 to 7 p.m. Join us at the McKenna Center. Call Ronde Baquie 301.654.8168.

Advocate for the Poor—Join Washington Interfaith Network volunteers from our Parish and other churches as we press city leaders to restore budget cuts made in housing programs for the homeless—specifically the Housing First Program on Mon., Dec. 22, at the Wilson Building. Call Dick Hage 202.723.1750 or Bob Car.363.6357 to make arrangements.

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

Soon we will be celebrating our Catholic Faith with the Birthday of Jesus. We all know someone who has been away from the Church. Invite them to “come home for Christmas” through our Landings Ministry for returning Catholics. Pick up a flyer in Church or fill out a Pew Card. For more info call Karen Vitone 301.585-0592 or karen@vittone.com.



Liturgies

Christmas Eve, December 24

4 p.m. Church and Gym (Children's Pageant)
8 p.m. Church
12 Midnight-Church (Prelude at 11 p.m.)

Christmas Day, December 25

7:30 a.m.
8:45 a.m.
10:15 a.m. Church Only
11:45 a.m.
1 p.m.

Note: There will be no 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 28

Normal Sunday Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1
(New Year's Day)

Vigil 5:30 p.m. (December 31)

6:30 a.m.
8 a.m.
11 a.m.

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 22: 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Tuesday, December 23: 9 - 10 a.m.

Visit Your Parish Library

The Nativity of Christ

Behold the father is his daughter's son,
The bird that built the nest is hatched therein,
The old of years an hour hath not outrun,
Eternal life to live doth now begin,
The Word is dumb, the mirth of heaven doth weep,
Might feeble is, and force doth faintly creep.

O dying souls, behold your living spring;
O dazzled eyes, behold your sun of grace;
Dull ears, attend what word this Word doth bring;
Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy embrace.
From death, from dark, from deafness, from despair:
This life, this light, this Word, this joy repairs.

Gift better than himself God doth not know;
Gift better than his God no man can see.
This gift doth here the giver given bestow;
Gift to this gift let each receiver be.
God is my gift, himself he freely gave me;
God's gift am I, and none but God shall have me.

Man altered was by sin from man to beast;
Beast's food is hay, hay is all mortal flesh.
Now God is flesh and lies in manger pressed
As hay, the brutest sinner to refresh.
O happy field wherein this fodder grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to men renew.
Robert Southwell (1561-1595), Jesuit, priest, and martyr.
To borrow poetry or music for Christmas, visit the library or call
(202) 449 3974

The Second & Fourth Monday Club—Annual Christmas party is this Monday, **December 22**, in the Manning Center. You better watch out, you better not pout because Santa will be there too. RSVP to Rita at 202.363.5069.

SHARE DC

Blessed Sacrament has offered to become a Host Organization for the SHARE food distribution program. The Program was launched in 1999 by Associated Catholic Charities and the Knights of Malta to provide quality food to families in the MD/DC/VA area at a reduced cost and to promote community service. For \$19 plus two hours of community service, recipients get monthly food packages of frozen meat, poultry, fish, fruit and vegetables valued at \$45 in local grocery stores. The food is the same as anyone purchases at Safeway or Giant; but SHARE is able to offer it at reduced prices due to bulk purchasing and reliance on volunteer labor. SHARE is open to everyone; there are no eligibility requirements. SHARE's motto is: "If you eat, you qualify." Food packages will be distributed monthly at Blessed Sacrament by parish volunteers. More info? Visit their website at www.sharedc.org. If you or someone you know would like to purchase food through SHARE or if you're able to volunteer to help with BS's SHARE contact Dennis Flannery at 301.652.1678 (h), 202.412.4278

And From The Community ...

Graduate Evening Classes For Spring 2009 —

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Catholic University of America will present classes on "Bioethics & the Family and Sexual Ethics & the Person" by Dr. David S. Crawford from 5 to 8 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays beginning January 27. See www.johnpaulii.edu for application as a non-degree or degree-seeking student. More info - call 202.526.3799 or write information@johnpaulii.edu.

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith and extend that gift to others? The Basilica is looking for docents and receptionists. Hours and days are flexible and training will be provided. Community service hours for High School Juniors and Seniors are available. Additionally, we need volunteer nurses and doctors for special events. Please contact Sister Miriam, at 202.526.8300 Ext. 111 or smm@bnsic.org.

Outreach Commission Notes from December 2, 2008

The January Coffee and Donuts will feature the Outreach Commission. We are planning to have a theme of "Resolution" to encourage parishioners to make New Year's resolutions to get involved in social action activities of the parish. There will be a monthly column in the school newsletter about outreach opportunities. The Landings project to welcome back inactive and non-practicing Catholics will start a new practice session in January. There will be flyers and pew cards for the Christmas Masses to welcome all to our parish. All parishioners are encouraged to think about Catholics who could be welcomed back via Landings. The Younger to Older/Older to Younger intergenerational project will launch this month with four families. Students from Visitation and Gonzaga will be matched with older adults in the parish for a mutually beneficial learning experience.

More from Fr. John:

This is my yearly reminder that the flue season is upon us—use your best judgment as to whether you may be a carrier of the bug. If you think you may be, use your best prudence and do not receive from the cup on those days and maybe replace the handshake of peace with a nod, wave, smile or bow.

Fr. John

REMINDER
2009 OFFERTORY COMMITMENTS
BEGIN THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 3RD & 4TH

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **D & D Automotive** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Parish Staff

Rev. Msgr. John J. Enzler, Pastor
Rev. Benton Garrett, Associate Pastor
Rev. Tesfaye Fesuh, Resident Priest
Deacon Daniel Thompson
Deacon Mark Gallagher
Mr. Chris Kelly, Principal of **School**, 202.966.6682
Mr. Rob Maro, Director of **Religious Education**, 202.449.3989
Mrs. Patricia Kavanaugh, **Social Concerns** Minister, 202.449.3987
(Office Open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and by appt.)
Mr. Jay Rader, Director of **Liturgy and Music**, 202.449.3981
Ms. Kathy Gillespie, Director of **Athletics**, 202.449.3972
Mr. Mark McCaffrey, Coordinator of **Youth Ministry**, 202.449.3978

Assistants on Weekends

Rev. Joseph Komonchak, Catholic University

Weekday and Saturday Masses

Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m., 11 a.m.

Filipino Mass in Tagalog every 4th Sunday at 4 p.m.

Holy Day Masses

Eve of the Feast: 5:30 p.m.
Day of the Feast: 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m. (during the school year)
11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Holy Hour

Thursday before first Friday of each month: 9 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Exposition: Monday - Friday, 3 p.m. - 5:15 p.m., in the church

Duffy Parish Center

Main Office 202.966.6575 (Open Mon. - Sat., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
In an emergency, 202.966.6575, Ext. 3988, to page priest on duty
Facilities 202.449.4610
St. Pius Library 202.449.3974

Sacrament of Baptism — Baptismal preparation is required of all parents prior to the celebration of baptism. We recommend that this take place before the child is born. Contact the Religious Education Office at 202.449.3989 for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony — Please contact one of the parish priests 6 months in advance. All couples who are to be married at Blessed Sacrament must complete our parish marriage preparation program.

Sacrament of Reconciliation — Friday and Saturday after the 11 a.m. Mass (if no funeral); Saturday 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. and after the 5:30 p.m. Mass, or anytime by appointment.

Care of the Sick and Homebound — If you or someone you know is hospitalized and would like a priest to visit, or if you know of anyone who is homebound who could benefit from a regular visit, please contact the parish office at 202.966.6575.

New Parishioners — Welcome to Blessed Sacrament! Please register for parish membership by stopping in at the Duffy Parish Center and filling out a registration form. Forms also available in the pamphlet rack inside the Quesada Street entrance to the church.

Departing Parishioners — We will miss you. Please notify one of our staff members in the Duffy Parish Center office that you will be moving away.

Bulletin Announcements — Please send all announcements to bulletin@blessedsacramentdc.org. Deadline: Mondays @ 10 a.m.