



SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

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www.blessedsacramentdc.org

December 13, 2009

3rd Sunday Of Advent

MASS  **SCHEDULE**

Masses December 19-20, 2009

Saturday, December 19

5:30 p.m. Father Jim

Sunday, December 20

7:30 a.m. Father O

9 a.m. Father Witczak

10:30 a.m. Father John (Church)*

10:30 a.m. Father Jim (Gym)*

12:30 p.m. Father O

5:30 p.m. Father John

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

Second Collection This Weekend — The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held this weekend. This fund provides immediate support for aging religious and helps their institutes implement long-term retirement strategies.

Bulletin Announcement Deadline — Due to the Christmas holiday, the announcement deadline for the December 27 bulletin will be is this Wednesday, **December 16**, at noon. As a reminder, the announcement deadline for the December 20 bulletin is this Monday, **December 14**, at 10 a.m. (no change). Please send all announcements to bulletin@blessedsacramentdc.org.

News Inside

- “The Nativity Story” Movie Today @ 2 p.m. . . . p. 2**
- Remember Donations For The Homeless p. 3**
- Remember Christmas Giving Tree Gifts p. 3**
- Take A Stand For Pregnant Women In Need p. 4**
- Parish Council Report p. 5**
- 2009 Christmas Schedule p. 6**

*from the
Pastor's desk* 

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, often called Gaudete Sunday. Twice a year we wear rose-colored vestments—once in mid-Advent for Gaudete Sunday, and once in mid-Lent for Letare Sunday. Gaudete means **rejoice**, and this Sunday as we celebrate the mid-point of Advent, we rejoice that the celebration of the Lord's birth is just around the corner, i.e., 12 days away.

As I write this, I am rejoicing in the beauty of the season while I continue to encourage myself and all of our parishioners to put the Lord first during this holy season. I must admit that I love the sense of joy that is so evident in the smiles of our children and in the attitude of their parents and the entire parish community. I love the decorations, the Christmas lights, the Christmas cookies (a little too much), beautiful Christmas trees, homes that are decorated, the parties and get-togethers and the gift giving. They all remind us of the happiness and joy that comes once a year in these final days of anticipation before Christmas. Some may say “bah humbug” but don't count me in that number.

You won't see our decorations until after next Sunday. Here at Blessed Sacrament, we try to keep the focus on Advent until the last few days before Christmas. We also try to celebrate Christmas for 12 days. Some may take the decorations down on December 26, but here at Blessed Sacrament we celebrate from Christmas Eve through January 6.

Happy Advent. Let's celebrate these next 12 days with spiritual joy and love for each other. Christmas and all that it means will soon be upon us.

Father John

“The Nativity Story” Movie, Today, @ 2 p.m. —

“The Nativity Story,” based on the narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, is a deeply affecting movie retelling the story of Jesus’ birth and the events that preceded it. The international cast, with Keisha Casle-Hughes as Mary and Oscar Isaac as Joseph, gives a dramatic performance and the director, Catherine Hardwicke, weaves in many references that foreshadow later events in Christ’s life. The screening will be in the parish library; discussion and refreshments will follow the screening.

Poor Box Donations in **December** will benefit the Father McKenna Center, which provides services for homeless men at a daytime drop-in center and a winter night shelter. It also provides emergency food assistance and operates an emergency hypothermia shelter when needed.

Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive Results —

Over 600 volunteers pulled off another amazingly successful year by collecting 56,520 cans! Thank you to the Blessed Sacrament community for all its support of this 22nd annual canned food drive! It was a day our community truly shined. Food pantries throughout the District and Maryland are challenged to keep up with the demand for food; this donation of canned food will make a significant impact on the number of people these pantries will be able to serve. If you would like to learn more about this annual drive, visit <http://greggannoncfd.com>.

Dramatic Reading December 16 — A masterpiece among one-act plays, “The Long Christmas Dinner,” by Thornton Wilder, is the choice for the next play reading this Wednesday, **December 16**, at 7 p.m. The story telescopes 90 years of a family’s history into one never-ending holiday feast, and as generations appear, have children, wither and depart, only the audience appreciates what changes and what doesn’t. Join the parish group of latent thespians either as a listener or reader: you will enjoy refreshments and a lively discussion led by John D’Luhy. For more information call John, 202.841.6925.

2nd And 4th Monday Club — will hold its annual Christmas party next Monday, **December 21**, at noon, in the Ray Manning Center. You better watch out, you better not pout, because Santa will be there too. Please call Rita Killian 202.363.5069 for reservations.

From The Blessed Sacrament DisAbilities Ministry — Save the Date! Saturday, **February 13** (not February 10 as previously published). Blessed Sacrament will host the second annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities. Archbishop Donald Wuerl to celebrate closing with a 5:30 p.m. Liturgy. For more information, contact Peg Kolm at 301.562.9573 or at mlkolm@mindspring.com.



Alexander James Brady
Allison Marie Hite
Brendan Arai Lyons
Penelope Victoria Malone
Barrett Maeve Worrell



Virginia Joves
Leonore S. Wetherill

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



Zachary Balog	Marian Middendorf
Edgard Bertaut	Michael Middendorf
Phil Brach	Brendan Ogg
George Crozer	Josephine Pizza
Mia Gancayco	Julia Poppeliers
Aiden Goheen	Thomas Roche
Donald Johnston	Jim Schoettler
Sylvia Ann Lamberg	Fenner Urquhart
	Stephen Vermillion

Donations of Stock

To make a donation of stock to Blessed Sacrament, please follow these instructions:

Securities Held by Broker:

Deliver to Wachovia Securities as follows:

Field of Dreams/Capital Campaign: DTC 141

Account No.: 15958205

General Fund: DTC 141; Account No.: 76906850

Your Broker should notify (1) John Talbott, Wachovia Securities, 301.961.0119 and (2) Parish Development Office, 202.966.6575, of the amount and type of security being transferred, as well as the donor’s name.

Securities Held by Parishioner:

Do Not Sign Certificate.

Mail to: Mr. John Talbott, Wachovia Securities, 7600 Wisconsin Ave., #100, Bethesda, MD 20814

Under separate cover, sign and mail a stock power with letter of instruction to deposit the security in either of the above accounts. Notify the Parish Development Office, 202.966.6575, of amount, type of security, and donor’s name.

End-Of-Year Statements — The annual contribution statements for tax purposes will not be available for mailing until the end of January 2010. Further information will be published in January.

Youth Corner

Question Of The Week — What do you remember from stories about your baptism? What does your baptism mean to you now?

Youth Group Bingo — December 13

6:30 - 8 p.m., School Auditorium, Admission - \$5.00
For parish students, 7th to 12th grades
Pizza, sodas and candy will be sold.
Prizes and gift cards will go to the winners.
Please register if you plan on attending:
www.blessedsacramentdc.org/event/2009-12-13-youth-group-bingo-night/

December 21 - 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Community service hours for high school students — volunteer to be one of Santa's Little Helpers @ Blessed Sacrament School

Please visit the Youth Group website for details
www.blessedsacramentdc.org/community/youthgroup/
or contact Mark McCaffrey at 202.449.3928 or mmccaffrey@blessedsacramentdc.org.

The Youth Group is happy to present "Santa's Little Helpers" — daycare at Blessed Sacrament School for kindergarten through 5th grade students.

The Dates:

Monday, **December 21**

Tuesday, **December 22**

Wednesday, **December 23**

Times and Cost:

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

3 - 6 p.m.

\$50/Day; Families \$75/Day \$30/Day; Families \$25/Day

To register your child, please use the following link:
www.blessedsacramentdc.org/event/2009-12-21-santas-little-helpers/. Please note the following: Children should bring their own lunch; Snacks and drinks will be provided. Questions? Contact Mark McCaffrey at 202.449.3928 or mmccaffrey@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant — Children of the entire parish, from the first through eighth grades, are joyfully invited to participate in the Blessed Sacrament Children's Christmas Eve Pageant, which will take place at the 4 p.m. Mass on Thursday, **December 24**, in the Blessed Sacrament School gym. It's easy! It's fun! There will be a final rehearsal in the school gym Saturday, **December 19**. The rehearsal will last no more than 1 hour—9 to 10 a.m. If you have any questions, contact bforcey@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Annual Christmas Tree Sale — The 23rd annual Christmas tree sale is underway. Your purchases will help Blessed Sacrament support a wide variety of worthy causes in the parish and the community. The sale is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

From The Social Concerns Office ...



Annual Christmas Giving Tree — Today, December 13, is the last day to deliver your gift for the Blessed Sacrament Christmas Giving Tree.

Please deliver your gift to the school auditorium between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Social Concerns office and the Gym Mass Committee, this popular drive to collect Christmas gifts for needy children in the D.C. area concludes **today** with the final collection of gifts and the distribution to the charities. We are supporting over 600 children this year so please be sure to deliver your gift **today!** Volunteers are welcome to help collect the gifts today; please stop by if interested. For more information, please contact Chris and Rebecca Anzidei at 301.229.2866 or canzidei@wthf.com, or Chris and Lisa Capuano at 202.966.8726 or ccapuano@objectvideo.com.

Personal Care Items For The Homeless — the Social Concerns office will begin collecting the following regular size, unwrapped toiletries for the Blessed Sacrament Daily Bread/Daily Life Soup Kitchen Ministry: bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and chap stick. As an outreach project, Mrs. Clifford's 6th grade advisory at Blessed Sacrament School will educate fellow students about homelessness and the various Blessed Sacrament Ministries serving needy individuals and families in the community. Also, students will sort toiletries and stuff approximately 500 warm winter socks with collected items. During the offertory, parishioners will have the opportunity to place personal care items in baskets on the altar or any other time in boxes located in the entrances to the church. Soup Kitchen guests will receive these gifts at a special Christmas luncheon prepared by parishioners of the Dailey Bread/Dailey Life Ministry. Collection ends **today December 13**.



Be A Secret Santa In 2009 — The Social Concerns Committee and the Home and School Association are collecting donations to purchase \$20 grocery store gift certificates for the needy in our sister parish, St. Thomas

More, in southeast Washington. Previous donations have helped less fortunate families with a Christmas meal, as well as helping those struggling with illness, unemployment, or other difficult circumstances. Please make checks payable to Blessed Sacrament, with the notation "Secret Santa." Checks may be delivered to the Duffy Parish Center, the school office, or dropped into the Mass collection baskets by the deadline, Tuesday, **December 15**. For more information about this worthwhile effort, contact Andi Bottner at 202.362.7337 or at abottner@gmail.com.

Thank you from the Social Concerns office to all who so generously gave donations for Thanksgiving meals.

Visit Your Parish Library

'For some artists, cutting a Christmas album is a chance to add a little wit and diversity to their catalog' writes a music critic in the Wall Street Journal. However, he rates this year's group as disappointing, 'as if we need to be covered in honey to remember that Christmas is the time of year to celebrate faith and cherish family and friends.' So consider borrowing one of the library's many traditional albums to add to your musical menu:

"Advent Gregorian Chants" — 21 chants include many familiar Christmas hymns and the beautiful 'O antiphons' of Advent.

"Christmas Adagios" — The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Marilyn Horne, Leontyne Price, Luciano Pavarotti and Kiri Te Kanawa make this an exceptional collection.

"Christmas at King's College" — The titles of this set of four albums are: 'A Festival of Lessons and Carols', 'An Advent Procession with Carols', 'Christmas Music from King's', and 'Favorite Carols from King's', all sung by the choristers of King's Chapel.

"The Christmas Collection: Christmas through the Centuries" — Harry Christophers conducts a chorus of sixteen in more than three hours of music from varied traditions.

"Christmas in God's Country" — The Wyoming Catholic College Choir chose unusual German and Polish carols ranging from the 13th to the 18th centuries.

"For Unto Us a Child is Born: A Liturgical/Devotional Journey through Advent to Christmas" — Sung by the Christendom College Choir and Schola Gregoriana.

For more details about content and to borrow these albums, call 202.449.3974.

The Adult Center invites all parishioners, 39 and holding, to the Chevy Chase Apartments, #1, for fellowship after the 11 a.m. Mass. Bring a sandwich and join the activities. For transportation, call Rita Killian at 202.363.5069.

Monday	Holiday Happenings
Tuesday	Renew and the Word/Low Vision Support
Wednesday	Find the Artist Within You -- Art Lesson With Dick Swartz
Thursday	Bridge For Bridge Lovers
Friday	Closed

Take A Stand For Pregnant Women In Need —

According to the Maryland Catholic Conference organization, "The Montgomery County Council is considering a regulation that would require pro-life pregnancy resource centers to tell new clients that the information they provide is not intended to be medical advice and to turn to other providers before 'proceeding on a course of action regarding [her] pregnancy.' The regulation would impose a fine of up to \$750 per day for not doing so. The bill singles out pregnancy resource centers only because of their pro-life mission. If approved, the Montgomery County regulation would impose government-compelled speech on a non-profit organization that does not receive public funding simply because the organization declines to provide or refer for abortion. The regulation does not apply to 'family planning' clinics, which the County government funds, or to abortion clinics." Your help is needed to ensure that pregnant women continue to receive support from these competent, compassionate centers. For more information about what you can do, visit www.mdcathcon.org or call 301.261.1979.

Conversational Spanish For Parish Ministry

— Education·Parish·Service (EPS) will present Conversational Spanish for Parish Ministry for English speakers who want to speak enough Spanish to be effective greeters, ministers to the homebound, bulletin editors and participants in bi-lingual liturgy and prayer. The course will be offered in two six-week sessions at EPS on the campus of Trinity (Washington) University, 125 Michigan Avenue, NE. First session: Mondays, **January 11 – February 22**, 10 a.m. – noon; or evenings, Wednesdays, **January 13 – February 24**, 7 – 9 p.m. The spring session, for students who have completed the introductory session: Mondays, **March 15 – May 3**, 10 a.m. – noon, or Wednesdays, **March 17 – April 28**, 7 – 9 p.m. Requested donation of \$150 for each six-week session. Contact Ann Kitterman, 202.884.9030 or kittermana@trinitydc.edu, or visit <http://eps.trinitydc.edu>. EPS relies solely on donations.

From The Community ...

Faith, Politics & The Kennedys — Tuesday, **December 15**, 6 - 8 p.m. Kathleen Kennedy Townshend, former lieutenant governor of Maryland, and Maureen Fiedler, SL, host of public radio's *Interfaith Voices* program, invite you to join them for an evening reception, with reflection on faith and politics in the life of our nation's most prominent Catholic family, the Kennedy family. At the home of Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley; details and RSVP at interfaithradio.org.

Luminarias At The Franciscan Monastery — Donations are being accepted now for the hundreds of luminaria candles placed throughout the churchyard during the "Seven Nights of Lights" program, at the Monastery's Gardens (1400 Quincy Street, NE) from Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve. You may send names to be placed on the luminaries to: Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild, P.O. Box 29059, Washington, D.C. 20017, by **December 15**. All proceeds are used for the preservation of the Monastery Gardens. For more information, contact Joe Bozik at 202.244.4833 or visit www.fmgg.org.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank **Joseph Gawler's Sons, Inc.** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Blessed Sacrament



Pastoral Council

“The parish of The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament is a welcoming community seeking to know, love and serve God through our ministries of worship, stewardship, spiritual growth, social justice and education.”

Pastoral Council
Chair: Chris Figueras
December 1, 2009

The Parish Council spent most of the meeting discussing the many wonderful Centennial celebration activity ideas received from the P.A.R. Commissions and the Centennial committees. The council is in the process of adding the celebration activities to a master calendar to ensure adequate staff availability and to eliminate date and time conflicts. The council will be seeking information from the school and parish calendars in order to further avoid conflicts. In addition, the council has begun to collect information on requested budgets for the Centennial celebration activities and will attempt to finalize a projected budget for the Centennial year during the January meeting. The Parish Council is also in the process of reviewing a new policy on memorial remarks during funeral liturgies. This new policy was drafted and approved by the P.A.R. Worship Commission.

Community Commission

Chair: Lizzy Lazo (lizzy_ohara@yahoo.com)
Pastoral Council Liaison: Larry Clark
Staff Representative: Mark McCaffrey

Discussed upcoming Coffee and Doughnuts Sunday that will focus on the Worship Commission. Thanks to Rita Killian for offering the Community Life Commission a new coffee pot to use at future Coffee and Doughnut Sundays. The Welcome Committee is exploring ways to bring new parishioners together, including a special Coffee and Doughnut event for them at the rectory twice a year. We will discuss the idea further with Father John. The Youth Group is planning a Santa's Little Helpers program (babysitting for parents while they do errands) at Blessed Sacrament on December 21, 22, and 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Worship Commission

Chair: Paul Ritacco (talentpay@aol.com)
Pastoral Council Liaisons: Erika Jones and Carolyn Bemis
Staff Representative: Jay Rader

1) Nina Shea reviewed the proposed Liturgical/Church events for the Centennial. Commission members approved the following events to present to the Parish Council: Kick off event for the 2011 year to include a Latin Mass; Corpus Christi feast day event led by Archbishop Wuerl; Picnic (and Mass?) at Glen Echo; End of year celebration at Christmas time. 2) The Commission also approved a new parish policy for delivering eulogies at funeral masses. This policy will go to the Parish Council for revision and adoption. 3) The commission discussed the progress of food collection at the church Masses on Sunday. Ushers should be reminded to assist Grace with moving the food from the church to the sacristy after 12:30 and 5:30 Masses. Also, members felt that it would be beneficial if the officiating priest would continue to remind children to bring up their cans at the appropriate time. The commission co-chairs will submit a flyer for the bulletin to run during the holiday season, and will publicize the effort at the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive prayer service. 4) The commission planned for Outreach Sunday on December 6. 5) Future agenda items include continuing to improve the food collection, working to include young people and parishioner with disabilities in the various worship ministries, piloting a greeter program, and addressing the liturgical needs of children in the parish.

Administration Commission

Co-Chairs: Lynn Choquette (Lynn_Choquette@hotmail.com) and Carol McGarry (carolluree@gmail.com)
Parish Council Liaisons: Carol McGarry and Peg Kolm
Staff Representative: Father Jim Boccabella

No report submitted.

Outreach Commission

Co-Chairs: Eileen Dombo (dombo@cua.edu) and Ann Mahony (agmahony@aol.com)
Parish Council Liaisons: Chris Figueras, Ronde Baquie and Ann Mahony
Staff Representative: Pat Kavanaugh

The Outreach Commission began a list of possible events to be scheduled during the year long parish Centennial celebration. With over 30 ministries classified under Outreach the task was challenging. While brainstorming ideas, commission members reviewed activities and events celebrated during the 75th parish-wide celebration. It was decided that the number 100 would be used as a theme for routine and special events throughout the centennial year with each ministry. Initial major events discussed were a dinner/banquet party to recognize past and present parishioner's involvement in social justice and outreach noting the actual ministries in which they participate or participated. A DisAbilities dance and an Earth Day celebration were also discussed. Outreach Advent activities now in progress were noted. Copies of the Alternative Giving Catalog and the St. Francis environmental pledge are available in the church, parish and school offices. Toiletry and Secret Santa donations are gladly accepted until the deadline dates of December 13 and 15 respectively.

Formation Commission

Chair: Chris Butler (CJWButler@aol.com)
Pastoral Council Liaisons: Chris Butler and Fran Scango
Staff Representative: Rob Maro

The Formation Commission unanimously supported the recommendations presented by the Formation Centennial Committee for activities for the Centennial year beginning in January 2011. The conceptual ideas for these activities are: A joint pilgrimage to a local shrine sponsored by the School of Religion and Blessed Sacrament School to take place in early spring 2011. A series of dynamic speakers focused on the challenge to all baptized Catholics to live their faith today in a secular world and to pass the tradition of their faith to the next generation. This should be of particular interest to single persons and young parents looking for greater understanding of their faith and how to make it relevant in their personal lives and families. In addition, various formation ministries presented ways that they will celebrate the Centennial within their regularly sponsored activities. The first addition of the quarterly Formation Commission Newsletter was presented and ideas for circulation discussed.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, January 5
7 p.m.
School Auditorium



2009 Christmas Schedule

Liturgies

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 4 p.m. Father Jim (Church)**
4 p.m. Father O (Gym; Children's Pageant)
8 p.m. Father John (Church)
Midnight Father John (Church; Prelude at 11:20 p.m.)

Christmas Day, December 25

- 7:30 a.m. Father Jim**
9 a.m. Father O
10:30 a.m. Father John (Church Only)
12:30 p.m. Father O

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

Sunday, December 27

Normal Sunday Schedule

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

- Vigil 5:30 p.m. Father Tesfaye**
6:30 a.m. Father John
8 a.m. Father Jim
11 a.m. Father Tesfaye

Advent Penance Service

- Monday, December 21: 7:30 - 9 p.m.**
Tuesday, December 22: 9 - 10 a.m.

Parish Staff

Rev. Msgr. John J. Enzler, Pastor
Rev. James Boccabella, Associate Pastor
jboccabella@blessedsacramentdc.org
Rev. Msgr. Maurice V. O'Connell, Senior Priest
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. Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap, Catholic University
Rev. Michael Witzczak, SLD, 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., 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.