

SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



FOUNDED
1911



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Blessed Sacrament School
5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015
202.966.6682
www.bsstoday.org



2011 Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

- 4 p.m. Children's Liturgy (Gym) ~ Father D'Silva
- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass (Church) ~ Father O
- 8 p.m. Vigil Mass ~ Father D'Silva
- 12 a.m. Midnight Mass ~ Father Ron, Father O,
Father D'Silva

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

- 7:30 a.m. Mass of Dawn ~ Father Ron
- 9 a.m. Mass of the Day ~ Father Sweetser
- 10:30 a.m. Mass of the Day (Church Only) ~ Father O
- 12:30 p.m. Mass of the Day ~ Father D'Silva

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

New Year's Day Liturgy Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Sunday, January 1

Vigil 5:30 p.m. (Saturday, December 31) ~ Father D'Silva

- 7:30 a.m. ~ Father Ron
- 9 a.m. ~ Father Witczak
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Father Ron (Church)
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Father D'Silva (Gym)
- 12:30 p.m. ~ Father O
- 5:30 p.m. ~ Father O

Weekday & 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.

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

Exposition: Monday - Friday, 3 - 5:15 p.m., in the church
Thursday before first Friday of each month: 6 - 10 p.m., with Holy Hour 9 - 10 p.m.

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Solemnity Of The Nativity Of The Lord

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Ronald A. Potts, Pastor
rpotts@blessedsacramentdc.org
Rev. Msgr. Maurice V. O'Connell, Retired Priest
moconnell@blessedsacramentdc.org
Rev. Percival L. D'Silva, Retired Priest
pdsilva@blessedsacramentdc.org
Rev. Tesfaye Fesuh, Resident Priest
Deacon Daniel Thompson
Deacon Mark Gallagher

Assistants on Weekends

Rev. Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap, Catholic University
Rev. Michael Witzczak, SLD, Catholic University

Duffy Parish Center

Main Office 202.966.6575

(Open Monday - Saturday, 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

Pius X Library 202.449.3974

Ray Manning Adult Center 202.363.4512

Mr. Chris Kelly, Principal of Blessed Sacrament School, **202.966.6682**
Ms. Therese Recinella, 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 appointment)
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**
Ms. Emma Voelzke, Special Needs Coordinator, **202.449.3990**

Sacraments

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.

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

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

Parish Services & Information

Care Of The Sick & 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 and on the parish Web site.

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

Newsletter Content — Please send articles, photos and other content to newsletter@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Web Site Postings — Please send requests for postings for the Blessed Sacrament Parish Web site to website@blessedsacramentdc.org.



Pastor's Column

Today we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ and reflect on the readings from the Mass at Dawn. The birth of the Son of God made flesh is the dawn of God's salvation upon the world. His light bursts forth upon the world as it receives its Savior, "See, the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: say to the daughter of Zion, your savior comes!" With the birth of Jesus, the Father brings history to its end. Salvation history enters into its final phase as Christ come to suffer, die, and rise from the dead so that He can lead an immense procession of the "redeemed of the Lord," through the gates of the eternal city, the kingdom of heaven.

In St. Paul's Letter to Titus, he recalls the Trinitarian dimension of the mystery of Christmas, which gives us a share in the eternal life inherited by the saints. It is the Father who reveals His love as the Word becomes flesh born of Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. Since God's love "appeared" in the Lord Jesus, we are aware of it and it saves us. Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, the child born in Bethlehem already whispers to us the name of the Father in order to draw us into the communion of love that exists between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This demonstration of God's love and tenderness, the birth of the Lord, leads to praise in heaven and on earth. The song of the angels on the night of Jesus' birth, the Gloria, has become our hymn to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and is a part of our Mass.

In today's passage from Luke, we find the shepherds have been visited by the angels with the news of the birth of Jesus and they go in haste to find Him. They find the "infant wrapped in swaddling clothes . . . in a manger." They saw Him and believed all the angels had told them concerning the Savior. They are the first to receive the good news and represent God's chosen people, the Israelites, who had awaited the promise of a Messiah. They are filled with joy and awe for having seen the fulfillment of the Father's promise. Since they are the first to receive the good news, as first witnesses of the event, they also become the first evangelists. As they return to tell others the good news, the people "were astonished." Like the shepherds, we are sent to our homes, neighborhoods, workplace, and schools to bring the good news of the birth of Jesus to those around us.

May you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Peace,

Father Ron

Poor Box Donations in December will benefit Christ House, a facility that provides comprehensive medical care for sick, homeless men and women. Patients also receive case management, addictions treatment, long-term housing placement assistance, and other supportive services.

Please Note Parish Office Holiday Schedule — The parish office will be closed Monday, **December 26**, for the Christmas holiday and on Monday, **January 2**, for the New Year's holiday.

Youth Corner

Question For The Week — What does the name “Emmanuel” mean? Is God with us today? How? Do you make an effort to recognize his presence daily?

(Source: www.osvcurriculum.com/lifelong_catechesis)

Cardinal’s Appeal Pledge Statements — The monthly statements for the Cardinal’s Appeal pledges have been mailed. It is important that these pledges are paid so Blessed Sacrament will not only reach, but exceed our goal as we have done for many years. Please be sure to make your pledge payment prior to the end of the December so that you will receive credit for it on your statement next month. Thank you!

Next Blessed Sacrament School Open House Event — The first and most important step in the admissions process for Blessed Sacrament’s 2012/13 school year is to attend an open house event. The next scheduled event will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, **January 5**, in the school auditorium for grades K-7. Questions? Contact Colleen Ryan, Director of Admissions, at crayan@blessedsacramentdc.org or 202.449.4614.

Year-End Statements — The annual contribution statements for tax purposes will be available for mailing at the end of January, 2012. Statements will be provided only upon request. To request a statement, contact Grace at gpereira@blessedsacramentdc.org or 202.449.3979.

Resource For Mass Times When Traveling — Visit www.masstimes.org. For those without Internet access, call 734.794.2100, which is a computer-generated voice system, and enter the zip code of the desired U.S. church location.

Special Deadlines For Announcement Submissions For The Bulletin

Publication Date	Deadline
January 8	December 29

**Announcements for the New Year’s Day bulletin are due at the same time as those for the Christmas bulletin.*

Newly Baptized

Ross Austin Kimpel
Phoebe Marshall O’Brien

Rest In Peace

Maria Gelats Carvajal
Corazo Sagum
Mike Daniel Veith

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

Joan Baker	Christine Warner McDaniel
Sara Baron	Helen Potts
Jean Chambers	Peter Ross
Peter Kiss	Judy Szot

Faith Formation

School Of Religion

There are no classes this Sunday, **December 25**. In addition, no classes will be held next Tuesday, **December 27**, or on Sunday, **January 1**. Classes resume Tuesday, **January 3**, and Sunday, **January 8**.

RCIA — No RCIA sessions Monday, **December 26** and Monday, **January 2**. RCIA resumes Sunday, **January 8**, for Reflection on the Word at the 10:30 a.m. Mass; sessions resume Monday, **January 9**.

First Reconciliation — First Reconciliation will be Saturday, **January 14**: Group I at 9 a.m. and Group II at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rosalie Days at rdays@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Baptism Preparation — We are expanding our Baptism Preparation Parent Team. If you would like assist in facilitating the parent-led baptism preparation classes, contact Therese at 202.449.3989. These classes meet six Sundays a year.

Did You Know??

Again this year, the Blessed Sacrament DisAbilities Ministry is sponsoring the Prayer Stars Program on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. At this time of year, we especially remember those who are like the Christ Child: those who are marginalized and poor, the disabled, a person with a mental illness, anyone in need. At all Masses this weekend, you will find gold foil Prayer Stars at the end of each pew. Each one carries a paper strip on which you can write a first name and a heartfelt petition. Please place your completed Prayer Star in the collection basket at Offertory and the ushers will bring them to the altar. For more information about the Ministry and about how Blessed Sacrament is becoming a more inclusive community, contact Emma Voelzke, Special Needs Program Coordinator, at 202.449.3990 or at evolzke@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Eucharistic Adoration — If one of your hopes for the new year is to find more time for quiet and prayer, here is a opportunity to set aside a time each month.

Each month, on the Thursday before the first Friday, Blessed Sacrament will have Eucharistic Adoration from 6 p.m. (after the 5:30 Mass) until 9 p.m. Please join other parishioners in the church to spend a few minutes, or an hour, in quiet time with Christ. Come on the way home, after dinner, or for night prayer. From 9 to 10 p.m. there will be a Holy Hour of prayer and reflection, ending with Benediction. This time each month is in addition to the daily Adoration from 3 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the church. If you would like more information on the role of Eucharist Adoration in Catholic spirituality, visit www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/pea/a2.html.

The next evening Adoration will be next Thursday, **January 5**, from 6 to 10 p.m. All are welcome.

Solemnity Of The Nativity Of The Lord

Visit Your Parish Library

Lo, in the silent night
A child to God is born
And all is brought again
That ere was lost or lorn.

Could but thy soul, O man
Become a silent night!
God would be born in thee
And set all things aright.

15th Century



Faith In The Marketplace Group To Meet Next Friday, January 6 — The monthly first Friday gathering of men to discover how others live and practice their professions and faith in the marketplace will take place Friday, **January 6**, after the 6:30 a.m. Mass. Blessed Sacrament School Principal Chris Kelly will discuss his 25 years as an educator in the Archdiocese of Washington, including his service as Assistant Superintendent of ADW/Executive Director of the Center City Consortium. In 2008, Chris was named principal of the school he, his mother and son attended and where his daughter is in the seventh grade. Faith in the Marketplace, an informative forum which undertakes numerous community outreach projects, fosters camaraderie among a cross-section of parish members from a diverse array of professions. For more information, contact Dean Packard at dean_packard@ml.com. Please join the group on January 6 and discover myriad ways our faith is at work in the marketplace.

Best Christmas Gift For Men — The gift of Blessed Sacrament's parish retreat for men, which will take place the weekend of **March 2-4, 2012** at the Loyola Retreat House in southern Maryland. The theme of this Jesuit-led retreat is: "In the Spirit There is Always a New Beginning"—the power of Divine love to create and re-create our lives and all that is. Online registration is available at www.blessedsacramentdc.org under Ministries/ Faith Formation. Questions? Contact Loyola at 301.392.0819 or reservations@loyolaretreat.org. Transportation to and from the retreat can be arranged by contacting Dr. Jim Richeson at jim@yourdentaldr.com.

A Gift That Keeps On Giving — For the past two years, Blessed Sacrament couples gave each other the gift of improved communication by attending a Couples Communication Workshop. Some said that it not only improved their marital relationship, but it helped better communicate with their children, especially teenagers. Some others said they used some the method at work as well. Plan to attend this third workshop scheduled for the four Tuesdays in March 2012, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the parish center. For more information, contact Jim & Ann Hoffman at 202.362.4510, 202.486.8291 or hoffmanja2@msn.com.

THE ADULT CENTER

The Adult Center will be closed until **January 2** as we celebrate the holidays. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all.



Sanctuary Sodality News

Sodalists:

Thank you for all your hard work this year! I am grateful to your commitment to Altar Duty, Honor Guard and the Holiday Bazaar. We have had a very successful year and I look forward to working with you next year!

The next Sanctuary Sodality meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, **January 5**, beginning with 11 a.m. Mass. This is an Executive Committee Meeting (Unit Presidents and Standing Committees only). The Hospitality Committee will be providing lunch.

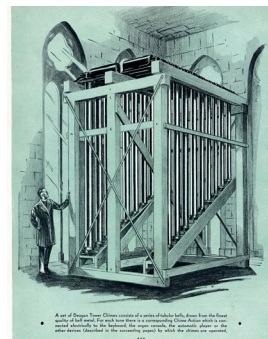
I will keep you in my prayers during the holidays. I wish you all the blessings of the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Laura Beh
Prefect

Chimes Chatter

Tis the season for bells! "Jingle Bells," "Ding Dong Merrily on High," "Silver Bells," "Carol of the Bells" and "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day" all praise the ringing tone! There are bells of Salvation Army collectors, handbell choirs, bells on stockings, wreathes and ornaments, sleighbells of old, angels and bells on greeting cards and even bells on postage stamps! In antiquity, bells were



used to scare away evil spirits, and were a simple means of making noise. This tradition of bells is thought to have been linked with winter as its dark evenings grew longer, and of course, bad spirits only come out in the dark. The custom of noisemakers fortunately carried over into the observance of Christmas where noise was made to celebrate something joyful as in remembering the birth of Jesus Christ. And of course, the Angelus Bells (struck three times each day) are reminders that it is time for a call to prayer. Our chimes will ring on Christmas morning! If listening closely, one may hear Christmas hymns from our paper roll, tape player. Our Roll No. 713 contains eleven hymns, namely "Adeste Fideles," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing," "Angels We Have Heard On High," "The First Noel," "Away In A Manger," "O Tannenbaum," and "Joy To The World!" Our Chimes Committee wishes you a "Merry Christmas!"

Call to volunteer or learn more at 202.244.4833.

Outreach

Cold Weather Clothing Request — Our Social Concerns office has received many requests for men's gloves, scarves, and coats from homeless and marginalized people who visit the office. Please drop off any of the requested items (gently used) to the Social Concerns office or parish office. Questions? Contact Pat Kavanaugh at 202.449.3987 or pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org.

LANDINGS: An Invitation To Inactive Catholics — Are you, or someone you know, an inactive Catholic who has left or drifted away from the Catholic Church? Why not take another look? One way to explore a more active return is by participating in the LANDINGS Program here at Blessed Sacrament. We just finished a very successful Fall Session and look forward to our next one in the Spring, March 3 to May 10, 2012. To find out more about joining our LANDINGS group, please contact Karen Vittone at 301/585-0592 or karen@vittone.com.

Radio For The Soul — The Metropolitan Washington area now has an "all Catholic" radio station, WMET 1160 AM. Its programming is quite varied, very informative and thought-provoking. Great for listening while driving, walking, exercising, cooking, gardening, etc. For more info and a schedule, visit www.gronline.com.

Learn, Live, Love Your Faith — At the main entrance to the church there is a kiosk filled with 16 different faith-inspiring CDs and pamphlets. They include explanations of our Catholic faith, along with ways to enhance and practice our Catholic faith. Most of us would like to learn more about our faith but have little time to study. Consider using this effective tool to inspire your own faith journey or to more effectively reach out to others this Christmas Season.

From The Archdiocese

Adult & Family Rally & Mass for Life! — Once again the Archdiocese of Washington and Association of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities will sponsor the annual Adult and Family Rally and Mass for Life. Join in at The Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle on the morning of the March for Life, Monday, **January 23**. The Rally kicks off at 9 a.m. and features prayer, music and inspirational speakers including Loretta Fleming from National Committee for a Human Life Amendment and the St. Margaret of Scotland Gospel Choir. Mass begins at 10 a.m. with departure for the National March for Life at 11:30 a.m. Registration is required and can be done online at: <http://adultrally4life.eventbrite.com>.

Men's Vocation Retreat — Cardinal Wuerl is sponsoring a Men's Vocation Retreat in February 2012 for men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood at Blessed John Paul II Seminary, beginning Friday evening, **February 10**, and ending on Sunday, **February 12**, at noon. The retreat will allow men time away from the daily grind and provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. If you feel Jesus may be calling you, why not give Him a weekend? It will cost you nothing more than your time. To register or for more information, contact Father Carter Griffin, Director of Priest Vocations, at 301.853.4580 or vocations@adw.org.

Important

**2012
Annual School Benefit
Advertising & Sponsorship Opportunities**

**Connect your business with
the Blessed Sacrament community!**

**Act now to enjoy all the benefits of
Sponsorship and Advertising in the
Annual Benefit Program & School Directory
(Print deadline is January 20)**

Act Now!!!!



**Sponsorship/Advertising Chairs:
Darren MacLennan, 301.580-4994
Jeff MacKinnon, 202.255.7153
or hsa@blessedsacramentdc.org**

From The Community

A Thank You Note From The Little Sisters Of The Poor —

To the parish Community of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament,

The love and support that you gave the Little Sisters of the Poor was a sign of your genuine Charity. The collection amounted to \$12,726.06. Your gifts are truly a sign of God's loving and caring Providence, which will help us provide the best possible care for many elderly in need who come to make their Home with us. Thank you all!

Our residents join with us in promising you our daily prayers for all your many intentions. God bless each and every one of you!

The Little Sisters of the Poor and Residents of the Jeanne Jugan Residence, Washington, D.C.

John Carroll Society (JCS) Epiphany Mass & Brunch — January 8, 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D.C. followed by brunch and a speaker at Hotel Monaco, 700 F. Street, NW. Membership in the JCS is not necessary to attend. This is a wonderful way to meet Catholics from all over the Washington Archdiocese and to see if you might like to consider joining the JCS. More details and registration at www.johnccarrollssociety.org.

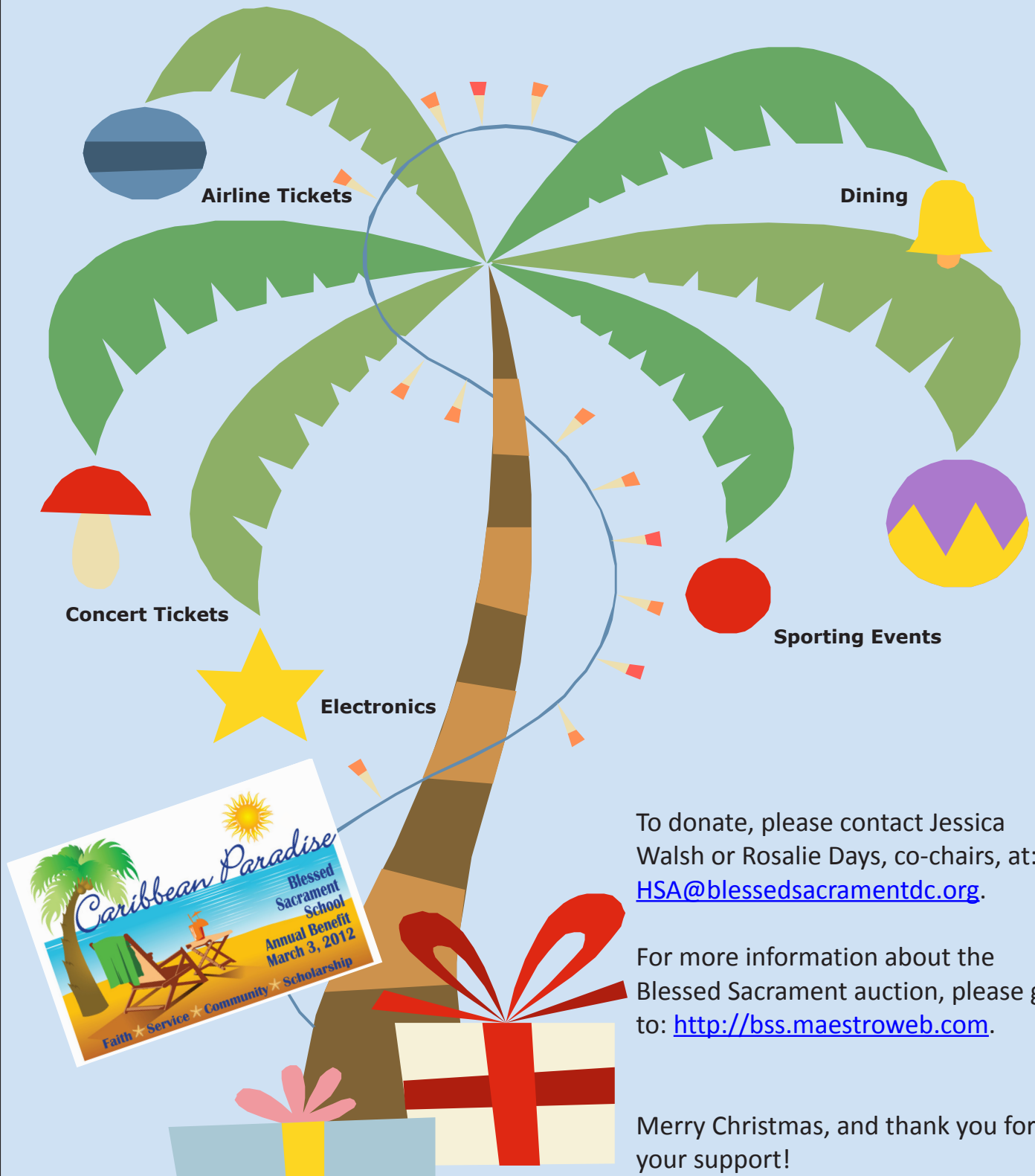
Sponsor Of The Week

We would like to thank **Francis Xavier McGuigan, MD** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Solemnity Of The Nativity Of The Lord

It's the Caribbean Paradise Giving Tree!

Please select an item to donate to the Blessed Sacrament School auction.



To donate, please contact Jessica Walsh or Rosalie Days, co-chairs, at: HSA@blessedsacramentdc.org.

For more information about the Blessed Sacrament auction, please go to: <http://bss.maestroweb.com>.

Merry Christmas, and thank you for your support!