

SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



FOUNDED
1911



3630 Quesada Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015
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www.blessedsacramentdc.org

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

Mass Times ~ Presider Schedule

Saturday, November 26
5:30 p.m. ~ Father D'Silva

Sunday, November 27
7:30 a.m. ~ Father O
9 a.m.* ~ Father Witczak
10:30 a.m. ~ Father D'Silva (Church)**
10:30 a.m. ~ Father Ron (Gym)**
12:30 p.m. ~ Father O
5:30 p.m. ~ Father Ron

Saturday, December 3
~ Father O

Sunday, December 4
~ Father Ron
~ Father Armstrong
~ Father O
~ Father Ron
~ Father D'Silva
~ Father D'Silva

*American Sign Language interpreted Mass

**Nursery services, kindergarten room under the school gym

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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This Weekend

New Roman Missal — We begin using the revised texts of the new translation of the New Roman Missal. In addition to the worship leaflets, there will be pew cards in the church, gym and chapel that will contain all the prayers and responses.

Annual Parish Christmas Tree Sale — Opens Sunday.

Advent Wreath Workshop — Sunday, after the 10:30 a.m. Masses, school auditorium.

Moments In Our History

To the Laity of Blessed Sacrament Parish

You
are the manhood
and womanhood,
of today,
yesterday,
young tomorrow.

Your *heart*
must be attuned
to every heart
through joy,
through pity,
through sorrow.

Your *will*
must be the strength
of the strongest tree
that no alien wind
could ever shake.

Your *mind* must be deep
as the ocean's depth;
your soul calm
as the calmest lake.

You must be
the giant of giants
with the love of a Child
for a lamp,
walking against the sky.

For you,
are the life
that Christ is living
within you.

That is why.

Poem written for the parish Jubilee celebration by a "well-known parishioner who insisted on remaining anonymous." Source: *The Parish News*, November 1961.

First Sunday Of Advent

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

As we celebrate our First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. It is a new beginning for us, a renewal, as we enter into a new year of grace and blessing in the Lord. We also begin using the new translation of the Roman Missal. Advent is a season with a two-fold character: a season to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's birth and a season that directs our hearts and minds to the Lord's second coming at the end of time.

In our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we find a prayer uttered in a time of distress. God's people have returned from Exile in Babylon and are experiencing frustration. As this prayer is uttered, the Israelites trust totally and completely in the Lord knowing He will not abandon them. He will not slip away to deceive them but will meet with those who joyfully practice justice and remember Him by following His way. What happened in the past, what happens today, and what will happen shortly—these three levels are merged together; rather, they are but a single "today" for God, who encompasses and joins together as "one" what remains for us the past, present, and future. For this reason, God can save sinners who are wasting their lives away from Him. If they call upon God with faith and trust, He will again turn His face toward them. He is always our Father: He cannot forget the work of His hands.

St. Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, begins with a thanksgiving to Christ for the blessings given to the Christians at Corinth. Paul writes, ". . . you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." He affirms and encourages them as they live the life of holiness they have been called to by Christ. The Corinthians become an example for us to live our lives each day following Christ and using our gifts to serve Him and our brothers and sisters. In this way, we will be ready when Christ returns at the end of time.

In our Gospel passage from Mark, Jesus recommends one thing about His coming, "Be watchful! Be alert!" Jesus insists on this because He does not know what "day" the Father has planned for His second coming. Each one of us must come to understand we are "pilgrims" in this world as we journey to our heavenly home. In this way, we learn to be watchful and vigilant and do not become ensnared by the lies and messages contrary to the Gospel of Jesus that we hear each day. We are called to watch in prayer and this allows us to give God our full attention. Through prayer, we remain grounded in the Lord and we are strengthened as we face the difficulties of our journey. As we await the Lord and His second coming, may we remain focused on Him and not lose heart knowing He has prepared a place for us in the Father's house.

God bless you,
Father Ron

Poor Box Donations in November will benefit Shepherd's Table, which provides a daily evening meal and social services for those in need. The organization, located in Silver Spring, also operates an eye care clinic for poor uninsured adults in Montgomery County.

Youth Corner

Question For The Week — What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

(Source: www.osvcurriculum.com/lifelong_catechesis)

Collection By Little Sisters Of The Poor — The Little Sisters of the Poor will be coming to our parish **next weekend** to request our assistance with their mission in caring for the elderly poor. The Sisters will be at the entrances to church after each Mass to accept voluntary gifts of support. Thank you for your kindness to them.

Parish Newsletter — The November/December issue of the Parish Newsletter is now available on the parish Web site. A limited number of printed copies will be available later this week.

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant — 4 p.m. Mass in the gym. Children of the parish (first through eighth grades) are invited to participate in this Gospel pageant. There will be one rehearsal/signup on Saturday, **December 17**, in the school auditorium from 9 to 10 a.m. Questions? Contact bforcey@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Blessed Sacrament's 25th Annual Christmas Tree Sale — This sale opens this weekend. Daily hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Your purchases will once again help our parish support a wide variety of worthy causes. Thanks to your generous support last year, we gave out nearly \$27,000. Parish recipients included Blessed Sacrament School's Sister Rose Fund, Boy Scouts, and Disability Ministry. Community groups receiving grants included Bethlehem House, Bread for the City, Central American Resource Center, Centro Tepeyac, Christ House, Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, Downtown Cluster of Congregations, Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center, Growing Together, Holy Cross Hospital Medical Adult Day Center, Lisner Home, The Northwest Center, Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), Peacemeal, Prison Outreach Ministry, St. Gabriel's youth retreat program, Shepherd's Table, Ward Circle-Georgetown Meals on Wheels, Washington Middle School for Girls, and We Are Family.

Newly Baptized

Bennett Andrew Eliason
Grady James Smith
Madison Maria Stancik
Molly Burke Stancik
Luke Alexander Watkins

Rest In Peace

William Thompson

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

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

Faith Formation

School Of Religion

Registration Is On-going — To register your child for School of Religion classes, contact Rosalie Days at 202.449.3973 or rdays@blessedsacramentdc.org. Our program welcomes all children including children with special needs, and older children who have not received first communion, for sacramental preparation.

Still Need Catechists & Teacher Aides For Religious Education — **Tuesday Session:** 4:10 - 5:25 p.m.: 6th grade-1 Catechist and 1 Teacher Aide.

Thanksgiving Break — There will be no School of Religion classes this Sunday, **November 27**. Classes resume on Tuesday, November 29, and Sunday, December 4.

RCIA Rite Of Acceptance & Welcoming — At the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church, Sunday, **December 4**. The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens is for inquirers in the RCIA process who are preparing for their Baptism. They are now ready to publicly declare their intention to continue their journey towards becoming Catholic. The Rite of Welcoming is for inquirers who have been previously baptized and are ready to publicly declare their intention to continue their journey toward full communion with the Catholic Church.

RCIA Godparents, Sponsors — Our RCIA community will soon need a few individuals to serve as godparents and sponsors for those discerning to become Catholic. Again we have been blessed with a wonderful group of inquirers, some of whom are ready to take the first major step towards becoming one with us in the Catholic faith. To share this gift of faith with another is also such an awesome privilege. Please let us know if you are able to share your time and your faith with us this year. If you feel called to this ministry, we look forward to hearing from you. Call Therese, 202.449.3989.

Special Deadlines For Announcement Submissions For The Bulletin

Publication Date	Deadline
December 25	December 15
January 1	December 15*
January 8	December 29

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

Did You Know??

Celiac disease is a condition in which an immune system malfunction causes the body to attack the lining of the intestine, which has been triggered by exposing the system to certain proteins called gluten. This lifelong affliction affects 1 in 133 people. Blessed Sacrament Church offers low-gluten Holy Communion. If you are a parishioner who is affected, please contact evoelzke@blessedsacramentdc.org. For more information about how Blessed Sacrament is becoming a more inclusive community, contact Emma Voelzke, Special Needs Program Coordinator, at 202.449.3990 or at evoelzke@blessedsacramentdc.org.

First Sunday Of Advent

Visit Your Parish Library

Noteworthy books, once prominently reviewed on talk shows and found on 'best-seller' lists, soon languish but sometimes are rediscovered. Parishioners recently read and recommend the following, first published within the last five years:

"Brooklyn," by Colm Toibin.

This novel is the coming-of-age story of Ellis Lacey in the 1950s. She grows up in a small south-eastern town in economically-depressed Ireland. A visiting priest finds her a job in Brooklyn ('just like Ireland' he says) and she leaves her mother and elder sister to work in a department store. She enrolls in school to train as an accountant and falls in love. However, tragedy strikes her family back home. The subsequent events follow Ellis into maturity. Toibin's sixth novel is an amazingly perceptive portrayal of a young woman and the world which she lives.

"The Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels," by Janet Soskice.

Agnes and Margaret Smith were resourceful and determined twin daughters born in Scotland in 1843. The book describes the twins' education, their early travels to the Middle East, their successful study of Greek, Syriac and other languages and their visits to St. Catherine's monastery at Mount Sinai. It's there that they discover one of the oldest surviving copies of the Gospels. The telling of the twins' story includes many interesting glimpses of 19th century life, especially in Cambridge, England, and of the challenges of travel in that period.

"The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet," by David Mitchell. The setting of this long novel is Edo-era Japan, closed to foreigners and hostile to Christianity, but on the brink of change. It is 1779 and young Jacob gets a job with the Dutch East India Company on the island of Dejima off the mainland near Nagasaki. He's the son of a pastor and carries the book of Psalms in his pocket. His aim is to earn enough money and in a few years to return to Holland to marry his beloved Anna. Corruption and opaque record-keeping cloud his work and his life is changed when he meets a young midwife whose facial disfigurement impedes a conventional marriage. Her sudden disappearance and incarceration in a bizarre shrine lead Jacob to attempt a rescue; this is the hub of the novel. The plot, characters and detailed descriptions of place and society are riveting but you'll need time to absorb this brilliant but complex story.

For more information about these and other books, visit the library, open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (and whenever the parish center is open), or call 202.449.3974.

Next Dramatic Reading — 'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot' by Stephen Adly Guirgis, 7 p.m., Tuesday, **December 6**, in the parish library. This play presents 'the conflict between divine mercy and human free will' and 'takes a close look at the eternal damnation of the Bible's most notorious sinner.' James Martin, S.J., in his book 'A Jesuit on Broadway,' vividly describes his six-month experience as the theological consultant for the New York production. Part serious, part comic, the drama is intensely moving. Join the Blessed Sacrament thespians for a provocative evening which will include discussion and refreshments. Call John Dluhy, 202.841.6925, for further information.

THE ADULT CENTER

All parishioners, 39 and holding, are invited to gather in apartment 1 in the Chevy Chase apartment building next to the church for fellowship after the 11 a.m. weekday Mass. Bring a sandwich (beverages and desserts provided) and join the activities. For more info or for transportation, call Rita Killian at 202.363.5069.

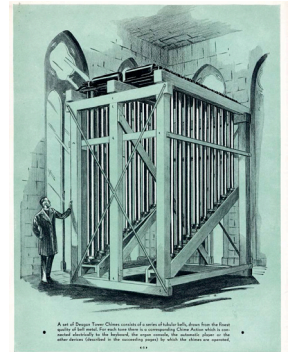
Monday	Coffee and Conversation
Tuesday	Scripture Reflections
Wednesday	Art Class With Dick Swartz
Thursday	Bridge for Bridge Lovers
Friday	Closed

New Exhibit Opening This Week In The Daystar Gallery — From **November 29, 2011 through January 13, 2012** the exhibit "Icons for Advent and Christmas" by icon artists, parishioner Delphia Dirks and Maria Manley, will be on display. All are invited to a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, **December 18**, Duffy Parish Center, main level.

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 cryan@blessedsacramentdc.org or 202.449.4614.

Chimes Chatter

DC (direct current) power was the "electricity" of choice by Deagan Company's chimes designers, utilized to "move" a horizontal plunger-rod to strike a tubular chime via electro-motive forces. If AC (alternating power) was used, it would cause a reversing of the magnetic field around the plunger's coils and be impractical. The coils would heat up rapidly as the electricity is doing a lot of "work."



In 1910, perhaps the AC power source was not stable in its early days; so by generating the chimes' own DC power, the DC power was more stable and reliable. When comparing AC power components to DC power, wire sizes are smaller, and components are more compact and easier to install. Engineers today have noted that the chimes' components are reminiscent of early telephone equipment that used DC power. Perhaps Deagan's designers included engineers who had previous telephone engineering experience, and really understood DC power manifestations from that practical knowledge.

Who knew?: Thomas Edison's marketing gurus advertised DC power as "safer" than AC power in the early electricity times. Perhaps Deagan did not want to sell a chimes system with AC power to customers, in case the purchaser desired to self-maintain the system. Accidental electrocution by AC power could be lethal, but less likely by DC power. To be continued...

Call to learn more at 202.244.4833

Outreach

Advent Activities, 2011

*Christmas begins in the heart of God. It is complete when it reaches the heart of man.
Please select one or more activities that "touch your heart."*

Blessed Sacrament Christmas Giving Tree — Please choose one or more stars, available before and after the Masses this Sunday, **November 20** and before and after the Thanksgiving Day Masses on **November 24**—we are supporting over 700 children this year! Volunteers are needed to help distribute the stars, to collect gifts on Sunday, December 4, and to collect/deliver gifts on Sunday, December 11. To volunteer or for more information, contact Chris and Rebecca Anzidei, 202.489.7182, Rebecca.anzidei@kirkland.com, chrisanzidei@anzideilaw.com; or, Matt and Cindy Dowd, 202.719.7343, mdowd@wileyrein.com.

Alternative Giving Catalog — Instead of spending too much time and money buying material items for loved ones, give the "Gifts of Sharing" to benefit others. The Blessed Sacrament Alternative Giving Catalog provides opportunity to sponsor services while reducing the commercialism of the Christmas season. When you place an order you receive a card describing the charitable service which you are sponsoring in honor of your loved one. Present the card to your loved one as a gift. Copies of the catalog are available in the parish office in the Duffy Parish Center, and at the church and school entrances. Deadline to place an order is Monday, **December 19**. Questions? Contact coordinator Michele Bowe at james.f.bowe@verizon.net or 301.951.6427.

Toiletry Collection For The Homeless — Blessed Sacrament Soup Kitchen and 6th grade advisories are collecting regular-sized soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and chap stick. As a service project, the students visit classrooms to educate fellow students about homelessness and stuff over 700 winter socks with toiletries. On Advent Sundays parishioners may place toiletries in boxes located at the church entrances. Needy individuals and families will receive these gifts. Collection ends Monday, **December 19**. Questions? Contact coordinator Pat Kavanaugh at pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org or 202.449.3987.

Secret Santa — The Social Concerns Committee and the Home and School Association collect donations to purchase grocery gift cards for needy individuals and families at Blessed Sacrament's Sister School and Parish, St. Thomas More, located in Southeast Washington. Previous donations have helped less fortunate families with a Christmas meal, as well as have helped those struggling with illness, unemployment, or other difficult circumstances. Please make checks payable to Blessed Sacrament and include the notation "Secret Santa" on the check. Checks may be delivered to the parish office in the Duffy Parish Center, the school office, or dropped into the collection baskets by the deadline, Monday, **December 19**. Questions? Contact coordinator Pat Kavanaugh at pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org 202-449-3987.

GREG GANNON CANNED FOOD DRIVE

100,000 Cans for 100 Years
Can-Do!



Join friends and neighbors Saturday, **December 3**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. for the 24th annual Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive to help feed the hungry and needy in the community.

We hope to break previous collection records so we can reach our Centennial goal of 100 thousand cans. We can do it with your help!

The event begins in the church and ends in the school cafeteria with lunch. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, contact either Meredith Ficca (mzficca@aol.com, 301.654.1871) or Rich Gannon (richgannon3211@gmail.com, 703.725.8804).

Washington Interfaith Network

Citywide WIN Action On Jobs And Housing

December 5, 7 to 9 p.m.

Metropolitan AME Church, 1518 M Street, NW

We will bring together 2,000 leaders from WIN member institutions who will demand of the Mayor and other elected officials present that jobs and affordable housing be at the top of the agenda for the leaders of the city.



Currently WIN at Blessed Sacrament is recruiting parishioners from parish ministries, members of related organizations and neighbors to form a team of witnesses for social justice to stand with WIN when presence and numbers count.

BE A WITNESS on December 5th for supportive housing for our homeless neighbors, affordable homes for the working poor and good jobs for D.C. residents.

A bus will leave Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. December 5. We need to save space for you at the AME church and on the bus. Let us know you'll be there with us! We need your name, phone number and whether you will need a ride on our bus. Be sure to respond by Tuesday, **November 29**.

Reply to: Joan Lee, JRC20815@aol.com or 301.654.8171.

Wine Not?

Do you have a few bottles of fine wine left over from your Thanksgiving feast?

Think of Blessed Sacrament School and donate your extra bottles of fine wine to help build the Auction Wine Cellar.

TO DONATE:

Contact Peter and Beth Thomas,
erthomas1@verizon.net.



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.

Sports Skills Classes — Basketball and lacrosse skills classes for Blessed Sacrament Parish children grades PreK-2nd: basketball classes on Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15, **November 30-December 14**; lacrosse classes on Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15, **November 29-December 20**. Both take place in the school auditorium. Visit <http://xcelfitness.net/fall-2011-offerings/> for more info and to register your child. Questions? Contact Jeremy@xcelfitness.net or 202.577.4089.

If You Are Pro-Life — and wondering how you can do more than praying at home or at church, parishioner Fenner Urquhart, fenneru@gmail.com or 202.362.2238, can connect you to peaceful, non-confrontational, prayer groups that pray in front of the abortion "clinics" on 16th Street, NW, Silver Spring, Falls Church, and Germantown.

Sponsor Of The Week

We would like to thank **Robert J. Haggerty** for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

From The Community

Post Cana Open House/Christmas Party — From 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, **December 4**, party room at Westlake Towers, 7420 Westlake Terrace, Bethesda, a block from the Montgomery Mall. Post Cana, an organization sponsored by the Archdiocese Office of Family Life, provides social and religious activities for widows and widowers of all ages and faith. Contact Mary Jo Rodgers at 301.365.9075.

Luminarias @ The Franciscan Monastery — Donations are now being accepted 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. The luminarias symbolize a welcoming pathway into our homes for Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas Eve. Each luminaria will have a name of a loved one imprinted on it, and all will be remembered in the prayers of the Friars. You may send the names to the Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild, P.O. Box 29059, Washington, D.C. 20017, by **December 14**. A minimum \$10 donation for each luminaria is suggested. All proceeds are used for the preservation of the Monastery Gardens. For more information, contact Joe Bozik 202.244.4833 or visit <http://myfranciscan.org>.