



SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



FOUNDED
1911



3630 Quesada Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015
202.966.6575 • Phone
202.966.9255 • Fax
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, December 31
5:30 p.m. ~ Father D'Silva

Sunday, January 1
7:30 a.m. ~ Father Ron
9 a.m.* ~ Father Witzcak
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

Saturday, January 7
~ Father Ron

Sunday, January 8
~ Father Ron
~ Father Armstrong
~ Father Armstrong
~ Father Ron
~ Father Ben Garrett
~ Father O

*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.

January 1, 2012

Poor Box Donations in **January** will benefit the Tenants Empowerment Network, a transitional housing program for homeless families. The program, which is part of Catholic Charities, also provides case management services, addictions counseling, guidance in securing employment, and child care assistance.

School Of Religion — No classes this Sunday. Classes resume Tuesday, **January 3**, and Sunday, **January 8**.

RCIA — No RCIA sessions 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**.

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

Question Of The Week For Youth — What would you do if you were Joseph or Mary and in their situation in the stable? Would you be content to have shelter, or angry that you had to stay in a stable? Why do you think this happened in this way? Do you think Joseph and Mary were disappointed in their circumstances?

Adult Center Activities This Week — **Monday**: Coffee & Conversation...How was your Christmas?; **Tuesday**: Tuesdays with Maury (Father O); **Wednesday**: Art Class with Dick Swartz; **Thursday**: Bridge for Bridge Lovers; **Friday**: Closed.

Blessed Sacrament School Open House Event — Thursday, **January 5**, 9 to 11 a.m. in the school auditorium for grades K-7.

Sanctuary Sodality Meeting — Thursday, **January 5**, beginning with 11 a.m. Mass. This is an Executive Committee Meeting (unit presidents and standing committees only).

Eucharistic Adoration — Thursday, **January 5**, 6 to 10 p.m. in the church.

Faith In The Marketplace Meeting — Friday, **January 6**, after the 6:30 a.m. Mass. Blessed Sacrament School Principal Chris Kelly will be the guest speaker.

The January Outreach collection for our Soup Kitchen Ministry will be taken up next weekend, **January 7-8**.

Solemnity Of Mary, Mother Of God

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**

Visit Your Parish Library

Joan of Arc was born 600 years ago on **January 6**, the Feast of the Epiphany, 1412, according to a letter written by Lord Perceval de Boullainvilliers. Joan, French martyr and saint, canonized by Pope Benedict XV in 1920, is the subject of many poems, plays and movies. Scholars of all persuasions, including Marxists, have studied and adopted this strong-willed, illiterate girl and interpreted her life in different ways. Bernard Shaw's Saint Joan (822.9 S26 S22) gained him the Nobel Prize for literature. In the preface to his play Shaw writes 'At eighteen Joan's pretensions were beyond that of the proudest Pope or the haughtiest emperor...she lectured, talked down, and overruled statesmen and prelates...As her actual condition was pure upstart, there were only two opinions about her. One was that she was miraculous: the other that she was unbearable. Some titles about this saint available in our parish library include: "Joan of Arc," by Mark Twain (B J615 T814 J615); "Joan of Arc and Sacrificial Authorship," by Ann W. Astell (B J57 A82 J57); and, "The Mystery of the Charity of Joan of Arc," by Charles Peguy (B J615 P238 M977).

Parish Retreat For Men — Weekend of **March 2-4, 2012** at the Loyola Retreat House in southern Maryland. Online registration is available at www.blessedsacramentdc.org under Ministries/Faith Formation.

Blessed Sacrament School's Annual Auction Fundraiser — **March 3**. For more info, visit <http://bss.maestroweb.com>; to donate items for the auction, contact HSA@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Communication Workshop For Couples — **Four Tuesdays in March** 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.

Pastor's Column

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on this New Year's Day, we celebrate the oldest of all of the Marian celebrations. Mary was proclaimed Mother of God during the Council of Ephesus in 431 and this celebration allows us to contemplate the extraordinary and spiritual richness of Mary, the humble servant of the Lord. She was elevated by the grace of God to an inconceivable majesty because she brought into the world Jesus who was, for her first of all, "God saves." In bearing the Savior, she gave us the One who makes us children of God, heirs by the grace of the kingdom, who reconciles us to the Father through His passion, death, and resurrection. Jesus born of Mary is the Prince of Peace and fulfills the blessing found in the Book of Numbers, "The Lord upon you kindly and give you peace!"

In today's passage from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians, he testifies that Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God born of Mary. The proclamation of this mystery, which is not the object of philosophical or theological discussions, is the result of belief in the preaching of the apostles. Christians have made it a part of their faith that "God sent forth his Son born of a woman, born under the law." By taking flesh, the Son of God partakes fully in the human condition, subject to the same constraints as any person, although He frees us and makes us "sons of God." To each of us St. Paul says: "You are no longer a slave but a son! And the fact that you are a son makes you an heir, by God's design." This passage is significant as it is proclaimed on this first day of the New Year and in light of the Christmas season. It reminds us of our human condition, our greatness as daughters and sons of God, our freedom acquired by Jesus and perpetually realized by the Holy Spirit. We cannot foresee what the New Year will hold for us, or even if we will see its end. Each day that we are given to live must be illuminated by this certitude: "The fact that you are a son makes you an heir, by God's design." Only one thing is of real importance: to become day after day what we really are—His children.

In Luke's gospel, we hear of the visit of the shepherds to the Christ Child and the circumcision of Jesus on the eighth day after His birth according to the Law. As Jesus is circumcised, He is given the name, Jesus, which Gabriel revealed to Mary that means "God saves." Like every mother, she must have wondered what her child would become. But she knew that He would be great, be called Son of the Most High, that the Lord would give Him the throne of David his father, and that He would reign without end. How? This had not been revealed by the angel and Mary did not ask. She was content to say, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Mary by saying, "yes" to become the mother of the One whom the angel announced to her, consented to God's mysterious plan for her and her Child. That is the basis of her incomparable greatness and that she would continue to renew and deepen her faith as she gave her "yes" everyday of her life. May we on this New Year's Day and everyday give our "yes" to the Father in imitation of our Blessed Mother and so cooperate with the mysterious plan He has for each of us so that we might fulfill His will in our lives and come to the glory of His heavenly kingdom.

May you have a Blessed and Happy New Year.

Peace,
Father Ron