

A Letter from Our Pastor:

Just a short letter this week, to let you know of a wonderful surprise. Our own Father Rafael Barbieri has been secreting away in the evenings to the new meeting room of the front enclosure working on an Advent project. With skill and devotion, and sometimes the help of friends (not me) he has been putting together a Holy Land landscape and nativity scene. And it must be seen.

It is a reminder to us that our faith can be expressed through more than just words or gestures but also in creativity and art. All beauty is ultimately a reflection of our desire for, and our experience of God. Do you see your own home decorating as an act of prayer and devotion? You should. And for your own inspiration and meditation, I hope you will make a pilgrimage to our own little town of Bethlehem as we await the One who comes to show us the full beauty of Creation.

I would also like to take the opportunity to offer our sincere gratitude to Luis Cedillo and his team for cleaning and mulching both the school and church grounds. We deeply appreciate their hard work and dedication in making our grounds beautiful as we prepare for Christmas.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

Masses for the Week

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| Monday, December 17th (Gospel reading: Mt. 1: 1-17) | | |
| 7:00 AM | Int. Drew Gross | Fr. Barbieri |
| 8:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | + Al & Margaret Delacroix | Msgr. Filardi |
| Tuesday, December 18th (Gospel reading: Mt. 1: 18-25) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Msgr. Filardi |
| 8:00 AM | + Rocco Tundo | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | + Bina Kiyonaga | Fr. Barbieri |
| Wednesday, December 19th (G. reading: Lk. 1: 5-25) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Fr. Barbieri |
| 8:00 AM | + Ellen Wycoski | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | + Msgr. Thomas Wells | Msgr. Filardi |
| Thursday, December 20th (Gospel reading: Lk. 1: 26-38) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Msgr. Filardi |
| 8:00AM | Int. Katherine Black | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | + Ester Neill Guild of CCS | Fr. Barbieri |
| Friday, December 21st (Gospel reading: Lk. 1: 39-45) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham | Msgr. Filardi |
| 8:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | + Ann Veith | Fr. Barbieri |
| Saturday, December 22nd (Gospel reading: Lk. 1: 46-56) | | |
| 8:00 AM | + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham | Fr. Barbieri |
| 11:00-11:55 AM | Confessions | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | + Earnest Ingle, Jr. | Fr. Barbieri |
| 4:00-4:45 PM | Confessions | Fr. Barbieri |
| 5:00 PM | + Anton Petrak & Parents | Msgr. Filardi |
| Sunday, December 23rd (Gospel reading: Lk. 1: 39-45) | | |
| 7:30 AM | Priest's Intentions | Fr. Barbieri |
| 9:00 AM | People of the Parish | Msgr. Filardi |
| 10:30 AM | Priest's Intentions | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | Priest's Intentions | Msgr. Filardi |
| 1:30 PM | Priest's Intentions | Fr. Barbieri |

The Priests' schedule is subject to change without notice. Because of printing deadlines, Mass intentions requested less than two weeks ahead might not appear in the bulletin. Masses are offered for the names/intentions written in the parish intention book. The graces of each Mass are applied to the persons listed in the book regardless of whether they appear in the bulletin or are mentioned during the Mass.

Find the Perfect Gift:



Happy Gaudete (or Rejoice) Sunday! As we receive the perfect gift of Jesus at Mass we are filled with a joy that demands to be shared. This Advent challenge yourself to share the Perfect Gift

of Jesus with someone in your life who may be searching for meaning or friendship. Invite your family and friends to our parish Advent and Christmas community celebrations, so that together we may grow closer to the source of all joy: Jesus Christ. Visit: FindthePerfectGift.org to find Christmas resources and Christmas Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington.

Third Sunday of Advent



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Office of Religious Education
301-654-5954
Third Sunday of Advent

Advent, a time for joy that no suffering can drive away, is a time of the presence and the awaiting of the Eternal God. Perhaps the easiest way to understand this is to look at the inner meaning of our Advent customs where many are rooted in passages of Scriptures that the Church employs in this time as words of her prayer. . . .We read in Psalm 96: *"Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes."* The liturgy has expanded this, drawing on other texts in the Psalms, to form the following affirmation, Psalm 98: *"The mountains and hills will sing praise before God, and all the trees of the wood will clap their hands, for the Lord, the ruler, is coming to rule for ever."* The Christmas trees we decorate are simply an attempt to make these words visible.

Even a custom like Christmas baking, apparently such an external activity, has its roots in the Church's Advent liturgy, which makes its own the glorious words of the Old Testament (Exodus 3:8) in these days of the declining year: *"In that day, the mountains will drip sweetness, and the rivers will flow with milk and honey."* The honey and the sweets are a sign of this peace, of concord and joy, there is harmony between heaven and earth, between God and man. This is why Christmas has become the feast when we give presents, when we imitate the God Who has given His own self and has thereby given us once again that life which truly becomes a gift only when the *"milk"* of our existence is sweetened by the *"honey"* of being loved. . . .Advent is to let the signs of God's love . . . penetrate our soul, without resistance, without questions and quibbling. Warmed by these signs, we can receive in full confidence the immeasurable kindness of this Child Who alone had the power to make the mountains sing and to transform the trees of the wood into a praise of God.

Source: *The Blessing of Christmas*; by Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; Ignatius Press, San Francisco © 1986, 2007.)

Let us continue to go forward this Advent with our hearts on fire proclaiming the Good News that Jesus Christ is LORD, yesterday, today, and forever.

***Parental and Spousal
Bereavement Support Group:***

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The Winter series will meet on **Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30am, from January 16th-March 6th.** There is no fee but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register contact Deacon Kevin Byrne at kevin_byrne@verizon.net or Claudia McAuliffe at 301-881-1457.

**Please Note the Changed
Rectory Hours in December:**

December 20th: 10:00-4:00pm.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th:
5:00pm Children's Mass, 9:30pm Christmas
Carols, and 10:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25th:
8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00 Noon (Spanish).



**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Mass Schedule:**

Monday, December 31st: 5:30pm

**Tuesday, January 1st: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00
Noon (Spanish).**

***Lessons and Carols
An Evening of Advent Prayer & Song:***

Led by: *The Father
McKenna Center Singers
and The Least of These
Gospel Choir* of Holy
Redeemer Parish,
Washington, DC.

Taking place on
Thursday, December 20th, 2018 at 7:00pm at
St. Aloysius, located at 900 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC. Free Admission! For more information
please visit: www.fathermckennacenter.org.





December 19th: Christmas Pageant at **6:30pm** in the church

LOLO Coat Drive Extended Until January 11th:

Please consider donating a new or gently used coat to the OLOL coat drive. Sizes XXL and up are especially needed. Also accepting new unopened packages of socks. Designated collection bins are in the school and church vestibule.

Evenings with the Merciful Jesus:

On the **22nd of every month** at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine **from 7:00-10:00pm**, the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy welcome you to find a deeper understanding of the Father's infinite mercy and experience the joy that can come with it. This gathering includes a thought-provoking talk, Adoration with Praise and Worship, Confession, and fellowship over refreshments. The next Evening with the Merciful Jesus will be on **Saturday, December 22nd**. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or events@jp2shrine.org.

**Celebration of Las Posadas
in Washington, DC:**

The Archdiocese of Washington, in partnership with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC), invite you to remember the Holy Family's journey by celebrating Las Posadas in the nation's capital. This Latin American tradition recreates Mary and Joseph's quest for shelter as participants get a chance to dress up, sing, and feast in celebration of the upcoming birth of Jesus. It also reminds us of the similar journey immigrants experience in searching for refuge all over the world. **On Monday, December 17th, Mass will begin at 5:00pm** at St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill (313 2nd St., NE), celebrated by Bishop Mario Dorsonville. It will be followed by a procession to St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill (313 2nd St., SE), where there will be a closing reception and the breaking of a piñata. For more information, contact Claudia Bartolini at 301-853-5335 or culturaldiversityi@adw.org. #PosadasDC



*Please join us for our
Advent Penance Service
on Monday, December
17th, 2018 from
7:00-8:00pm.*

Vespers at the National Shrine:



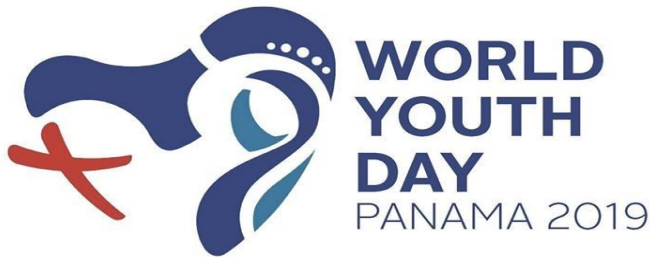
During the season of Advent, The Basilica of the National Shrine invites you to join in praying Vespers. This service of evening prayer in the Divine Office will be held **Every Sunday in Advent at 4:00pm** in the Great Upper Church. This event is free and open to the public. The Basilica is located at 400 Michigan Ave., NE, offers ample free parking, and is walking distance from the Brookland-CUA Station on Metro's Red Line. For more information please visit www.nationalshrine.org or call 202-526-8300.

"O Come Emmanuel" Art of Prayer Series:
Sundays from 6:00-7:00pm at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. This program includes a presentation on interior prayer, time for silent meditation, and a sung Sunday Vespers service. For details, please visit www.jp2shrine.org, contact events@jp2shrine.org, or call 202-635-5400.



Save the Date - World Youth Day in DC:

Join thousands of college students and young adults (ages 18-39) on **Saturday, January 26th, 2019** for a one-day Catholic festival at The Catholic University of America. Experience World Youth Day in Panama, including world-renowned speakers, live music, simultaneous streaming of Pope Francis in Panama, and authentic Panamanian culture! For more information visit: www.wyddc.org



Blessing of the Bambinelli:

This year the National Shrine will host its annual Blessing of the Bambinelli and Lighting of the Christmas Tree on **Sunday, December 23rd at the 4:30pm Mass**. Bring the Baby Jesus from your Nativity scene to be blessed at the National Shrine on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. This annual tradition in St. Peter's Square features the Pope offering a special blessing after his weekly Angelus for all those who brought their Bambinelli. Following the Mass and Blessing of the Bambinelli, the National Shrine will bless and ceremonially light the Christmas Tree as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Please come for this special opportunity to start your Christmas week! No tickets or reservations are required. The Basilica is located at 400 Michigan Ave NE, offers ample free parking, and is walking distance from the Brookland-CUA Station on Metro's Red Line. For more information please visit: www.nationalshrine.org, or call 202-526-8300.

FertilityCare for Natural Family Planning and Women's Health:

Please join us for a free introductory lecture on FertilityCare. Therese Rodriguez, RN, FCP, FertilityCare Practitioner will present a lecture on the basics of FertilityCare for natural women's health and family planning. FertilityCare is a method of holistic fertility awareness that can benefit women from teens through the menopausal years. Couples are encouraged to attend together. Information will be provided about private follow up sessions and materials for purchase.

The next lecture will take place on **Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 from 7:00-9:00pm**.

To register, call 301-754-8800 or visit: HolyCrossHealth.org.

Date: Friday, January 11th: 9:00am-4:00pm.

Details:

- Experienced retreat master will guide you to a place of rest with Christ, but you control your prayer time, allowing you to follow wherever the Holy Spirit leads you
- Optional meeting with a member of the Retreat Team to receive guidance is available at certain point of the day
- Optional time for one-on-one spiritual direction
- Continental breakfast and lunch
- Private room provided for your personal refuge. Each bedroom is outfitted with a bed, desk, sink and water closet.

Cost: \$120 per person: In addition to the high-quality programming of our retreats, your registration fee includes retreat materials, meals, and lodging.

Register at:

<https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/retreats/personal-retreat-days#panel--5>.

Clases de Planificación Familiar en Español:

La Oficina de Vida Familiar ha programado clases de Planificación Familiar (en español) para parejas el sábado **12 de enero, 2019**, en la Misión San Andrés localizada en el 12247 de la Georgia Avenue en Silver Spring, MD 20902 (Salón 301). Las parejas interesadas deben asistir a las dos charlas para aprender el método.

Las clases cuestan \$40 que cubren el pago de materiales. Para inscribirse, favor enviar su dirección de correo electrónico a la Oficina de Vida Familiar: signovisible@adw.org o llámenos al 301-853-4499.

Upcoming Pro-Life Events:

Rosary Tour: Christmas Day, December 25th, 2018:

At the local abortion facilities. Contact: Bill Luksic at 301-461-9282 or bluksic1@verizon.net.

Rosary Tour: New Year's Day, January 1st, 2019:

At the local abortion facilities. Contact: Bill Luksic at 301-461-9282 or bluksic1@verizon.net.

Altar Flowers:



If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers for a special intention, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please call the parish office or email: sgolden@lourdesbethesda.net or ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net. The donation for the flowers is \$150.00.

Sick in Our Parish:

Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters, especially **Bob Stephan, Ryan Christian, Florence Crisafulli and Cristina Ayala.**

Deceased in Our Parish:

Please pray for our deceased brothers and sisters, especially **James Doherty.**

Ministry to the Elderly and Homebound:

If a parishioner is ill or unable to attend Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call our coordinator, Margaret Carroll at 301-325-6398.

National Shrine's Christmas Dinner for Those In Need:

The Basilica of the National Shrine will sponsor dinner for those who are alone or in need on **Christmas Day, December 25th.** Volunteers are needed to assist in preparing, serving, and delivering meals as well as assisting with other logistics. Those interested in volunteering may sign-up online at: www.nationalshrine.org/christmasdinner or call the Basilica at 202-526-8300.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Sunday Meal for the Poor and Homeless:

Takes place every Sunday in the school cafeteria. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at: <http://vols.pt/3XNY26> or send an email to OLOLHomelessDinner@gmail.com. Please bring food to the cafeteria from 4:15-4:45 on Sundays (use the blue door to the left of the school's main entrance).

Volunteers also operate a "clothes closet" where our guests can obtain donated clothing. (Please note we are only accepting men's clothing at this time.) Bring donations from 4:30 to 5:30 on Sundays, or contact Dan Keen at 301-564-0077 to arrange a pick-up at your home. Please, nothing stained or torn.

Finance & Administration:

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12)



First Sunday of Advent 2018 Offertory: Figures Unavailable

Second Collection for December 23, 2018: None

Our December Poor Box will be going to the DC Diaper Bank. This program empowers families in need throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia, by providing a reliable source for basic baby needs and personal hygiene products. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Giving Tree:



In keeping with the parish tradition of giving, Our Lady of Lourdes is sponsoring the Annual Giving Tree to help mothers and babies at the Tepeyac Center. Please take a tag from the tree and place an unwrapped gift in the box next to the tree by **Sunday, January 6th.** Thank you for your generosity.

Moving In, Out or Within the Parish?

Please help us keep our records up-to-date by filling out this form and dropping it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot. Thank you.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

____ I/we am/are new to the parish. Welcome!

____ Change of address within the parish. Thank you!

____ I/we am/are moving out of the parish. God be with you!

Noticias en Español – Tercer Domingo de Adviento 16 de Diciembre, 2018

“¿Que debemos hacer?”



Parece una pregunta sincera: ¿qué debemos hacer?, pero no siempre lo es, porque nosotros sabemos muy bien lo que debemos hacer y no encontraremos en los evangelios, en Juan o en Jesús una salida o una evasión a nuestras responsabilidades. Juan es claro y directo y Jesús irá aún más allá, agregará la milla adicional.

¿Qué debemos hacer? ir más allá ... ¿qué debemos hacer? ir más allá.

Sin embargo, el Señor no pretende hacer poesía, ni tampoco era la intención de Juan el Bautista, por eso la respuesta a la pregunta **¿qué debemos hacer?** Es concreta y la repite en tres ocasiones distintas a sus tres interlocutores de turno, para que quede muy claro que hay una exigencia que cumplir. Que la fe debe manifestarse en obras, en acciones concretas. Y Juan pide compartir y compasión, Jesús va más allá. Para Jesús no es suficiente que hagamos lo que está

escrito en la ley, lo que según la justicia humana es suficiente. Hay que ir más allá. El que ha de venir está llamando a nuestras puertas con la voz de los profetas que nos llaman a compartir, a dar de comer a los hambrientos, a vestir a los desnudos, a visitar a los enfermos y a los que viven en soledad, a hacer presente a Jesús en la sociedad. Escuchamos la palabra, y la transmitimos, haciendo de nuestras vidas un evangelio en el que todos puedan leer el mensaje de amor y perdón que Cristo hizo real entre nosotros y que nos recuerda cada año en estas fechas. Dios envía a su hijo entre los hombres para traer un mensaje que empezará a manifestarse ahora y que terminará en la Pascua y Resurrección.

Un camino que repetimos, junto a Él, cada año renovando la promesa de vivir en el camino de la bondad, de la justicia, del amor, de la verdad y de la vida. Despertemos en nuestro interior la intención de querer parecernos en nuestros actos a Jesús, hijo de Dios y hermano nuestro.

Hagámoslo como lo hicieron Él y su madre: diciendo sí, un sí sin matices, un sí de fe y entrega. Digamos sí a la nueva llegada.

Avisos:

- **El Domingo 2 de Diciembre se inició un grupo para niños mayores de 8 años que no hayan recibido el Sacramento del Bautizo. Las clases serán los domingos de 11:45 a 1:15 y termina con la Misa en español. Mayor información: Lourdes Baeza 301-412-5259 y María Virginia Rodríguez 301-602-4626.**
- **Los invitamos a tomar una figurita del árbol de navidad y traer un regalo para los bebés del “Centro Tepeyac”, por favor depositarlo en una caja que estará en el vestíbulo de la puerta principal de la Parroquia. Los regalos se estarán recibiendo a más tardar el 6 de Enero del 2019.**
- **Invitamos a toda la Comunidad Hispana a nuestra obra teatral de la Pastorela el Domingo 23 de Diciembre a las 11:45 am, que se realizara en la cafetería de la escuela.**
- **No habrán clases a partir del 30 de Diciembre, retornamos el 6 de Enero a las clases normales.**
- **Dios sigue llamando hoy a más hermanos cristianos para encomendarles la tarea de catequizar, es decir, anunciar con su vida a Cristo. Nuestra Comunidad Hispana abre las inscripciones para todos los que sientan el llamado a catequizar y compartir su experiencia de Fe. Mayor información: Lourdes Baeza 301-412-5259 y María Virginia Rodríguez 301-602-4626.**
- **Todos los domingos de 11:45am a 1:15pm en la cafetería de la escuela: tenemos charlas, temas diversos, oración, Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento y confesiones el 1er y 3er domingo del mes. Mayor información con el Padre Rafael Barbieri, José Miguel Mejía y Margarita Rodezno.**

Por favor actualice su información - Recorte el siguiente formato de inscripción y entréguelo en la Misa junto con colecta. Recuerde que los datos que usted nos suministre son confidenciales.

- Soy (somos) nuevo(s) en la Parroquia. **Queremos inscribirnos.**
- Llevo (tenemos) ya tiempo asistiendo a esta parroquia y **queremos inscribirnos.**
- Estoy (estamos) inscritos y **esta es la nueva dirección.**
- Ya no podré volver a esta parroquia. **Favor eliminar mi nombre de la lista.**

NOMBRE: _____

DIRECION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____