

A Letter from Our Pastor:

Over the years I have given a series of eulogies for the uncles in my family. This past week was my final installment as we buried the last one. Joe Wolfe was married to my father's older sister, Frances. He was afflicted with a very rare cancer of the heart. Even his oncologist had only seen it once before. I visited him with my father this past August when he had taken a turn for the worse. We were told on our arrival that he had an internal infection easily treated with penicillin. The next day, my father, Aunt Fran, two cousins, and I were present when he came out of a long sleep. Always a loud and proud Irishman (at least by ancestry) he seemed very happy to see us all, but then fell into a bit of a lament. He wondered if he had made good use of his life or accomplished anything of significance. We were quick to point out that as a school teacher, avid track coach and later a high school principal, he had indeed had an impact. Then of course there were his five adult children, each successful in their way having raised families of their own. At this he smiled and responded, "And they all go to church." After a moment of thought he added, "Well most of them go to church...most of the time ..I think." He and my aunt were quite devout, and the Faith so integral to their lives together that they deeply desired to pass it forward.

They lived in Upstate New York, our family with five kids was in Maryland, and another set of five cousins was on Long Island, all fifteen of us within a ten year age range. We all gathered at one of our homes a couple of times a year. The joyful convergence and chaos of those occasions made for tremendous memories and connections that we maintain to this day. Uncle Joe was a storyteller, always witty and quick with a joke. And no important event was complete, first communion, confirmation, wedding or funeral, until Uncle Joe sang a heart-rending version of 'Danny Boy.' He had a deep faith in God's Providence, but also put up a fierce fight for his life. His three older brothers had all made it into their 90s. And at 82 he figured he would be the same. Indeed, he loved life.

He and my aunt actually had six children. A daughter lived only two days after birth due to a respiratory condition. When asked how many children he had, Uncle Joe always included Patricia, his little angel. And so when he unexpectedly and peacefully let go of life on her birthday, November 28th, his family saw that as a sign that she had come to accompany him who never forgot her. I'd like to think that they are right. And I thank God for the example of Faith and faithfulness he was to me.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

Masses for the Week

Monday, December 10th (Gospel reading: Lk. 5: 17-26)		
7:00 AM	+ Colonel Thomas F. Royals	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Colonel Thomas F. Royals	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Colonel Thomas F. Royals	Msgr. Filardi
Tuesday, December 11th (G. reading: Mt. 18: 12-14)		
7:00 AM	+Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Mary Sheehan	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Marcia Abbo	Fr. Barbieri
Wednesday, December 12th (G. reading: Lk. 1: 39-47)		
7:00 AM	+ Mary Ann Kilbane	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Jose & Florinda Garcia	Msgr. Filardi
Thursday, December 13th (G. reading: Mt. 11: 11-15)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00AM	+ Andrew Kotonias	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Mr. & Mrs. Petravova	Fr. Barbieri
Friday, December 14th (Gospel reading: Mt. 11: 16-19)		
7:00 AM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Gary Coulter, Sr.	Msgr. Filardi
Saturday, December 15th (G. reading: Mt. 17: 9a, 10-13)		
8:00 AM	+ Irene Onderchek	Msgr. Filardi
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Msgr. Filardi
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
5:00 PM	+ Mr. & Mrs. Mateo Kosecky	Fr. Barbieri
Sunday, December 16th (Gospel reading: Lk. 3: 10-18)		
7:30 AM	People of the Parish	Msgr. Filardi
9:00 AM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Barbieri
10:30 AM	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
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.

Second Sunday of Advent



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It does not rule out a sober assessment of who we are. On the Second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist and the word he serves as preacher are ever serious in getting us to behold the salvation of God (Gospel of Saint Luke 3:6). In the Holy Eucharist, the Word made flesh enables us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord now before seeing Him in eternity.

In every Advent, we honor the Mother of God under the title of the Immaculate Conception. We believe that the woman God had chosen from all eternity to bear the Son of God was herself without sin. He who knew no sin came forth from the womb of the one preserved from the stain of original sin and who never sinned by her own choosing.

What better time than during the Advent season for an examination of conscience and a celebration of the Sacrament of Penance prefigure *the pure and blameless day of Christ for which we pray in earnest* (Philippians 1:10).

(Taken from: Homiletic & Pastoral Review Ignatius Press © 2009; Msgr. Robert J. Batule, STL)

O Mary, Conceived Without Sin, Pray For Us Who Have Recourse to Thee.

Let us offer up the Joyful Mysteries this Advent Season.

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

Thursday, December 13th: 10:00am-4:00pm
Friday, December 14th: 9:00am-4:00pm
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).**

Find the Perfect Gift:

FIND THE PERFECT GIFT.org



Christmas celebrates the Perfect Gift of God's love in Jesus, and Advent is the time when we prepare our hearts to welcome this gift.

This week, take time out of the busyness of the season to slow down and reflect on the miracle of God becoming man. After some quiet reflection, share your joy and inspiration with someone you love or on social media to spread the Perfect Gift of Jesus this Christmas season. Visit: FindthePerfectGift.org to find Christmas resources and Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington.

***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.



December 11th: Band & Choir Concert at **7:00pm** in the school cafeteria

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

OLOL 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.

The Ladies of Lourdes:

The next meeting of the Ladies of Lourdes will be our baby shower for the Blessed Mother and the Advent potluck dinner. The event will be held in the former Convent on **December 11th, starting at 7:00pm.** Spouses and friends are most welcome to attend. The baby shower gifts this year will be contributed to the Gabriel Project. Please contact Melanie White at melanierosewhite@gmail.com or 301-675-3154 for details about the shower gifts and what to contribute to the dinner.

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.

"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O **God,**
and put a
new
and right
spirit
within me."
Psalms 51:10

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

"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.



Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

On Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30pm, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine (3900 Harewood Rd., NE) will celebrate Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The principal celebrant and homilist of the 7:00pm bilingual Mass is Bishop Mario Dorsonville. A prelude serenade to Our Lady by Jorge Zurita will begin at 6:30pm. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or events@jp2shrine.org. Find on Facebook by searching for "Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe."



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



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.

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.



OUR LADY of BETHESDA RETREAT CENTER

Personal Retreat Day:

Need Some Time Away? Sometimes you just need a little personal time away from the world. Or, maybe a weekend retreat just won't fit your schedule.

Well, we have the perfect thing for you!

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>.

Advent Lessons and Carols:

On Sunday, December 16th from 4:00-6:00pm,

the Saint John Paul II National Shrine will hold an Advent concert with reflections on the Nativity story followed by

caroling around the Christmas tree. For more information, contact 202-635-5400 or events@jp2shrine.org.



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.**

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)



Solemnity of Jesus 2018 Offertory: \$7,917

Second Collection for December 16, 2018: Building Fund

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.

The Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will be held on the weekend of December 8th-9th in the Archdiocese of Washington:

This parish-based appeal, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), benefits nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests whose communities lack retirement savings. Participation in this collection provides an opportunity to be a witness of Our Lord's love and mercy for the religious men and women who have contributed so much to sharing his love with others and to building up the Church. 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 –Segundo Domingo de Adviento 9 de Diciembre, 2018

“Preparen el camino del Señor”



La primera cosa que ha hecho Juan, es anunciar a Jesucristo. Otra cosa que ha hecho, es que no se ha apoderado de su autoridad moral. A Juan se le había dado la posibilidad de decir «Yo soy el Mesías», porque tenía mucha autoridad moral, todo el mundo iba donde él.

Y el Evangelio narra que Juan le decía a todos que se convirtieran. Y los fariseos, los doctores veían esta como su fuerza: «Era un hombre recto». Le preguntaban si era él el Mesías. Y, en el momento de la tentación, de la vanidad, podía poner una cara de circunstancia y decir: «Pero, no lo sé...» con una falsa humildad. Sin embargo, ha sido claro: «¡No, yo no lo soy! Detrás de mí viene uno que es más fuerte que yo, del que no soy digno ni de atarle la correa de sus sandalias». Juan ha sido claro, no ha robado el título. No se ha apoderado del trabajo. Esta, por tanto, es la segunda cosa que ha hecho él, «hombre de verdad»: No robar la dignidad.

San Juan Bautista fue enviado al mundo para ser testigo del hecho más extraordinario nunca antes pensado ni imaginado. **Toda su vida fue predicar la conversión y el arrepentimiento de los pecados**, gritándolo con sus palabras y obras. Y ejerció su labor con gran celo, ya que conocía la magnitud de su misión.

Gracias a Dios, el papel de San Juan Bautista sigue estando vivo aun hoy en día. Varios hombres y mujeres continúan predicándonos con su vida que sí es posible arrepentirnos y vivir totalmente dirigidos a Cristo. Escuchémoslos. Dios nos habla a través de ellos, pues ellos sólo son sus mensajeros. Y nosotros hagámonos también testigos, pues infinitas son las gracias inmerecidas que hemos recibido, y ya que las hemos recibido gratis, démoslas gratis (Mt 10,8).

Avisos:

- **El Domingo 2 de Diciembre se iniciara 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 bebes 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 mas tardar el 6 de Enero del 2019.**
- **El sábado 15 de Diciembre tendremos el Retiro de Adviento de 8:30 a 12:30, ¡vayamos preparando nuestra agenda para participar en este hermoso retiro!**
- **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.**
- **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: _____