

A Letter from Our Pastor

For some reason our Christmas season this year, continuing with the remembrance of the Three Kings today, has seemed especially gratifying.

Maybe this is true for me in part because it came without the extra stress of having Christmas day fall on either side of Sunday, as it did in the previous two years. But ultimately it is the reassuring joy of being together, praying together and knowing we are loved together that makes it so gratifying.

Let me also offer a sincere word of gratitude for the many beautiful cards and thoughtful gifts bestowed on Father Barbieri and myself. Despite everything my adage still holds true, no one is more spoiled with kindness and love than a parish priest. Your goodness to us is unmerited, but humbly appreciated and truly reassuring. The gospel for Christmas Day from Saint John reminds us, *“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, ... full of grace and truth.”* John 1:14

As we move forward into this new year, now is the time not to quit but to commit in our hearts, our homes and our churches to live more faithfully in accord with the fullness of “grace and truth” which is God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

Masses for the Week

Monday, January 7th (G. reading: Mt. 4: 12-17, 23-25)		
7:00 AM	+ Stephen Robert O’Neil	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Marge Langan	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Int. Charles Lunden	Msgr. Filardi
Tuesday, January 8th (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 34-44)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	Int. John Monte	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Marge Langan	Fr. Barbieri
Wednesday, January 9th (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 45-52)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Mary Sheehan	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Int. Jullia Pastewka	Msgr. Filardi
Thursday, January 10th (Gospel reading: Lk. 4: 14-22a)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00AM	+ Nicholas Gallagher	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Ellen Wycoski	Fr. Barbieri
Friday, January 11th (Gospel reading: Lk. 5: 12-16)		
7:00 AM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	Int. Mary Catherine Monte	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
Saturday, January 12th (Gospel reading: Jn. 3: 22-30)		
8:00 AM	+ Dario Marchesan	Msgr. Filardi
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ George Bridge	Msgr. Filardi
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
5:00 PM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Barbieri
Sunday, January 13th (G. reading: Lk. 3: 15-16, 21-22)		
7:30 AM	Priest’s Intentions	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	People of the Parish	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.

**Collection for Church Missions
Within the United States:**

On the weekend of January 12th-13th, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a second collection for Church Missions within the United States. This collection supports mission dioceses in this country that are unable to offer their people the basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service without outside help. It may also give grants to other dioceses in the U.S. for particular projects, and to organizations and religious communities engaged in missionary work.

Second, it provides vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for supporting and strengthening evangelization programs that would otherwise be in danger of disappearing among these communities. Thank you for your generosity.



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Office of Religious Education

301-654-5954

The Epiphany Of The Lord

“The first Christmas hymn in history, which established for all time the inner melody of Christmas, was not composed by men. Saint Luke transmits it to us as the song of the angels who were the “*evangelists*” of Christmas night: ‘*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men*’—the men who enjoy His favor, the men of good will.

The liturgical hymn of the Eastern Church explores the theme of giving but gives it greater depth: “What can we offer You, O Christ, for having been born for us on earth as a Man? Each creature, the work of your hands, offers you a sign of gratitude: the angels, their hymn; the heavens, the star; the Magi, their gifts; the shepherds, their admiration; the earth, the cave; the desert, the manger; and all mankind, we offer you a Virgin Mother.”

Mary is the gift of mankind to Christ. And this in turn means that the Lord does not want a certain percentage from us. He wants our hearts; indeed, He wants our whole being. He wants our faith and the life that is based on faith. And from this life, He wants those gifts of which He will speak at the Last Judgment (Matthew 25: 31-46 The Judgement of the Nations): food and clothing for the poor, compassion and mutual love, a word that gives consolation, and a presence that brings comfort to the persecuted, the imprisoned, the abandoned, and the lost.

“What can we offer You, O Christ? In this Year, let us try to offer Him our faith and our own selves, even if only in the form of the prayer: ‘I believe, Lord, help my unbelief!’ And on this day, let us not forget the many in whom He suffers on earth”

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

**May your presence be the gift to all
that you meet in 2019 A.D.**

Today: CCD Classes resume.

Opening and Closing Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life:

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception welcomes the faithful to the National Prayer Vigil for Life. On **Thursday, January 17 at 5:30pm**, the Opening Mass will be held in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica. The principal celebrant and homilist will be Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Chairman-Elect of the U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities. Also in the Great Upper Church, the Closing Mass will be held on **Friday, January 18 at 7:30am**, with principal celebrant and homilist Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond. Events are open to the public, and no tickets or reservations are required. The Basilica offers free parking and is conveniently located within walking distance of the Brookland-CUA Station of Metro's Red Line. For more information, please call the Basilica at 202-526-8300.

Men's Discernment Retreat:

St. John Paul II Seminary invites men in their 20's – 40's who are interested in learning more about the priesthood to attend a discernment retreat led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held **the weekend of February 1st-3rd, 2019** at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. The weekend will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the seminary and priesthood. Registration is now open at: www.DCPriest.org. For more information, contact the Office of Priest Vocations at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT WEEKEND

Friday through Sunday, February 1-3, 2019



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.

For Single Catholics - 21st Annual Epiphany Party:

At Saint Raphael Church, located at 1513 Dunster Road Rockville, Maryland 20854 on **Saturday, January 12th at 7:00pm**. It will include a delicious Greek dinner, salsa dance lessons, complementary wine and beer, a DJ, and more. \$25 cash or check at the door. For more information please call 240-426-5589.

The Ladies of Lourdes:

The next meeting of the Ladies of Lourdes will be on **Tuesday, January 8th at 7:30pm** in the Library Media Center of the School. Mary Ellen Bork will give a presentation on St. Thomas More. For information contact Barbara Black at 301-652-0749 or fsbbob@verizon.net.

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.

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.

Evenings with the Merciful Jesus:

On the 22nd of every month from 7:00-10:00pm, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE) hosts a gathering for young adults and the young at heart, featuring a talk, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with praise and worship music, Confession, refreshments, and a time for fellowship. Please contact events@jp2shrine.org or visit: jp2shrine.org.



The Monsignor Thomas Wells Society:

Invites all parishioners to its annual Mass and banquet on **Saturday, January 12th, 2019**. The event will be held this year for the first time at Sacred Heart Church in Bowie, where Msgr. Wells began his ministry 47 years ago and where he is buried. **Mass is at 6:00pm, with the banquet to follow**. The evening has traditionally been a time to thank its members for their generosity, to introduce seminarians receiving our support and to remember Msgr. Wells. President Kevin Wells this year, in addition to discussing plans for 2019, will be discussing his book. *Scepter Books will be publishing **The Priest I Need** in 2019 - my book that unpacks the irrepressible joy and intentionality of Msgr. Thomas Wells*. Those wishing to attend are asked to **RSVP to kvnjwlls@gmail.com or call 240-381-3533**. There will be a bus from OLOL to Sacred Heart if there is enough interest. Please email fsb5604@gmail.com or call **301-652-0749 by January 7th, 2019** if you wish to travel by bus.

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



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.

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.

Personal Retreat Day:

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:

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

Healing Your Love: Tools for Overcoming Obstacles in Marriage:

A Christ-Centered Marriage Renewal Workshop for couples looking to reconnect, repair, and re-energize their marriage.

Date: Saturday, March 9th- Sunday, March 10th (Not Overnight)

Details:

- A Christ-centered weekend retreat designed to nurture emotional closeness in your marriage. The workshop will offer a road-map for addressing sensitive issues, encourage healthy conversations framed in faith and guide you and your spouse toward forgiveness and re-bonding. You will not have to "share" with anyone except your spouse.
- Opportunities for confession, celebration of the mass, and renewal of Marriage Vows are all included in the schedule.

Cost: \$600 per couple

Register: <https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/marriage/three-stay-married-marriage-enrichment>.



OUR LADY OF BETHESDA
RETREAT CENTER

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.

Bulletin Deadline:

Please have your printed notices at the Rectory office or emailed to office@lourdesbethesda.net by **Monday at 3:00 PM.**

Catholic School Open Houses:

Are you interested in finding the right Catholic school for you? Catholic schools instill a life-long love of learning in a safe and faith-filled environment. Take the first step by visiting an open house near you. Learn more at: adwcatholicsschools.org.

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)



Fourth Sunday of Advent 2018
Offertory: Figures unavailable due to early deadline.

Second Collection for January 13th, 2019:
Church Missions Within the United States

Our January Poor Box will be going to the Father McKenna Center. It serves as a food pantry, hypothermia center, and a safe and drug-free environment for the poor. The center is primarily funded by private donations in order to continue to offer its many services. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and support.

Give the Gift of Service:

Catholic Charities DC encourages you to give back by taking advantage of a variety of volunteer opportunities available in Washington, DC and southern Maryland. For more information on volunteering with Catholic Charities, or to register to volunteer, visit: catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer.



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 – Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor – Enero 6, 2018

"¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos?"



Jesús, hoy en el Evangelio nos habla del encuentro que los magos tuvieron con Herodes. En nuestro corazón resuena la pregunta que le hicieron al tetrarca: "¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos?" Esa pregunta lo turbó profundamente porque cuestionaba su identidad, la manera en que él mismo se veía.

Muchas veces, amado Jesús, hemos tenido la misma experiencia cuando hay momentos, personas y situaciones que hacen saltar por el aire lo que creemos de nosotros mismos, la imagen que con el paso del tiempo nos hemos forjado de nosotros pero que no siempre corresponde con la manera que Jesús nos ve. Tantas veces nos hemos creído mejor o peor de lo que realmente somos y nos hemos convertido en unos aduladores solapados o en jueces inmisericorde.

Nosotros sabemos quiénes somos y sabemos quién era realmente Herodes. Cuando miramos la figura de Herodes, muchas veces hemos visto a un rey despiadado y asesino...no hemos sabido mirarlo como Jesús lo ve: un hijo suyo muy amado por EL.

¡Si tan sólo fuéramos más consciente de esta verdad, nuestra vida cambiaría! Sabríamos mirar a los demás como Jesús los ve... Nos veríamos como lo que somos: ¡Sus hijos muy amados! No nos enojaríamos por las situaciones o porque los demás metieran en crisis nuestra identidad, pues sabríamos que, pase lo que pase, hagamos lo que hagamos, nunca dejaríamos de ser lo que somos: unos muy amados por Jesús.

Esa pregunta que turbó a Herodes no es otra cosa que un intento de tu amor de quitarle la máscara que él mismo se había hecho y mostrarle su verdadero ser, su identidad más profunda; no fue otra cosa que un intento de tu infinito amor para mostrarle lo que era realmente.

Jesús, ayúdanos a mirar como Tú miras y a grabar en nuestro corazón con letras de fuego nuestra identidad más verdadera y profunda: Somos tus hijos y tu nos amas.

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.**
- **No habrá 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.**
- **Nuestra Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes les desea a toda la Comunidad Hispana una Feliz Navidad y que el amor, la paz y armonía que nos trae la venida de nuestro Señor Jesús, inunde los corazones de cada uno.**

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: _____

DIRECCION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____