**A Letter from Our Pastor**

Once every three years each parish in the Archdiocese is asked to host Catholic missionaries to speak on the important work their religious order or organization is undertaking in a particular part of the world. We are delighted to welcome at each Mass this weekend, Fr. Raymond Nwabueze O.P. The “O.P.” stands for the Order of Preachers which is the congregation of priests, nuns and consecrated religious founded by Saint Dominic in the year 1216. Let me offer a bit of his background. Father belongs to the Dominican Order of the Province of Nigeria in West Africa. He joined them in 1996 and obtained bachelor’s degrees in Philosophy and Theology in Nigeria and a MA in Theology from Duquesne University in PA. Ordained in Nigeria in July 2006, he worked as a formator in the House of Studies in Nigeria until 2008 before being named pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Northern Nigeria until March 2014. He was then asked to run the Dominican Mission Office in Mount Rainier, Maryland. Now while working as mission director, he is also the main Catholic Chaplain at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington. He makes many appeals in the United States to raise funds to support his Order’s mission work in Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, Grenada and St. Lucia as well as to support the House of Formation in Nigeria where 100 seminarians are preparing for the priesthood. Any help you can give will go a long way to bring about much good in assisting this work in building the Kingdom of God.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

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**Masses for the Week**

**Monday, December 9th** (Gospel reading: Lk. 1:26-38)
7:00 AM + Onyioza Maris Asuku Fr. Ubau
8:00 AM + Glenn Mitchell Fr. Ubau
12 NOON Souls in Purgatory Msgr. Filardi

**Tuesday, December 10th** (G. reading: Mt. 18:12-14)
7:00 AM + Onyioza Maris Asuku Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM + Holy Souls Fr. Ubau
12 NOON Special Intention Fr. Ubau

**Wednesday, December 11th** (G. reading: Mt. 11: 28-30)
7:00 AM + Onyioza Maris Asuku Fr. Ubau
8:00 AM + Eric Mitchell Fr. Ubau
12 NOON + Rosa Tillery Msgr. Filardi

**Thursday, December 12th** (G. reading: Lk. 1: 39-47)
7:00 AM + Onyioza Maris Asuku Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM + Giovanni & Onesta Biondi Msgr. Filardi
12:00 AM + Mary Ann Kilbane Fr. Ubau

**Friday, December 13th** (Gospel reading: Mt. 11: 16-19)
7:00 AM + Onyioza Maris Asuku Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM + Andrew Kotonias Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON + Mr. & Mrs. Petrakova Fr. Ubau

**Sat. December 14th** (G. reading: Mt. 17: 9a, 10-13)
8:00 AM + Dario Marchesan Msgr. Filardi
11:00-11:55 AM Confessions Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON + Carol Pihlstrom Fr. Ubau
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions Fr. Ubau
5:00 PM + Mr. & Mrs. Matey Kosecky Msgr. Filardi

**Sunday, December 15th** (Gospel reading: Mt. 11: 2-11)
7:30 AM Priest’s Intentions Fr. Ubau
9:00 AM Priest’s Intentions Msgr. Filardi
10:30 AM Priest’s Intentions Fr. Ubau
12 NOON Priest’s Intentions Msgr. Filardi
1:30 PM People of the Parish Fr. Ubau

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.

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**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Please note that due to the missionary priest’s visit this weekend, the second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be moved to next weekend, December 14-15.**

**Second Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, December 14-15:**

Today, hundreds of religious communities lack enough savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers vital support for necessities, such as medications and nursing care.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
As we begin a new Year of Grace with the Advent season, we are given the time to reorient our lives of earthly pilgrimage by focusing on the coming of Christ in time and in eternity. During the season of Advent we seek directions from individuals like Isaiah the Prophet, other Old Testament prophets, Saint John the Baptist, the Blessed Mother, the Evangelists, and Saint Paul. Our conversations and meditations with them through Sacred Scriptures give us an opportunity to know them as they point the way to Our Lord. Our “road signs” the texts of the Mass—the readings, the antiphons, and the responses that are part of the Mass further direct us.

**Week One** with the antiphons states, “Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Week Two** draws us closer to our destinations with the following passage: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

**Week Three** we experience joy in anticipation of Christmas as we hear: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.”

**Week Four** we reach our destination: “A Virgin will give birth to a Son; His Name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.” Mary the Immaculate Virgin and Mother of the Son of God, prepares us and leads us into the Mystery of the Word made Flesh. What great news we hear today—God is with us. We sing the hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel” many times during Advent: Let us take these words to heart each day of our earthly pilgrimage.

(Source Homiletic & Pastoral Reviews © Ignatius Press 2010: Homilies for Sunday Liturgies & Feasts; by Rev. C. Frank Phillips, C; pages 33, 34)

Monday December 9: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been moved to this date because Sunday December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Patroness of the United States of America

**O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.**
**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24:
5:00pm Children’s Mass,
9:30pm Christmas Carols, and 10:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas

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

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**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 5th**. Thank you for your generosity.

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**The RCIA Program is Looking for Volunteers to be Sponsors for Those Wishing to Join the Catholic Church:**

A Sponsor must be a Catholic who has been baptized, received the Eucharist and Confirmation, and who is currently living a sacramental life and is not in an irregular marriage. In addition, the Sponsor must be (for our program) 18 years of age and lead a life of faith in harmony with the ministry that the are undertaking. If you have discerned that you would like to be a Sponsor, please reach out to Carl and Kariana Rios at crios@lourdesbethesda.net or call and leave a message at 202-360-9191.

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**Study of Saints (SoS) Book Club:**

Have you ever prayed for the intercession of a Saint? Often times when we do, we are invariably in need of something. Praying for the intercession of a Saint is like sending out an S.O.S. call for help. In this book club, we will read works by or about Saints. Through this Study of Saints (SoS), we will learn about the martyrs and religious who have dedicated their lives to God and learn what they are the Patron Saints of. By knowing our patron Saints, we can understand better whose constant intercession we can rely upon in sending our own SOS. Meets on fifth Sundays 3:00 - 4:00pm in the Delacroix Conference Room at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The next meeting will be on December 29th on **Saint Catherine Labouré of the Miraculous Medal by Joseph I. Dirvin, C.M.** published by TAN Books (1984).

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**OLOL Christmas Potluck Dinner and Double Feature Movie Night:**

Friday, December 13, 7:00pm at the OLOL Library and Media Center:

Please bring your favorite holiday entrée or dessert to share for the potluck dinner. Then, enjoy two family-friendly Christmas movies. First, the Disney animated musical short “Small One”; in this funny and heartwarming story, set at in the Holy Land at the time of Christ, a young boy must sell his beloved donkey to raise money for his family. Next, the beloved Capra classic comedy/drama/fantasy “It’s a Wonderful Life” in which a despondent young family man (James Stewart) is visited by his endearingly bumbling but resourceful guardian angel and is shown how crucially important his sometimes frustrating life has been to his wife (Donna Reed), family, friends, and community. Join us for two memorable films which blend rollicking humor, touching drama, and Christmas joy. For questions, call Phil Sheridan at 301-654-4255.

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**Find the Perfect Gift:**

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](http://FindthePerfectGift.org) to find Christmas resources and Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington.

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**Please Save the Date for our Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 16th from 6:30 - 7:30pm.**

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**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24:
5:00pm Children’s Mass,
9:30pm Christmas Carols, and 10:00pm Solemn Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25:
8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00 Noon (Spanish).
Loyola on the Potomac Invites You To Loyola Saintly Tea
Sunday, December 15 3:00 to 5:00pm:

Our tea will include delicious assorted hors d’oeuvres, finger sandwiches and desserts. $25.00 per person. Contact Alice Case at 301-392-0819 or alice.case@loyolaretreat.org.

Rosary Tour, Christmas Day, December 25, 2019 at the local abortion facilities. Contact Bill Luksic at 301-461-9282 or bluksic1@verizon.net

Advent by Candlelight
December 9th 7:00pm:

Holy Redeemer Parish
Kensington, MD

Praise Music Prayer Adoration
Tree Lighting and Hot Chocolate!

All Women Welcome
Please bring daughters, granddaughters, nieces, and friends - middle school age or older.
For more information please call 301-942-2333.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend:
“Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” Make sure your marriage bears good fruit. Participate in a Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 28 – March 1, 2020 in College Park, MD. Sign up on moments4marriage.org or leave us a message at 301-541-7007. We’ll call you back! Sign up early!

Retreat for Grieving Parents:
Parents who are grieving the loss of a child, no matter how old the child is or how long ago the child passed, are invited to a retreat for grieving parents on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at St. Joseph Parish in Beltsville, MD. The retreat is open to any parent who has lost a child. For more information call the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4499 or email: ferrando-bowlingc@adw.org.

Rosary Tour, Christmas Day, December 25, 2019 at the local abortion facilities. Contact Bill Luksic at 301-461-9282 or bluksic1@verizon.net

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Cathedral Advent Penance Service:
All are welcome to experience the love of Christ through the Sacrament of Penance at the Advent Communal Penance Service, “Come Home for Christmas,” on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:10pm at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. Twelve or more priests will be available for Confessions in several languages, including Spanish. The Cathedral is located at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, between Connecticut Ave. and 17th St., near the Farragut North Red Line, Farragut West Orange Line, and Dupont Circle Red Line Metro stops. Visit us at www.stmatthewscathedral.org or call us at 202-347-3215.

Marriage Enrichment Series:
Taking the time to invest in your marriage is very important. Make your marriage a priority by seeking out enrichment opportunities together! The Office for Family Life is offering a free Marriage Enrichment series.

Sundays December 15, January 26, March 8 April 26 from 10:20am – 11:40am at St. Elizabeth Rockville MD. To register for the St. Elizabeth series go to the following link: https://mestelizabeth.eventbrite.com.

Introductory Natural Family Planning Class:
December 14 from 10:00am – 12:00pm:

“Called to give life, spouses share in the creative power and fatherhood of God. Married couples should regard it as their proper mission to transmit human life and to educate their children; they should realize that they are thereby cooperating with the love of God the Creator and are, in a certain sense, its interpreters. They will fulfill this duty with a sense of human and Christian responsibility.” Couples will learn about the science behind Natural Family Planning and the different methods they can use in an introductory class which is offered on three dates: December 14, March 7 and June 27 from 10:00am – 12:00pm at Catholic Charities, 12247 Georgia Ave., Room 301, Silver Spring MD 20902. You only need to attend one of these dates. To register please visit: https://adwnfp101.eventbrite.com. For more information contact the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.
**OLOL Housekeeper Needed:**

**Part Time Position:**

Job requirements: cooking, cleaning, laundry, ironing, and grocery shopping. Applicant must be able to understand and communicate in English. Please contact the rectory office at 301-654-1287 or office@lourdesbethesda.net

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**Volunteers Needed to Serve Christmas Dinner:**

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide meals for hundreds of poor, homeless, elderly, and needy individuals living in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas on Christmas Day.


For more information, please contact rsvp@bnsic.org or 202-526-8300. Thank you for your interest in helping—we look forward to welcoming you this Christmas.

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**OLOL Sunday Meal For the Poor and Homeless:**

Takes place every Sunday from 4:00-6:00pm in the school cafeteria. If you’d like to volunteer to help serve the meal, sign up at: [http://vols.pt/3XNY26](http://vols.pt/3XNY26).

*Please, only come to volunteer if you’ve signed up ahead of time* — otherwise we tend to have more volunteers than we need. If you’d like to donate food for the meal, please bring it to the cafeteria on Sunday from 4:15-4:45 (use the blue door to the left of the school’s main entrance). Food should be pre-cooked if cooking is needed. If you have any questions about the meal, send an email to OLOLSundayMeal@gmail.com or call Dan Keen at 301-564-0077.

Volunteers also operate a “clothes closet” where our guests can obtain donated clothing. Bring donations from 4:30 to 5:15pm on Sundays (the room is down the long hallway from the cafeteria) or contact Dan Keen to arrange a pick-up at your home. Clothes to help keep our guests warm in the fall and winter are most needed now. We have very limited need for children’s clothing or for formal clothing (suits, etc.) Please, nothing stained or torn.

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**Finance & Administration:**

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

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2019 Offertory: $11,793

Christ the King 2019 Offertory: $11,901

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.

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**Please note, in order to be a registered parishioner, you must fill out and return the form below.**

From there you will be mailed a more detailed registration form which you must also fill out and return. This gives us important information such as contact information, sacraments received, preference on contribution methods and more. Please contact Claire Toms at ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net with any questions.

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**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 – 8 de Diciembre de 2019:

Meditación del Papa Francisco.

El misterio de la chica de Nazaret, que está en el corazón de Dios, no nos resulta extraño. No es ella que está arriba y nosotros aquí. No, no, estamos conectados. De hecho, ¡Dios fija su mirada de amor sobre cada hombre y cada mujer! Con nombre y apellido. Su mirada de amor está sobre cada uno de nosotros. El Apóstol Pablo afirma que Dios “nos ha elegido antes de la creación del mundo para ser santos e inmaculados”.

También nosotros, desde siempre, hemos sido elegidos por Dios para vivir una vida santa, libre del pecado. Es un proyecto de amor que Dios renueva cada vez que nos acercamos a Él, especialmente en los sacramentos.

En esta fiesta, entonces, contemplantado a nuestra Madre Inmaculada, bella, reconocemos también nuestro destino más verdadero, nuestra vocación más profunda: ser amados, ser transformados por el amor. Miremos a ella, y dejémonos mirar por ella; para aprender a ser más humildes, y también más valientes en el seguimiento de la Palabra de Dios; para acoger el tierno abrazo de su Hijo Jesús, un abrazo que nos da vida, esperanza y paz.» (Papa Francisco, 8 de diciembre de 2013)

Anuncios:

◊ El sábado 14 de Diciembre tendremos la procesión Caminando con María del Sagrado Corazón a la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción a las 11:30am. Seguido del Santo Rosario a la 1:00pm y de la Santa Misa a las 2:30pm en la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción.

◊ Enseñemos a nuestros hijos el valor del respeto por la vida ayudando a los recién nacidos del Centro Tepeyac. Tome un adorno del árbol de Navidad y traiga pañales sin envolver, ropa de bebé, leche en polvo o mantas. Los regalos deben colocarse en la caja cerca del árbol de Navidad.