



Good Shepherd Catholic Church

loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves

8710 Mount Vernon Highway Alexandria, VA 22309
telephone 703-780-4055 fax 703-842-8232 www.gs-cc.org

NOVEMBER 28, 2010 ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vision

*Good Shepherd Catholic Church
loving as Christ loves,
serving as Christ serves.*

Mission

*In the spirit of building
community in the light of
Christ we will:*

- *Pray, worship and celebrate our relationship with God in ways that enhance the spiritual growth of our diverse community;*
- *Foster the faith formation of parishioners in all stages of life as we journey to reach our full potential;*
- *Inspire all the parishioners to share their unique God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure;*
- *Serve people in need, do justice, stand for dignity and promote peace;*
- *Cultivate relationship with other faith communities seeking harmony with one another as children of God;*
- *Act as the living presence of Christ in our world, building relationship, healing brokenness, serving others and welcoming all.*

“PREPARE YOUR HEARTS...JESUS IS COMING!”

Advent provides an opportunity for us to begin again and to prepare ourselves anew for the coming of Jesus Christ. It is a time of waiting and expectation, of anticipation and preparation. We can use the coming weeks for personal prayer, growth and change in the way we live. Anticipating the Nativity of Jesus, we can dedicate special time toward considering our relationship with Him. As we recall previous Advents, we remember those who inspire us through their faith and actions. We too can be memorable mentors and models to others through our demonstrations of discipleship and stewardship.

Please consider taking part in one or more of the ministries in our parish during the next four weeks:

- ◆ **Building Our Future.** On **December 5, 2010.** Refer to Back Page Highlights for details.
- ◆ **Advent Festival.** Our parish youth will host our traditional talent show and toy drive this year! For admission we ask that you bring a new, unwrapped toy to be distributed to families in need within our parish and community. Monetary donations will also be accepted at the door. The Festival is on **December 4** (after 6:30pm Spanish Mass) and **December 5** (after 2:00pm Spanish Mass).
- ◆ **Feast of the Immaculate Conception,** Holy Day of Obligation. Celebrated during Advent, it becomes a reason for hope to our Church as we prepare to receive He who is coming! On **Wednesday, December 8, 9:00pm** and **5:00pm** in English), **7:30pm**, Bilingual.
- ◆ **Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe.** We celebrate **Sunday, December 12** at **5:00am**, with “Las Mañanitas” in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe. This is a traditional ceremony of an early morning serenade of the Virgin on her feast day to be held in the Church. Afterwards, we will offer hot chocolate and donuts. The **2:00pm** Spanish Mass will be celebrated in guadalupano style to prepare us for the Advent season. Join us for a reception with music and Mexican food sale in the Hall.
- ◆ **Las Posadas.** This ancient Christmas celebration of Las Posadas recounts the tale of Mary and Joseph being refused entry at several inns before finding shelter in a stable. Las Posadas lasts for nine consecutive days and includes a meditation on Nativity themes and Christmas carols (in Spanish). All are welcome to attend, especially the children! **December 15—23, Weekdays—6:45pm, Saturday—6:00pm, Sunday—1:00pm.**
- ◆ **The Giving Tree/Toy Drive.** The Giving Tree and Toy Drive benefits UCM and local needy families in our parish and community. Choose an ornament from our Giving Tree, located in the Commons, purchase the toy or gift specified, and bring the new, unwrapped gift to our drop-off bin (located under the Youth Ministry bulletin board) by **Sunday, December 12.** Donations of gift cards are welcome in lieu of gifts and accepted in the Parish Office.



45 Years. 3,046 Families. 9,842 Parishioners. One Faith. One Family. One Great Church.

Handicapped
accessible



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENING

5:00pm; 6:30pm (*en Español*)

SUNDAY

7:30; 9:00; 10:30am; 12:00 Noon; 6:30pm
2:00pm (*en Español*)

Audio Loop for
hearing impaired



WEEKDAYS

(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00am (followed by Rosary)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sundays during 9:00am Mass (English)

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Sundays at 9:00am Mass

MASS FOR SHUT-INS

Sundays from 10:30am-11:00am;
WDCW-50 ("The CW")

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9:00am—8:00pm
Sunday 8:00am—8:00pm

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Charles C. McCoart, Jr.	Pastor
Rev. Luis Quiñones M.	Parochial Vicar
Bishop Joseph Estabrook	In Residence
Rev. Ricardo Martin	In Residence
Rev. Mr. Thomas G. White	Deacon
Christopher E. Ryan	Deacon Candidate
Claudia Fiebig	Parish Administrator
Anne Shingler	Liturgy and Music
Joan Sheppard	Faith Formation
Katie Esser	Social Justice
Leah Tenorio	Hispanic Ministry
Patrick Drury	Youth Ministry
Cynthia Drury	Volunteer Development <i>PT</i>
Rosie Driscoll	Volunteer Development <i>PT</i>
Janice Spollen	Finance <i>PT</i>
Jorge Salgado	Liturgy & Adult Sacraments
Marie Purdy	Child Faith Formation <i>PT</i>
Stacy Austin	Child Faith Formation (<i>on Maternity Leave</i>)
Miguel De Ángel	Youth Ministry
Mona Peglow	Office Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Claudia DiRosario <i>PT</i>	Maria Grinstead <i>PT</i>
Essy O'Connor	Adriana Fernandez (<i>on Maternity Leave</i>)
Theresa Fischer <i>PT</i>	Dottie Skeens <i>PT</i>

Receptionists:

Brenda Caballero - Weekdays
Liliana Galvez *PT*, Grace Park *PT*, Crystal Perez -
Weekends / Evenings

FACILITIES

Larry Dohm Facilities Coordinator

**PT*: Part-Time

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to all new families/individuals!

We invite you to register and become a part of our parish. Registration is our only means of certifying parish membership.

VISIT FR. CHUCK'S BLOG

Visit Fr. Chuck's blog at: www.fatherchuck.com.

To subscribe (so you will receive an e-mail alert whenever there's a new post), please follow these steps:

Step 1 *click* on the "Subscribe" box on the home page of the blog and follow instructions.

Step 2 *respond* to the email that you will receive in your email inbox—you must click on the link in that email to actually be signed up.

UPCOMING BULLETIN'S DEADLINES

Please submit your content to bulletin@gs-cc.org or *in writing* at the parish office by the appropriate Calendar Deadline, otherwise it will be published in the following issue. Staying within these deadlines will also help our parish reduce production expenses.

For Bulletin Issues of: *Calendar Deadline:*

December 19

December 2

December 26

December 7

January 2

December 9

January 9

December 14

HOSPITALIZED AND HOMEBOUND

Eucharistic Ministers bring Communion to Catholic patients who request visits at **INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, Mount Vernon Nursing Center, Sunrise Assisted Living and Spring Hills at Mt. Vernon Assisted Living.**

To ensure a patient is visited, please call the office and/or the Chaplain's Office at the Hospital, with the name of the patient and the room number. Patients at **Manor Care**, should call **St. Louis Parish at 703-765-4421.**

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

The next baptism preparation class is **Saturday, December 11, 10:30am in the Parlor Lounge.** For further information, to sign up for the class or schedule a baptism, please contact the parish office or e-mail office@gs-cc.org.

MARRIAGE

Contact parish office or e-mail anne@gs-cc.org, *one year* in advance to allow sufficient time to secure your preferred date and for adequate planning and preparation purposes. Minimum diocesan requirement is six months.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Saturday 4:00—4:45pm in English; Saturday 6:00 - 6:30pm *en Español*

Sunday 1:00—1:50pm *en Español* or by appointment with a priest.

Seasonal Communal Celebrations as announced in the bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the parish office when there is a serious illness or scheduled surgery.

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY

If you have a sacramental emergency and need a priest, call the main number **703-780-4055**, press 1 (English) or 2 (Spanish), then press the number **1**. This option directs you to a 24-hour answering service. Please provide the operator with the information regarding the emergency. The service will contact a priest. Feel free to call the office if you have questions.



Liturgy and Music

Director of Liturgy & Music: Anne Shingler, anne@gs-cc.org; Associate Director of Liturgy: Jorge Salgado, jorge@gs-cc.org

Mass Intentions

Mon	11/29	9:00am	†James Harnett
Tue	11/30	9:00am	†Rita Lauder
Wed	12/1	9:00am	†Dr. Robert F. Hall
Thu	12/2	9:00am	All parishioners' intentions
Fri	12/3	9:00am	Marcia S. Kotzot
Sat	12/4	9:00am	†Mike Lynch
		5:00pm	†Patrick Feeney
Sun	12/5	7:30am	†Robin L. Beard
		9:00am	†Joseph Trane McCloud
		10:30am	†Jean Yary
		12:00pm	†Florencia Genuino
Español		2:00pm	All parishioners' intentions
		6:30pm	†Stanley Szemborski

Prayers of the Faithful

Community Members Who Seek Our Prayers:

Please remember in your prayers those who have died, their family members and friends:

**Bob McQuie, Miguel A. Flores,
Victoriano Flores, and
Feliciano R. Hernandez**

Presider Schedule *(subject to change)*

Saturday, December 4

9:00am TBD
5:00pm TBD
6:30pm TBD

Sunday, December 5

7:30am TBD
9:00am TBD
10:30am TBD
12:00pm TBD
2:00pm TBD
6:30pm TBD

Readings of the Week

Readings for the Week of November 28, 2010

Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Ro 13:11-14;
Mt 24:37-44
Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19;
Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118;
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147;
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9;
Mt 3:1-12



ADVENT IS HERE!

PREPARE YOUR HEARTS ~ JESUS IS COMING!

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year. Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century. It is a 4 week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time. Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

SEE THE USHERS BEFORE MASS DURING ADVENT TO ASSIST AT MASS WITH THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND BRINGING UP THE GIFTS TO THE ALTAR.



Have you ever wondered how those who bring up the gifts of bread and wine to the Altar during Mass get to do so? Have you ever desired to bring up the gifts, but didn't know who to approach? It's quite simple! If you would like to participate in the lighting of the Advent wreath or carry the gifts up during the 'Preparation of the Altar and Gifts', please ask one of our ushers before Mass. Come about 10—15 minutes before Mass and let the ushers know of your desire. If they someone else has not already been chosen, they will be happy to have you participate!

*Come join us and
"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!"*

♪ **SUNDAY MORNING CHOIR, CANTORS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS** rehearse for the weekend Masses on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm.**

♪ **"CORNERSTONE"—THE SUNDAY EVENING EMSEMBLE** rehearses prior to Mass at **5:00pm Sundays**, as well as the **2nd Thursday** of the month at **7:30pm**. The next monthly rehearsal is **Thursday, December 9**. Contact Elmer Bigley: elms22182@yahoo.com.

♪ **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (for students in **grades 1—6**) normally sings on the **4th Sunday** of the month. The next weekly rehearsal is Wednesday, **December 1** from 5:00—5:45pm. They will sing for the **9:00am Mass on December 19** and for the **4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve**.

♪ **TEEN ENSEMBLE** (for **grade 7 and up**) normally sings on the **2nd Sunday** of the month at the 12:00noon Mass. Rehearsal will begin 30 minutes prior to Mass. In November they will sing on **December 12**.

♪ **CANTORS** are skilled singers (teen or adult) who lead the assembly in song, especially when a choir is not present. The next **Cantor Formation Rehearsal** is **Monday, February 7 at 7:30pm.**



Stewardship

Stewardship Committee Chair: Tom Gerard, tom.gerard@verizon.net.

Co-Directors of Volunteer Development: Rosie Driscoll, Rosie@gs-cc.org & Cynthia Drury, Cynthia@gs-cc.org.

Stewardship: The call to all *Christian* disciples to *share* their God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR PARISH VOLUNTEERS

There is no one more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.

- Author Unknown

On this **Thanksgiving** weekend when we give thanks for God's abundant blessings, we pause as a parish community to give special thanks for all of the parish volunteers who lighten the burden of others each day at Good Shepherd. To all who love and serve at Good Shepherd, please know that you are cherished by your fellow parishioners!

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: FUNERAL RECEPTIONS

What: The Funeral Reception Ministry helps bereaved families by offering a reception in **Creedon Hall** following a funeral liturgy. Volunteers are needed to bring a salad or dessert on short notice.

When: As needed on the occasion of a funeral

Contact: Lois Gay, 703-360-6447 or lagwgc@cox.net.



STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to the parishioners who made a pledge during our recent Stewardship Renewal Process. Our parish depends upon the generosity and sense of stewardship of the many parishioners who contribute their time, talent and treasure. Because of faith-filled Christian disciples and stewards like you, our community will continue to strive to fulfill our parish vision of *loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves*.

It is never too late to pledge your time, talent, and/or treasure. Commitment cards are available year round in the parish office and online at www.gs-cc.org/ministries-stewardshipcommitment.php.

Parish Contributions Update

Budgeted amount for offertory for FY 2011 \$1,985,600

Year-to-date contributions from 7/1/10—10/31/10	YTD	YTD	YTD
	Actual 10/31/10	Budget 10/31/10	Actual 10/31/09
Offertory Contributions			
Envelopes contributions	\$389,046	\$441,000	\$422,708
Faith Direct (181 families)	122,764	90,000	-
Loose Offering	90,263	82,800	76,997
Mail offering contributions	47,990	57,600	54,870
Total Offertory Contributions	650,063	671,400	554,575
Additional Parish Collections			
Assumption	7,828	5,000	4,006
Facilities Improvement	31,542	28,800	28,289
Religious Education	7,439	6,000	6,632
Other Additional Collections	1,707		102
Total Additional Collections	48,516	39,800	39,029
Total Cont. from the Parish	\$698,579	\$711,200	\$593,604
Catholic University	2,790		2,571
Catholic Relief—Philp. Relief			10,072
Propagation of Faith	15,644		16,889
World Mission	4,042		4,456
Other Natl. & Dioc. Collections	1,773		5,151
Total Natl. & Dioc. Coll.⁽¹⁾	24,249	-	39,139
Total Cont. from the Parish	\$722,827		632,743

2ND COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

- 12/12/10—Catholic Charities Collection
- 12/19/10—Facilities Improvement Collection
- 12/25/10—Christmas Collection



ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH FAITH DIRECT

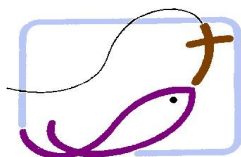
As we prepare for the busy holiday schedule, now is a great time to enroll in our automatic electronic offertory program with *Faith Direct*. Electronic giving is simply the easiest and most convenient way for you to make and Good Shepherd Catholic Church to receive your weekly offering. With *Faith Direct*, you save time and reduce our expenses, and there is no fee to you! Visit FaithDirect.net, our Parish code is **VA208**.

Contact: **Janice Spollen, 703-780-4055** if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

Fellowship

Chair of Fellowship Committee:
Kevin Fornshill ~ fellowship@gs-cc.org



CALLING,
GREETING,
LOVING,
SENDING

FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP MEETING— CHRISTMAS PLANNING

All current members and parishioners interested in the Fellowship Ministry are invited to join us for coffee and desert, while coming up with ideas and plans for our Advent activities for this year. If you will be able to join us, please RSVP to **Kevin Fornshill**, fornshill@aol.com.

Hope to see you there!

SERENDIPITY BIBLE GROUP



All are welcome to join our fellowship group. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 8 at 10:00am** at the home of **Jerri Pogue**. For directions, please call **703-780-8737**.

GSSSF—GOOD SHEPHERD SINGLE SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Potluck dinner on **December 4** at the **Priest residence**. The Core group will provide the main dishes and salads. Members are asked to contribute appetizers, deserts and beverages. So we will have an idea of how many attendees to plan for, please RSVP to **Tom Gibbons, 703-360-7919**.

On **December 12 at 4:00pm** the GSSSF will be attending "The Joy of Christmas" at the **National Cathedral** in Washington, DC. Car pools will leave from **Good Shepherd at 2:30pm**. For more info, please contact: **Fran Redding, 703-780-8055**.

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY READINGS

Join us **Tuesday mornings** from **9:45—11:00am** to read, reflect and discuss the Sunday readings. All are welcome—no registration required! If you have any questions, contact **Max Gagermeier** at **703-360-8712**.

THE COMPASS

Definition: *A simple device that offers us direction, guidance. Before the compass, explorers would look up above. The sun, moon and stars would guide them from one point to another. But what do we do if the compass is broken? What if we lose our direction?*

I met her on a recent Thursday morning. An 18 year old freshman at Georgetown University. She was found along the Potomac River, by the Kennedy Center, early that morning and had slept out in the cold rain. See, she had been out drinking with friends and for some reason she walked away from the bar. She found her way to the river bank where she fell into a drunken sleep on the muddy ground. Had she been assaulted? "No," came her quick reply. She was not injured. Her purse was found close by. Her clothes, a summer dress, and black fishnet hose, were not torn or tampered.

She was rather matter of fact in her answers to our questions. Yes, she had blacked out before, from drinking. Just a week ago friends took her to the university ER. No, she was not on any medication. No, her friends would not have missed her after she left the bar. She continued on. Sometimes she sleeps at places other than her dorm room. When we returned her purse we found a rather good fake ID she got from a "friend of a friend." It cost \$150. That was a small price to pay for getting access to bars.

Satisfied that she was only a victim of her own bad judgment, we drove her back to her dorm. The lecture in the car about personal safety and potentially dangerous consequences for bad behavior fell on deaf ears. Her only true genuine concern over the entire incident centered on locating or having to replace her expensive iPhone and glasses. After her experience over the last eight hours, underage drinking to the point of blacking out, sleeping on the ground exposed to the elements including cold and rain, her worries were for a cell phone and glasses. These simple material items consumed her. Nothing else mattered. When arriving at her dorm, she joked with her roommate about her night. I left wondering what might happen to her in the future.

I began to think about compasses and direction. Our moral compasses and the direction we choose. Was her compass out of control, leading her to treacherous shores? If in fact that inner feeling was not guiding her, but moving her from one bad behavior to another, shouldn't she pitch that compass? After all, it was obviously broken. She should do it "old school." Look up. Let the moon and stars be her guide. Let the Son guide her.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY...

...WHAT'S YOURS?

Faith Formation

Director of Faith Formation: Joan Sheppard, joan@gs-cc.org,
Coordinators: Stacy Austin and Stephanie Goodall, RE@gs-cc.org and Marie Purdy, marie@gs-cc.org



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR TERRIFIC TEENS

The Religious Education program has seven teens who have signed up to make a weekly commitment to share their faith with our parish children. Four of these teens were highlighted as working with their moms:

Angela Longo, Anna Lorentzen, Dana Briosis and Ellen Woods. We also have **Isela Vasquez**, assisting in kindergarten while her sister is serving the second-grade class at 4:40pm on Monday. **Teddy Badley** is assisting his older sister Lauren, who is leading the third-grade class at 3:20pm on Monday. **Helen Sudhoff** is now assisting in the fifth-grade class on Sunday mornings at 9:10am, after serving with kindergarten class last year.

Thanks to our parish teens for putting their faith into action. We truly appreciate what a great example they are setting for the parish children.

REMINDER: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Do **not** meet this week, **November 28 and 29.**

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE

As a wonderful Advent resource for all parishioners. The **Little Blue Book** features a daily Scripture reading and reflection, as well as fascinating and informative facts about our faith and our Church. Pick up your copy in the commons. (Suggested donation \$1).

ADVENT SELECTIONS ON OUR BOOK RACK

Do some special reading this Advent season, or pick up a Christmas gift for someone on your list. Our Book Rack has titles for men, women and children of all ages. It includes biographies, inspirational reading, parenting books, and much, much more. If you have any questions on the Book Rack, please contact **Joan Sheppard, Director of Faith Formation, 703-780-4055** or joan@gs-cc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, December 17, 7:00pm is the next gathering of **Fr. Ricardo's Bible Course** on the Gospel of Luke. You need not have attended previous sessions in order to join the group. Come and learn more about the Scriptures!

NEW TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

As you may have heard or read, there is a revised translation of the Roman Missal, which is the book the priest uses to pray the words of the Mass. This version is more formal in language and scripturally richer in images. Some of the words in our responses and prayers—including the Gloria, Creed, and Holy, Holy, Holy—will be changing. You will hear much more about these changes prior to their implementation in November 2011. In the meantime, we have provided two publications so you can begin to learn more about these changes. The publications are located on the Book Rack outside the Parish Office.

FAITH IN ACTION IN THE RE HALLWAY

Our colorful, informative bulletin boards feature:

- ◆ Our Spanish and English kindergarten catechists.
- ◆ The second-grade "All Saint's Day" Saint Information Posters.
- ◆ Fourth-grade artwork of the Holy Face of Jesus from the story of The Shroud of Turin.
- ◆ Photos from VBS and Peace Camp.
- ◆ Coming Soon: A third-grade Handprint Wreath to celebrate the coming of Advent!

A special thank you to **Monica Selcik**, for investing her time and using her creativity to help make our hallway fun and educational!



FAMILY FAITH CORNER

Saint of the week: November 30 is the feast day of St. Andrew, who was the brother of St. Peter. He was originally a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming the first disciple of Jesus. Jesus saw Andrew and his brother Simon fishing by the sea and asked them to give up their nets and become fishers of men. Andrew answered the call and is the patron saint of fishermen. Legend has it that Andrew taught the Good News in modern day Turkey and Greece before being crucified at Patras.

Answer to last week's question: What is Advent? The season of Advent begins the liturgical year for the church. Advent comes from the word "adventus," which means coming and is the special season that we prepare for the coming or birth of baby Jesus at Christmas. Advent lasts four weeks.

Question of the week: What do the candles that are lit during Advent represent?

Youth Ministry

Director of Youth Ministry: Patrick Drury, patrick@gs-cc.org
Assistant Director: Miguel De Angel, miguel@gs-cc.org



ADVENT FESTIVAL AND TALENT SHOW

December 4 after the 6:30pm Mass and December 5 after the 2:00pm Mass. We will collect toys for needy families in our community. Admission to the Advent Festival and talent show is a new un-wrapped toy. If you want to help or participate in any part of the festival, contact **Miguel De Angel** for more information.

NEXT TEEN FAITH FORMATION CLASS: Thursday, December 2 from 7:00—9:00pm.

Only two more months to complete your Confirmation requirements. The deadline is **January 30, 2011!**

GIVING TREE/TOY DRIVE, NOVEMBER 27—DECEMBER 12

The **Giving Tree** and **Toy Drive** merged this year to benefit UCM and local needy families in our parish and immediate area!

How Can You Help?

- ◆ Chose an ornament from our Giving Tree, located in the commons area.
- ◆ Purchase the toy or gift specified.
- ◆ Bring the new, **un-wrapped** gift to our drop-off bin, located under the Youth Ministry bulletin board.
- ◆ Donations of **gift cards** are also welcomed in lieu of gifts.

Deadline to drop-off gift is **Sunday, December 12.** For more information or questions, contact **Ruth Lescher** at ruth.lescher@mac.com.

Social Justice Ministry

Director of Social Justice:
Katie Esser, Katie@gs-cc.org



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE DONATION ORNAMENTS

This year, give the gift of hope for the poor while buying an ornament for your family to remember for the years to come.

Ornament features the Good Shepherd of our parish and is available for a donation of \$20.

Proceeds go towards our Emergency Assistance Fund, providing basic necessities for people in crisis, including rent, utilities, and medication.

Sold after all Masses, **November 27, 28 and December 4, 5 and 11, 12.**

Thank you for your generosity!



SHARING SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 4—5!

Help us replenish some of UCM's and Mondloch House's supplies! Decreased donations in the community have led to more people going hungry. Please bring a bag of any of the food or paper products listed below:



- ◆ Rice & Beans
- ◆ Canned Vegetables
- ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Vegetable Oil
- ◆ Pasta & Tomato Sauce
- ◆ Tuna
- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Diapers & Paper Towels



GS News & Other Info

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JESUS!

The Daughters of St. Paul invite you to the annual Birthday Celebration for Jesus! **Friday, December 3, 3:00—6:00pm** and **Saturday, December 4, 11:00am—4:00pm**. Sponsored by Pauline Books and Media, 1025 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria. Picture-taking with Baby Jesus! **Bring your own camera**. Costumes provided. For more info, call **703-549-3806**.

ACTS OF KINDNESS (AOK)

What: Youth group, grades 4 thru 6 that work together on service projects for the needy in our parish and local community. Have fun with friends while serving others!

When: On **Friday, December 10, February 4, 2011, March 4, 2011** and **April 15, 2011** from **7:30—9:00pm**.

Where: Creedon Hall

How to sign up: Contact **Rosie Driscoll** at rosie@gs-cc.org or sign up in the parish office.

CALLING ALL VENDORS

Angelus Academy is now accepting applications for its Third Annual Vendor Fair and Bazaar, on **Saturday, December 4**, from **10:00am—3:00pm**. This year it will be at **St. Lawrence Catholic Church**. All proceeds will benefit the children of Angelus Academy.

For more information or to request an application please contact **Mary Grippo**, grippom@angelusacademy.com.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS (KCIC)

The Mt. Vernon Council #5998 Knights are selling KCIC Christmas Cards **after the Sunday Masses**. Please buy your “Christ centered” cards and encourage your friends and neighbors to buy KCIC Christmas cards from Knights of Columbus.

Cards are available in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Ukrainian and Polish. Money raised through the sale of KCIC Christmas Cards helps support vocations to the seminary formation and religious communities. Call **Ray Duff**, **703-780-1822** to request a special order.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR PEOPLE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS

A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held at **Dominican Retreat House in McLean**, on **December 10—12**. A team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. Registration closes **November 30**.

Please call **703-356-4243**. No fee.

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

ANNUAL YOUNG SCOUT RETREAT

The Arlington Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS) will be holding their annual Young Scout Retreat on **January 8, 2011** from **9:00am—2:00pm** at **St Raymond's of Penafort** in Springfield, Va.

The retreat is an opportunity for Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls in grades K—5 to participate in activities designed to inform, stimulate and encourage the practice of their Catholic faith through scouting. The theme this year is “Open my Eyes, Lord” and will include Mass, songs, prayer, crafts and service projects. The cost is \$10 per scout. Scouts should bring a bag lunch.

For registration and more information visit our website: www.arlingtondiocesescouting.org. The deadline for registering is **December 3**. Adult volunteers are needed as well. Please contact the YSR Coordinator, **Becky Chaves**, **703-425-4965** or bekandoli@aol.com.

RETIRED SENIOR AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Your talents, interests and availability will be matched with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Volunteer for the time and activities that best fit into your schedule. For more information, please contact **Jeannine Purdy** at jpurdy@ccda.net or **703-841-3834**.

PILGRIMAGE TO CENTRAL EUROPE

Join Father Bramwell on a pilgrimage to Central Europe, **April 26—May 5, 2011**. This trip includes Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, and Munich. To request a pilgrimage brochure, contact **Barbara Ellis** at bellis@cdu.edu or call **888-254-4238, ext. 703**.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

As a new Church year begins, it is time to take a fresh look at your marriage and enrich your relationship to what God intended for you.

Mark your calendars now for the next local Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on **February 18—20**. Early registration highly recommended, as dates fill up quickly.

For information call: **Mark and Cathy Strangler**, **703-378-4150** or visit: <http://www.wwme-nova.org>, en español visite: www.seccion16emm.com.



The Week Ahead

C=Church CR=Classroom H=Hall K=Kitchen MC=Chapel N=Nursery
PL=Parlor Lounge YC=Youth Center

Sunday Blood Drive [H1-2] High School Youth Group [YC]	November 28 after all Masses 7:30pm
Monday	November 29
Tuesday Exploring the Sunday Readings [CR4] JOY Movie Night 'Nativity Story' [PL]	November 30 9:45am 7:00pm
Wednesday Junior High Youth Group [YC]	December 1 7:30pm
Thursday Teen Faith Formation [C, H1-3]	December 2 7:00pm
Friday First Friday Eucharistic Adoration [C]	December 3 9:45am
Saturday Men's Cursillo [PL] Nativity Breakfast [H] JustFaith Engaging Spirituality [CR2] Advent Festival [H1-3]	December 4 7:30am 8:00am 9:30am 7:30pm
Sunday Building Our Future [H2] 10:00am, 11:30am and 1:00pm Advent Festival [H1-3] 3:00pm High School Youth Group [YC] 7:30pm	December 5

Mark Your Calendars!

DECEMBER

- 5—Building Our Future
- 6—Shared Leadership
- 8—The Immaculate Conception
- 12—Virgin of Guadalupe
- 13—Penance Service
- 13—PPC Meeting
- 17—Fr. Ricardo's Bible Course
- 23—Liturgical Art and Environment



For more information about parish events, classes, and meetings, please see the Calendar link on our web site at www.gs-cc.org.

Back Page Highlights

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: OUTCOME FIVE UPDATE

All parishioners are invited to hear and respond to Design Options for Good Shepherd Facilities.

Please join Fr. Chuck, the Building our Future Committee and the architectural firm, MGMA.

Sunday, December 5, at 10:00am, 11:30am and 1:00pm in Creedon Hall.

Simultaneous translation and light refreshments provided.

Outcome Five of the Parish Pastoral Plan, "Invest in an Attractive, Functional Facility," is a major component of the plan for supporting our parish ministries. An Outcome Five Task Force researched parish needs and explored options. The Task Force met with parishioners, committees and staff.

The Outcome Five Task Force also sought the help of demographers and statisticians to try to predict changes to the population based on historical trends and changes in the community.

Morgan Gick McBeath and Associates (MGMA) were the architects selected for their vision, expertise and sensitivity to our parishioners and ministries. In the last few weeks, **MGMA** has spent a great deal of time assimilating data, usage trends, and parishioner input. They have attended Mass, visited the parish, and participated in the International Festival. A few meetings have been held with **MGMA** and diocesan representatives.

The results of the preliminary work is to have **MGMA** present a working "Design Exercise" to the Parish. This is their rough idea of what types of changes to the facility our parish ministries will require from now to 2025.

We want more of your input and responses as part of the process that allows us to fulfill our vision!

Hope to see you there!

Troy Zeigler and Bill Cresswell