



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

DECEMBER 5, 2010 ~ SECOND 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.*

ADVENT PRAYER

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your
Father and ours.*

*Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord
who enlists me in God's own work for justice.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world,
peace in my home, peace in myself.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy.
I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and
love.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me the joy and love and peace
it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.
Raise in me, too,
sober reverence for the God who acted there,
hearty gratitude for the life begun there,
and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.*

*I pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
whose advent I hail.*

Amen.



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 26

December 7

January 2

December 9

January 9

December 14

January 16

December 16

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	12/6	9:00am	†Loretta Vaccarella
Tue	12/7	9:00am	†Dominic & Ann Pham
Wed	12/8	9:00am	All parishioners' intentions
Thu	12/9	9:00am	All parishioners' intentions
Fri	12/10	9:00am	†Dolores Mayer
Sat	12/11	9:00am	†Donald Vaccarella
		5:00pm	†Julian Brennan
Sun	12/12	7:30am	†Maria Martello
		9:00am	Bill & Laura Timmons
		10:30am	†Patrick Kelly
		12:00pm	†Walter Squire Jr.
Español		2:00pm	All parishioners' intentions
		6:30pm	†Gerianne Armstrong

Prayers of the Faithful

Community Members Who Seek Our Prayers:

**Wanda Glezerman, Jean Ferris,
and Maria M. Tobar**

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

**Betty Cleveland, Patricia Benton,
Yvonne Marandino, Walter Bass,
Miguel A. Flores, Victoriano Flores,
Ana Maria Umaña de Benitez,
Olinda R. Quinteros, and Daniel S. Lopez**

Presider Schedule *(subject to change)*

Saturday, December 11

9:00am	TBD
5:00pm	TBD
6:30pm	Fr. Luis Quiñones

Sunday, December 12

7:30am	TBD
9:00am	TBD
10:30am	TBD
12:00pm	TBD
2:00pm	Fr. Luis Quiñones
6:30pm	TBD

Readings of the Week

Readings for the Week of December 5, 2010

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11



**ADVENT IS HERE!
PREPARE YOUR HEARTS...JESUS IS COMING!**

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As we celebrate this second Sunday of the new liturgical year, we note that this is an A year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. In A years, we concentrate on the Gospel of Matthew. In B years, we read Mark, and in C years, we delve into Luke.

Matthew was a Jewish Christian writing for a similar audience. His Gospel emphasizes Jesus as promised Messiah, is filled with references to Jewish life, and is even divided into five sections reflecting the Pentateuch of Moses.

Matthew's Gospel is always listed first because it used to be believed that it was the first of the four Gospels to be written. Scholars now know that Mark's was earlier and that Matthew probably used it as his primary source. It is from Matthew's Gospel that we get our familiar forms of the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer.

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.

THE ART AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!



**Come help decorate for Christmas!
December 23, 9:45am—1:00pm
Many hands make light work! Teens are welcome!**



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 ENSEMBLE** 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 rehearsal is **Wednesday, December 15** 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 **12:00pm Mass.** Rehearsal will begin 30 minutes prior to Mass. In December 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.**

Music Rehearsals

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.

“MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL”

-BY FR. MICHAEL TROHA

The Fall season is a time when many stewardship parishes conduct their Annual Stewardship Renewals. That is indeed the case here at my parish, Immaculate Conception in Willoughby, Ohio, as October is our Stewardship Renewal month.



We mailed out our Stewardship packets to all parishioners asking them to make their commitments of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Being good Americans, we tend to look at things from a “success” perspective. So, how do we look upon our Stewardship Renewal as to whether or not it is successful?

One way we could do so is to measure the number of parishioners who return a Commitment card as a result of our Annual Renewal. We could look at the number of commitments everyone makes to Time, Talent, and Treasure, and then make a judgment as to whether or not the Renewal was successful. We could look to the number of people who come to Mass on the weekend and judge whether or not our Renewal was a success. Or we could use the standard barometer that everyone likes to use: the collection. We could see how much Treasure we are all willing to commit, and then make a judgment as to the success of our Renewal.

But what exactly are we renewing? What we are renewing is our commitment to follow Christ. Following Christ is not the same enterprise as selling Hondas, or making salads at Wendy’s, or working in a hospital. Following Christ is an enterprise of faith. And, in this regard, the words of Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta ring true: God calls us not to be successful, but to be faithful.

So to answer the question— “Is our Renewal a success?” I have to ask another question of each of you. The question is: “Are you living Stewardship as a way of life?” Or: “Are you changing ways about your life so that you are a more generous and loving person?”

The answer to those questions is really the only way to truly gauge whether or not a parish Stewardship Renewal is indeed a success.

-a selection from The Catholic Steward

Parish Contributions Update

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

Year-to-date contributions from 7/1/10—11/30/10	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
	11/30/10	11/30/10	11/30/09
Offertory Contributions			
Envelopes contributions	\$482,567	\$539,000	\$564,702
Faith Direct (188 families)	155,233	114,000	-
Loose Offering	113,005	101,200	101,248
Mail offering contributions	61,349	70,400	71,860
Total Offertory Contributions	812,154	824,600	737,811
Additional Parish Collections			
All Saints	3,076	7,000	8,237
Assumption	7,848	5,000	4,011
Facilities Improvement	39,311	36,000	36,024
Religious Education	7,474	6,000	6,704
Other Additional Collections	138		349
Total Additional Collections	57,846	54,000	55,325
Total Cont. from the Parish	\$870,001	\$878,600	\$793,136
Catholic University	2,790		2,571
Catholic Campaign for Human D.	5,382		5,676
Catholic Relief—Philp. Relief			10,072
Catholic Relief—El Salvador			7,264
Propagation of Faith	15,644		16,889
Retired Religious	9,043		6,701
Archdiocese for Military Service	4,503		
World Mission	4,194		4,660
Other Natl. & Dioc. Collections	199		253
Total Natl. & Dioc. Coll.⁽¹⁾	41,753	-	54,086
Total Cont. from the Parish	\$911,753		\$847,222

2ND COLLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

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

Thank you for your generous contributions!

ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH FAITH DIRECT

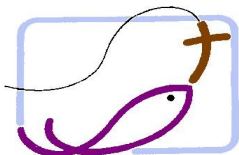


Please consider enrolling in Faith Direct today. Participation in the Faith Direct program for automatic electronic giving expresses the willingness of the faithful to be a regular part of the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd Catholic Church. You may visit www.faithdirect.net to enroll, our parish code is **VA208**. You can also pick up an enrollment form in the parish office.

Contact: **Janice Spollen, 703-780-4055** for more info.

Fellowship

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



CALLING
GREETING
LOVING
SENDING

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, 2010, February 4, March 4 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.

ON CERTAIN SUNDAYS

Recently, I spent a Sunday in October with 30,000 of my closest friends. This wasn't the first time we had gotten together. We had met on the last Sunday in October for the previous six years. The 35th running of the **Marine Corps Marathon** had brought us together (well, in my case, the 'running' was more like a fast walk). Now that my feet and knees have healed, I have had time to reflect on the day. I have come to see it much like a Fellowship event... hear me out on this.

There was a tremendous display of faith, both from the runners and the thousands who lined the course cheering us on. There were signs and tee shirts praising God everywhere, including signs and tee shirts honoring our service men and women, asking for God's protection...and for those who lost their lives in service to others, there was praise and blessings for them.

Then the conversations I overheard! Many people talked about the loss of a family member or friend. They talked about loved ones working under harsh conditions, in protection of others. One woman walking in front of me (most of the runners were in front of me) wore a shirt which read ***"If he can do 8 months over there, I can do 26.2 miles over here."***

These people would have been strangers in any other circumstance. I doubt that the same dialogue would have taken place under different conditions. But, we were joined together under this Fellowship event. It reminded me of the greetings made to one another before Mass.

Finally, the Catholic priests, between miles 19 and 20 located by the Smithsonian Castle building, were clapping and cheering on the runners. I'm sure they tossed out special blessings to the participants in the Race for Vocation fundraiser.

God was watching over us that day! We were blessed with perfect weather...bright clear skies, cool temperatures and a breeze. I know God was with me. He answered my continuous prayer to give me the strength to finish. It wasn't my best time, but I made it.

On certain Sundays, people gather together and share an experience, that is Fellowship, joined by an event and their faith. They talk, laugh and even cry. It brings them closer together with others, themselves, and God. Yes, God was with me that day. He guided me, as I prayed to him. I made a promise that if I made it to the finish line, I would never do this again. God answered my prayer, and I made it to the finish line.

So, if you see me and I talk about running the marathon for a seventh time, you have my permission to remind me of this promise I made to God!

**EVERYONE HAS A STORY...
...WHAT'S YOURS?**

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!

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**.



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

A SERVICE SUNDAY SPECTACULAR!

On **Sunday, November 14**, Creedon Hall was filled with Good Shepherd families acting out their faith through multiple service projects. Parishioners came together to make meaningful "ready to go" contributions of sundries, stationery, prayers and good wishes for the poor and vulnerable in our community.

The GSCC "Super Sunday Event" lasted from 2:00—4:30pm and resulted in **205 Breakfast Bags, 270 Snack Bags, and 115 Toiletry Bags** for area shelters and agencies, in addition to hundreds of handmade placemats, cards and letters to be sent to our Mount Vernon neighbors that are homeless, sick and alone, and our active-duty troops overseas.

A strong and diverse core of volunteers joined together to exemplify the "real life acting out" of our parish mission, "*loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves.*"

Thank you to everyone involved!!

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE

A wonderful Advent resource for all parishioners is the '**Little Blue Book**' which features a daily Scripture reading and reflection, as well as fascinating and informative facts about our faith and our Church. Pick up your copy (suggested donation \$1.00) in the Commons.

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 about the Book Rack, please contact **Joan Sheppard**, Director of Faith Formation, at **703-780-4055** or joan@gs-cc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next gathering of Fr. Ricardo's Bible Course on the Gospel of Luke will take place **Friday, December 17** at **7:00pm**. 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. The new translation is more formal in language and scripturally richer in images than the current version. 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.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation set aside to honor Mary. This feast, which is unique to the Catholic Church, celebrates that Mary was conceived without sin. We believe that God created Mary without sin so she could be the Mother of Jesus. Only Jesus is sinless on his own account, Mary was given this grace because she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus.



FAMILY FAITH CORNER

Saint of the week: We celebrate the feast day of **St. Nicholas** on **December 6**. St. Nicholas is honored by both the Eastern and Western Churches, and served as the Bishop of Myra in Lycia. He is best known for his love of children and his generosity. Many miracles are attributed to St. Nicholas and his spirit is kept alive with our current tradition of Santa Claus. He is the patron saint of brides, grooms, children, travelers, and many others.

Answer to last week's question: What do the candles that are lit during Advent represent? The **first purple** candle is called the Candle of Prophecy or Hope, as it symbolizes the prophecy that foretold Jesus' birth. The **second purple** candle is the Candle of the Way. Christ is our light in a world full of sin, and shows us the way out of darkness. A **third pink** candle is the Candle of Joy, as Christ is the only thing on this Earth that can bring us lasting joy. The **fourth purple** candle, the Candle of Peace, reminds us that Jesus brought peace to earth. A **fifth large white** pillar candle is placed in the middle of the Advent wreath. It is the Christ or Christmas Candle and is lit on Christmas Day to represent Christ.

Question of the week: Why is Advent traditionally known as a "Little Lent?" Answer in next week's bulletin.

Youth Ministry

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

THANK YOU!

Youth Ministry is very thankful to **Pastora Benítez** and **Gloria Vásquez** for so generously giving their time and talents to cook for our teens during our High School Fall Retreat as always.



FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

Mount Vernon High School is having a financial aid workshop on **Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30—8:00pm** in **Room G-100**. Though primarily for High School Seniors, anyone interested in learning about types of financial aid available and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is welcome.

NEXT TEEN FAITH FORMATION CLASS:

Thursday, January 6 from 7:00—9:00pm

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

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 years to come.

The ornament features the Good Shepherd logo and is available for a donation of \$20.



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

Sold after all Masses this weekend and next!

Thank you for your generosity!

BENEFICIARY OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THANKS YOU!

Dear Members of Good Shepherd,

Your generous and kind donation (\$100 rental deposit) made it possible for me to move from transitional housing into permanent housing, from Alexandria to Annandale. My emotional and psychological state went from despair at being nearly homeless to optimism about my future. I am in a stable and secure place now. I have a roommate, am actively seeking employment, and am thankful for your assistance and support.

May God continue His blessings on each of you.

Thank you!

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, **unwrapped** gift to our drop-off bin, located under the Youth Ministry bulletin board.
- ◆ Donations of **gift cards** are also welcomed in lieu of gifts and accepted in the Parish Office!

Deadline to drop-off gift is **Sunday, December 12**.

For more information or questions, contact **Ruth Lescher** at ruth.lescher@mac.com.



GS News & Other Info



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 & 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.

MARIAN FEAST DAYS

This week the Church celebrates two Marian Feasts: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Both feast days remind us of the motherly care of Mary of Jesus and her continued care for all God’s children.

During the Gospel for both these Feast Days, we hear Mary say “Yes!” to the angel and accept the will of God. We too are called to say “Yes” to God. The “Yeses” we are asked to give are minor compared to the “Yes” of Mary. Our “Yes” to God is reflected in our relationships, our sharing of our God-given gifts, and our personal faith development.



The Advent celebrations of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe are opportunities to reflect on how we are preparing our hearts and our lives for Jesus’ coming at Christmas and the end of time. This week is a reminder that our lives should reflect the “Yes” of Mary to God.

Our parish will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with Masses on Wednesday, December 8 at 9:00am and 5:00pm in English and a bilingual Mass at 7:30pm.

On Sunday, December 12 we celebrate the Virgin of Guadalupe at 5:00am with “las Mañanitas,” a traditional morning serenade to the Virgin and a small reception afterwards with hot chocolate and pastries, both with live mariachis. The Spanish Mass at 2:00pm (3rd Sunday of Advent) will also have a Guadalupan flavor to it and will be followed by a “fiesta” with music, traditional dance presentations and Mexican food available for sale.

Please come and celebrate both of these special days!

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington occupies a special place in my heart as they provide comfort and solace to many people who are suffering. In *Spe Salvi*, our Holy Father presents a clear standard when he writes, “The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer. This holds true both for the individual and for society... to accept the “other” who suffers means that I take up his suffering in such a way that it becomes mine also” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, no. 38). Catholic Charities gives the faithful the opportunity, individually and as one body, to arise and tend to the needs of the least-fortunate in a manner that is informed by our Catholic faith.

The nature and duty of this call to comfort the afflicted is most serious. The size and diversity of our diocese, coupled with the fact that people of all faiths seek our support, requires the support of our parishes and missions whose members form the faith-filled community. Catholic Charities’ services and programs must extend throughout the diocese, a goal to which I am fully committed. Last year, **Christ House onWheels**, operating within **Christ House**, delivered thousands of pounds of food to many rural parishes in the diocese. However, there is still much more that we must do for all parts of our diocese where people are suffering and need our support for food, clothing and shelter.

As a witness to Catholic Charities’ faith in action, I know that we are often the last, best hope for those in need of food, shelter, a safe place from emotional or physical abuse and financial assistance. That is why your continued support is vital. On **December 11-12** the annual second collection for Catholic Charities will provide an opportunity for you to care for suffering individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn.

Your support will enable the agency to: operate the Christ House soup kitchen, food pantries for the hungry and shelters for homeless families; provide rent and utilities assistance to the poor; assist the elderly who live alone; offer Catholic mental-health counseling for the troubled; promote life to women in crisis pregnancies, adoption and foster care programs; and aid immigrants and refugees. Your gift during the December 11-12 second collection for Catholic Charities will make a tangible contribution to these programs.

I ask you to be generous with your sacrificial gift this season so that all our brothers and sisters in need may experience Christ’s love made visible through us.

Joining you in this outreach to the least of our brothers and sisters, I remain,

Faithfully in Christ,

+ Paul S. Loverde

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of Arlington

The Week Ahead

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

Sunday	December 5
Building Our Future [H2] 10:00am, 11:30am & 1:00pm	
Advent Festival [H1-3] 3:00pm	
High School Youth Group [YC] 7:30pm	
Monday	December 6
Shared Leadership Round Table [H2-3] 7:00pm	
Tuesday	December 7
Exploring the Sunday Readings [CR4] 9:45am	
Wednesday	December 8
Immaculate Conception of Mary—Holy Day of Obligation	
Thursday	December 9
Prayers and Squares [CR6] 7:00pm	
Friday	December 10
AOK Youth Group [H1-2] 7:30pm	
Saturday	December 11
Men's Cursillo [PL] 7:30am	
Sunday	December 12
Virgin of Guadalupe Mañanitas Y Mariachis [C] 5:00am	
Virgin of Guadalupe Celebration [H1-3] All Day	
High School Youth Group [YC] 7:30pm	

Mark Your Calendars!

DECEMBER

- 6—Shared Leadership
- 13—PPC Meeting
- 13—Advent Penance Service
- 15-18—Las Posadas
- 17—Fr. Ricardo's Bible Course
- 24-25—Christmas Holiday—Offices Closed
- 31—New Years Eve—Offices Closed

JANUARY

- 1—New Years Day—Offices Closed
- 10—PPC Meeting



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

BIG CHANGES COMING TO OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN!

Starting in **January 2011**, look for some big changes to the format of our weekly parish bulletin. Our Publication Team in the parish office, with input from the Communication Committee, is in the process of designing a new layout for the bulletin. With the new design we plan to:

- ◆ streamline information in an easy-to-read format;
- ◆ provide a single bulletin to serve both our English-speaking and Spanish-speaking parishioners (instead of publishing two full bulletins);
- ◆ serve as good stewards of parish finances by cutting production costs; and
- ◆ continue to provide up-to-date information about parish ministry programs, events, classes, and news.

One reason for changing our format is due to increases in production costs and changes in deadlines from our printer—making it cost-prohibitive to continue to publish two full bulletins each week. The good news is that we see the new format as a terrific opportunity to continue to improve the bulletin and respond to parishioner feedback about the bulletin's content and design. Mostly, the Publication Team and the Communication Committee want to continue to make sure the bulletin is useful, accurate, and up-to-date. Our parish bulletin is a vital tool for sharing information about our many ministries as we *love as Christ loves, and serve as Christ serves*.

If you have questions or comments about the upcoming changes, please feel free to email the Bulletin Publication Team by contacting either **Mona Peglow** at mona@gs-cc.org, or the Communication Committee contact, **Lorraine Monaco** at lasmonaco@gmail.com, or call the parish office and ask for **Claudia Di Rosario**, who speaks fluent English and Spanish, at **703-780-4055, ext. 319**.

Peace,

Lorraine