St. Columba Catholic Church

A Community of Faith,
Love and Service

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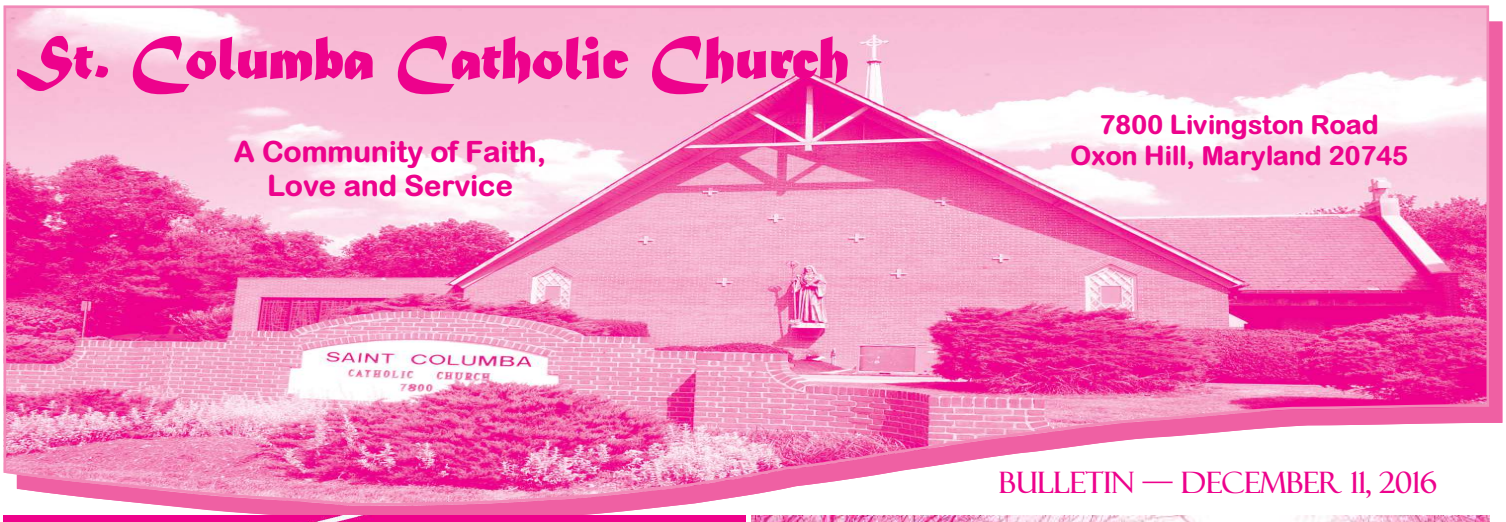


BULLETIN — DECEMBER 11, 2016

MESSAGE OF *spiritual* HEALING

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"THE BLIND REGAIN THEIR SIGHT, THE LAME WALK, LEPERS ARE CLEANSED, THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED, AND THE POOR HAVE THE GOOD NEWS PROCLAIMED TO THEM." —MT 11:5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil
5:00 p.m.
Sunday
8:00 & 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

First Saturday
Tagalog (Filipino)
7:00 p.m.

Weekdays
Monday—Friday
8:15 a.m.
Saturdays
9:00 a.m.

Mass and Novena
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wednesdays
7:00 p.m.

First Friday
8:15 a.m.
and 7:00 p.m.

Adoration
Wednesdays
6:00—6:45 p.m.
First Friday
9:00 a.m.—6:45 p.m.
Third Saturday of the Month
6:30—8:30 p.m.

Confessions
Saturdays
3:30—4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Rosary
Monday—Friday
7:25 a.m.

Coffee Socials
First Sunday after all Masses
(Sept. to June)

Parish and School Staff

Pastor
Rev. Gary T. Villanueva

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Art Mallari

Deacons
Deacon Andy Espinosa
Deacon Robert Villanueva
Deacon Rick Fisher (Ret.)

Parish Accountant
Diane Alexander

Parish Admin. Assistant
Leah Flores

Parish Youth Ministry Coordinator/Admin. Asst.
Sr. Emily Bautista, MCST

Parish School of Religion Coordinator:
Sr. Rosario Salazar, MCST

Director of Music Ministry
TBA

Parish Council Chair
Benny Ramos

Fr. Dewan Hall Coordinator
TBA

School Principal
Katrina Fernandez

School E/F Coordinator
Lera Rickling

School Admin. Assistant
Marie Norment

Plant Manager
Carlos Brown-Bey

Parish Office

Phone: 301-567-5506
Fax: 301-567-6546
Email:
stcolumbachurch@verizon.net
Parish Website:
http://ww.stcolumbacatholic.net

Parish School of Religion

Phone: 301-567-6113
Fax: 301-567-3188
Email:
st.columbapsr@gmail.com

School

Phone: 301-567-6212
Fax: 301-567-6907
Email:
schooloffice@stccatholic.org
School Website:
http://www.stccatholic.org

BAPTISMS

Classes offered 3rd Thursday of the month. Please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN
Please contact the Parish School of Religion, Sr. Rosario Salazar, MCST at 301-567-6113.

MARRIAGE
Please contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to a proposed wedding date. Reservation of the church is required before other preparations such as receptions are made.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND
Please contact the Parish Office

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:10-11

REFLECTIONS
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised." Jesus has quite a résumé. When asked whether or not he is the long awaited Messiah, Jesus replies with this list of his credentials as proof of his position. These signs and wonders speak volumes, to be sure. But perhaps the most interesting line on the list is his concluding one, "the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Why does he count this among his litany of miracles? What is so remarkable about sharing good news?

Perhaps Jesus included this element of his work--the preaching of good news--to remind his followers that the physical healings were not the ultimate goal of his mission. Rather, the spiritual healing that comes from hearing the good news of salvation is what Jesus was really about. The "poor"--which in a sense means all of us sinners, trapped by the poverty of the sins that enslave us--are freed by Jesus' message of a loving God who wants to bring us into his kingdom. Our poverty is erased by his richness. His mercy "undoes" our sin and we are invited to become the children of God who share in the glories of his heavenly abode.

Sometimes it's tempting to just want the visible miracles. But the invisible ones--the conversions that take place in the silence of the human heart--are truly the more important works of God. Such interior transformation is what leads us to eternal life; even a physical cure won't last for eternity--death still comes at some point. But the really good news is that this miracle of conversion is available to all of us. And this season of Advent is the perfect time to let God work his miracles in our hearts.

Pray for **Our Military**

Especially John M. Harris II; Marquette Young; Javon Everett; Crystal Villanueva Lee; Sharmelle Williams; Tiffany Williams; Peter John Ifurung; PFC Mark J. Venancio; Maj. Teresita Vida; Andrew Alexander; Lt. Victor Barba; 1st Lt Peter Agboli; Krystol Dudly; Christian Samoy; Derrell Thomas and Jahaira Best.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2016

Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/ Mt 11:2-11
Monday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/ Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/ Mt 1:18-24

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 12
8:15 a.m. +Carmela Mitsler
Tuesday, December 13
8:15 a.m. +Encarnacion Pico
Wednesday, December 14
8:15 a.m. +Josephine Mosesso
7:00 p.m. +Armando Fernandez
Thursday, December 15
8:15 a.m. +Evangeline Serquiña
Friday, December 16
8:15 a.m. +Kathy Dowd
Saturday, December 17
9:00 a.m. +Adolfo Capati
5:00 p.m. +Peter & Angelina Marino
Sunday, December 18
8:00 a.m. Linda Casanova (Birthday)
10:00 a.m. +Graciano Serapid
12:00 p.m. +Anthony Miguel Cabotaje

In your prayers...

Our Sick and Suffering Brethren

Especially Carolyn Wolcott, Marjorie Gallie, Mildred Jenkins, Pedro Padolina, Jr., Jovencio Mangahas, Ray Adams, James Maraan, Nicola Martinelle, Mitch Otero (30Oct16). Deacon Rick & Rachel Fisher, Roy DeMesme, Tess Samoy, Lamar Johnson, Ellamae Hulsey, Linda Wilkes, Kobi King, Simon Perez, Jr., Nicholas Mararac (6Nov16). Ada Parker, Lolita Ferrer, Gus Blancaflor, Debbie Holmes, Medardo Calo, Conrado Flores, Sr., Marian Flores, Christopher Samonte, Cesar Cadapan, Manuel Malgapo (04Dec16).

Our Beloved Dead

Especially Melecio Soriano, Christopherson Cortez, Braulia Delacruz, Mary Hunt, Miguelita Fronda, Kathy Dowd, Catalino Minor, Josephine Mosesso, Rosalinda De Guzman, Aurora Parani, Nelson Soriano, Angie Fortin.

St. Columba School

Established in 1962

.....Faith. Academics. Service.

Dear Parishioners,

It has been an exciting month around St. Columba School. We have had many opportunities to share in fellowship and fun.

- Mothers and daughters shared special bonding time at the annual Mother –Daughter Tea. Thank you to Mrs. Gonzales and Mrs. Lovelace and their committee for making it a day to remember.
- Our 7th and 8th graders danced the night away at the annual Halloween dance. Thank you to Mrs. Adamo and her crew for the amazing decorations.
- The kindergarten and first grade students had a chance to see "lions, tigers and bears, oh my!" at the National Zoo.
- The whole school shared in the annual Halloween parade and class parties. I hope you didn't miss the brightest crayons at St. Columba.

These are just a few of the exciting adventures we have had this month.

I would like to take a moment and thank all the parents and families for their continued support of St. Columba. Without our parent community much of what we do would be impossible. Thank you for helping to keep St. Columba a vibrant community.

Blessings,
Katrina Fernandez
St. Columba School Principal

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON (ADW)

Advent/Lent Service Project Opportunity

Is your parish looking for a family/families to adopt for Christmas or looking for a Lenten service project? The families affected by the summer explosion and fire at the Flower Branch Apartments in Silver Spring, MD continue to need assistance with permanent housing, winter clothing, household goods, and professional clothing and tools. If you would like more information about how you can assist, please contact Debbie McDonald in the Office of Pastoral Planning at mcdonald@adw.org or 301-853-4466.

Concert and Liturgy Celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Saturday, January 14, 2017, the Archdiocese of Washington will celebrate the national recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with our annual liturgy, celebrated this year at St. Thomas More Church (4275 4th Street SE, Washington, DC). The 5pm Mass will be celebrated by Auxilary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville. The Mass will be preceded by a concert and a Veneration of the Relics of the African Saints, and music will be provided by the Archdiocesan Gospel Mass Choir. For more information, email culturaldiversity@adw.org or call 301-853-4469.

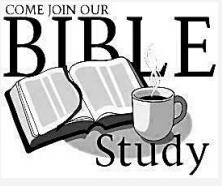
Happy Gaudete (or Rejoice) Sunday! Parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington continue to celebrate Advent through our *Find the Perfect Gift* initiative. This Advent we are challenged to share the Perfect Gift of Jesus with someone in our life who may be searching for meaning or friendship. As we encounter others we offer a glimpse of the love and joy of Jesus through our words and actions! Invite your family and friends to our parish Advent and Christmas community celebrations, so that together we may grow closer to the source of all joy: Jesus Christ. Visit FindthePerfectGift.org to find Christmas resources and Christmas Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington.

COME AND JOIN...
ALL CATHOLIC YOUTH ARE INVITED:
St. Columba Youth Ministry

(Regular Meeting – Every Friday)
7:00 p.m.– 10:00 p.m.
in Fr. Dewan Hall

For more information please call
Sr. Emily M. Bautista, MCST
(Youth Ministry Coordinator)
at 301-567-5506

We are kindly remind our school parents of their obligation, in order to receive catholic rate tuition, to tithe on a weekly basis. Catholic rate tuition means that you are also "in-pew" on Sunday. Parents who pay catholic rate tuition are required to attend and participate in Mass on a weekly basis.



"Join and experience a deeper appreciation of your faith!" All are welcome, especially the youth.

We meet every Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the 7th Grade Room (go towards the Father Dewan hall). It will start in September. Please contact Craig Maresch at 240-643-3644, Maggie Edmonson at 301-567-3347 or Nancy Wooster at 301-248-4065.

from the Parish Secretary

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Lunch Time
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

PRAYER LIST: Names for the Prayer List should be written either in a note or sent electronically. Please call the Parish Office if you wish to have a name removed. When a name is received, it will be added to the next bulletin listing in the order it is received and will remain for one month and then removed. To place a name back on the list, please resubmit the name. Thank you!

CERTIFICATES: When requesting Certificates (e.g. baptisms, confirmations) or permission letters to be a godparent, please call the Parish Office with required information at least 10 business days in advance. In this way you can be sure you will have the certificates or permission letters at the time you need them.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you are moving or have a change of address or if there is an addition of a family member, please notify the parish office.

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION CLASS: In The Archdiocese of Washington, parents who wish to have their son/daughter baptized must attend this information session. The session is "user-friendly", informative (learn about raising you child Catholic), social (get to meet other parents) and fun! **Next class: November December 15 at 7:00 p.m. (class starts promptly) in the Weekly Church Chapel (go to the smaller parking lot of the church).** To attend, please contact or email the Parish Office. **NO WALK-INS**. Only the parents are required to attend, but Godparents are welcome.

RCIA (THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

Do you know someone who is interested in learning about the Catholic faith? Perhaps you are thinking about what it means to be called to the Catholic way of life. The Church has a process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A) whereby adults can learn and discern whether to become Catholic Christians. The process leads an unbaptized adult to his or her baptism, usually at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. If the adult has been baptized in another Christian tradition, then the process prepares the person to be received into the Catholic Church by making a profession of faith as a Catholic. The process also prepares the way for someone who was baptized in the Catholic Church to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Here at Saint Columba, the RCIA meets on Saturday mornings at 9:30 from late September through May. Each morning we explore a different topic with lecture/discussion facilitated by one of the RCIA team members. Our goal is to help you on your spiritual journey as you come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the teachings of the Catholic Church, prayer and worship, and the community of Saint Columba. You will be accompanied on your journey by a Catholic sponsor, usually a friend, who is there to help answer questions and provide support for you. To know more about the RCIA process, call the Parish Office at 301-567-5506 or call Mike Maxey at 301-536-1543.

CATECHISM IN A YEAR

Day #47: Christ's death

When did Christ die? Christ died on Good Friday.

Where did Christ die? Christ died on Golgotha, a place outside the city of Jerusalem.

And they came to a place called Golgotha, that is, the Place of the Skull. (Matthew 27:33)

What do we learn from the sufferings and death of Christ? From the sufferings and death of Christ we learn God's love for man and the evil of sin, for which God, who is all-just, demands such great satisfaction.

Further reading: CCC 613-614

UPDATES OF ST. COLUMBA CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT FROM THE PASTOR

We have received around $252,947.00 for our projects and once we break ground for the restroom construction, we will continue to raise the amount for the whole projects.

The Special Project has been approved by Cardinal Wuerl. The project is progressing and that a survey is currently being performed. The survey is needed to secure the permit. We will start the project as soon as we receive the permit. I would like to thank all of you who supported and have donated to these projects. May God bless you for your generosity.

VOCATIONS CORNER

Please continue to pray for our fellow parishioner who is aspiring for Holy Orders.

Seminarian Patrick Agustin is currently studying Theology in North American College, Rome, Italy.

Let us continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate and the religious life. If you know of anyone who feels such a calling, please give them encouragement and advise them to speak with Father Gary or any of the MCST sisters.

Holy Communion for the Sick/Homebound

If you are physically unable to come to Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist at home, please contact the parish office at 301-567-5506. Arrangements will be happily made to bring the Eucharist to you.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE POOR

Please leave your donation in the blue plastic bin in the narthex. **Non-perishable foods only. Please check the expiration date.** Items needed are: pasta, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, vegetables, canned meat, and canned fruit. The Oxon Hill Food Pantry also needs several volunteers. Please call Frieda Edwards at 301-894-8374. Thank you!

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETINGS

Every Friday Praise and Worship in the main church from 7:20 – 10:00 p.m. (This includes Rosary and Divine Mercy, joyful singing of praise songs in between Bible reading, testimonies, short teaching, followed by fellowship. Every first Friday, Mass at 7:00 p.m. preceded by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and followed by Confessions. All are welcome.

The Filipino Ministry of St. Columba

Invites you and your family to join us for

Simbang Gabi

December 15-23, 2016
Nightly Masses will be held at 7:00 P.M
St. Columba Church, Oxon Hill M.D.

THEME: " THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY AS THE STRONGHOLD OF FAITH".

HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH ST. COLUMBA PARISH?

Share more actively in the life of the parish by registering your family. Registration packets are available in the Narthex and at the Parish Office.

2016 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

St. Columba Catholic Church, Oxon Hill, Maryland

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 7, 14, 21, 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.
(Regular Penance Schedule: Saturdays, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Advent Novena Masses ("Simbang Gabi")
Thursday, December 15 to Friday, December 23, at 7:00 p.m.
Weekly Wednesday Novena & Mass for Our Lady of Perpetual Help – TBA

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2016
Masses at 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight
5 p.m. Mass with "Living Nativity" presented by the Children of St. Columba Parish
Christmas Concert starts at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25, 2016
Masses at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Feast of the Holy Family
Masses at regular weekend schedule
Saturday, December 31, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(Holyday of Obligation)
Sunday, January 1, 2017, Masses at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Masses at regular weekend schedule
Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 9, 2017 at 8:15 a.m.

Cremations

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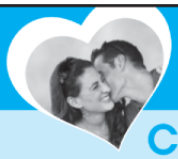

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