

St. Columba Catholic Church

A Community of Faith,
Love and Service

7800 Livingston Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745



BULLETIN — DECEMBER 25, 2016



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

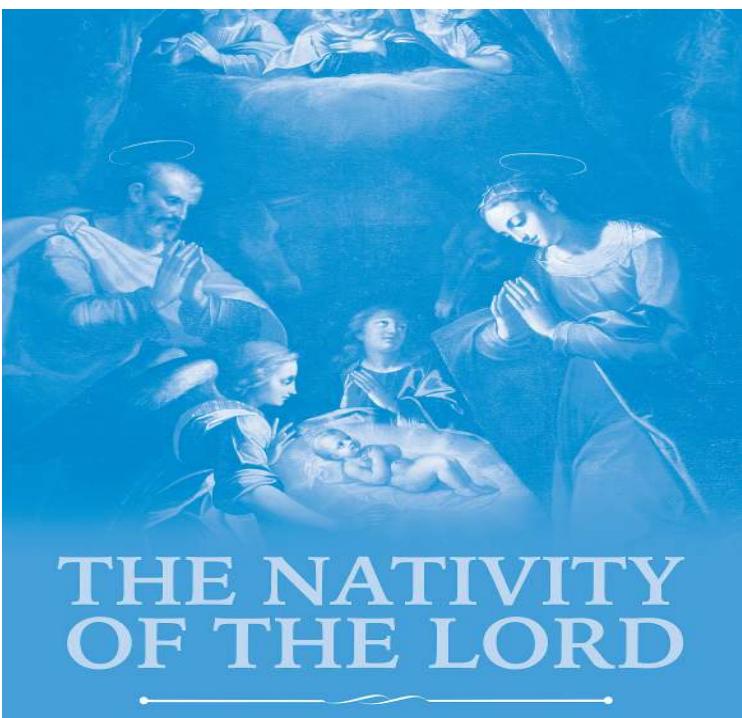
Lera Rickling

School Admin. Assistant

Marie Norment

Plant Manager

Carlos Brown-Bey



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." —Lk 2:11

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

Parish Office

Phone: 301-567-5506

Fax: 301-567-6546

Email:

stcolumba-

church@verizon.net

Parish Website:

www.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



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:10-12

REFLECTIONS THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us--Emmanuel, "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day.

We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day of the year, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense to show our gratitude and joy.

We only must be careful not to reduce our celebrating today to something less glorious, something less meaningful, or less profound. This is no mere secular holiday. This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a holy day and as Christians it is our day in a most definite and undeniable way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of what lies ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.

 **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 25, 2016

Sunday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Ps 128/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18 Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Monday:	
Tuesday:	
Wednesday:	
Thursday:	
Friday:	
Saturday:	
Next Sunday:	

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 26

8:15 a.m. +Teodoro Ambat, Sr.

Tuesday, December 27

8:15 a.m. Patrick Castillo (Thanksgiving)

Wednesday, December 28

8:15 a.m. Melanie Mendoza (Thanksgiving)

7:00 p.m. +Henry Torrillo

Thursday, December 29

8:15 a.m. +Wilfredo Lascano

Friday, December 30

8:15 a.m. +Rosalinda de Guzman

Saturday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Christopher & Elizabeth Mary Dowdell (Anniversary)

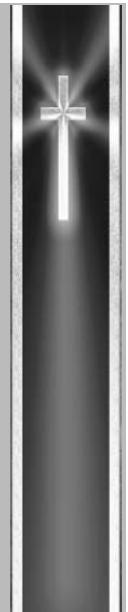
5:00 p.m. St. Columba Parishioners

Sunday, January 1

8:00 a.m. Jonathan Perez (Birthday)

10:00 a.m. +Roman & Crisanta Namata

12:00 p.m. +Bienvenido Alamares



In your prayers...

Our Sick and Suffering Brethren

Especially 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). Carolyn Wolcott, Marjorie Gallie, Mildred Jenkins, Pedro Padolina, Jr., James Maraan, Nicola Martinelle, Mitch Otero (18Dec16).

Our Beloved Dead

Especially Mary Hunt, Miguelita Fronda, Kathy Dowd, Catalino Minor, Josephine Mosesso, Rosalinda De Guzman, Aurora Parani, Nelson Soriano, Evangelina (Angie) Fortin, Esther Contreras, Carmelo Cabrera, Jennie Sherman.



St. Columba School

Established in 1962

.....Faith. Academics. Service.

Dear Parishioners,

The Advent season brings about a period of reflection and renewed hope. I hope you take advantage of this time to prepare for the birth of our Savior.

We began the Advent season by sharing in a Thanksgiving meal as a whole school. During our time together, our students discussed what it means to serve. Mrs. Tynan, our first grade teacher, shared about her experience with service and how it has impacted her. The students are also joyfully preparing for Christmas by practicing for our annual Christmas program to be held on Wednesday, December 14th.

As you spend time with cherished family and friends this holiday season, please do not forget the true meaning of Christmas. All of us at St. Columba wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you be blessed with peace, love and joy this holiday season.

"And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."
John 1: 14

Blessings,
Katrina Fernandez
St. Columba School Principal

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON (ADW)

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 Auxiliary 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.



Is today the last day of the Christmas season, or the first? While storefronts and radio stations might be ready to move on us Catholics continue to celebrate the joyful news of the birth of our Savior! Keep your tree up, the lights on, and share joy with family and friends. Continue to celebrate the Perfect Gift of God's love through the entire Christmas season (until the Epiphany on January 8th). Find inspiration and stream Christmas music from church choirs across the Archdiocese of Washington at FindthePerfectGift.org.

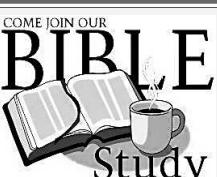


COME AND JOIN...
ALL CATHOLIC YOUTH ARE INVITED:
St. Columba Youth Ministry

(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*

A QUICK REMINDER We 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



December 23—26 (Closed)
December 27—29 (Open)
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Lunch Time
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

December 30 (Half day)
December 31—January 2 (Closed)

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: January 19, 2017 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.

2016 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

St. Columba Catholic Church,
Oxon Hill, Maryland

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.

CATECHISM IN A YEAR

Day #49: On rising from the dead

When did Christ rise from the dead? Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.

And on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled back from the sepulchre. (Luke 24:1-2)

Why did Christ rise from the dead? Christ rose from the dead to show that He is true God and to teach us that we, too, shall rise from the dead.

For if the dead do not rise, neither has Christ risen; and if Christ has not risen, vain is your faith, for you are still in your sins. (I Corinthians 15:16-17)

Will all men rise from the dead? All men will rise from the dead, but only those who have been faithful to Christ will share in His glory.

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall all indeed rise. (I Corinthians 15:51)

Further reading: CCC 639-640 **Note:** The Modern Catechism no longer uses the term "limbo" to refer to this "prison" for the dead ...worth a read -> CCC 632-635



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.

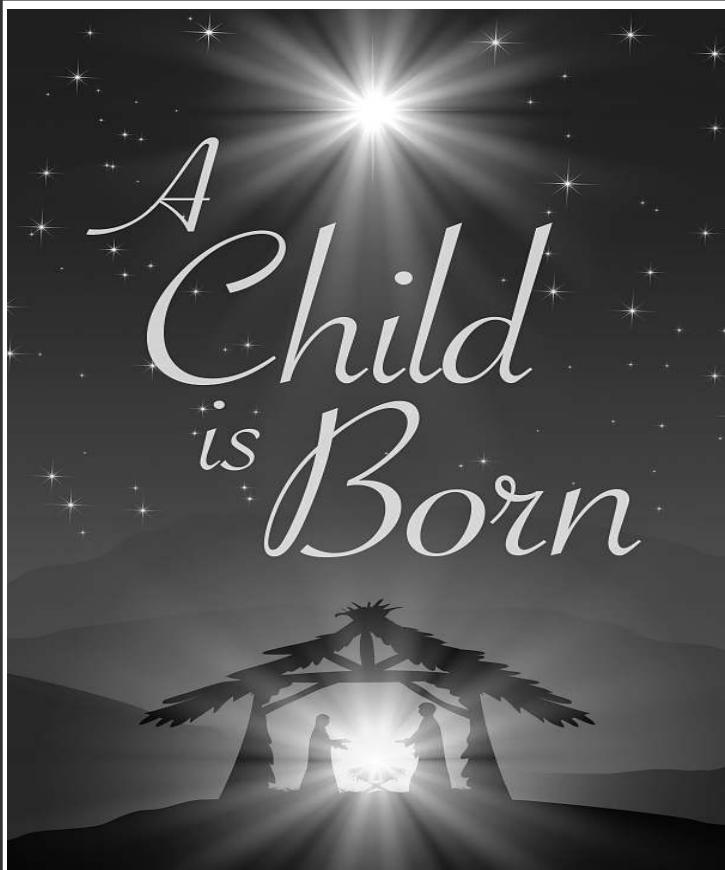


FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE POOR

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.



May the blessings of Christ be on you and your family this Christmas Season.

From:

*Fr. Gary, Fr. Art, Deacon Andy,
Deacon Robert and Staff*

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.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS



Cremations

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-LYNDON RIVE, CEO,
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