



# SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



FOUNDED  
1911



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Washington, D.C. 20015  
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[www.blessedsacramentdc.org](http://www.blessedsacramentdc.org)

Blessed Sacrament School  
5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20015  
202.966.6682  
[www.bsstoday.org](http://www.bsstoday.org)

## MASS TIMES ~ PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil, October 29**  
5:30 p.m. ~ Father Alec

**Saturday, November 5**  
~ Father O

**Sunday, October 30**  
7:30 a.m. ~ Father Regis  
9:00 a.m.\* ~ Father Ron  
10:30 a.m. (Church) ~ Father O  
10:30 a.m. (Gym) ~ Father Alec  
12:30 p.m. ~ Father D'Silva  
5:30 p.m. ~ Father D'Silva

**Sunday, November 6**  
~ Father D'Silva  
~ Father Regis  
~ Father Alec  
~ Father Ron  
~ Father Ron  
~ Father Alec

\*American Sign Language interpreted Mass

### Weekday & Saturday Masses

Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m., 11 a.m.

**Filipino Mass** in Tagalog every 4th Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

### Holy Day Masses

Eve of the Feast: 5:30 p.m.  
Day of the Feast: 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

### Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament\*

Exposition: Monday-Friday, 3-5:15 p.m., in the church  
Thursday before first Friday of each month, 6-8 p.m.,  
with Holy Hour from 7-8 p.m.

\*No adoration on federal holidays

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE • OCTOBER 30, 2016

Faithful Citizenship • 2

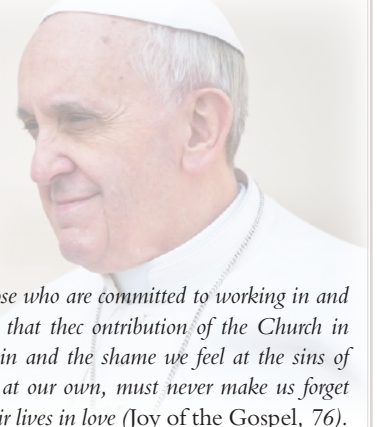
Symposium on Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia* • 3

Blessed Sacrament Sodality Bazaar • 4

### Thought for the Week From Pope Francis

For the week of October 30

*I feel tremendous gratitude to all those who are committed to working in and for the Church... I must say first that the contribution of the Church in today's world is enormous. The pain and the shame we feel at the sins of some members of the Church, and at our own, must never make us forget how many Christians are giving their lives in love (Joy of the Gospel, 76).*



## HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day, occurring this **Tuesday, November 1st**, is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have a vigil Mass on Monday, October 31 at 5:30pm. Tuesday Mass times are 6:30am, 8:00am, 11:00am, and 5:30pm.

## OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH



Respect Life month is observed each year in October. This year's theme is "Moved by Mercy." Please pray for respect for life from conception to natural death.

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Ronald A. Potts, Pastor • [rpotts@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:rpotts@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Rev. Alec Scott, Parochial Vicar • [ascott@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:ascott@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Rev. Msgr. Maurice V. O'Connell, Retired Priest • [moconnell@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:moconnell@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Rev. Percival L. D'Silva, Retired Priest • [pdsilva@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:pdsilva@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Deacon Kenneth Angell • [kenneth.angell@opic.gov](mailto:kenneth.angell@opic.gov)  
 Deacon Donald Mays • [dmays@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:dmays@blessedsacramentdc.org)

**Assistants on Weekends**

Rev. Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap, Catholic University

**DUFFY PARISH CENTER**

**Main Office** 202.966.6575 (Monday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)  
**In an Emergency** 202.966.6575, Ext. 3988 (to page priest on duty)  
**Facilities** 202.449.4610  
**Pius X Library** 202.449.3974  
**Ray Manning Adult Center** 202.363.4512

Mr. John Navolio, Business Manager  
 202.449.3984, [jnavolio@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:jnavolio@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Mr. Jay Rader, Director of Liturgy and Music  
 202.449.3981, [jayrader@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:jayrader@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Ms. Michelle Balch, Director of Religious Education  
 202.449.3989, [mbalch@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:mbalch@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Ms. Rosalie Days, Sacramental Preparation Coordinator  
 202.449.4618, [rdays@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:rdays@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Mrs. Casey Esser, Youth Minister  
 202.449.3985, [cesser@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:cesser@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Mrs. Patricia Kavanaugh, Social Concerns Minister  
 202.449.3987, [pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 (Office open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and by appointment)  
 Ms. Emma Voelzke, Special Needs Coordinator  
 202.449.3990, [evoelzke@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:evoelzke@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of CYO  
 202.449.3972, [kryan@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:kryan@blessedsacramentdc.org)

**BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL**

Mr. Chris Kelly, Principal  
 202.966.6682, [ckelly@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:ckelly@blessedsacramentdc.org)  
 Ms. Nancy Ryan, Director of Admissions  
 202.966.6682, Ext. 6110, [nryan@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:nryan@blessedsacramentdc.org)

**SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism** • Baptismal classes are required of all parents prior to baptism. We recommend taking classes before the child is born. Group baptisms are offered every 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday at 2:00pm. For more info on requirements and procedures, visit: [www.blessedsacramentdc.org/sacraments-rites](http://www.blessedsacramentdc.org/sacraments-rites)

**Matrimony** • All couples who are to be married at Blessed Sacrament must complete our parish marriage preparation program. Please contact one of the parish priests six months in advance of your marriage date.

**Reconciliation** • Friday and Saturday after the 11 a.m. Mass (if no funeral); Saturday, 4 - 5 p.m. and after the 5:30 p.m. Mass, or anytime by appointment.

**PARISH SERVICES & INFORMATION**

**Care Of The Sick & Homebound** • If you or someone you know is hospitalized or homebound and would like a priest to visit, contact the parish office at 202.966.6575.

**New Parishioners** • Welcome! Please register by stopping in at the parish office, or using the registration form available online or from the pamphlet rack at the Quesada Street entrance to the church.

**Bulletin Announcements** • **Hard Deadline:** Mondays @ 9 a.m. Send to: [bulletin@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:bulletin@blessedsacramentdc.org).

**Newsletter Content** • [newsletter@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:newsletter@blessedsacramentdc.org)

**Website Postings** • [website@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:website@blessedsacramentdc.org)

**Facebook Postings** • [dbyers4@verizon.net](mailto:dbyers4@verizon.net)

**Church Bulletin Boards** • The parish secretary maintains the church bulletin boards. Please drop off any flyers for posting to Joan Ward in the parish office, Duffy parish center.

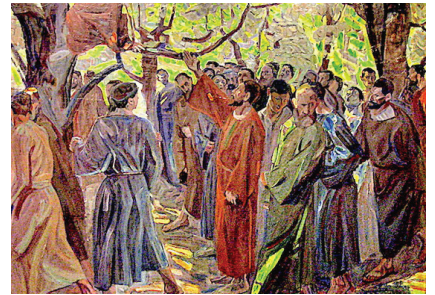
**Inclement Weather Policy** • The parish center/office follows Montgomery County Schools for delays and closings. All evening activities are cancelled those days the schools are closed.

**PASTOR'S COLUMN • OCTOBER 30**

Our first reading is a passage from the Book of Wisdom. God acts with mercy and love because He is the creator. He is the "Lord and lover of souls." God desires us to share in the fullness of His life and calls us to conversion. To draw us to conversion, God showers us with mercy and chastises us little by little to turn from the sin in our lives. God works to turn us from evil and restore us to faith by every possible means.

In our second reading, Paul gives encouragement to the Thessalonians. The Thessalonians have been shaken by persecution and trial yet their faith continues to grow. Paul reminds them that he is praying for them during this difficult time. All Christian suffering is a participation in the mystery of Christ and, like His own passion, a promise of the glory to come. This is the heart of our faith that we must live just as much as we proclaim it, in the expectation of the Lord's coming. His coming does not give us grounds for restless agitation or fleeing the present: it prods us constantly to active vigilance.

In our passage from Luke, we meet Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He had become rich by cheating the people as he collected their taxes. Zacchaeus wanted "to see who Jesus was" and "climbed a sycamore tree."



Niels Larsen Stevns, 1913  
 Zacchaeus (Detail)  
 Source: <http://liturgy.slu.edu>

Jesus invites him to come down from the tree and desires to have a meal with him. Zacchaeus' conversion is unexpected and radical as he chooses to give "half his possessions to the poor" and repay the extorted money "four times over." We can only imagine the joy of Zacchaeus and his experience of Jesus' love and mercy. This story reminds us that Jesus has been sent by the all-powerful Father to search out all who are lost and save them.

God bless you,  
 Father Ron



On November 8th, Americans will head to the polls for the general and presidential elections. To find resources on faithful citizenship, our call to political responsibility and the candidates' positions on issues of interest to Catholics, please visit: <http://adw.org/faithfulcitizenship>.

## FAITH FORMATION

## SYMPOSIUM:

## Francis on Joy, Love and the Family



**Who:** All are invited to learn about and discuss the document *Amoris Laetitia*, The Joy of Love, the Pope's conclusion to the 2014 general assembly of the Synod of Bishops on 'The Pastoral Challenges of the Family...'

**Where:** Blessed Sacrament School gym

**What:** Parishioners will introduce aspects of the Pope's document relating it to their experience in contemporary America. A responder will follow each presentation with brief examples from American writing on Drama, Communication, Memoirs and Fiction. Questions will follow.

Refreshments, Child Minding (must register by October 31)

For more information, please contact 202.449.3974

**Sunday, November 6, 2:00-5:00pm**



**Fall Faith Journey to Baltimore with Fr. Ron**  
Fr. Ron again leads us on an in-depth spiritual journey which will include Mass in this extraordinary Basilica (America's first Cathedral), lunch, and tours of St. Mary's Seminary and Seton House (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's home in Baltimore). **Monday, November 7 at 9 a.m.** Cost: \$55 per person, which includes transportation, tour fees, lunch, and gratuities. Reservations: Rita Killian: r.killian@verizon.net, 202.363.5069.

## All Souls Day Mass

Our Annual Solemn Mass for All Souls will take place on Wednesday, **November 2 at 7 p.m.** in the church. The Chancel Choir will sing Faure's beautiful setting of the Requiem Mass accompanied by strings, horns, harp and organ. If you would like to place names of deceased loved ones in the program, please send them to [jayrader@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:jayrader@blessedsacramentdc.org) by 5pm today, or call 202.449.3981.

## Second Collection for November 5-6

The second collection for November 5-6, 2016 is for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. Please use the second collection envelopes that have been mailed to your homes and/or the special collection envelopes found in the pews.

## EVERY WEEK

## Coffee and Conversation @ the Corbett Café Every Thursday

Join fellow parishioners every Thursday after the 8 a.m. Mass at Corbett Café, Apartment 1 of the Chevy Chase Apartments next to the church, for coffee and conversation.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

**FAITH & SERVICE:** On the **first Friday** of each month, all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to come for Faith & Service nights. We will attend the 5:30pm Mass, then continue in the Auditorium to eat pizza, play games, discuss our faith, and do a service project. We will have high school students and adult volunteers participating in the leadership of these Faith & Service nights. Each night counts for two service hours.

**5:30-8:00pm on Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3.** To register for this program, find the link on the parish website or contact Casey Esser (see below).

## HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**BONFIRE NIGHT:** On the **second Friday** of every month, all high school students are invited to come and hang out for a bonfire. We will gather with friends and young adults to enjoy music, dinner, and marshmallows. Bonfire nights will begin with 5:30pm Mass in the church and follow from 6-8pm in the rectory courtyard (or Parish Center 2nd Floor in inclement weather).

**5:30-8:00pm on Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10.** To RSVP, find the link on the parish website or contact Casey Esser (see below).

## OTHER EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE!

- **Friday, December 16th:** Christmas Dinner, Gift Exchange & Ice Skating
- Students must submit a permission slip for each event held outside Blessed Sacrament.**
- Adult chaperones and drivers are always needed, please get in touch!**

For more information and to register for these events, please contact Blessed Sacrament's Youth Minister, Casey Esser:  
[cesser@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:cesser@blessedsacramentdc.org) | 202.449.3985

## PLEASE INCLUDE OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE HEALING AND COMFORT

Alejandro Arce	Daniel Ortman
Ana Maria Arce	Maria Stechschlte
Evelyn Childs	Nelly Turner
Ellen Dragotto	Violeta Turner
Marian Middendorf	Hope Elena Katz-Zogby
Fredy H. Ortega	

## REST IN PEACE

Rosemary Donnelley



**The Bazaar is in  
2 WEEKS!**  
Saturday, Nov. 12 • 10am-4pm

**Back by popular demand, sodality bake sale:** cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, and other goodies to enjoy and share with your family and friends! Many of our delicious desserts are suitable for freezing and pulling out for thanksgiving or entertaining in december! Visit us in the school auditorium... Just follow the smells of freshly baked goodies!

**And don't forget our amazing Christmas Shop!** Enjoy special dessert sauces, savory snacks, drink mixers and other homemade items made by the Sodality which make lovely hostess gifts and are perfect for the family brunch or dessert party! We often sell out, so swing by early and visit the Christmas Shop in the School Gym to buy your dessert sauce or Bloody Mary Mix!

**And there's more!** With all that shopping, you will work up an appetite. New this year - we will have 3 food trucks on the blacktop selling lunch! We also have Galley Foods, a vendor that sells homemade delicious meals for delivery, providing a tasting table and a special \$10 offer promotion for future orders. Galley will be giving away 20 meals the day of the bazaar.

**Last But Not Least—Bazaar Donation Times!**

**Used Clothing:** Duffy Parish Center  
Tuesday, 11/8 – Thursday, 11/10, 9-4, Friday, 11/11, 9-noon

**Bake Sale:**  
Friday 9-3 School Lobby; Friday 3-5 School Auditorium  
Saturday 9 am School Auditorium

**White Elephant and Elegant Elephant:** Duffy Parish Center  
Tuesday, 11/8 – Thursday, 11/10, 9-4, Friday, 11/11, 9-noon

**SHARE FOOD CO-OP**

**Make nutritious food values your Thanksgiving Celebration Centerpiece—from your SHARE Parish Food Co-op . . . and save up to 40% in the bargain!**

Your SHARE @ Blessed Sacrament food co-op has lined up a savory selection at bargain prices for your Thanksgiving celebration. The **\$21 Healthy Value Package** has a 5-pound roasting chicken, pork sausage, fish fillets, a holiday pie, mashed potatoes, elbow macaroni, fresh sweet potatoes and 8-10 lbs of fresh seasonal produce. The specials include a **\$32 Thanksgiving Dinner** with a 10-14 lb Butterball Turkey, sweet potato casserole, collards, corn and green beans, wax beans and carrots, and holiday pie. And, the more bountiful Value Package and Turkey Combination has the dinner and additional groceries listed above is just **\$43**. The **\$15 Harvest Produce Box** has an array of 8 fresh nutritional items.

To order, visit the parish web site: [www.blessedsacramentdc.org](http://www.blessedsacramentdc.org). Please order by **Friday, November 4, at 5pm**; orders accepted until Monday, November 7. Food distribution is Friday, November 18, 3-6pm. For more information, leave a message in the Blessed Sacrament SHARE Voice Mailbox: 202.449.4611 or send an e-mail to [SHARE@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:SHARE@blessedsacramentdc.org).

**VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICE MINISTRY**

We would like to invite our parishioners to these upcoming events:

1. **Thursday, November 3, 7pm**, Monthly Parish Holy Hour: Please join us as we pray for the Ministry and the Veterans, Active Duty Military and their Families whom we will be serving.

2. **Sunday, November 13, 10:30am Mass**, Veterans Sunday: In honor of Veterans Day on Friday, November 11, the 10:30 am Mass in the church will honor our fellow veteran parishioners who have served in the U.S. military. We will be hosting a Coffee and Donuts after the Mass in the Parish Center for all parishioners and sharing more about the Ministry.

3. Collections for Deployed Troops and the Local VA: On the weekends of **November 12-13 and 19-20**, the Ministry Team will be collecting the following items for the work of Catholic Chaplains deployed overseas who are supporting their soldiers, sailors, and airmen and the Washington, DC VA. We will have collection bins at the main entrance of the church and we will also accept donations at the November 13 Coffee and Donuts reception after the 10:30am Mass.

1. Hand sanitizer -- travel size;
2. Granola Bars, Nuts or Beef Jerky;
3. Personal Hygiene Items: Shampoo, Body Wash, Body Lotion (smaller sizes please), and Deodorant
4. Religious Items: Rosaries, small religious items, e.g. pocket crosses, holy cards, prayer cards

We look forward to seeing you after the 10:30am Mass for Coffee and Donuts on November 13. Thank you for your support!

**Faith in the Marketplace—Friday, November 4**

The monthly First Friday gathering of men to discover how others live and practice their professions and faith in the marketplace is on **Friday, November 4**, after the 6:30am Mass. Our speaker is parishioner Dave Ficca, CEO of Baltimore Life Insurance Companies, and an adjunct professor of accounting at Georgetown University. He will discuss how his involvement as a coach for the Special Olympics and a leader in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive have impacted his approach to leading a 130-year old mutual life insurance firm. Please join us for this important discussion. For more info, contact John Mueller: [muellerJD@aol.com](mailto:muellerJD@aol.com)

**29th Annual Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive - December 3**

**Returning families:** please register on the website to confirm your territory and contact info. **New families:** sign up on the website to be a leader or helper in a territory. If you want to make a new territory, let us know on the signup page. **Need Confirmation hours?** Go to the parish website, under the "Parish Communities" tab, click Blessed Sacrament, and complete the online form. For more ways you can help, please email Meredith Ficca: [mzficca@gmail.com](mailto:mzficca@gmail.com).

**Wanted to Join That Man Is You But Missed It? No Problem!**

Even if you missed the first few weeks, you'll still benefit from learning about authentic leadership for Christian men. The program is designed to accommodate men with busy lives. Saturday mornings at 6:15 in the School Auditorium. Join us on the journey. For more info, contact John Mueller: [muellerJD@aol.com](mailto:muellerJD@aol.com)

**Christmas Caroling**

CHAPEL SINGERS (BS a capella group) is getting back together for Christmas caroling at Sibley and local senior residences. Come join us on Mondays at 7:30 in the chapel. Contact Ginny Curtin: [gucurtin@gmail.com](mailto:gucurtin@gmail.com). All voices are welcome!

## VISIT YOUR PARISH LIBRARY

## Veterans Day

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 (the day marking the end of hostilities after World War I) as the first commemoration of Armistice Day and in 1954 congress changed the title to 'Veterans' honoring veterans of all wars ([www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp)).

**From Foxholes and Flight Decks: Letters Home from World War II, by Rod Gragg (940.54 G75)**

This book contains 20 personal letters (in facsimile and detachable) which soldiers, sailors and marines wrote, leaving an eyewitness record of wartime life.

**The Flame Keepers: The True Story of an American Soldier's Survival Inside Stalag 17, by Ned Handy and Kemp Battle (940.5 H19 F611).**

Ned Handy was one of 4,300 flyers shot down over Germany. Imprisoned in the notorious camp, Stalag 17, they used their resourcefulness and grit to dig an escape tunnel and live out one of the most amazing stories of World War II.

For more information, visit the library on the 2nd floor of the parish center or call 202.449.3974.

## CHIMES CHATTER

Who you "gonna call"? Should our 16-tube chimes need some intervention, beyond the restoration expertise of the Chimes Committee, who do we contact? Who is listed in phone books or searchable online? Although the Committee volunteers have been very successful in the last four decades, and are resolute to continue, to monitor and maintain the operability of our chimes, a back-up or two would be beneficial. Companies and technicians will be introduced in this column. By far, one of the "chimes-smart" and oldest national "bell companies", is the Verdin Company, established in 1842 and located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Six generations of the Verdin family (of French iron-worker immigrants) have been creating bell experiences from casting custom bronze bells, to constructing bell and clock towers, and inventing innovations from electric winding of clocks to electronic bell carillons operated from laptops or smart-phones. A world-wide company having over 50,000 installations, including the Smithsonian, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the University of Notre Dame, and the World Peace Bell (cast in France). The Peace Bell, to commemorate the millennium, was then the world's largest swinging bell measuring in at 66,600 pounds, 12-foot in diameter and heard from 25 miles away. Now located in a Newport, Kentucky, bell tower, across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, its daily peal happens at five minutes before noon, so as not to resonate and interfere with the other noon-hour courthouse and church bells. Verdin purchased the Deagan Company's tubular bell division in 1975 and serviced or "modernized" several Deagan tower chimes over the recent decades.



Photo by Joe Bozik

Share your chimes memory? Contact [1RetroJoe@gmail.com](mailto:1RetroJoe@gmail.com)

## THE ADULT CENTER

All parishioners, 39 and holding, are invited to gather in Apt. 1 in the Chevy Chase apartment building next to the church for fellowship after the 11 a.m. weekday Mass. Bring a sandwich and join the activities. For more information or for transportation, call Rita Killian at 202.363.5069.

<b>Monday</b>	Strong Seniors Strength & Balance Exercise Class
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tuesdays with (Fr.) Maury. Topic: Why and How We Remember Our Deceased
<b>Wednesday</b>	Watercolor Art Class with Dick Swartz
<b>Thursday</b>	Bridge for Bridge Lovers
<b>Friday</b>	Closed

## OUTREACH

**Blessed Sacrament Social Concerns Office Mini-Walk is Today!**

The Mini-Walk is TODAY after the 10:30 Masses. Registration forms are available in Church and School Gym entrances. "Walk the Block for Social Justice" and make a difference in the lives of hungry and homeless individuals and families who request assistance through the Social Concerns Office.

**Donate Food to the Social Concerns Office**

Items most frequently requested by a needy population are: tuna fish, meat, chicken soup, brown beans, cereal, Beefaroni, peanut butter, jelly and Vienna sausage. Food may be placed in the large wooden containers located in the Church front entrance and the Quesada Street bell tower entrance or brought up during the offertory. Donations may also be brought directly to the Social Concerns Office. Thank you for your generosity. Questions, [pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org), 202.449.3987.

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT MINISTRY

One fourth of all children have been exposed to violence in their lifetimes as witnesses or victims. (Second national survey of children exposed to violence, 2011.) Let us pray.

**A Prayer For Help In Ending Violence**

*Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our archdiocese have prayed in times of war, disaster and illness. We come to you Father and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder and racism.*

*We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which give respect to the life and dignity of all people.*

*Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be the peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence.*

*Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community.*

*We ask you this through Christ our Lord.*

## THIS MONTH

**Poor Box Donations**

Poor Box donations in **October** will benefit Sacred Heart Parish's Dinner Program, which provides an evening meal five days a week to homeless and low-income men and women in the Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan and Mount Pleasant neighborhoods.



## Our Universal Call to Sainthood and Mary Virginia Merrick

Until Pope John Paul II's papacy most saints were priests, bishops, religious or martyrs and most were men of European/Anglo descent. Pope John Paul II believed in Vatican II's universal call to holiness and he believed that by holding up witnesses to Christ, we would have models to emulate of ordinary people who lived heroic, virtuous lives. Living a heroic virtuous life means that you lived your life in an ordinary way but loved God and others in an extraordinary way. Yes miracles are necessary as part of the official recognition of a person as a canonized Saint, however a saint is any baptized Catholic who is united with God in heaven, who lived a life of great charity and virtue, and who is worthy of imitation.

The initial inquiry into the life of Mary Virginia Merrick, who was a Blessed Sacrament parishioner for over 30 years, was begun by the then Archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. After his initial investigation he wrote to Rome to determine whether the Vatican had any objections to officially beginning the Diocesan phase of investigating her Cause for Canonization. The Vatican indicated it had no objection by issuing a document, called a *nihil obstat*, and the Title "Servant of God" was then given to Mary Virginia Merrick. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, our current Archbishop, officially opened the next step on this journey through his decree in April 2011 initiating the official Diocesan phase of investigation into her life. Shortly, when the Diocesan phase is completed it is hopeful that their findings will be submitted to the appropriate office in the Vatican to pursue the Roman phase of the process. If the Vatican gives approval, that she lived a life of heroic virtue, then a decree would be issued declaring her "venerable".

Miss Mary was known for her direct service to children, a service born of and constantly inspired by her love and devotion to the Christ Child. She devoted her life to children because she saw each child as the Christ Child. She took seriously the Gospel call, "whatever you did for one of these least of My brothers, you did for Me." Due to an injury in her teen years she spent the rest of her life in a recumbent position in either bed or a reclining wheelchair. Despite her disability and constant pain, Miss Mary worked tirelessly and dedicated her life to meeting the needs of the poor and she inspired others to do likewise.

What an example she is for us in today's world, she refused to be cast aside by society due to her physical handicap, what a model she offers us on how one can follow Christ despite physical limitations. Her life provides us with an exceptional witness to the faith and to a "culture of life." The fact that she founded the Christ Child Society and formed its outreach while confined to a wheelchair, with only the use of her arms and hands, raises her virtue to a heroic level. For her God's presence was most fully experienced through the Incarnation, the Incarnation of Christ as an infant was central to her spirituality and to the work of her Christ Child Society.



We first and foremost are asking you, parishioners of Blessed Sacrament, her parish for over 30 years, to pray for the cause and to encourage others to do so as well. November 2nd, 2016 is her 150th birthday.

Next Week – "Her Legacy"

### Prayer for the Cause for Canonization Of Mary Virginia Merrick

Lord God, in your special love for children,  
You chose to raise up Mary Virginia Merrick to be the servant  
of the poor children. In laboring to serve the young and those  
without hope because of the crushing weight of poverty,  
she proclaimed the love of Your Son.

She made her Life's work a demonstration that  
"nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

Grant that her example of selfless charity and courageous  
virtue in the face of her own suffering will inspire us to be as  
generous in the service of others.

We humbly ask that your servant Mary Virginia Merrick be  
numbered among the Church's canonized saints for edification  
of your holy people, in accord with Your most holy will.

Through her intercession, please hear and answer my request  
(*name your intention*). Through Jesus Christ our Lord. – Amen

### DID YOU KNOW??

Did you know Comedy Central's national stand up comedian Robert Mac will be appearing at The Ballroom, 5521 Landy Lane, Bethesda on **Thursday, November 3, at 7:30**. The show will be called Smiles and Laughter and proceeds benefit our friends at the Lollipop Kids Foundation. Advance ticket purchase is required. More information can be found at [www.lollipopkidsfoundation.org](http://www.lollipopkidsfoundation.org). Come and have some laughs and support a great non-profit serving children with DisAbilities!

For more information about how Blessed Sacrament is becoming a more inclusive community, contact [evoelzke@blessedsacramentdc.org](mailto:evoelzke@blessedsacramentdc.org).

### SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank [CatholicMatch.com](http://CatholicMatch.com)  
for placing an ad in our weekly bulletin.

### FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### Retreat for Physicians and Healthcare Professionals

The Washington, DC Guild of the Catholic Medical Association will hold a half-day spiritual retreat **on Saturday, November 12, from 8:30am-Noon** at Our Lady of Lourdes, 7500 Pearl Street, Bethesda, in the convent. The theme of the retreat is Burnout Prevention: Reducing Stress and Moving Closer to God. The retreat is free and will include a presentation, discussion, and prayer. For more information contact Mary Andrews, MD at [dc.cma.guild@gmail.com](mailto:dc.cma.guild@gmail.com).

#### Dinner and Dance for Catholic Singles November 19

Single Catholics (21-65+) are invited to join Catholic Singles of Greater Washington (CSGW) for Mass, dinner, and a dance in College Park on **Saturday, November 19**. Paid reservations by November 14 needed for dinner/dance (\$45), not required for dance only (\$15). Please find out more about the event or about the club at [www.CatholicSinglesOfGreaterWashington.org](http://www.CatholicSinglesOfGreaterWashington.org) or call Tricia at 301.460.9195.