

**COME TO THE STABLE:** Is your family coming to the 6:30 PM Mass on Christmas Eve? Why not carry one of the

Nativity statues in the Procession to the Manger that begins the Mass? Interested? Call 301-942-8790. Just a few figures are left.

#### SOR NEWS:

- The Advent shoebox gifts are due TODAY (Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>).
- Classes meet as usual next Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.
- No classes on the following two Sundays, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, and Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**NO TICKETS NEEDED:** Please note that no tickets will be issued this year for the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. This popular Mass is always extremely crowded. The church fills very quickly. Come early if you want a seat.

**THE WORLD'S FIRST LOVE:** To honor the Blessed Mother during this Advent season, the parish Book Group is reading *The World's First Love*, Archbishop Fulton Sheen's retelling of the story of Mary, the Mother of God. Want to talk about this much-loved classic? Join us for our discussion on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Quinn Hall dining room. Want to learn more? Call 301-942-8790.

**You are cordially invited:** The students of Holy Cross School invite you to their Christmas recital. Join the Pre-K through 5th Grade students in a show that will be sure to get you in the Christmas spirit. The recital will be held in the church on December 18, 2008 at 1:30 PM.

**SEEKING SCIENCE LOVERS!** Do you (or someone in your home or neighborhood) enjoy science? Would you like to share that passion with young students at Holy Cross Elementary School? Our school science department is seeking volunteers to assist middle school students in refining their individual and group science projects.

Students have been working on their projects since November and by January will be in the final stages of their inquiries and will be preparing reports. We are seeking individuals to offer guidance and advice to assist students in interpreting their results and posing questions for further investigation.

Round-table sessions with students will be held during the week of January 5<sup>th</sup> during school hours at mutually convenient times.

Volunteers with interest and/or experience in physical, life and mechanical science are particularly needed.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Shari Connor at [s.connor@hcross.org](mailto:s.connor@hcross.org) or (301) 949-1699.



## 100,000 ELECTRONIC LETTERS FOR LIFE

**TODAY IS SIGN-UP SUNDAY!** YOUR Pro-Life Action is Needed to save more than 40 pregnancy resource centers in Maryland that provide life-affirming, free support to pregnant women in need. The Maryland General Assembly will likely consider legislation during the 2009 session that would seriously hinder the ability of these centers to provide assistance to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. After all the Masses this weekend be one of the 100,000 ELECTRONIC LETTERS FOR LIFE reaching our lawmakers about this and other life-related issues. Please! It takes only about a minute to complete a simple form. THANK YOU!

#### HOLY CROSS SCHOOL GALA CARIBE 2009 INFORMATION:

**Gala Location:** Marriott Pooks Hill, March 14, 2009.

**Contact:** Althea Grey-McKenzie 240-515-6757 or [HolyCrossGala@hcross.org](mailto:HolyCrossGala@hcross.org). Website: [www.hcross.org/gala](http://www.hcross.org/gala).

**Committee meeting:** Tuesday, Dec 16, 2008; 7 PM – 8 PM at Holy Cross School in Lewis Hall.

#### Highlights of the Gala

*Caribbean Theme and Surprise Entertainment*

*"Holy Cross Parishioner of the Year" award which will be presented at the Gala*

*Alumni Recognition and Presentation*

*Pre-Event Reception*

*Master of Ceremonies: Mrs. Terrienne Small, Mrs. Maryland International 2007*

**We hope you will remember to buy Merchandise**



**Certificates** which Holy Cross Parish sells to its parishioners and school parents. Just in case you don't remember, we sell gift certificates for our own parishioner, Scot Shuck's Grosvenor Market, and for Shoppers Food Warehouse wherein every \$1 in certificates we sell, the parish earns 5 cents. We

also sell gift cards for **Safeway** where the parish earns 3 cents for every dollar sold, and for **Giant Food** 4 cents for every dollar sold. For your Christmas, we are selling Macy's certificates, where the parish earns 10 cents for every dollar we sell. Buying Certificates is a win-win for you and the parish. Certificates may be purchased in Lewis Hall after each of the weekend Masses except the 12:00 Noon Sunday Mass. You can pay for your purchase using cash, your personal check, or your Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit cards. School parents can participate through the school program wherein orders are filled every Thursday.

**"PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS:** For your convenience we have scheduled a "Protecting God's Children" workshop for adults at Holy Cross Elementary School to accommodate our church and school volunteers. This course is available to all volunteers in the Archdiocese, as long as there is space available. Holy Cross volunteers are encouraged to register on the VIRTUS website, [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), as soon as possible to ensure you have a reservation.

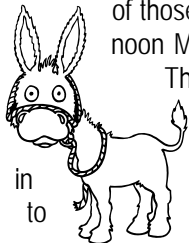
Date: February 19, 2009  
 Time: 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM  
 Place: Lewis Hall



**MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS:** New members are always welcome to join our parish Monday night Bible Study. We meet from 6:45 to 8:15 PM in the dining room of Quinn Hall. The group has been

reading through the Gospel of St. Matthew together and will finish in the new year. Next, we will read through one of St. Paul's letters. Please note that we will be taking a break for Christmas, so there is NO BIBLE STUDY on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Call 301-942-8790 to learn more -- or simply come join us!

**DO YOU DRIVE TO MASS?** We need a few volunteers to add to our list of those who are able to drive parishioners to the noon Mass or other Masses or to visit the doctor. This is an occasional need, and a real gift to our parish. If you can offer this assistance from time to time, or if you are in need, please call Pat Chingari 301-468-9486 to add your name and phone number to the list.



**Are You Searching for Something Special to Do during Advent?** Why not make time in your schedule for a visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? He is Emmanuel, "*God with us*"! The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - check the weekly schedule in this bulletin for the exact times.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Perhaps it will be helpful to know now that during the weeks of Christmas and New Year there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. You may still make a visit if you wish but the regular Adoration program will end the evening of December 18 and recommence on Tuesday, January 6 at 6 PM.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:** Introductory class on the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning will be offered on **Tuesday, December 23** at 8 PM at the Natural Family Planning Center, 8514 Bradmoor Drive, Bethesda, MD. Reservations are required. Phone 301-897-9323. Instruction is free, but a one-time donation of \$25.00 for materials and follow-up is requested if possible.

**Come Home for Christmas: Confessions and religious item sale:** The Church of the Little Flower, 5607 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, is holding a Come Home for Christmas event on Saturday, December 13. Confessions will be heard in various languages from 9:00 AM-Noon and 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. A Penance Service will be held at Noon. Religious books and other items are available for sale. For more information, call 301-320-4538.

**Riding Metro?** Look for the "Come Home for Christmas" ads during the month of December. The ads, featuring an image of the Nativity, are sponsored each year by several of our downtown parishes.

**Men's Vocation Retreat:** Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat (February 6-8, 2009) for men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood. The retreat will be held at Theological College, Friday evening, February 6 through Sunday, February 8 at noon. The retreat will allow men time away from the daily grind and provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. If you feel Jesus may be calling you, why not give Him a weekend? It will cost you nothing more than your time. To register or for more information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke, Director of Priest Vocations, at 301-853-4580 or [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org).

**Annual Catholic Lobby Night to be held Feb. 16:** The Maryland Catholic Conference's annual Lobby Night, which brings together hundreds of Catholics to meet with their state lawmakers, will be held on President's Day, Monday, February 16 in Annapolis. Lobby Night 2009 will allow you to speak with your legislators on public policy issues concerning Catholic schools, poverty, support for pregnant women in crisis, the death penalty, and marriage. For more information, or to register, please visit [www.mdccathcon.org](http://www.mdccathcon.org) or call 410-269-1155 or 301-261-1979.

## Lessons & Carols

**Christmas Lessons and Carols:** All are invited to St. Bernadette Catholic Church on **FRIDAY, December 19, 2008** at 7:30 PM to participate in Lessons & Carols sung by the Choir of Communion and Liberation together with the I Cantori children's choir. Light refreshments will follow. St. Bernadette's is located at 70 University Blvd. E in Silver Spring, MD. Communion and Liberation is an ecclesial movement of the Catholic Church. For further details, call 301-588-4259.

**Extension of Donor Advantages Offered by 2006 IRA Laws:**

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, if you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift to Holy Cross Church using funds directly transferred from your IRA. Normally all withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxable as ordinary income. However, you can avoid the tax by directing your IRA to send the money to a charity instead. The amount transferred counts towards the minimum required distribution for a donor's IRA account and generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction. This opportunity has been extended to include 2008. IRA trustees should be set up to handle this. Just be sure that the check is written directly to Holy Cross Church. If it's written to you, it's taxable.

| COLLECTIONS:   |              |
|--|--------------|
| Offertory 1st Sunday of December 2008.....           | \$ 12,019.49 |
| Offertory 1st Sunday of December 2007.....           | \$ 11,867.96 |
| FIRST SUNDAY .....                                   | \$ 5,356.20  |
| POOR BOX Social Concerns .....                       | \$ 318.62    |
| 12/14 Rockville Pregnancy center;                    |              |
| 12/21 Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC) |              |

| MONTHLY COLLECTIONS*:                                |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| November 2008 .....                                  | \$ 69,782.62 (5 Sundays) |
| November 2007 .....                                  | \$ 58,929.49 (4 Sundays) |
| * Includes First Sunday Collections and Faith Direct |                          |

**Schedule for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to serve  
3rd Weekend 12/20/08 & 12/21/08**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 5:00 PM  | Carlos Hernandez; Nancy Gallagher                    |
| 7:30 AM  | Stephan Beauchesne; Charlotte King; Martha Matocha   |
| 9:00 AM  | Annemarie Rogers; Paul Whelan; Peter Ramjug          |
| 10:30 AM | Pat & Millie Durbin; alternate: Denise & John Szczur |
| 12 Noon  | Carlos Hernandez; Virginia Perdone                   |

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:** Due to the upcoming Holy days, Bulletin deadlines will be very early. If you think you will have something for the last bulletin of 2008 or the first bulletin of 2009, would you please let me know in advance so I can plan? You can reach me at 301-942-1020 x10. Please submit your items via email to Mary Stuart at [stuart@hcrosschurch.org](mailto:stuart@hcrosschurch.org), or if you can't submit it electronically, please submit it a day early. THANK YOU!

**December 28 Bulletin:** Please send your December 28 bulletin items electronically by noon on Thursday, December 18.

**January 4 Bulletin:** Please send your January 4 bulletin items electronically by Tuesday, December 23.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

|                       |                                      |                                |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>14 SUNDAY</b>      |                                      | <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>  |  |
| 10:15 -- 11:30 AM:    | SOR Classes (school)                 |                                |  |
| 2:30 -- 3:30 PM:      | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Church) |                                |  |
| <b>15 MONDAY</b>      |                                      |                                |  |
| 6:45 PM -- 8:15 PM    | Matthew Bible Study (Quinn Hall)     |                                |  |
| <b>16 TUESDAY</b>     |                                      |                                |  |
| 3:10 PM -- 3:45 PM:   | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Church) |                                |  |
| 6:00 PM -- 12:00 AM:  | Eucharistic Adoration (Quinn Hall)   |                                |  |
| <b>17 WEDNESDAY</b>   |                                      |                                |  |
| 12:00 AM -- 11:00 PM: | Eucharistic Adoration (Quinn Hall)   |                                |  |
| 7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM:   | RCIA                                 |                                |  |
| <b>18 THURSDAY</b>    |                                      |                                |  |
| 9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM:  | Eucharistic Adoration (Quinn Hall)   |                                |  |
| <b>19 FRIDAY</b>      |                                      |                                |  |
| <b>20 SATURDAY</b>    |                                      |                                |  |
| 9:00 AM:              | Confessions                          |                                |  |
| <b>21 SUNDAY</b>      |                                      | <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> |  |

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 15, 2008**

6:45 AM Geneveive Ann 8:30 AM Mary Katherine Dean Deikel

**Tuesday, December 16, 2008**

6:45 AM Veronica Souza 8:30 AM Jean Reveli & Young Choi (living)

**Wednesday, December 17, 2008**

6:45 AM Ernie Offenbacher 8:30 AM Family members of Chul E. Choi & Chris Delgado (L)

**Thursday, December 18, 2008**

6:45 AM Peggy O'Brien Hunt 8:30 AM Betty Cupples & Cappy & Young Choi (living)

**Friday, December 19, 2008**

6:45 AM Peggy O'Brien Hunt 8:30 AM Dr. Russell Corio

**Saturday, December 20, 2008**

8:30 AM Kenneth Schrader  
5:00 PM Nick DeRita Msgr. Hill

**Sunday, December 21, 2008**

7:30 AM People of Holy Cross Fr. Yaga  
9:00 AM Marie Claire Girouard Fr. Yaga  
10:30 AM Kenneth Schrader Msgr. Hill  
12:00 PM Angelo Goffredo Fr. Perkins

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Daniela Anderson; Bob Beatty; Felipe Caraan; Thomas Choi; Young Choi; Sister Collette Marie, csc; John DeConcini; Anne & Mark Eller; José Ferrario; Hans & Rupert Finke; Angelina Goffreda; Michael Gouzoulis; Leonard W. Harsel; Larry Heitkemper; Saunder Jacobson; Mary Miller; Philip Moyer; Richard Mlynarczyk; Pat Obrimski; Anthony Paige; Daniel Pereira; Adrienne Quenneville; Bonnie Ridenhower; Martha Scully; Mirella Setien; Rebecca Shephard; Jacqueline Surmeier; Nicoletta Stephanz; Jim Taylor; Elizabeth Tolton; Dorothy Turner; Jim Weikert; Jane Whalen; Roland Young

To see the bulletin ONLINE, go to our website at [www.hcrosschurch.org](http://www.hcrosschurch.org)