

Prepare the Way

CAMPAIGN UPDATE as of 12/8/09

"Prepare the Way" Gifts	\$ 706,206
Average Gift from Parish-wide Appeal	\$ 2,363
% of Regular Offertory Contributors	42%
% of Goal	94%

Needed to Achieve our Goal	\$ 43,794
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GOAL	\$750,000
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

FAITH DIRECT-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: For those interested in participating in our capital campaign through the use of **automatic credit card or electronic payments**, please enroll with Faith Direct, our secure online program. For an enrollment form, contact Mary Anne Gadbois at the Rectory by email at gadbois@hcrosschurch.org or by phone at 301-942-1020, extension 18.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

For gifts of securities, please contact Cecilia Zurita at Merrill Lynch – telephone 703-734-8089. The account number for Holy Cross Church is #795-04G84.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Two shepherds and several sheep need families to carry them in the Procession to the Manger that begins the 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass. To sign up your

family, call 301-942-8790. Why not start a new Christmas Eve tradition? We need you!

CATHOLIC BOOK GROUP: The group is reading *In This House of Brede* by British author and Catholic convert, Rumer Godden, for both January and February. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the school library. On January 5th, we will discuss chapters 1 – 8 of *Brede*; we'll finish our discussion of the whole novel on February 2nd. All adults are welcome. For more information, call 301-942-8790.

PARISH RETREAT IN MARCH: Our Second Annual Holy Cross Parish Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Georgetown Prep. Father John Davis, O.P., will lead the retreat. Save the date!

Details to come.

Giving Tree: Return the gift wrapped and tagged securely by December 13th! On December 13th, after the noon Mass, join the Social Concerns Committee sort the gifts for delivery.

THANK YOU! The Respect Life Committee of Holy Cross thanks you for purchasing our Christmas Cards and helping us to raise \$670.00 and also for purchasing Advent candles that raised \$60.00 in support of Right to Life of Montgomery County.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS will be heard after every weekend Mass on the last two weekends of Advent, December 13 and 20.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Did you know that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for 42 hours of Adoration each week in the Quinn Hall chapel? Adoration hours are 9 AM - 11 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Additional participants are especially needed on Tuesdays at 10 and 11 AM and at 12, 3 and 4 PM. On Wednesdays there is a need for participants at 11 AM and 1, 2 and 3 PM. On Thursdays the need is at 9 and 10 AM. Please consider spending one hour of your week with Jesus! Call Dave and Barb Ruppert to register: 301 933-7646.

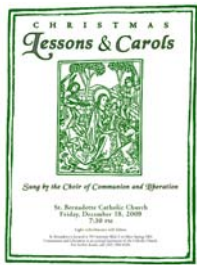
Because so many people travel over the Christmas holidays there will be no Adoration the weeks of Christmas or New Year.



HOLY CROSS CYO BASKETBALL: Players needed players for a second (additional) 5th-6th grade boys basketball team. 4th graders that are not currently on a team may sign up if interested. Please contact Paul Whelan at pauljwhelan@comcast.net or coach Ramon Riojas at riogasr@gmail.com

Mature lady with moral values is looking for a place to live in exchange for companionship or cleaning. Please call Luz 301-789-3888.

SECOND COLLECTION: Retirement Fund for Religious. Religious face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection. www.retiredreligious.org



CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS: Sung by the choir of Communion and Liberation, a Catholic lay movement, will take place at St. Bernadette's, 70 University Blvd. E, Silver Spring, on Friday, December 18, 2009 at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments will follow. For further details, call 301-588-4259.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: We are looking for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for the Sunday 7:30 and 12 Noon Mass. If you would consider this, please contact Don or Yolaine Watkins at (301) 949-2550 or donwatkins5@gmail.com or yolainemarie@gmail.com.

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS? We now have MACY'S certificates in \$25 denominations. Holy Cross earns 10% on Macy's certificates. We buy them at a discount and sell them to you at face value-so it costs you nothing extra. There is no easier way to support Holy Cross than by buying merchandise certificates. We also sell Grosvenor Market, Safeway, Giant and Shoppers Food certificates in various denominations for all your food purchases, Christmas baking and party needs -- even prescriptions and stamps! PLEASE SUPPORT HOLY CROSS THROUGH OUR PROGRAM!



DID YOU ATTEND SCL GRADE SCHOOL? St. Catherine Labouré School in Wheaton is having a "Come Back Home!" Reunion on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 7:00 PM to 1:00 AM in the Claridge Room. The reunion will feature music, light refreshments, and a cash bar. The cost is \$20 per person if you RSVP by December 18, 2009, or \$25 at the door. You may want to purchase your tickets in advance; an early sell-out is anticipated because of space limitations. Go to www.stcatherine.com for the reservation form. Return the form to SCL school, c/o Amy Cossette.

Young Adult Works of Mercy: Each month, young adults from the Archdiocese of Washington come together to serve those in need. Join us volunteers as we assemble 2,000 reentry kits for those newly released from prison for the Welcome Home Reentry Program on Saturday, December 5 at Centro Maria, 650 Jackson Street, NE, Washington, DC. These kits will help with immediate personal care needs so that no one begins his new life empty-handed. For more information and to RSVP, please email yam@adw.org.



In the spirit of Advent waiting, practice waiting on your spouse today. Calmly wait for your spouse to arrive (instead of stewing if he or she is late.) Or "wait on" your spouse in the sense of doing a favor for him or her.. www.foryourmarriage.org

Marriage Matters® but do you know why? Find out what the Catholic Church teaches about marriage and why it's important, including articles addressing marriage, scriptural passages and reflections on marriage and family life, marriage preparation information, resources for enriching your marriage and more. The Archdiocese of Washington's educational initiative called Marriage Matters® is online at www.MarriageMattersDC.org.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Marriage – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) – helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It offers the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty. For more (confidential) information or to register for a program contact 301-468-6764 or 410-647-0350, TomnCarol@comcast.net or visit at www.HelpOurMarriage.com. The next retreat will be January 15-17, 2010.

Bishop McNamara High School Fine Arts Scholarships: Scholarships offered for applying 8th graders in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. BMHS Fine Arts Scholarship Requirements and Online Registration is available at www.bmhs.org. Auditions/Portfolio Submissions occur from early January through February! Students must submit a BMHS Admissions Application by December 15, 2009. Visit www.bmhs.org or call 301-735-8401 with any questions

MEN'S VOCATION RETREAT: Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat for men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood. The retreat will be held at Theological College, from the evening of Friday, February 5, through Sunday, February 7 at noon. The retreat will allow men time away from the daily grind and 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.

FLU-SEASON PRECAUTIONS: During the flu season, a verbal or other gesture of peace (such as bowing) may be used instead of the traditional hand shake or other close forms of greeting. Remember, if you are unable to attend Mass due to illness, the Mass for Shut-ins is on WDCW- 50 (Verizon Ch 3; Comcast Ch 23; RCN Ch 15) at 10:30 AM on Sundays.

Penance Service & Confessions at St. Matthew's: All are welcome to experience the love of Christ through the Sacrament of Penance at the Advent Communal Penance Service, *Come Home for Christmas*, Wednesday, December 16, 12:10 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW (near the Farragut North or Dupont Circle Metro Red Line stops). Twenty priests, including confessors in American Sign, Spanish and other languages, will be available for individual confessions after the brief Penance service. Can't make it during the day? Confessions also will be available in the Cathedral in English and Spanish that same evening, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM.

Volunteer for Christmas Dinner for the Needy: Volunteers are needed for the 35th Annual Christmas Dinner for the Needy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave, NE, Washington DC, 20017. Volunteers will assist in preparing and serving meals in the Shrine cafeteria as well as delivering dinners to homes in the District and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties on Christmas Day. Volunteers may contact the Shrine at 202-526-8300.

The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor: "All across our country Catholics are taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor and joining the Catholic Climate Covenant. The St. Francis Pledge is a promise and a commitment by Catholic individuals, families, parishes, organizations, and institutions to live our faith by protecting God's Creation and advocating on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. To join the Covenant, you commit to act on each of the five elements of the St. Francis Pledge and register your Pledge at www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org."

-The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

I/We Pledge to:

- o **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- o **LEARN** about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- o **ASSESS** how we--as individuals and in our families, parishes, and other affiliations - -contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
- o **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- o **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

Please take this home with you and take the St. Francis Pledge. Go to www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org to register your St. Francis Pledge.

MONTHLY COLLECTIONS*:	
NOVEMBER 2009	\$ 61,633.35 (5 Sundays)
NOVEMBER 2008	\$ 69,782.62 (5 Sundays)
* Includes First Sunday Collections & Faith Direct	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE	
Third Sunday of Advent	
13 SUNDAY	10:15 AM -- 11:30 AM: SOR Classes (school)
14 MONDAY	7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM: ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS St. John Bible Study (Quinn Hall)
15 TUESDAY	9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration (Quinn Hall)
16 WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration (Quinn Hall) 7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM: RCIA
17 THURSDAY	9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration (Quinn Hall)
18 FRIDAY	
19 SATURDAY	9:00 AM: Confessions
20 SUNDAY	Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK			
Monday, December 14, 2009			
6:45 AM	Geneveive Ann Deikel	8:30 AM	Patrick Harris
Tuesday, December 15, 2009			
6:45 AM	Mary Katherine Dean	8:30 AM	Riccardo Gondolfo
Wednesday, December 16, 2009			
6:45 AM	Frances Duffy	8:30 AM	Veronica Souza (Living)
Thursday, December 17, 2009			
6:45 AM	Deacon Theodore Pillman)	8:30 AM	Family members of Chris Delgado & Chul E Choi (L)
Friday, December 18, 2009			
6:45 AM	Greg & Yvonne Wollard	8:30 AM	Pat Obrimski
Saturday, December 19, 2009			
8:30 AM	Marianne Joly (Living)		
5:00 PM	Nick DeRita		Msgr. Hill
Sunday, December 20, 2009			
7:30 AM	Du Fief Family		Fr. Perkins
9:00 AM	Betty Cupples & Cappy & Jeanmarie & Sr. Veronia & Young Choi (L)		Fr. Yaga
10:30 AM	Victor J. Articola		Msgr. Hill
12:00 PM	People of Holy Cross		Fr. Yaga

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Virginia Burch; M. Carrio; Thomas & Young Choi; Michael Downey; J. Anthony English; Michael Gouzoulis; Arline Hart; Msgr. Hill, Marianne Joly; Renee Lucas; Anthony Paige; Bill Quinlan; Bonnie Riddenhower; Maxine Saur; Judith Winslow

COLLECTIONS:	
Offertory 1st Sunday of December 2009	\$ 10,332.25
Offertory 1st Sunday of December 2008	\$ 12,019.49
FIRST SUNDAY	\$ 4,682.66
POOR BOX Social Concerns	\$ 537.01
12/13 Birthright; 12/20 Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County	

Schedule for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to serve 3rd Weekend 12/19/09 & 12/20/09

5:00 PM	Nancy Gallagher and/or Yolanda Memmo
7:30 AM	Charlotte King; Burt Keys
9:00 AM	Paul Whelan and/or Ellen/Rob Kennedy
10:30 AM	John Szczur and/or Denise Szczur
12:00 PM	Maureen Tobin and/or Jennifer Ivory