



*Our Lady  
of Lourdes*  
CATHOLIC PARISH

December 25, 2011

Nativity of the Lord

Fr. Michael Radermacher & Staff  
wish you a Merry Christmas!

360-695-1366 [www.ollparish.org](http://www.ollparish.org)  
Vancouver, Washington

## The divine tent was pitched in the dirt where animals slept.

In a verse from the reading of John's Gospel at Christmas Mass during the day: "And the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us" (John 1:14). Pitched his tent among us. Not an RV. Not a camper. Not a hotel room. Simply a tent. Bare bones. Vulnerable.

This is how God chose to come—and come among us. Not over us. Not above us. Among us. It's as completely simple and completely mysterious as that.

In the weeks leading up to this wonderful day, we've certainly been surrounded by and probably participated in much feasting and purchasing and planning—some of it to excess, for sure. Many presents were bought, festive parties planned, special food

prepared. It's good and right to celebrate with friends and family and to share our blessings generously with those in need.

But the deepest truth of what we celebrate today is that God came among us in simplicity. There was little fuss, just a poor couple in a poor place. The divine tent was pitched in the dirt where animals slept.

God came as a vulnerable, helpless child—a mystery as old as the ages, but ever new each Christmas. Celebrate it well today.

## Merry Christmas!

The Bible doesn't say Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are the only Scriptures to give much detail about Christ's birth and infancy. They name the key political figures of the day, but not much else (Luke 1:5 and 2:1–2). Neither evangelist included specific information about the dates.

Dates were apparently not important to the earliest Christians. Besides, the first few generations of Christ's followers were far more interested in celebrating Christ's resurrection each Sunday, and eventually on Easter, than they were in celebrating his birth.

Christians started to associate December 25<sup>th</sup> with Christ's nativity centuries after the fact: the year 336 according to the earliest evidence. The most popular theory is that the Church chose to replace a popular pagan Roman sun festival celebrating the winter solstice with a Christian feast that could overtake the pagan festival and use its sun imagery to speak of Christ as the unconquered "Sun of Righteousness."

**Dec. 26-30<sup>th</sup>**  
Parish Office Closed

**December 27-29<sup>th</sup>**  
Radical Sabbatical

**Wednesday Dec. 28**  
Homecoming Table  
Dinner for College  
Students

**Saturday Dec. 31**  
Cider & Cinema  
6:00pm Pastoral  
Center

**Wednesday Jan. 4**  
Parish Leadership  
6:30pm in Pastoral  
Center

**Thursday Jan. 5**  
60+ Group  
1:30pm in Pastoral  
Center

**Friday Jan. 6**  
Adoration  
9:15am-10:00pm  
in Church

**Saturday Jan. 7**  
Family Game Night  
6:00pm in Pastoral  
Center

**Saturday Jan. 14**  
That Man is You!  
Resumes  
6:45am in Gym

**Jan. 29-Feb. 4**  
Catholic Schools  
Week

**Saturday Feb. 4**  
School Auction at  
the Vancouver Hilton



[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)

## FAITH OPPORTUNITIES

### Church Posture

With the new General Instruction, we are asked to make a sign of reverence, to be determined by the bishops of each country or region, before receiving Communion standing. The bishops of this country have determined that the sign which we will give before Communion is to be a bow, a gesture through which we express our reverence and give honor to Christ who comes to us as our spiritual food.

In addition to serving as a vehicle for the prayer of beings composed of body and spirit, the postures and gestures in which we engage at Mass have another very important function. The Church sees in these common postures and gestures both a symbol of the unity of those who have come together to worship and a means of fostering that unity. We are not free to change these postures to suit our own individual piety, for the Church makes it clear that our unity of posture and gesture is an expression of our participation in the one Body formed by the baptized with Christ, our head. When we stand, kneel, sit, bow and sign ourselves in common action, we given unambiguous witness that we are indeed the Body of Christ, united in heart, mind and spirit.

### Awakening Faith

Have you been away from the Church? Do you want to reconnect with your faith or know someone who does? Join us on Tuesday evenings starting February 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Pastoral Center for Awakening Faith and continuing until right before Easter. If you need more information, fill out the pew card and put it in the collection basket or contact Lynn Schedler at ext. 304 or at [adult.ed@ollparish.org](mailto:adult.ed@ollparish.org).

### You Can Help Your Marriage

Retrouvaille helps couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 20-22, 2012 call 206-706-2608, or go to [helpourmarriage.com](http://helpourmarriage.com).

### Hope & Healing After Abortion

If you are hurting from the effects of abortion, or know someone who is, encourage them to seek healing at the next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™ March 9-11, 2012 Call Valerie Jacobs: 1-800-822-HOPE.

### Engaged Encounter

Learn various aspects of the marriage sacrament as well as practical tools for building a strong marriage on an Engaged Encounter Weekend. For more information, go to [www.oregonengagedencounter.org](http://www.oregonengagedencounter.org).

### Charitable Giving

Giving a charitable gift before the end of the year may help reduce the amount of taxes you will owe next April. In addition to benefitting from tax advantages, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you're practicing good stewardship by sharing your blessings. The Archdiocesan Planned Giving Office offers information to you and your advisors as you consider making year-end gifts. Call 206-748-7984 or toll free at 800-752-5902 or via email at [plannedgiving@seattlearch.org](mailto:plannedgiving@seattlearch.org).

### Armed Forces Prayer Support

If you have a loved one serving in the Armed Forces, you are invited to put a photo of them with their name and branch of service on the Prayer Board in the vestibule of the church.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Benefit Auction

Donate an item for the School Auction on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at the Vancouver Hilton. Tickets are \$75 per person and include champagne, hors d'oeuvres, silent & live bidding, dinner, dessert, and dancing afterwards. Auction invitations will be mailed January 1<sup>st</sup>. Go online at [www.lourdesvan.org](http://www.lourdesvan.org) to see the auction webpage and purchase tickets.

### Parish Pilgrimage

Make a deposit to secure your place on the 2012 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 3-15<sup>th</sup> in Israel. A few of the places we will visit will be Galilee, the Sea of Galilee, Judea, The Dead Sea, Masada, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Mt. Zion. We will have Mass daily celebrated by Fr. Michael. The entire itinerary is posted on the bulletin board by the north door. Cost is approximately \$3700 per person and includes lodging, breakfast & dinner, roundtrip airfare, bus transportation and entrance into sights. To hold a spot we need a \$500 deposit per person made out to "Polyways Travel." Contact Sue McDonald at ext.306 or [s.mcdonald@ollparish.org](mailto:s.mcdonald@ollparish.org).

### Seton Catholic Admissions

Application Deadline: January 13, 2012; Financial Aid Applications Deadline: January 13, 2012; Recommendation Forms: February 3, 2012. Contact Andy Nichols at 360-258-1932 for additional questions or visit [www.setonhigh.org/admissions](http://www.setonhigh.org/admissions).

### Tax Statements

Year-end tax statements will be emailed during the month of January. If you need a hard copy, or do not have e-mail, please call the Parish Office at 360-695-1366.

### Parish Stewardship

A total of 261 registered families have made a pledge to our stewardship campaign so far. You may make your pledge of prayer or financial support by filling out one of the cards in the pews.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Middle School Rally

Get it on your calendars for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>!

### Youth Ministry Website

<http://www.ollparish.org/youth>.

## STEWARDSHIP

### A WAY OF LIFE TALENT



### TIME



### TREASURE



IN OUR  
PARISH HOUSE  
THIS WEEK...



We have many parishioners who have shared their charism of hospitality by providing food for various parish occasions such as funerals, soup suppers and many other parish and school events. These parishioners have also volunteered their time to help set up and to serve. There are more than 50 people who have submitted their names to be counted upon to provide food and service.

As a welcome to the parish, new members are invited to First Supper where they can meet with Father Michael in a relaxed setting and get to learn more about our parish. Again, volunteers prepare the food and people enjoy setting up and serving for this event. This is but another example of stewardship from our very generous parishioners.

## OFFER YOUR PRAYERS



Donna Brooks, Genevieve Ahles, Duane McCune, Albert Mancuso, Romen Rey, Bob Moisant, Jr., Paige Pfeifer, Emmy White, Megan Wood, Kandy Thomas, Donald & Betty Lillard, Terry Thomas, Cecelia DeGrave, Patrick Rey, Frank Griffin, Jason Polen, Tim White, Donna Mattes, Ramona Leon, Steve Deacon, Doug Bonneprise, Sister Mary Leona, Rita Ulrich, Hart Eisenbeis, Mary Vavrosky, Bernard Degrave, Lois Garwood, Angelo Della, Mike Halbeisen, Virginia Barber, Toshiko Westphalen, Bill Gruber, Payton Desormeaux, and all those in need of our prayers. Names submitted for prayer are published for one month. Call Mary Shamrell at ext.102.

### Mass Intentions:

December 26 Morning Prayer with Communion, 8:45 am  
December 27 Morning Prayer with Adoration, 8:45 am  
December 27 Mass for Louisa Schlotfeldt+, 7:00 pm  
December 28 Mass for Louisa Schlotfeldt+, 8:45 am  
December 29 Mass for Kenneth Marks+, 8:45 am  
December 30 Mass for Louisa Schlotfeldt+, 8:45 am  
December 31 Mass for Louisa Schlotfeldt+, 5:00 pm  
January 1 Mass for Ken Marks+, 8:00 am  
January 1 Mass for Marie Ferderer (birthday), 9:30 am  
January 1 Mass for Our Lady of Lourdes Community, 11:00 am

### Parish Year-End Giving

As you consider year-end gifts, please keep Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in mind. In order for donations to be credited to the 2011 tax year, they must be received in the Parish Office or post-marked no later than December 31, 2011. Thank you for your support of our parish!



## OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

**Masses:** Saturday Vigil 5:00pm  
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am  
Monday Morning Prayer with Communion 8:45am  
Tuesday Adoration 7:30am with Morning Prayer 8:45am  
Tuesday Evening Mass 7:00pm  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Mass 8:45am

**Confessions:** Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm or by appointment.

**Sacrament of the Sick:**  
Available after any Mass or call Parish Office.

**Eucharistic Adoration:**  
Every Tuesday: 7:30am - 9:00am  
First Friday: 9:15am - 10:00pm

**Pastoral Care and Funerals:** Contact Sue McDonald at ext. 306.  
**Baptisms and Marriages:** Contact Valerie Scott at ext. 301.  
**Parish School:** Principal Dr. Diane Cronin  
360-696-2301

4723 NW Franklin St., Vancouver, WA 98663  
Phone 360-695-1366 [www.ollparish.org](http://www.ollparish.org)