



"When you heard the...word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit who had been promised."
(E phesians 1:13)

The Loreto Letter

December 25, 2011

The Nativity of the Lord

Volume XV, Number 5

"Take firm hold on the everlasting life to which you were called."

**"He emptied himself and took the form of a slave"
(Phil. 2:7).**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This past week I had four privileged experiences, experiences all-in-all that only a priest is privileged to have. Tuesday I heard confessions at the Arapahoe County Detention Center; one of the prisoners asked me why he doesn't feel Christ in his heart and in his life. That night I celebrated a healing Mass here at OLOL, praying especially for those living with mental and addictive behavior illnesses and for their families and caregivers. Wednesday I had lunch with a friend who lives with mental illness and whom I have accompanied this past year into the darkness of his manic bipolar condition. Then I went to the hospital to pray with parents whose newborn daughter, their first child, perfectly healthy through the pregnancy, suffered a rare cardiac arrest and almost complete loss of blood immediately following her birth.

Such conditions of life leave those living through them feeling totally empty. If we are honest, so too do many of the conditions of our own lives and the circumstances in which we live. The prisoner's question is one we all ask: "Why don't I feel Christ in my heart and in my life?" To answer it we must actually not seek more but less, not seek to be filled, even with a sense of God's presence, but to be emptied. The answer is found in Christ who, as St. Simeon proclaimed of him, is a "sign of contradiction" (Lk. 2:34) and who, as St. Paul teaches, "emptied himself and took the form of a slave." Holy emptiness can be found when we come to understand that we are nothing without Christ, we can do nothing with Christ, that Christ is all in all.

Christ was born into emptiness: a virginal womb, of a mother tainted with the scandal of infidelity to her betrothed, poverty, homelessness, hatred, suspicion and fear, in a homeland occupied by a foreign power—whatever the most desperate situations of poverty, sickness, and emptiness we ourselves know today, into them Christ was born yesterday. From them today he who came that we "might have life and have it to the full" (Jn. 10:10) can free us. Do you wish to feel Christ in your heart and your life? Enter into his emptiness so as to be filled with the very fullness of God.

I wish you all a very warm welcome to Our Lady of Loreto Parish. I welcome the members of our parish family and those visiting us these holy days. I welcome you who have come to worship Christ with us or who have come simply to see. I welcome you who have left home, who are searching for a home, who want to come home. May Christ, who emptied himself to fill you with life, find a home in your heart. May Christ, who did not deem equality with God something to which to cling, cleave to your heart as he did to Mary's. As Mary gave birth to the Word of God, may you bear Christ to all you meet. Indeed, Christ is born. He is born in a manger. Alleluia.

Father Ed

P.S. Don't forget to mark your calendars for January 8th: Mass with Bishop Conley at 11:00 a.m. followed by the dedication of our new Saint Joseph Ministry Center at 12:30.

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GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR LADY OF LORETO CATHOLIC PARISH IS A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY THAT SEEKS TO LIVE THE WORD OF GOD, INSTILL THE LEGACY OF FAITH, AND PROCLAIM THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH SERVICE TO ALL.

This Week's Liturgies

Celebrations of the Eucharist		This Week's Readings	
Sunday Anticipated	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sun	1st. Is 52:7-10
Sunday	7, 9, 11 am and 5:00 pm		2nd. Heb 1:1-6
Monday—Saturday	7:30 am		Gospel Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday—Friday	5:30 pm		Christmas
Mass Intentions for the week of December 25 th		Mon	1st. Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
			2nd. Mt 10:17-22
			St. Stephen, Martyr
Sat. 4:00 pm	Emerenciana Santiago†	Tue.	1st. 1 Jn 1:1-4
Sat. 7:00 pm	Mary Harmon†		2nd. Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sun. 12:00 am	Cel & Butch Pierskalla†		St. John, Apostle
Sun. 7:00 am	Doug Brannan†	Wed.	1st. 1 Jn 1:5—2:2
Sun. 9:00 am	OLOL Parishioners		2nd. Mt 2:13-18
Sun. 11:00 am	Chauncy Yingst†		The Holy Innocents
Mon. 7:30 am	Joseph & Mary	Thu.	1st. 1 Jn 2:3-11
Tue. 7:30 am	McGranw†		2nd. Lk 2:22-35
Wed. 7:30 am	Rose & Edward Burke†	Fri.	1st. Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Wed. 5:30 pm	Anders "Jack" Bergmann		2nd. Lk 2:22-40
Thu. 7:30 am	Alice & Frank Frerman		Feast of the Holy Family
Thu. 5:30 pm	The Holy Infant	Sat.	1st. 1 Jn 2:18-21
Fri. 7:30 am	Larry Keyser†		2nd. Jn 1:1-18
Fri. 5:30 pm	Pete & Joyce Falco	Sun.	1st. Nm 6:22-27
Sat. 7:30 am	Bob Beckett†		2nd. Gal 4:4-7
Sat. 5:00 pm	John & Beth Parks		Gospel Lk 2:16-21
Sun. 7:00 am	Kailyn Tucker		Mary, Mother of God
Sun. 9:00 am	Carol Rahm†		
Sun. 11:00 am	OLOL Parishioners		
Sun. 5:00 pm	Helen Dilger†		

Responsorial Psalm

The numbers of the Mass Ordinary refer to the Breaking Bread Missal and Hymnal. Gloria Simplex; Sanctus #921; When We Eat This Bread #923; Amen #925; Agnus Dei #926.

Communion Antiphon

B-16 We Receive from Your Fullness Christmas, Years ABC Song for the Table



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This Week's Meetings

Mon.		Church Office Closed	
Tues.	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	SNO
Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	SNO
Fri.	10:30am	Bulletin Folding	CW

Pastoral Services

Baptism of Infants—Please pick up a Baptism Prep Packet in the R.E. area in the Narthex at least three weeks prior to the birth of your baby or the date you would like to have your child baptized.

Christian Initiation of Adults—Non-Catholic adults who are called to full communion in the Catholic Church are asked to contact Shirley at 303.414.2255 for further information.

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturdays, 8:30-10:00 am at the Church or by appointment.

Marriage—Spiritual preparation is vital for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Couples are invited to call Fr. Gregg at 303.766.3800 to arrange an individual meeting to discuss the marriage preparation process. A minimum of nine months is needed.

Care of the Sick/Dying—Please call at the beginning of any serious illness or hospitalization. If ill and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the office. In the case of death, please call Fr. Ed Buelt before meeting with the funeral director.

Adoration—The Adoration Chapel is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Please contact Marge or Tom Doyle at 303.693.1824 if you have questions or would like to sign up for Adoration.

Cor Jesu (Heart of Jesus) - An e-mail prayer ministry at OLOL Parish. E-mail CorJesu_olol@zofeb.com to join the e-mail prayer group, or to offer your specific prayer requests.

The Gabriel Project—Pregnant? Need help? Be not afraid. For help, hope and healing, call 1.800.713.3021

Come Home—If you are struggling with a past abortion, please contact Fr. Ed or Jane at 303.617.7472.



Youth & Young Adult Ministry

6th Grade Youth Group

Kick-Off for the 6th Grade Youth Group will be 1/10, 7:00—8:15 pm. 1/17: Topic Night, “Finding your way with St. Anthony.”

Calling all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders:

Mountain Madness! Forms for Mountain Madness registration are in the Narthex. All 6th - 8th Grade students are welcome to attend. Spots filled on first-come-first-serve basis!

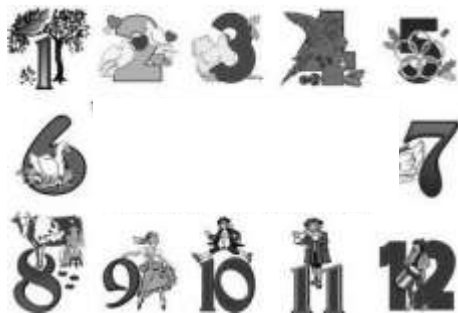
7th & 8th Grade Youth Group

We will not meet on 12/29. Merry Christmas!
1/5/12: Topic Night, “Repairing Broken Resolutions.”
1/12: Bible Study: The Baptism of Our Lord.

“4-Teen” High School Group

No meetings
12/26—1/2.

Merry Christmas!
1/9/12: Topic Night, “12 Days of Christmas,” what does the song REALLY mean and why? 1/16: When God calls, do you screen Him?



R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Christmas Day, December 25th

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them “Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke. 2: 8-11)

We welcome all who have come as parishioners, as visitors and especially those who are “Coming Home to the Catholic Church.”

For information about the RCIA, contact Shirley McDermott at smcdermott@ourladyofloreto.org or 303.414.2255

No Sessions on 12/25 & 1/01. Merry Christmas!

Children’s Ministry

Please call Joan at 303.414.2274, if you would like additional information on any of the Children’s programs .

1st Eucharist (ages 7 & 8)

Attention Track I & Track II Parents:

January Magnifikid’s are available to be picked up.

Track I: Classes will resume on January 9th, 5:30 pm—6:30 pm, in the new Holy Family Hall (Parish Hall).

Track II: Classes for Track II will resume on March 5th.

Reconciliation Retreat, February 11th

The Reconciliation Retreat for both Track I & II is scheduled for February 11th. Save the date!

RCIC & RCIT

No class on 12/18, 12/25 & 1/1, Christmas Break. We’ll see you on January 8th, 10:30 am for our next class in the new St. Joseph Ministry Center. RCIC will meet in Room 105/107 and RCIT will meet in Room 103.

3rd — 6th Grade RE (Religious Education)

No classes until January 3, 2012.

1st Grade Religious Education

Our 1st Grade classes will begin 1/10, in the new Ministry Center Library.

Special Needs Ministry Parent Meeting

Please join us for a Parent Meeting on January 3rd, at 7:00 pm, in the Chapel of the Word. The meeting is for parents interested in either the children’s or adult classes.



Opening Hearts and Minds to the Sanctity of Life.

A culture of *life*, not death.... This *vision* our creator planted in the depth of every human person, as part of our normative law: that *life* is sacred; that, once God breathes it into us, it lasts forever; that to take innocent *life* is so inimical to a righteous society that its protection is mandated in the very middle of the ten commandments; that the more innocent and fragile the more it begs protection; that, indeed, to protect *life* is the most noble of vocations. ~ Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, Homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Oct. 3, 2010

Cookies, Sandwiches & More Update!

We are **NOT** collecting food items this weekend (12/24 & 12/25). The Holy Ghost Sandwich line is closed this week. Thank You.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18-25, 2012 is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2012 is "We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ." (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58). Throughout 2012, join Christians everywhere in praying "that they may all be one" joining our prayer with that the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information go to: www.geii.org.

Sunday, January 1

"We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ." (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58) is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). Note the dates and plan to participate in the following special observances.

Other Happenings

Immaculée Ilibagiza, a Rwanda genocide survivor, acclaimed author of *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* and dedicated promoter of Our Lady of Kibeho will be hosting a two-day retreat on Healing and Hope at St. Frances Cabrini on January 20-21, 2012. The event is open to all ages. Registration is Friday 5-6pm, Retreat 6-9pm and Saturday 9-3pm. Please register on-line at immaculee.com and click on Retreats. We expect this retreat to sell out so we recommend registering early. Cost is \$60. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with this fantastic event, please call Deb Smith at 303 523-8688.



*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angels' voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine.*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.*

*He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall His break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise us,
Let all within us praise His holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

Gifts of Treasure

December 18, 2011	Adults	\$60,037.00
	Children	\$306.07
December 11, 2011	Adults	\$44,357.10
	Children	\$407.68
YTD Actual Offertory		\$1,079,850.00
YTD Budgeted		\$1,100,000.00

Financial Status as of 11/1/11

St. Joseph Ministry Center Construction

Estimated Costs

Now Under Construction, East Wing:	\$7,500,000
East Wing Garden Meeting Space:	\$300,000
Future Cost of West Wing:	<u>\$6,750,000</u>
Total Estimated Cost:	\$14,550,000

Funds Available

Current Funds Available:	\$5,299,000
Current Pledges to be collected:	\$4,550,000
Total Funds Expected to be available	\$9,849,000

New Pledges needed to complete construction \$4,701,000

Please note that funds available & pledge information will be updated on a monthly basis.

Our Lady of Loreto Debt