

DECEMBER 10 • 2023

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

8601 Wolftrap Rd., Vienna, VA 22182-5026

P: 703.938.2828 • F: 703.938.2829

[www.olgcva.org](http://www.olgcva.org) • [www.olgcschool.org](http://www.olgcschool.org)

Administered by the Oblates of  
St. Francis de Sales

### Mass Schedule

Mon-Sat - 8:30am; 9am on holidays

Saturday Vigil 4pm

Sunday 8am, 10am (online),

12pm (en español), 5pm

### View Mass Online

[www.youtube.com/c/StreamingOLGC](http://www.youtube.com/c/StreamingOLGC)

### Chapel open for prayer

Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm

**Confessions** Saturdays 9:00am

or by appointment

### Office Hours

Mon - Fri 9am - 4:30pm,

Closed 12-12:30pm for lunch

*"More and more we should  
bind ourselves spiritually to  
the Advent of the Messiah  
and the coming of our saving  
Lord into our hearts."*

- Bl. Louis Brisson, OSFS

*"Más y más debemos unirnos  
espiritualmente a la llegada  
del Mesías, la venida de  
nuestro Salvador en  
nuestros corazones."*

- Beato Luis Brisson, OSFS

## Join us for Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY
• 6:00 pm	• 9:00 am
• 8:00 pm	(livestreamed)
	• 11:00 am

Tickets are not required. Seating will be first come, first served.  
We are unable to reserve or save seats for any Mass.

## OLGC's Joy of Christmas Giving

### Adopt a Family

Add a family in need to your gift giving this year. Families are referred to the program by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Vienna public schools, and OLGC families. If you would like to sponsor a family on your own, or team up with friends, co-workers, or parish groups, contact Fran Davenport at 703.867.3278, Maria Madocks at 703.319.0010 or via email at [olgcchristmasgiving@gmail.com](mailto:olgcchristmasgiving@gmail.com) to be matched with a family.

### Giving Tree

Bring a smile to someone's face this season by choosing a tag from the Christmas Giving Tree in the Narthex and purchasing a gift. The Giving Tree supports individuals through charitable organizations in our community.

For those wishing to participate online, visit [bit.ly/online-giving-tree](http://bit.ly/online-giving-tree). Questions? Contact Theresa Caputy at [ctlc26@aol.com](mailto:ctlc26@aol.com) or

Chris Desmarais at

[chrisdesmarais526@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdesmarais526@gmail.com).

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you'd like to do more, help is needed as we collect, organize, hand out and deliver Christmas gifts. Sign up at [bit.ly/giving-tree-volunteers](http://bit.ly/giving-tree-volunteers).





# WHY WE GIVE *A donor's personal reflection*

## ERIC & CINDY ANDRES

There are many reasons why our family gives our time and support to Our Lady of Good Counsel. First and foremost, OLGC gives us an opportunity to celebrate our Catholic faith. Especially in these trying times, OLGC has welcomed all at mass and encourages us to celebrate and participate fully. From daily and weekend masses to Sacraments and prayer services, OLGC surrounds us with ways to connect with our faith.

At OLGC, we have said our wedding vows in front of Fr. Metzger, baptized all four of our children, celebrated First Eucharist with three and have had two confirmed. We're thankful for the education our kids have received and are receiving at OLGC School, with its high standards in education built on a strong Catholic foundation, led by our incredible teachers, staff, and Principal Robin Williams.

We have enjoyed getting to know the priests and pastors who have always been helpful and are always around. It makes us smile seeing Fr. Metzger at OLGC School carpool or Fr. Hillyard or Fr. Kumar walking or jogging around Vienna or at a donut social. Fr. Hillyard has kept some old traditions, such as House League basketball, but also searches for new ideas to build community, such as our Lenten Fish Fry.

This is what sets our parish apart--the authentic sense of community that is uniquely OLGC. The parishioners you see at mass are the same parishioners you see at OLGC School volunteering their time, outside of church collecting Thanksgiving meals or coats, at Fish Fry cooking in the kitchen, at CCF teaching the Catholic faith in the classrooms, or at a House League or CYO game coaching children. We give our time, effort, and monetary donations because we want to be part of a community that cares about each other and other people. We are so blessed to meet and befriend so many parishioners and school parents, and we strive to pay it forward to those who don't yet know the greatness of our OLGC community.

OLGC has given us many blessings and memories, and The Cornerstone Project is one way we can continue to give back in thanksgiving and prepare for future generations to experience this incredible community.







## OUR COMMUNITY HAS RESPONDED WITH GREAT LOVE.

A grateful update on The Cornerstone Project  
and a final challenge...

On behalf of Fr. Matt and the Finance Council,  
The Advancement Office is very pleased to share our  
progress towards The Cornerstone Project goal.

Our community has responded so positively to the needs of our  
Church and since the November 4th announcements, we have  
seen a steady increase in giving including a significant major gift.

## WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT WE ARE NOW ONLY \$550,000 AWAY FROM OUR GOAL!

If you've considered participation in this effort, **now is the time!**

Please contact The Office of Advancement for support or with any  
questions about how you can help us reach our goal!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT! WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL!

Do you have pledge  
paperwork that you've not  
signed and returned to  
The Advancement Office?  
Please do so today!

Considering a Gift?  
Check with your Employer  
about a Corporate  
Matching Program  
to double the impact for  
OLGC!

Consider a gift of stock,  
complete an IRA  
Charitable Rollover, or  
take your Required  
Minimum Distribution  
with OLGC as the  
beneficiary!

Readings for the Week/  
Lecturas de la Semana

Week of December 10-17, 2023

SUNDAY Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14;  
2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

MONDAY

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14;  
Lk 5:17-26

TUESDAY Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or  
Lk 1:39-47

WEDNESDAY Memorial of Saint Lucy,  
Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10;  
Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY Memorial of Saint John of the  
Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab;  
Mt 11:11-15

FRIDAY

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

SATURDAY

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54;  
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monthly Collections

Fiscal Year July 2023—June 2024

	Sep 2023	Oct 2023
Offertory	167,288	194,571
Total Budgeted	168,507	206,494
Variance	(1,219)	(11,923)
YTD Received	453,665	648,236
Budget YTD	528,747	735,241
Variance	(75,082)	(87,005)

Weekly & Second Collections

You may give with checks or cash  
via envelopes, give online at  
[membership.faithdirect.net/VA875](https://membership.faithdirect.net/VA875),  
or text amount to 703.810.7674.  
Thank you.

December Collections

- 3 Christmas Flowers
- 10 Catholic Charities
- 25 Christmas Journey

Calendar (Subject to change, updates at [www.olgcva.org/about-us/calendar](http://www.olgcva.org/about-us/calendar))

December 11—17

MONDAY

Lamb Center Breakfast	6:45 - 7 AM	Parking Lot-Bell Tower
Little Rock Scripture Study	10 - 11:30 AM	Zoom
House League/CYO	4:30 - 9 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym
Advent Evening Prayer	7 - 7:45 PM	Church

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TUESDAY

Tuesday Bible Study	9:45 - 11:45 AM	Zoom
Advent Time of Reflection	10 - 11 AM	Church
Dining for Dollars—Basic Burger	4 - 9 PM	Basic Burger Vienna
House League/CYO	4:30 - 9 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym
BSA Troop 976 Wolf Den	6 - 8 PM	Counsel Rm
Advent Night of Reflection	7 - 8 PM	Church

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WEDNESDAY

Downsizing Your Home presentation	4 - 6 PM	DeSales Hall
House League/CYO	4:30 - 8 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym
BSA Troop 976 meeting	7 - 8:30 PM	Counsel Rm
RCIA Catechumenate	7:30 - 9 PM	SJC-Brisson Rm
Men's Basketball	8 - 10 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym

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THURSDAY

Prayer Shawl Ministry	9:30 - 11 AM	SJC-Brisson Rm
Seasoned Citizens Luncheon	12 - 2 PM	DeSales Hall
Girl Scout Troop 5689	4:30 - 5:30 PM	DeSales Hall
House League/CYO	4:30 - 8:30 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym
Men's Basketball	8:30 - 10 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym

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FRIDAY

Early Dismissal, No ECAP, Teacher Workday		
Joy of Christmas Giving School Drop Off		
Lamb Center Lunch	9:30 - 9:45 AM	Parking Lot-Bell Tower
Girl Scout Troop 50296	11:30AM - 12:30PM	DeSales Hall
House League/CYO	4 - 9 PM	Fr. Brisson Gym
Young Professionals	7 - 9 PM	SJC-Brisson Rm

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SATURDAY

Joy of Christmas Giving Drop Off		
Elementary CCF	8:30 - 10 AM	School
Confessions	9 - 9:30 AM	Reconciliation Room
Baptisms	10 - 11 AM	Church
Elementary CCF	10:30 AM - 12 PM	School

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SUNDAY

Children's Liturgy of the Word	10 - 10:30 AM	DeSales Hall
Breaking Open the Word	10:30 - 11 AM	Reconciliation Rm
Grief Support Group	1:30 - 3 PM	SJC-Brisson Rm
Nightlife	6 - 8 PM	DeSales Hall
Jr. High CCF	6:15 - 7:45 PM	School

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OLGC Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Applications can be found on the school website at [olgcschool.org](http://olgcschool.org). For more information, or to schedule a tour, please contact Laura Wood, preschool director, at [lwood@olgcschool.org](mailto:lwood@olgcschool.org).



## Preparing for Christmas

In preparation for Christmas, we will offer a number of opportunities for reconciliation, prayer and worship.

**Advent Evening Prayer** will once again be held on Monday evening, Dec. 11 at 7:00, this week in the church.

On December 18, join us for **Simbang Gabi** (see below), and

on December 12, you are invited to a **Time of Reflection** (see below).

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be celebrated in the church on Saturday mornings, December 9 and 16, and on Wednesday evening, December 13 at 7:00 pm. There will not be confessions on December 23.

## Simbang Gabi

Join the Filipino/American community for Simbang Gabi at OLGC on **Monday, December 18**. Mass is at 7 p.m., followed by a salu-salo reception at DeSales Hall. The Simbang Gabi Novena of Masses are held at different parishes in the Diocese of Arlington from December 15 through December 24. The full schedule is available at [arlingtondiocese.org/](http://arlingtondiocese.org/)

[simbanguabi.com](http://simbanguabi.com). All are welcome!

The Fil/Am Community Ministry at OLGC sincerely acknowledges the support of our Pastor, his staff, the parishioners of OLGC, and the Office of Multicultural Ministries in the Diocese of Arlington, without which our endeavor to carry on a most beloved tradition would be in vain.



## Advent Time of Reflection

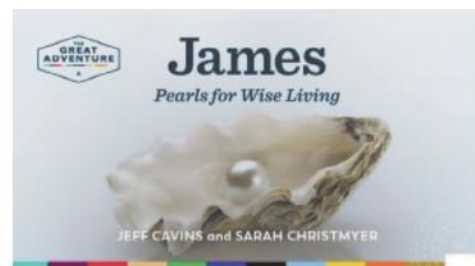


"Is there room at the Inn?" In this season, amidst all the wonderful shopping, parties, and cooking, we can lose sight of Jesus, who wants to come more powerfully and fully into our lives at Christmas. Join us on **Tuesday, December 12** for music and reflections to help quiet our hearts and prepare a place in them for Jesus's birth.

Advent reflection will be offered at 10 am and 7 pm in the church.

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

### James Bible Study: Pearls for Wise Living



James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith. This study offers "pearls for wise living" by applying the wisdom of James to our current day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

OLGC Tuesday Morning Bible study *James: Pearls for Wise Living* begins on January 9 at 9:45 am by Zoom. Participants will meet each week to view an engaging video followed by lively discussion and fellowship. For more information contact Fran Davenport for zoom link at [bwdavenport@cox.net](mailto:bwdavenport@cox.net).

To order the study set for \$29.95: *James: Pearls for Wise Living* Workbook with Digital Access visit [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com)

## Support OLGC This Holiday Season

The OLGC Parish Office is selling the 2023 official White House Christmas ornament (\$25) as well as a limited number of other ornaments and candles. Check, cash & credit card accepted. Stop by parish office M-F 9am - 4:30pm.





## Mass Intentions/ Intenciones de la Misa

Presider schedule available at:  
[bit.ly/OLGC-Presider-Schedule](http://bit.ly/OLGC-Presider-Schedule)

**Sat. Dec 9/Sun. Dec 10, 2023**

+ Gabby Bruno  
+ Nancy Oliver McDonough  
+ Ruben Perez  
+ Wilfredo Banez Sr.  
+ Nicholas Robert Hoy

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

8:30am + Eduardo Samson

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

8:30am The OLGC Community

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

8:30am + Larry Dunn

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

8:30am + Frank & Eileen Carmody

**Friday, December 15, 2023**

8:30am + Maria Quang Nguyen

**Saturday, December 16, 2023**

8:30am + Cornelio Belicena Jr.

**Sat. Dec 16/Sun. Dec 17, 2023**

+ Jose Ernesto Ponce  
+ Maria Adela Restrepo de Echeverry  
+ Rober LaForce  
+ Nicholas Robert Hoy  
+ Eduardo M. Hoy

**Please keep those listed in the prayer  
intention book and the recently  
deceased in your prayers.**

+ Anne Rhodes, niece of  
Don and Anne Rutherford  
+ Brian Pilling brother-in-law of  
Barbara Pilling

**We pray for those for whom  
candles are lit:**

Church: In loving memory of  
+ Maria Hurt

## Welcome to Our Lady of Good Counsel

**W**e, as members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, strive to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ by proclaiming our faith, educating ourselves and our children, sharing our persons, resources and gifts in the care and service of one another. We are called to foster an environment of hospitality in accordance with the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

Please be in contact with our staff if you have questions about any matter related to the life of the church. Below is a list of the many people here to help.

**Pastor** Rev. Matthew Hillyard, OSFS..... [frhillyard@olgcv.org](mailto:frhillyard@olgcv.org)  
**Parochial Vicar** Rev. Mathias Kumar, OSFS..... [mkumar@olgcv.org](mailto:mkumar@olgcv.org)  
**Retired** Rev. William Metzger, OSFS..... [william.metzger@olgcv.org](mailto:william.metzger@olgcv.org)  
**Retired** Rev. Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS..... [lfiorelli@oblates.org](mailto:lfiorelli@oblates.org)  
**Deacon** Christopher Moore ..... [cgmoores@olgcv.org](mailto:cgmoores@olgcv.org)  
**School Principal** Robin Williams 703.938.3600 ..... [rwilliams@olgcv.org](mailto:rwilliams@olgcv.org)  
**School Admissions & Testing** Valerie Taylor 703.938.3600 ..... [vtaylor@olgcv.org](mailto:vtaylor@olgcv.org)  
**Liturgy/Music/Funerals** 703.896.7411 ..... [liturgy@olgcv.org](mailto:liturgy@olgcv.org)  
**Children's Faith Formation** Amy MacKinnon 703.896.7426 .. [amackinnon@olgcv.org](mailto:amackinnon@olgcv.org)  
**Faith Formation Office** Jackie Madden 703.896.7415..... [jmadden@olgcv.org](mailto:jmadden@olgcv.org)  
**Dir. of Faith Formation/Youth** Derek Rogers 703.896.7409 ..... [youth@olgcv.org](mailto:youth@olgcv.org)  
**Communications/Bulletin** Maude Hales 703.896.7412 .. [communications@olgcv.org](mailto:communications@olgcv.org)  
**Director of Finance** Emilynda Clomera 703.896.7402 ..... [eclomera@olgcv.org](mailto:eclomera@olgcv.org)  
**Records Manager** John League 703.896.7413 ..... [records@olgcv.org](mailto:records@olgcv.org)  
**Child Protection Liaison** Christine Moan 703.896.7423 ..... [cmoan@olgcv.org](mailto:cmoan@olgcv.org)  
**Advancement/Annual Giving** Alison McKee & JoAnne Kinyon . [advancement@olgcv.org](mailto:advancement@olgcv.org)  
**Events Manager** Frank Fletcher 703.896.7418 ..... [events@olgcv.org](mailto:events@olgcv.org)  
**Events & Fellowship Coordinator** Pam Trimble 703.896.7457 .. [ptrimble@olgcv.org](mailto:ptrimble@olgcv.org)  
**Parish Office Manager** Maria Romero 703.896.7419..... [welcome@olgcv.org](mailto:welcome@olgcv.org)  
**Intentions/Ministry of Care** Maria Romero 703.896.7419..... [welcome@olgcv.org](mailto:welcome@olgcv.org)  
**RCIA/Adult Sacraments** Barb Steele ..... [rcia@olgcv.org](mailto:rcia@olgcv.org)  
**Información en español** Maria Romero 703.896.7419 ..... [welcome@olgcv.org](mailto:welcome@olgcv.org)  
**Pastoral Council** (Tina Wickham) ..... [PastoralCouncil@olgcv.org](mailto:PastoralCouncil@olgcv.org)  
**Finance Council** (Regina Stranix) ..... [FinanceCouncil@olgcv.org](mailto:FinanceCouncil@olgcv.org)  
**Society of St. Vincent DePaul** (Linea de Ayuda) 703.938.3210..... [svdp@olgcv.org](mailto:svdp@olgcv.org)  
**Respect Life/Gabriel Project** Betsy Argauer 703.255.3744 ..... [betstim@gmail.com](mailto:betstim@gmail.com)  
**Knight of Columbus Santa Maria Council #4654**..... [www.knightsvienna.org](http://www.knightsvienna.org)  
**Counseling** Catholic Charities **Consejería** Caridades Catolica ..... 703.425.0109

Our website, [OLGCVA.org](http://OLGCVA.org), is a source of lots of information about our parish life. There are a number of ways you can communicate with staff for specific needs through the site. The links below provide first steps to various things you may need.

OLGC Funerals: [www.olgcv.org/liturgy-worship/funerals](http://www.olgcv.org/liturgy-worship/funerals)

Devotional Candles: [www.olgcv.org/liturgy-worship](http://www.olgcv.org/liturgy-worship)

Join the Parish: [olgcv.org/register](http://olgcv.org/register)

Schedule an Event: [olgcv.org/about-us/facilities](http://olgcv.org/about-us/facilities)

Add Item to Bulletin/Media: [olgcv.org/about-us/communications](http://olgcv.org/about-us/communications)

Mass Intention Request: [olgcv.org/liturgy-worship/devotions/mass](http://olgcv.org/liturgy-worship/devotions/mass)

**DECEMBER 5 - JAN 2024**  
**CHAPEL UNDER RENOVATION**



All Masses will take place in the church.



## Información Parroquial en español

Preguntas o sugerencias, ofrecer misas, pedir oración durante la misa por recién fallecidos, funerals, comuníquese con Maria 703.896.7419, [mromero@olgcv.org](mailto:mromero@olgcv.org)



### EL ADVIENTO

El Adviento comienza el 3 de diciembre, cuatro Domingos antes de la Navidad, es decir, 4 domingos antes del nacimiento de nuestro señor Jesús; lo que significa la llegada de un nuevo año litúrgico y con ello la posibilidad de una vida más plena, una vida "Haciendo Algo Nuevo". La luz, la esperanza y la alegría le dan sentido a esta temporada y la Corona de Adviento es el símbolo de todo ello: "ella recuerda que la luz se irá abriendo paso en medio de la tiniebla y que la vida triunfará sobre la muerte. Esa luz no es otro que Dios hecho hombre: Jesucristo", El domingo 10 de diciembre celebramos el Segundo Domingo de Adviento vamos a encender la segunda vela

de nuestra corona como signo de que seguimos preparándonos para recibir a Jesús con el corazón reconciliado.

### SACRAMENTO DEL BAUTISMO DE NIÑOS MENORES DE 6 AÑOS:

Comuníquese con Maria Romero 703.896.7419 [welcome@olgcv.org](mailto:welcome@olgcv.org)  
Sacramento del bautismo: para Charlas de padres y padrinos deben inscribirse de antemano, una vez completada esta y entregado los documentos requeridos le confirmaremos su fecha del bautizo. [olgcv.org/sacraments/baptism](http://olgcv.org/sacraments/baptism)

### CONFESIONES

Confesiones en español durante el mes de noviembre son el sábado 11 y 18 de 9 - 9:30 a.m. o de lunes a

jueves únicamente con cita. Puede llamar para hacer una cita con el Padre Mateo al 703.938.2828 o envíe un correo electrónico a [frhillyard@olgcv.org](mailto:frhillyard@olgcv.org). No se escuchan confesiones los domingos antes o después de la misa.

### CORNERSTONE

El mes de junio lanzamos nuestro Proyecto Cornerstone; Pueden encontrar información adicional en nuestro correo electrónico semanal, en el mostrador de bienvenida o en nuestra página web. Nuestro Párroco P. Hillyard les pide como comunidad en espíritu de oración, consideren donar y ayuden a recaudar 12 millones de dólares. La parroquia tiene urgencia de hacer reparaciones de nuestra instalaciones de la iglesia y la escuela. Recuerde no importa la cantidad solo le pedimos que cada familia se comprometa a apoyarlo. Puede usar el código QR. Gracias por su generosidad.

### REZAR EL ROSARIO

Acompañemos en el jardín de Ntra. Sra. del Buen Consejo, los domingos a las 11:15am y los lunes a las 7:30pm vía Zoom. Comuníquese con Carlos Berrios [berrioscg@gmail.com](mailto:berrioscg@gmail.com).



### CELEBRACIÓN DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

La misa de Ntra. Sra. de Guadalupe será el **domingo, 10 de diciembre**. Tendremos una presentación de la historia de la aparición, procesión, misa, el milagro de las rosas y un compartir después de la misa en el salón de Sales.



# Senior Moments

Marge Van Lierde  
Gitkagirl@gmail.com  
571.831.3951



## SEASONED CITIZENS' LUNCHEON

This is the last call for "A Most Wonderful Time," the December luncheon for OLGC seniors on Thursday, December 14 at noon in DeSales Hall. Reservations will not be accepted after December 10 to allow for planning and food purchases. E-mail [seasonedcitizens@olgcv.com](mailto:seasonedcitizens@olgcv.com), RSVP at [bit.ly/Seasoned-Citizens-Dec2023](https://bit.ly/Seasoned-Citizens-Dec2023) or call Dagny, 703.281.5525.



The Book Swap table will be open. Thank you for your contributions of books and jigsaw puzzles (nothing else, please) that make this feature possible. Thanks to Sunrise of Vienna for sponsoring this event and providing dessert. The next luncheon will be in February, 2024. Please note that take-home meals are only available for homebound OLGC parishioners. Contact Heidi to make arrangements: [heidilinksnyder@gmail.com](mailto:heidilinksnyder@gmail.com).

## THE CRECHE

By the time you read this, I will have put up my creche. It's an annual

ritual I've observed ever since I was a young child. As we're all aware, people who are old like to tell stories. And why not? They've lived a long time, had many experiences, and want to share. That's what I'd like to do now—share the story of my creche.

When I was eight years old, my father made this stable, using a wooden crate that had once held liquor bottles. It's 3-sided, stained dark brown, and has a small opening on either side of it, much like windows. Across the back it has a tilted rack made of individually carved sticks, which holds an ample supply of hay which we got from a farm owned by a family friend. I still have a small bag of extra hay, the very same stuff we brought home from the farm so many years ago.

The creche was originally designed to hold our Christmas tree, which was always a lightweight balsam. The tree was placed in a metal holder in the middle of the peak of the roof. A gold star with downward rays is stuck into the roof. We covered the roof with cotton and artificial snow, and filled the structure with small figures my mother bought at Woolworth's. There's Mary, Joseph, and the Holy Infant in a little manger, kneeling angels perch inside along with two reclining farm animals, a dog and a couple of sheep. We put more cotton and snow on the outside of the creche where shepherds stand with their humble offerings, the Magi are off to the side with a camel and its attendant. And this is the way it was until we returned from a military tour in Japan when my parents gave me the creche to hold a place of honor in my own home.

When our son was in his teens, he decided to make wooden shingles for the roof. He went into the nearby woods, took the bark off of a fallen tree, and fashioned small shingles out of it, gluing and

overlapping them onto the roof of the creche. It was a full circle moment because little did he know his great-grandfather made wooden shingles for homes in his small Slovakian village so many years before.

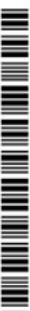


I love traditions, and there are a good number of them in our family. This one, unpacking and setting up the creche, however, is almost sacred to me. I'm so grateful for what my father crafted out of an old wooden box so long ago...it was a labor of love. It evokes memories of Christmases past. But especially dear is the photo of our daughter, then about 2 years old, and my father lying on the floor in front of the creche. He was telling her the Christmas story of the night Jesus was born. It doesn't get any better than that!

I hope that you, too, have special stories to tell about your creches, and are passing them on to the youngest members of your tribe. Yes, I believe it's our job to be the story tellers in our families. Otherwise, how else will they know the richness and beauty of the tapestries that make us who we are?

## Elder Wisdom

Love doesn't die,  
people do.





## Help Prepare the Church for Christmas

We need your help preparing the Church for Christmas. Based on renovations to the Chapel and the need to accommodate revised schedules, we will be decorating the Church, Narthex, and DeSales Hall in two rounds of "fun" this year. Round 1: the Church and DeSales Hall on Thursday, December 21 from 3:00 – 7:00pm. Round 2: the Narthex on Friday, December 22 from 3:00 – 6:00pm. The work includes lifting, climbing ladders, moving flowers, and other tasks. Young and old are welcome. This is a great opportunity for families to work together or for young people looking for service hours! Learn more and sign up to "join the fun" at [bit.ly/OLGC-Christmas-decorating-2023](https://bit.ly/OLGC-Christmas-decorating-2023). For more information email [info@olgcv.org](mailto:info@olgcv.org).



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Visit [arlingtondiocese.org/all-events](https://arlingtondiocese.org/all-events) for details

**Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Tuesday, December 12 | 7:00pm

**Simbang Gabi**

Friday, December 15 | 7:00pm

**Mass for Parents Who Have Lost Children**  
Saturday, December 16 | 9:00am

**Mass & Brunch for Adult Children of Divorce**

Saturday, December 16 | 11:30am

**Day of Recollection for Men Discerners**  
Saturday, December 16 | 10:15am

**Sacred Music for Advent**  
Sunday, December 17 | 4:30pm

**Day of Reflection for Women Discerners**  
Sunday, December 17 | 9:45am



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