

# The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2011

A Blessed and Holy Christmas be with you all:  
And with your spirit!! We're catching on very well.

Hello everyone. This is one of the fastest Christmas' to sneak up on a person. I don't think that in my almost seventy years that I've ever felt that a year went by as fast as this one did. This would be a good week to simply fill up this space with a mighty big MERRY CHRISTMAS and let it go at that. However, I found this one story that says so much about Christmas. Here goes.

Once upon a time, a young girl ran away from home to get married. Her father was angry and said that he would never forgive her or ever want to see her again. She was sorry and wrote long letters seeking forgiveness, but still the father remained unforgiving. She eventually had a son. One day, when the boy was old enough to run and play, an idea came to her. Why not send her son to her father? The boy would be a living letter telling her father of her love for him and that she still very much wanted his forgiveness.

They drove to grandfather's house. The boy had not been there before, but the house was as his mother remembered it. She told the boy to knock on the door. When Grandpa answered, he was to give him a big hug and a kiss. The boy went to the door, knocked, grandfather answered; the boy reached up, kissed him and gave him a huge hug. The father's heart melted and he motioned for the girl to come in as she was standing just a few feet from the door. (Tim Zingale, **Christmas Colors** as quoted in **Sermon Resources** for December 25.)

Once upon a time, reconciliation happened this night between God and his children. Jesus is God's sign of his love for us and his power to forgive us our wrongs. I pray that our hearts will be melted at the sight of this little baby as he comes to us this night holding his arms out for our acceptance. A Blessed Christmas to all of you and all of your families.

*Fr. Jim*

Thanks everyone for your Christmas greetings, cards and gifts. I may not be able to answer all of them- but know my thoughts, thanks and prayers are with you all. God bless, *Fr. Jim*



We are a parish community dedicated in prayer for its fellow members and those in need. We are connected to one another and for one another in love, prayer and service. If you have a prayer intention and/or want to join our rapidly growing group of pray-ers, you are invited to make your request to Faith in Action by filling out the form on the church website ([www.stcolumbacatholic.org](http://www.stcolumbacatholic.org)), forms available in the church pews or by calling the parish office.

**For the sick & injured of our parish:** Earl & Rose Archuletta, Doris Brennan, Barbara Ealick, Pete Ferrari, Joe Herrera, Irma McNamara, Bill & Jerri Morris, John Teiber

**For our families and friends:** Charlene Garcia, Lawrence Merry, Mary Stevenson

**For our troops:** PJ Abeyta, Adam Beach, Brian Beach, Daniel Beam, Bert Close, DJ Cummins, Ben Fiala, Kraig Jones, Brian Lane, Sarah Maramba, AJ Meiers, Brendan Pederson, Matthew Petersen, Shanda Potthoff, Anthony Salvo, Chuck Sauvage, Hunter Schlemeyer, EJ Sparks

**Join us at 7:15 am for Morning Prayer  
weekdays prior to daily Mass**

## Readings for the Week

**26 Monday:** Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10,7:54-59  
Matthew 10:17-22

**27 Tuesday:** 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1a & 2-8

**28 Wednesday:** 1 John 1:5-2:2 Matthew 2:13-18

**29 Thursday:** 1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35

**30 Friday:** Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 Luke 2:22-40

**31/1 Saturday/Sunday:** Numbers 6:22-27  
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will be from  
8:00 am to 11:00 am Friday, December 30.

## LITURGY

- Thank you to all who served in liturgical roles at the Christmas Masses. We are blessed by your faithfulness.

- We are still in need of liturgical ministers for the New Year's Masses.

**Thank you to the parishioners who donated the poinsettias** that decorate the Church: Margaret Vallejos in memory of Jasper Vallejos, Victor Locke and Carol Diver in memory of Nelson & Arlene Locke and Arliann Marie Locke, Margaret Ledford in memory of her loved ones, The Chase Family in memory of Art & Jean Chase, Roger and Barbara King in memory of the King-Stengel Families, Cheryl Lynn in memory of John & Imogene Nuoci, Mary and Tom Tella in memory of Joe Tella, Fr. Jim Koenigsfeld in memory of Gabe Koenigsfeld and Dian Koenigsfeld, Kathrene Frautschy in memory of Grandma and Grandpa Shortt, Bob and Mary Ralph in memory of Mom and Dad Gramuglia, Cathy Cray in memory of Stephanie Kidd.

## PARISH INFORMATION

**Monday 26** Church Office Closed

## MASS INTENTIONS

**26 Monday 7:30 am** *St. Stephen*  
+ Angie Pinto rq Carole Perea  
**27 Tuesday 7:30 am** *St. John*  
+ Chuck Lile rq Leesa Lile  
**28 Wednesday 7:30 am** *The Holy Innocents*  
+ Helen Gorman  
**12:00 pm** *Mercy Medical Center*  
+ Fury & Alvene Dalla rq Theresa Marcum  
**29 Thursday 7:30 am**  
+ Margaret Gorman  
**30 Friday 7:30 am** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*  
+ Genevieve Gorman  
**31 Saturday 5:00 pm**  
+ Rob Freeman rq Susan Chase  
**1 Sunday 9:00 am** *Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*  
The Kramer Family  
**11:30 am**  
Parishioners

## MOUNTAIN MONDAYS

Last Monday we skied in some surprisingly deep snow. If this latest snow helps pack down the base, we should have some very good skiing. Meet at Father's house on Monday, Dec. 26 at 9 am. Bring the usual. We'll get to the ridges above Andrews. Bring your snowshoes if you would rather not ski. *Fr. Jim*

## STEWARDSHIP

**Gifts of Treasure**  
**Weekly collection needed:** \$8,000.00  
**Last week's collection:** \$11,182.00  
**December total:** \$31,559.06  
**December Budget:** \$29,250.00  
Thank you for your generosity  
*as a community doing God's work on earth.*

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

- Thank you to everyone that supported the **Catholic Daughters' House Tour**. Over \$3,000.00 was raised, to share with local charities.
- Catholic Daughters will have their next meeting on **Monday, January 2nd at 6:30 pm** in the St. Columba Parish Center. All women parishioners are invited to attend. Call Angie Gladson for information about the Epiphany Luncheon Saturday, January 21st.

## St. Columba Parish Faith in Action



A parish that prays for its fellow members and helps those in need is a parish that is alive and active in the name of Jesus. Let the St. Columba Parish prayer circle lift you up in prayer.

Write your prayer requests on forms found in each pew. Then place the form in the Mass collection basket. Or log onto the Parish website ([www.stcolumbacatholic.org](http://www.stcolumbacatholic.org)) and click on the *Faith in Action* icon to submit your request electronically. Presently more than 80 individuals from our parish are praying in response to the intentions received each day.

**Religious education classes** will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2012. For further information, please check the St. Columba website at [www.stcolumbacatholic.org](http://www.stcolumbacatholic.org). For the youth program schedule please check [www.stcolumbacatholic.org/Youth/upcomingevents.html](http://www.stcolumbacatholic.org/Youth/upcomingevents.html). May you and your families enjoy a blessed Christmas!

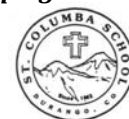
## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



You are invited...  
to make a valuable difference in the life of a St. Columba Catholic School student today and in the future of our Church, through your year-end donation to the Adopt-A-Student Fund

**The St. Columba School Adopt-A-Student Fund ensures that no student is turned away from St. Columba School for financial reasons.** Contributions from parents, grandparents, alumni and parish members provide the financial resources to honor this key component of our parish mission. Gifts in every amount (\$5-\$1,000) contribute toward the annual goal, set for the 2011-2012 academic year at \$55,000. Individuals are invited to share gifts (weekly, monthly or **year-end**) by using their blue Adopt-A-Student envelope or sending a contribution to St. Columba Office of Development, 1830 East Third Avenue, Durango, CO 81301. To learn more about the Adopt-A-Student Fund - telephone the office (247-0044) to speak with Fr. Jim Koenigsfeld, Pastor, Kevin Chick, Principal or Kathrene Frautschy, Director of Planning & Development (or [kfrautschy@stcolumbacatholic.org](mailto:kfrautschy@stcolumbacatholic.org)).

**As no goods or services are provided in exchange for gifts to the Adopt-A-Student Fund, donations are fully deductible in keeping with current IRS regulations.**



*The mission of St. Columba School is to teach gospel truth and moral values in an environment of academic excellence according to Catholic tradition.*

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

**Altar & Rosary Society** meets monthly to pray the Rosary for the intentions of the parish.  
Angie Gladson 247-4669

**Altar Workers** care for the altar area and baptistry in the church, serving weekly for one month.  
Myriam Palmer 375-0804

**Communion Ministers** visit homebound parishioners, pray with them and offer communion.  
Mary Ralph 247-0044 x15

**Finance Council** assists the Pastor with the financial aspects of the parish.  
LeRoy Rheault 259-6711

**Food Pantry** provides food to individuals in need. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets are prepared and distributed. To donate, bring non-perishable food to office or back of the church.  
Ken & Pam Leininger 375-2663

**Grateful Caretakers** is devoted to helping parish members discover their spiritual gifts and share their time, talent and treasure for the benefit of all.  
Kris Poer 247-3431

**Health Ministry** offers monthly holistic wellness activities, with brunch or lunch, for adults in the parish.  
Nancy Sofka 259-2511

**Hospital Ministry** visits those hospitalized at Mercy and offers communion to those who want to receive.  
Annie Carroll 247-0336



a community  
doing God's work  
on earth,  
*caring for one  
another through  
prayer and action*

**Hospitality Committee** welcomes newly registered families to the church, provides funeral meals, and hosts other parish events.  
Connie Matthys 247-4768

**Jail Ministry** volunteers hold word and communion services each week for La Plata County Jail inmates.  
LeRoy Rheault 259-6711

**Liturgy Committee** seeks to understand, help plan and evaluate of St. Columba liturgies.  
Myriam Palmer 375-0804

**Liturgical Ministers** participate at Mass as lectors, ushers, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers. Training and practice scheduled as needed.  
Mary Ralph 247-0044 x 15

**Manna Soup Kitchen** is served lunch by St. Columba volunteers on first Monday and Wednesday of the month.  
Mary Janis 375-9360

**Music** is vital to our three Masses. Cantors, instrumentalists and vocalists are invited to share their gifts with the parish.  
Mary Ralph 247-0044 x15

**Nursing Home Ministry** offers a communion service every Tuesday afternoon at Four Corners Health Care.  
Shirley Scott 247-1125

**Parish Pastoral Council** provide leadership in forming and carrying out the Parish Plan. Members are elected for three-year terms, attend monthly meetings, and help with other parish projects.  
Donna Rheault 259-6711

**Social Justice Committee** educates and encourages the parish in doing *what the Lord requires: to do justice, to show mercy, to walk humbly with God.*  
Rosie Van Cleave 247-9541

**Supper Club** forms new groups of eight adults each year to share home meals together.  
Barbara King, Joan Ems  
[supperclub@stcolumbacatholic.org](mailto:supperclub@stcolumbacatholic.org)

## ORGANIZATIONS

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas** hold religious and social events throughout the year for women of Sacred Heart and St. Columba parishes. Their motto is *Unity and Charity*, lived through commitment to local charities.  
Therese Teiber 247-0869

**Knights of Columbus** are Catholic laymen serving Sacred Heart and St. Columba parishes and the broader community. Meetings are held 2nd Tuesdays, 7:00pm, in parish center.  
Mark House 259-7935  
<http://home.catholicweb.com/kc1408>.

**Newman Club** is the Catholic Campus Ministry at Fort Lewis College. Student activities include Tuesday evening *Food, Faith and Fellowship*, Thursday morning prayers, Sunday eve Mass, and spring break service trips.  
Website: [flcnewmanclub.weebly.com](http://flcnewmanclub.weebly.com)  
Wivina Vigil 903-6896