



Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Community

January 2026

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by thanking all our great parishioners for all your generosity over this past year in terms of time, talent and finances. The donations to various charities and organizations we have made this past year are a considerable tribute to all of you, and so many folks are so much better off because of you. At the volunteer luncheon it was especially obvious how much time and talent is contributed by so many of our parishioners in the course of the year so that OLOA can be such a vital parish. We have so much to be thankful for. We certainly begin the new year on solid footing. As we begin 2026 it amazes me that Our Lady of the Angels has been a parish of the Archdiocese of Baltimore for thirty years and I have been the pastor from the very beginning. Beginning in January I will have been at Charlestown for thirty-two years. I have always said that they have been the happiest years of my life. I will also begin my 14th year of living here. It is a great place to both live and work.

I love this time of the year at Charlestown. The weather can be harsh, but a LITTLE bit of snow makes the campus so beautiful as we saw just a few weeks ago. I especially loved the holiday lights this year. They are beautiful as I enjoy them on my morning walks. I especially enjoy the lights on the gazebos. The Youth Harp and Suspicious Cheese Lords concerts were very beautiful in the surroundings of our beautiful Our Lady of the Angels Chapel decorated for the holidays. Charlestown is a special place at Christmas.

As we begin a new year with the month of January, we all naturally think of new beginnings. That is why many of us make our new year resolutions. It is a sign of the hope that the Christmas season brings every year. We may not keep our resolutions very long, but it is still important that we make them because you never know. After all, hope still spring is eternal and we should never give up trying. At any rate, a very happy and peaceful new year to you all.

So much to be thankful for. God bless you all and have a great 2026!



A Note from Sister Eileen

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

As always, the Church invites us to begin the New Year by celebrating Mary, the Mother of God. Countless books have been written about Mary even though our actual knowledge of her is limited. One of the aspects of Mary that strikes me today is her peacefulness. From the beginning, we see a young teenager who faced an incomprehensible invitation to change the course of history and wholeheartedly accepted this unique invitation.

While preparing this letter, I came across a wonderful poem that is attributed to St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Avila. For me, it is a perfect description of Mary and is a roadmap to use on our journey through 2026.

Peace Within

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

Blessings and peace!

Sister Eileen



Our January book is "A Memoir" by Stephanie Land.

We will meet in the Jenkins Room at 2 pm on Tuesday, January 27th at 2 pm. All are welcome.

Did You Know?

In France, the tradition of eating a Kings' Cake dates back to the Middle Ages. On Epiphany, a large collection was taken at church. The parishioners in charge of the collection received a galette divided into equal portions among them. Eventually, the tradition spread and each household shared a cake to share with all family

members and servants. The first slice was reserved for the first poor who would knock at the door. This slice was known as the “Good Lord’s slice.”

In Germany, Groups of young people called Star Singers travel door to door dressed as the three Wisemen, plus the leader carrying a star. These singers will be offered treats at the homes they visit, but they also ask for donations for worthy causes. Irish describe Epiphany as “Little Christmas” or “Women’s Christmas.” After the cooking and work of the Christmas holidays, women traditionally rested and celebrated for themselves on the Feast of Epiphany. Women gathered on Epiphany for high tea accompanied by wine to honor the Miracle at the Wedding of Cana.

In the Philippines, custom is to have children leave shoes out on the eve of Epiphany to receive sweets and money from the Three Kings,



January – Faith on Film –

*“Finding Faith” Tuesday, January 13th @ 1:00 pm In Pastoral Care
Emmaus Room*