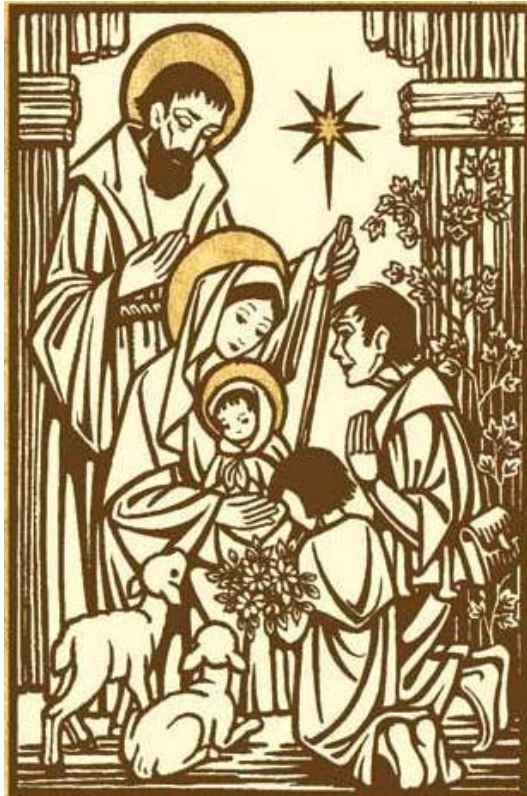


Vor Frue Kirke and SAKRAMENTSKIRKEN



DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2012

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE MINISTRY CENTER
OFFICE AND RESIDENCE**

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VFK: VOR FRUE KIRKE
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www.vorfrueogsktanti.dk
Den Danske Bank: 4420 089864.

MASS TIMES

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|------------------|---|
| SUNDAY | VFK – 11:30 AM – Mass
SAK – 5:35 PM – Recitation of the Holy Rosary
5:30–5:50 PM – Confessions
6:00 PM – Mass |
| TUESDAY | SAK – 5:00–6:00 PM – One-hour adoration and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Mother Teresa’s Sisters of Charity invite you to come and pray with them. |
| WEDNESDAY | SAK – 5:00 PM – Mass together with a Novena to Our Lady |
| THURSDAY | VFK – 9:30 AM – Mass |
| FRIDAY | VFK – 7:30 PM First Friday of the month – Mass |

RECONCILIATION: **VFK** – One half hour before Mass or by appointment with the priest.
SAK – Before Mass 5:30–5:50 PM every Sunday in the confessional or by appointment with the priest.

BAPTISM: By appointment with the priest. Parents are required to meet with the priest to receive instructions with regard to this sacrament. No date or place for the baptism can be set in advance before talking with your priest.

MARRIAGE: The Diocese requires that the couple meet with the priest in order to receive the necessary instructions and preparations for the forthcoming marriage. Please, do not set a date, time and place for the marriage until after your meeting with the priest. The first meeting should be no later than six months before the date you desire.

PASTORAL VISIT: By law hospitals do not disclose patient information. Your priest may not know that you or a member of your family has been admitted to the hospital. It is important that you, or a member of your family, notify your priest, if you would like him to visit, bring the sacraments, etc.

WELCOME: If you are new to Copenhagen and would like to become a member of our parish community at Vor Frue Kirke or Sakramentskirken, pick up one of our registration forms on the bulletin board, fill it out, and complete it. Give it to your priest for registration in the parish.

CHURCH COFFEE: **VFK** – First Sunday of the month.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP: Last Saturday of the month, 6:00 PM. Contact Rosemary Magno, Tel: 3250 2412.

My best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.

Special Celebrations

Christmas Eve falls on Saturday; and Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sunday this year. All Mass celebrations will follow the regular Sunday schedule:

Christmas Eve: SAK only at 6:00 PM.

Christmas Day: VFK at 11:30 AM; SAK at 6:00 PM.

New Year's Day: VFK at 11:30 AM; SAK at 6:00 PM.

Ash Wednesday, 22 February 2012, beginning of LENT. Mass will be celebrated with the distribution of ashes at

SAK – 5:00 PM; VFK – 7:00 PM

Our Catholic Family

Baptism

Rachel Ann Anthome, born 26 December 2010, daughter of Theresia Eby John (India) and Santhome (Sanmohan) Baby (India), Herlev, was baptized on 21 May 2011, at Holy Ghost Forane Church, Muttuchira, Kottayam, Kerala, India.

Malcolm Mulinde Hansen, born 5 July 2010, son of Tina Auerswald Hansen (DK) and Ivar Muwanga Jr. (Uganda), Rødovre, was baptized on 15 October 2011 at Vor Frue Kirke.

Gabrian Ose Onoabagbe, son of Obehi Faith (Osemoza) Onoabagbe (Nigeria) and Solomon Onabagbe (Nigeria), Brønshøj, was baptized on 30 October 2011 at Vor Frue Kirke.

Clara Sofia Santos Jensen, born 14 April 2011, daughter of Elliane Jay Santos Jensen (PH) and Carsten Jensen (DK), Herlev, was baptized on 5 November 2011, at Vor Frue Kirke.

William Chineme Iloegbunam, born 28 May 2011, son of Afoma Judith (Okpklafucaku) Ildegbunam (Nigeria) and Valentine Obumneme Iloegbunam (Nigeria), was baptized on 13 November 2011 at Vor Frue Kirke.

We extend to these families our congratulations.

Marriage

Jovetta Menezes (India) and **Joyson Jude Lobo** (India) were married at St. Joseph Church, Vikhroli, Mumbai, on 30 October 2011.

Agatha Chinonye Nnabuife (Nigeria) and **Sunday Callistus Onwugbufor** (Nigeria), Brønshøj, will be married on 5 January 2012, at St. Michael's Church, Ihite Okija, Anambra State, Nigeria.

We extend to these couples our congratulations and best wishes.

Deaths in our family

27/09/11 **Mercedes Sales**, 97 yrs, mother of Julieta Sales, KBH S.

25/10/11 **William Kertz**, 80 yrs, brother of Fr. Leo Kertz, OMI, Herlev.

29/10/11 **Erna Møller**, 96 yrs, an original member of Vor Frue Kirke, Herlev.

Calendar of coming events in our parishes

+ **Christmas poinsettias:** if you would like to help decorate our churches for Christmas, you are very welcome to bring a poinsettia with you to Mass either the 11 or 18 December, or at a time of your convenience. The invitation includes both SAK and VFK.

+ **Christmas and New Year's Masses:** regular Sunday Mass times. See page 3.

+ **Christmas concert at VFK**, Sunday 11 December at 7:30 PM presented by the Glostrup Men's Song Club (Glostrup Sangforenings Mandskor). Everyone is welcome.

+ **Penitential service.** The community of VFK welcomes you to participate in a liturgical service of the ***Sacrament of Reconciliation*** on Friday 16 December, at 7:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Christmas, the Birth of Our Lord.

+ **St. Blaise blessing of the throat** will take place after Sunday Mass at both VFK and SAK on Sunday 5 February. This is a special sacramental in which we invoke God's blessing for protection of any sickness of the throat and other illnesses. An ancient and pious tradition.

+ **Mass for the sick.** On Wednesday 25 January 2012, Fr. Paul Marx, OMI, will celebrate Mass with the inclusion of the *Sacrament of the Sick* for all who feel a need for it from illness and sickness in their lives at Vor Frue Kirke, 7:00 PM. We believe that Mass for our sick will be a comfort for many, and we encourage all in our parish, and also all who are not sick to come and celebrate with us. To give

God thanks for our good health is a blessing. (Prayer Group)

+ **Ash Wednesday**, 22 February. This marks the beginning of Lent in preparation for the celebration of Easter, the Resurrection. See page 3. Everyone is encouraged to fast (eat only enough to sustain one's health) on all Fridays of Lent as well as to abstain from eating meat on this day. In this way we show our solidarity with the whole church as we prepare to share in Christ's passion and death before His resurrection and ours in Him.

+ **Way of the Cross**. The Way of the Cross as a community celebration will take place at Mass at VFK, 7:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: 7, 15, 21, and 28 February.

From the Pastor's Pen

We are now in Advent, preparing ourselves to celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus in our midst. Has Advent lost its meaning for us? In now "days gone by", Advent was a time for fasting and abstinence, a time where we prepared our soul and mind to celebrate Jesus' birth, a time where we admitted that we were not where we should be in order to meet Jesus, that we have sinned, and so there was a little push to make things right in our lives in order to prepare for the coming birth of Jesus, God's Son.

A good question is: what does Advent mean for me today? Do I follow the spirit of the times and unconsciously make Christmas a material feast for the giving and receiving of gifts and the enjoyment of a good meal with family and friends? Today, there is almost no one who would dare question us about our attitudes, habits, and activities or who would remind us to prepare for something greater that is about to happen in our lives. In today's hectic life, it is so easy to be drawn into an atmosphere where gifts and good food and family get-to-gathers is what Christmas is all about. We as responsible persons can choose something that makes us aware of this spirit of the times, which in turn will get us out of the normal Christmas rush and mad activity into a genuine Christmas atmosphere.

So, the question: what can I do consciously to bring Jesus back into my own and my family's Christmas? Maybe we can try to give some really good time to prayer, or perhaps say a rosary every day. We can take advantage of the community celebration of the Sacrament of Penance (16 December). (Here I can remember my mother

reminding us children to prepare ourselves to drive to Church in order to go to "confession", as we called it at that time; or it is time to go to church for adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and the recitation of the rosary, again as an inner preparation for Christmas.) We can read a good book that has good content and brings a sense of peace. We can and should read for ourselves and our family the *Gospel of Luke* (first two chapters) and of *Matthew* (first two chapters) about the birth of Jesus, or the *Gospel of John* (Ch. 1), which relates to us that Jesus was the Word of God from the very beginning, and that this Word became flesh and lived among us. And we can look around us and see someone in need and begin in our own way to meet that need. These suggestions might help us to be more mindful of the feast we will soon celebrate, the birth of Jesus, the Son of God who became one of us simply because of his great love for us from the beginning. Lastly, remember that Mary left her home and went to serve her cousin, Elizabeth, and thus enter into her own advent for the preparation of the birth of her own son.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you one and all for the beautiful celebrations of my 50th anniversary of priesthood, and following 75th birthday. I was surprised no end with the many e-mails, cards, and greetings you sent my way, and I felt especially humbled by the many kind and generous expressions of your love and caring. Each of you really helped to make these celebrations at Sakraments and Vor Frue especially memorable. And not least, I will use your gifts to take that cruise, which I talked about, some time this late spring/early summer on my home visit. Talk about anticipation! I can hardly wait.

In this column, I want to thank Mrs. Kelso who has worked so hard with our mothers to reestablish the crèche program for the youngest children, which takes place during the first part of the Mass here at Vor Frue. Mrs. Kelso with her husband and two children (both of whom were servers at Mass) are now returning to the US after their assignment here in Copenhagen. Mrs. Kelso experienced the difficulties of the mixing of languages, cultural differences, and frequently our physical lack of facilities, but she never gave up on us and always gave us her very best. Now, new leadership has come forth and hopefully our crèche will continue to thrive. Thank you and God bless, Mrs. Kelso.

Through our various collections for Caritas, Missio, or special

collections, I want to thank you for your generosity on behalf of our parish councils and your priests who serve you, both at Sacraments and Vor Frue. You individually and we collectively do make a difference in the lives of many; and I am fully aware that many of you are involved in social projects that benefit our own brothers and sisters here in Denmark: through assisting the Missionaries of Charity with their soup kitchen and other works, through assistance to aid associations (clothing, food, shelter), through tutoring children and new arrivals to Denmark, through visiting the elderly and sick, through care of specific individuals, and much more. We have our shortcomings, but I am proud of your love and generosity extended to others and to members of our parish in need (e.g. the young au pair women and men, many without adequate clothing or resources in order to meet our winter weather. P.S.: if you have any women's winter apparel not being used, bring it to me, and I will see that it is given further. Thanks.).

Your parish councils at Sakraments and Vor Frue have listened to you and have studied the many suggestions for improvement in our parish life and how we can best serve you and meet your needs. Not everything can be accomplished at once, but we are on our way and trying our best, despite extensive water damage at Sakraments and limited facilities here at Vor Frue. I was also asked to extend to you special thanks for the very fine turn-out of helping hands on the workdays, recently held in our parishes. Besides this wonderful assistance it was wonderful to experience your jubilant spirit and your joy in being together: Danish–English–French at Sakraments and Danish–English at Vor Frue. Can we be any more one?

Fr. Paul Marx, OMI, who gave a day of retreat here at Vor Frue, was very pleased with the many who came for this day of renewal. It was truly a day of grace for one and all.

There is much more that could be said, but I am hopeful for the year to come as we share together. Together we do make a difference.

Your priests and Parish Councils here at Sakraments and Vor Frue wish each of you **a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Fr. Carroll Parker, OMI

A Way to Celebrate Advent

Advent celebrations are celebrations of anticipation. We await the

coming of the long expected savior. We wait to celebrate the birth of the Child. And yet we know the Child is in our midst. The Child is present for us in all children.

Signs of God's presence abound in our world: each New Year offers promises for the future, every child promises the hope of new life. We must teach ourselves to recognize the gift God offers. We must keep our eyes open to see in what unexpected places God will be born.

God comes to us in every child. Children are a sign of God's favor. They are also a test of the community's values. Each year we are called by our Church through statements by our Bishops to conversion and action – a spiritual and social reawakening to the moral and human costs of neglecting our children and families. We are challenged to hear the Scriptures, which call believers to stand up for the poor and vulnerable. We are challenged to move beyond words to action – to empower children and families to live in dignity and security.

To help us, we have the example of Jesus who made God real to those with whom he lived. Jesus healed and cared for them. He gave them hope. His example of self-giving is our model for happiness. *“Real happiness and satisfaction come from who we are and how we care for one another rather than from what we have.”* (Putting Children and Families First).

Children are our hope for the future. From them, we learn the way to peace. From them, we recognize possibilities for change and a fuller life. In nurturing them, we receive incredible blessings. May we prepare a place for Christ's coming. (Marge Prokosch)

Advent's Cry

Actually, there are no new sins in the modern world – the old ones just get more publicity. During advent make a sacrifice every day. Smile even though it's Monday. Be Kind. Give up TV one day. Be cheerful. Skip meat on Friday. Get up for Mass one day during the week. Really pray. Make a sacrifice for the poor. Share another's problems. Cheer up someone. Say “hello” and mean it. Accept a disappointment. Mend a quarrel. See Christ in everyone.

(Anonymous)

Advent: The Coming of the Lord

What did Jesus have to say about his own coming? Why did he come? What did he bring along? Where do we meet him?

Jesus answered this question. The answers become the seeds of Advent reflections.

He reveals his love at the home of Zacchaeus: **“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”** (Lk. 19:10)

He shows the loving union with his Father: **“I have come to do your will, O God.”** (Hebrews 10:7)

He comes bearing gifts: **“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** (John 10:10)

He will not forget us: **“I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”** (John 14:3)

He, the Keeper of Promises, made a promise: **“...and him that comes to me I will not cast out.”** (John 6:37)

Life is coming and going, waiting and searching, stillness and growth.

But the greatest thing that ever happened was that the Lord came among us and as one of us. He sent out an invitation: **“Come to me...”**

R.S.V.P.

Le Befana

There is an Italian legend of Le Befana, an old lady, a good witch, who was busy preparing some cakes when the Three Kings stopped at her house for some refreshments. They told her where they were going and invited her to join them, but she wanted to clean her kitchen first and take the cakes out of the oven. When she finally left to catch up with them, it was snowing, and she lost the way. Legend says that she is still looking for the Kings and the Child and that she leaves cakes and toys for any child she finds, just in case it might be THE CHILD.

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A little boy was overheard praying: “Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it. I’m having a real good time like I am.

Mary, Temple of the Spirit

The first Advent began when Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we reflect on Mary, she directs our attention to the Holy Spirit. Mary was a temple of the Holy Spirit. We can learn, from her, how to be temples of the Spirit (see 1 Cor.6:19). Like her, we can live by the Spirit and be guided by the Spirit (see Gal.5:25). Not by coincidence, the gospel says that Jesus has baptized us with the Holy Spirit. The gifts?

The gifts are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude or might, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. This is not a complete catalog of all virtues that flow from the Holy Spirit, but it provides a time-tested way of viewing qualities essential to life in the Spirit. Their designation as *gifts* of the Holy Spirit reminds us that the Christian life is not a solitary venture. It is openness to the grace of God, the saving presence of Jesus, and the love of the Holy Spirit. It is striving to do the right thing, always with God’s help.

Mary’s special relationship with the Holy Spirit testifies that the gifts of the Spirit were present in her life. She had the *wisdom* to put God first. She sought *understanding* in prayer and reflection. She requested *counsel* from God’s heavenly messenger. She withstood every trial with *fortitude*. She was filled with the *knowledge* that comes from Scripture, as evidenced in her Magnificat, so rich in Old Testament imagery. Her *piety* expressed itself in her prayer and in her yearly pilgrimages to the Temple. Her *fear of the Lord* was awe and reverence, which flowed from her awareness of God as the Mighty One who had done great things for her.

As we strive to live in the spirit, Mary shows us the way. When this world’s wisdom urges us to abandon the teaching of the Bible and the Tradition of the Church, Mary shows us that the wisdom, knowledge, counsel, and understanding that come from God will never disappoint us. When we are tempted to walk away from God because of suffering or frustration, Mary stands as a beacon of fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. Advent leads to Christmas....and Christmas gifts. Mary makes us aware of the gifts God wants us to receive...the gifts of the Spirit.

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A thought: After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied: “That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.”

SAKRAMENTSKIRKEN

	Reader	Offertory Collection	Eucharistic Ministers
04/12	Elena Custura Anna Alcaraz	P. Vasquez & A. Schimas A. & G. Victorino	Alice & Greg Victorino
11/12	Ruth Ebert Teshela Muntholi	L. Vergara & Andrew Schinas P. Vasquez & Fe Christensen	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
18/12	Anna Alcaraz Aldren Vasquez	L. & B. Alcaraz A. Schinas & Fe Christensen	Alice & Greg Victorino
24/12	Ruth Ebert Teshela Muntholi	L. Vergara & P. Vasquez A. & G. Victorino	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
25/12	Anna Alcaraz Elena Custura	L. & B. Alcaraz A. Schimas & Elena Custura	Alice & Greg Victorino
01/01 2012	Ruth Ebert Aldren Vasquez	L. Vergara & P. Velasquez A. & G. Victorino	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
08/01	Teshela Muntholi Ruth Ebert	A. & G. Victorino Elena Custura & A. Schinas	Alice & Greg Victorino
15/01	Elena Custura Anna Alcaraz	Fe Christensen & P. Vasquez L. & B. Alcaraz	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
22/01	Ruth Ebert Teshela Muntholi	L. Vergara & Fe Christensen A. & G. Victorino	Alice & Greg Victorino
29/01	Ven Velasquez Aldren Vasquez	Elena Custura & P. Vasquez L. & B. Alcaraz	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
05/02-K	Anna Alcaraz Elena Custura	A. Schinas & Fe Christensen A. & G. Victorino	Alice & Greg Victorino
12/02	Ven Velasquez Teshela Muntholi	L. Vergara & Elena Custura L. & B. Alcaraz	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
19/02	Elena Custura Ruth Ebert	A. & G. Victorino L. Vergara & Fe Christensen	Alice & Greg Victorino
26/02	Anna Alcaraz Ven Velasquez	L. & Ben Alcaraz Elena Custura & P. Vasquez	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
04/03	Aldren Vasquez Teshela Muntholi	L. Vergara & P. Vasquez A. & G. Victorino	Alice & Greg Victorino
11/03	Ruth Ebert Elena Custura	L. & B. Alcaraz Fe Christensen & A. Schimas	Leonie & Ben Alcaraz
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VOR FRUE KIRKE

DATE	READER	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
04/12-K	Ruth Mach-Zagal Ani Rashel Feh	N. Polycarp Ngarsi Julie Nielsen
11/12	Mary Fries Birgit Sørensen	Jimmy Mackey Katherine Jensen
18/12	Miranda Okpara Idlyn St. Hilaire	Birgit Sørensen Damien Zigo
24/12	Jennifer Strøh N. Polycarp Ngarsi	Julie Nielsen N. Polycarp Ngarsi
25/12	Roshanie Andersen Phaedria St. Hilaire	Birgit Sørensen Damien Zigo
01/01-K 2012	Julie Nielsen Damien Zigo	Julie Nielsen N. Polycarp Ngarsi
08/01	Lorena Navarro Ruth Mach-Zagal	Jimmy Mackey Katherine Jensen
15/01	Bertin Milat Ani Rashel Feh	Jimmy Mackey Katherine Jensen
22/01	Mary Fries Birgit Sørensen	Birgit Sørensen Damien Zigo
29/01	Miranda Okpara Idlyn St. Hilaire	Julie Nielsen N. Polycarp Ngarsi
05/02-K	N. Polycarp Ngarsi Jennifer Strøh	Katherine Jensen Jimmy Mackey
12/02	Roshanie Andersen Phaedria St. Hilaire	Birgit Sørensen Damien Zigo
19/02	Julie Nielsen Damien Zigo	Julie Nielsen N. Polycarp Ngarsi
26/02	Lorena Navarro Idlyn St. Hilaire	Jimmy Machey Katherine Jensen
04/03-K	Ruth Mach-Zagal Bertin Milat	Birgit Sørensen Damien Zigo
11/03	Ani Rashel Feh Fries Mary	Julie Nielsen N. Polycarp Ngarsi
	Church Coffee (K)	
04/12/11	Karen Eger	01/01/12 Mary Fries & Sisters
05/02/12	William Gallahue	04/03/12 Miranda Okpara