

The Epiphany's Trilogy



It seems that the great event this Christmas is the release of the new Star Wars movie. Not at all! The great event is still Jesus' birth in Bethlehem where God's salvation is at work for us. Nonetheless, what happened with Star Wars can help us to understand the Mystery of

Christmas. The release of this movie was announced some time ago and the trailers helped to raise expectations about the movie. Likewise, the Messiah was announced by the prophets and Israel's expectations were raised by John's ministry. Everybody is talking about the movie, "Have you seen it yet?" A similar excitement should have happened around Jerusalem when the Shepherds spread the word about the angels and their visit to the manger, and when the magi arrived asking for the newborn King of Israel.

How intense is our celebration of Christmas? Are we excited because Jesus is born for us, to save us from our sins? Do we share the Church's joy? Are we visiting in our prayer the Christmas events which we are celebrating?

The Liturgy is displaying for us these mysteries along the season of Christmas. First was the Birth of Jesus, then the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. In today's solemnity, the Liturgy presents three mysteries, what I would call "The Epiphany's Trilogy".

The liturgical tradition has celebrated on the day of the Epiphany three mysteries. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it saying: "The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee" (#528). The Baptism and the Wedding Feast at Cana will be the gospels for the two next Sundays. That way we are invited to consider those mysteries in the light of Christmas and the wise men. "In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation" (#528).

The Magi tell us who we are—those seeking God and his salvation recognize Jesus as our Savior. And that happens in prayer, too. We must ask ourselves, "Is prayer an essential part of our Christmas celebration?"

"Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts." If you think you may be called to share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother contact Fr. Juan, general@queenofapostles.org or Fr. J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, or j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Vocation Intention for the Week

That all those called to share the promise of the Gospel of Christ Jesus through their vocations as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, will do so with humble confidence in the commission of God's grace which has been given to them, we pray to the Lord.

The Epiphany of the Lord Masses this Week

Monday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

6:30 a.m. Thomas Fitzgerald
9:00 a.m. (L) Roberto and Beatriz Guevara

Tuesday, January 5: St. John Neumann, Bishop

6:30 a.m. (L) Hector and Cecelia Herrera
9:00 a.m. (L) Roberto and Beatriz Guevara

Wednesday, January 6: Christmas Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Heather Groody
9:00 a.m. (L) Roberto and Beatriz Guevara

Thursday, January 7: Christmas Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Bernadette Hurley
9:00 a.m. +Baby Boo Nicholson

Friday, January 8: Christmas Weekday

9:00 a.m. +Setsuko Diaz
6:30 a.m. +John Ault

Saturday, January 9: Christmas Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Maureen Fitzsimmons
5:00 p.m. (L) Rick and Clarissa Sacra
7:00 p.m. + Felicity Mendez

Sunday, January 10: The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 a.m. +Joseph Barnoski
9:00 a.m. +Jennie Perez
10:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 p.m. +Parah Yoo

Operations and Stewardship Update

"...the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." (EPHESIANS 3:6)



Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. We were all given different gifts; we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all "be one" in this Year of Mercy.

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42: 1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Clarissa Trono De Guzman, Lyda Tanco, Mark Bush, Silvia Serban, Joseph Covas, Glenda Delosier, Luta "Cornie" McGrath, Margaret Peiffer, David Stemcosky, Irma Mori, Rita Sulit, Jason Banis, Emma Collins, Teresa Sabina Piecyk, Bridgetta Jenkins, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Spracht, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Teresa Subalusky, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Donna Smith, Andres Encinas Fernandez, Sabrina Fernandez Numbella, Lula Tesfu, Monte Moyer, Joseph Luong Bui, Jeanie Miller, Carol D. Otani, Jean Seitz, Noah Mabaya, Robert McMurrer, Anne Jenkins.

This Week in Our Parish

Sun., January 3:	Sunday Social No Religious Education 2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group
Mon., January 4:	No RCIA
Tues., January 5:	
Wed., January 6:	
Hannan Hall	7-9p.m. Ghana Prayer Group
Parish Office	7:30-8:30p.m. Baptism Class in English
Thurs., January 7:	
Parish Office	6:30-8p.m. Legion of Mary
Hannan Hall	6:30-7:45p.m. High School Bible Study
Fri., January 8:	
Chapel	11a.m.-12 Noon Children's Adoration Hour
Chapel	3-4p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
Hannan Hall	3:45-5:30p.m. Nazareth Group
School Gym	6-8p.m. Open Gym Night
Cupertino Room	7-9p.m. Hispanic Legion of Mary
Sat., January 9:	
School	4-6:30p.m. Spanish Prayer Group
Hannan Hall	7-9p.m. Ghana Choir
Sun., January 10:	
School	9-10:15a.m. Religious Education
Hannan Hall	2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group

Confessions Schedule There will be no confessions Sunday, **Jan. 3**. Our normal schedule will resume Monday, **Jan. 4**.

The **Adoration Chapel** will reopen on Monday, **Jan. 4** after the 6:30a.m. Mass.



KofC Annual Freethrow Contest The Knights are having their annual free throw competition for boys and girls ages 9-14 on **Jan. 28** at 5:30p.m. in the School Gym. Winners of this competition go on to the district competition and later at the state competition. All that is required is to show up!

Banica Mission Trip All teens 16+ are invited to participate in the Summer Youth Mission **Jun. 25-Jul. 5, 2016** to serve our brothers and sisters in the Arlington Diocesan Mission in Banica, Dominican Republic. Teens interested in applying to take part in this year's mission should contact Mother Maria, 703-354-0395 or Jo Balsamo, 703-623-5607. There will be a meeting for all participants on Sunday, **Jan. 3** after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please apply now, space is limited!



QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FAITH, EXCELLENCE, JOY

Queen of Apostles School Now Enrolling for the 2016-2017 School Year Registration has begun for the next school year. The kindergarten class is expected to fill up quickly, so don't delay registering your child. Application packets are available at the school and on the school's website (www.queenofapostlesschool.org). Tours are given daily from 8:30a.m. to 2p.m. or upon request. You can arrange a tour through the school's website or by calling (703) 354-0714.

Science Fair Judges Needed The Queen of Apostles School Science Fair will be held on Thursday, **Feb. 4**, 2016 from 7-8:30p.m. in Hannan Hall. The snow date will be **Feb. 11**, 2016. A light dinner and an orientation for the judges will be at 6:15 pm. A background in science, math or engineering is not required, but is helpful. Please contact Miss Kathryn Ferrante (k.ferrante@queenofapostlesschool.org) at Queen of Apostles School for more info if you are interested in being a judge.



Religious Education Classes resume on **Jan. 10** at 9a.m. Thank you catechists and aides for your dedication in the faith formation of our children!



RE Parents and Godparents Baptism Class—Jan. 10 Parents and godparents of unbaptized children (who are over the age of 7 and attending their second year of Religious Education) must attend a Baptism class on **Jan. 10** from 9-10:15a.m. in the School.

The Queen of Apostles Women's Group Meeting—Jan. 13 The QofA Women's Group will have a unique experience at our next meeting on Wednesday, **Jan. 13**, in Hannan Hall after the 9 a.m. Mass. The topic is "The Spirituality of Iconography", to include an historical perspective from a local expert who teaches the subject at St. Ambrose and the D.C. Long Distance University, as well as samples of the works done by one of our parishioners. More details to follow next week!

Sign up for the March for Life, Vigil for Life, Pro-life Prayer Service and Other Events We will have 90 student guests from North Carolina staying overnight on **Jan. 21** and 135 guests from Michigan on **Jan. 22** after the March for Life. If they can come all this way don't you think you could join them? Please consider helping us provide food for these pilgrims. We need items such as chili, cornbread, and breakfast casseroles. Even if you can not march, please join us starting at 5p.m. Contact Carol Joannides at (571) 426-6029 to help, to RSVP, or for more info.



Next week we will erect a display of 1,613 pink and blue flags to represent the 1,613 boys and girls babies aborted at 101 S. Whiting St. in Alexandria in 2014. In this Year of Mercy it is important to remember the deceased. There is healing available for the mothers and fathers of those children who were aborted. Project Rachel has purple circular magnets available in the back of the church. Please put them on your cars.



Thank you for your generous contribution to the Poor Box. This weekend, the collection will go towards **Parish Charitable Needs**. Next weekend, the collection will go towards **ACCA** and the **Missionaries of Charity**.