

Baptism of the Lord

This Sunday the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the liturgical time of Christmas. During this season we contemplated the birth of the infant Jesus and rejoiced with the angel's glad tidings: "For a child is born to us, a son is given us" (Is 9:5). As we celebrate Jesus' birth we also remember that "He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him" (Jn 1:11) to the point that king Herod ordered the massacre of the innocents.

The celebration of Christmas is the celebration of life, of the birth of a Child that brings new hope and opportunities. It is true that Jesus' birth is unique, because he is God's only son. However every child that is born is a miracle. As we know, every human person has a soul which is created by God in the very same moment of the conception. Each baby that is conceived has therefore a unique relationship with God.

This weekend we will place 1,613 blue and pink flags around the campus in remembrance of those children whose lives were terminated by abortion in 2014 at the clinic close by to our parish. Those flags will be an invitation to pray for the end of abortion and the healing of their mothers. As we already know, abortion makes many victims: most directly the children but also their mothers. When calling for the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis had in mind the mothers hurt by abortion.

This coming Friday, January 22nd the March for Life which will take place. Queen of Apostles Parish and School will be present. We will also host two groups coming from North Carolina and Michigan. And yet there is even more we can do.

There are three areas in which we can defend and promote life: the first is assistance offering mothers an alternative to abortion. The second is cultural, changing the culture of the society so it might recognize the dignity and value of every single human life from conception to natural death. The third is laws and politics: that the laws allowing abortion would be abolished and life promoted.

Now we hear a lot about civil rights. To abolish slavery was the 1800's great deed. Women and African American's rights was the 1900's. May the 2000's be the abolition of abortion and other threats against human rights. John Brown, the abolitionist who led the raid on Harpers Ferry, wrote before his execution: "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood". Instead, may mercy, forgiveness and conversion be the means to heal this tragedy of abortion.

"This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

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.

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 62: 1-5 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11 (66)



The Baptism of the Lord

Masses this Week

Monday, January 11: Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)

6:30 a.m. +Mrs. Annette Thach
9:00 a.m. +Jeanne Lee

Tuesday, January 12: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Linda Gridley
9:00 a.m. +Loren Beach

Wednesday, January 13: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Rosemary Byrne Greenbaum
9:00 a.m. +Michael A. Del Bene

Thursday, January 14: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Barbara Mazur
9:00 a.m. (L) Aristedes Pelayo Lozano

Friday, January 15: Weekday

9:00 a.m. +Lawrence Raz
6:30 a.m. +Alfonso Jocson

Saturday, January 16: Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Elizabeth Albanito
5:00 p.m. +Rita Varela de Guzman
7:00 p.m. (L) Rosario Pekayo Jara

Sunday, January 17: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. +Xerxes Villanueva
9:00 a.m. +Dolores Perez
10:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 p.m. +Irene Cullerot

Other Announcements from Fr. Leopoldo

I would like to offer you a great program for families: **Financial Peace University**, a financial planning and wealth accumulation course taught according to Biblical principles. It is a 9-session program, each sessions lasting about 90 minutes. The instructor is Dave Ramsey via DVD presentations. We are planning to offer this program starting January 16, 2016 at 9a.m. in the Parish Office (directly after 8a.m. Mass). Course materials for the 9 sessions, including the lessons and workbooks, cost \$110 and will be available at the first class. Please contact the Parish Office at 703-354-8711 with questions, or see www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home/?snid=classes.fpu-a. Attending this program will also be a nice opportunity to meet other families in the parish!

In the last few days we have lost several beloved parishioners: George Davis, an active parishioner and one of the founders of ACCA; and William Swartworth, a long-time member of the choir. Both were examples of a long and loving marriage, as Bill took care of his wife Inez, and George received Betty Jane's care with love and gratitude. We also pray for the repose of the souls of Vincent Gabriel and Viola Baez. May the Lord grant them to behold in Heaven the infinite beauty of God's glory.

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 Bani, Emma Collins, Teresa Sabina Piecyk, Bridgetta Jenkins, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Sprah, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Teresa Subalusky, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Donna Smith, Andres Encinas Fernandez, Sabrina Fernandez Numbella.

This Week in Our Parish

Sun., January 10:

School 9-10:15a.m. Religious Education
Hannan Hall 2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group

Mon., January 11:

Parish Office 7-8 p.m. RCIA

Tues., January 12:

Choir Room 7:30-9:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wed., January 13:

Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Prayer Group

Thurs., January 14:

Parish Office 6:30-8p.m. Legion of Mary
Hannan Hall 6:30-7:45p.m. High School Bible Study

Fri., January 15:

Chapel 11a.m.-12 Noon Children's Adoration Hour
Chapel 3-4p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
Hannan Hall 5:30-9p.m. St. Ann's Homeschool Group
Cupertino Room 7-9p.m. Hispanic Legion of Mary

Sat., January 16: Youth Group Bake Sale/Donut Sale

Parish Office 9a.m.-11a.m. Finance Peace University
School 4-6:30p.m. Spanish Prayer Group
Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Choir

Sun., January 17: Youth Group Bake Sale/Donut Sale

School 9-10:15a.m. Religious Education
Hannan Hall 2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group

Confessions This Sunday, Jan. 10, will continue our Jubilee of Mercy practice of offering Confessions the second Sunday of the month. Confessionals are located in the back right and back left (behind the choir loft) of the church. Please look for the red light to indicate a priest is present in the confessional. Please know that we are still working on normalizing a schedule for this new practice in our parish. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we do so.

High School Bible Study A Thursday night Bible study with high school-aged students begins on **Jan. 28**, 6:30-7:45p.m. in Hannan Hall. Master catechist Audrey Kasenge leads the Bible study every Thursday, Jan. 28-May 12. Please email s.gray@queenofapostles.org or call the Parish Office to register by **Jan. 25**. \$25 fee.

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!

Citizenship Classes and English Classes – Hogar Immigrant Services

We offer Citizenship classes on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Queen of Apostles School. Registration for classes will be on **Jan. 13** from 7-9p.m. We offer two levels of classes. Cost is \$100, including the textbook. English classes are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays 7-9p.m. at the School. Registration for classes will be on **Jan. 11** and **13** from 7-9pm. We offer six levels of classes. Cost is \$60 for the semester, including textbook. Cash or money orders accepted. For more info call Hogar Immigrant Services at (571) 208-1572.



Poinsettias in the Church All parishioners are welcome to take home poinsettias from the altar at 4p.m. **after** the conclusion of the 2p.m. Ghana Mass on **Jan. 10**.

March for Life Representatives from our Parish Pro Life Committee will be present after all Masses this weekend to talk to parishioners about our initiatives this year, and specific opportunities and needs for the **Jan. 22** March for Life.



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.

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



QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH, EXCELLENCE, JOY

Queen of Apostles School Open Houses Queen of Apostles School will host two open houses during Catholic School's Week: Sunday, **Jan. 31** from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Monday, **Feb. 1** from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Come learn more about registering your child in our parish school for the next school year. For more information, you can contact the school at (703) 354-0714 or visit our website at QueenofApostlesSchool.org.

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. Please remember: Parents of RE students must sign in their child/ren; Students who are not attending the 10:30 a.m. Mass with their class must be signed out by a parent; Children arriving after 9:10a.m. will not be admitted to class; No more than 3 absences in the school year; Pray as a family.

Parents and godparents of unbaptized children (over the age of 7 years old and attending their 2nd year of Religious Education) must attend a Baptism class on **Jan. 10** at 9a.m. Please meet in the Music Room of the School.

Certificates of Eligibility from sponsors of students who desire and are preparing for Confirmation are due **Jan. 24**.

