

The Family, School of Mercy

This month our *Towards a Family Friendly Parish* program's theme is Forgiveness.

The experience of forgiveness is essential to knowing what mercy is, and the family is called to be the best school of mercy.

It is not just a place where we are embraced and we find compassion. In our home, we experience mercy as true love that transforms us, heals us and helps us to grow. At home, watching our parents, we learn about unconditional love and its transforming power. For that reason, this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy is also a very special time for the family.



The experience of mercy in our families also teaches us that mercy is not just tolerance or easy compassion. The parent who forgives their child nonetheless calls that child to conversion: Good parents offer a path of growth and maturity by lovingly correcting and admonishing their children. Forgiveness and conversion are both necessary for mercy to attain its fulfillment. The same concept

can be applied to the relationship between spouses: Spouses must continually reject their own selfishness and habits linked to sin for forgiveness and mercy to be meaningful.

This Monday, January 25th, the Church celebrates St. Paul's conversion. This feast is a good example of mercy regenerating and transforming Saul's life. After meeting Jesus Saul's ways change drastically. He even changes his name into Paul to better express this transformation.

Unfortunately, sometimes there are wounds in our family relations. Instead of the home being a realm of love and mercy, it a place where anger or resentment prevails. If this is your situation, please bring it to prayer and ask for a very special grace. Bring it also to Confession or to your spiritual director.

The Jubilee of Mercy offers you a precious opportunity to heal your relationships and joyfully experience forgiveness and mercy. You are not on your own in this effort. Your parish family and the whole Church are also engaged in this journey of mercy.

To conclude I would like to make a point about the March for Life that we lived last Friday. The Catholic Church, a "family of families" announces God's mercy and love to her children and the whole society. The drama of abortion is not the last word in the life of a woman, or a family, or the society. God forgives even abortion and in doing so enables us to forgive ourselves and find peace. The wound of abortion can be healed and the best symptom of this healing would be the abolition of this deadly practice.

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

1 Cor 12:31-13:13

Lk 4:21-30 (72)



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses this Week

Monday, January 25: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

6:30 a.m. +Kathryn Lowry

9:00 a.m. +Shoukry Said

Tuesday, January 26: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

6:30 a.m. +Mark Blazeovich

9:00 a.m. +Tracy Jean Quinn

Wednesday, January 27: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +George Davis

9:00 a.m. +William S. Quinn

Thursday, January 28: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6:30 a.m. +George Davis

9:00 a.m. (L) Michael and Alison Leite

Friday, January 29: Weekday

9:00 a.m. +Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Annelle Thach, Sr.

6:30 a.m. +John Ault

Saturday, January 30: Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Ilia Colon

5:00 p.m. +Ed and Nancy Hinterlong

7:00 p.m. +Jose Antonio Venero

Sunday, January 31: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. +Daniela Jimenez

9:00 a.m. +Helen Duffy

10:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners

12:00 p.m. +Jose Antonio Venero

2016 Bishop's Lenten Appeal Begins

This month many of us will receive a mailing from Bishop Loverde regarding the 2016 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). The theme for the 2016 BLA is "Go forth as heralds of God's mercy." Please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that funds many programs and ministries in our diocese.

Also, please let the Parish Office know if you have not received your 2015 tax acknowledgment letter by January 31st.



"You are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

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.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time— Jan. 24

For all men and women called by Jesus to teach the Gospel as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, that the joy of the Lord will remain their strength during their discernment, formation and mission, we pray to the Lord.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Clarissa Trono De Guzman, Lyda Tanco, Mark Bush, Joseph Covas, 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 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 24:

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

Mon., January 25:

Parish Office 7-8 p.m. RCIA

Tues., January 26:

Hannan Hall 7:30-9:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wed., January 27:

Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Prayer Group
Parish Office 8-9:30p.m. St. Joseph Men's Group

Thurs., January 28:

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

Fri., January 29:

Chapel 11a.m.-12Noon Children's Adoration Hour
Chapel 3-4p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
Cupertino Room 7-9p.m. Hispanic Legion of Mary

Sat., January 30:

Parish Office 9a.m.-11a.m. Finance Peace University
Parish Office 1-3:30p.m. Stephen Ministry
School 4-6:30p.m. Spanish Prayer Group
Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Choir Rehearsal

Sun., January 31:

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

Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" Initiative

On **Jan. 20** at the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph convent, children in need in the area received new winter coats during a "Coats for Kids" distribution, thanks to support from the Casey Women's Club, Knights of Columbus Pope John Paul II Council 4522, and QofA parishioners and school. This is the first year that the initiative has taken place, and 96 total coats were given out. The enthusiasm of all involved in contributing \$2,100 exceeded the \$1,760 required and has laid the foundation to continue the program for the Advent season 2016. Altogether, 34 Virginia Knights of Columbus Councils have purchased 1,956 coats to help keep children warm this winter across the Commonwealth. The "Coats for Kids" program is part of the Knights' Help a Child in Need campaign, which began in 2006 with a nationwide appeal during the Christmas season. We could not achieve our goals without your support. We ask our Parish Gentlemen to join the Knights. Membership is in support of our Church, communities, families, and school. Please speak to a Knight after Mass this weekend about becoming a member.

-Carroll D. Glass, Grand Knight, Pope John Paul II Council 4522



KofC Membership Drive The Knights of Columbus Council 4522 will be conducting a Membership Drive in the vestibule the weekend of **Jan. 23/24**. Come learn more about the programs and fellowship the Knights have to offer.



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 10:30a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Monday, **Feb. 1** from 9a.m. to 11a.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 p.m. 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.



PTO Pancake Breakfast Join us on Sunday, **Feb. 7** in Hannan Hall after the 7:30, 9, and 10:30a.m. Masses for a PTO-sponsored breakfast featuring pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and tea. A free will donation will be gratefully accepted to help our school!



Did you know that 6 QofA RE catechists are enrolled in the Master Catechist Training Program offered by the Diocese of Arlington? As catechists, not only are they volunteering their time in the faith formation of our RE students, but they are also deepening their study and application of the Catholic faith.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



High School Bible Study A Thursday night Bible study with high school-aged students begins on **Jan. 28**, 6:30-8p.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 by **Jan. 25**. \$25 fee.

Summer Exchange Program Families interested in hosting a student from Spain for our second annual Summer Exchange Program are encouraged to attend an informational session on Thursday, **Feb. 11**, at 7p.m. in the School Library. Tentative program dates are **Jun. 30** to **Jul. 24**, 2016. If you are interested in sending a child to Spain, please call the Parish Office at (703)354-8711 or e-mail s.gray@queenofapostles.org to arrange a meeting with Fr. Leopoldo.

Bible Study—1st Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community

Factions, divisions, pride, and immorality in the nation's capital—not Washington, D.C. but 1st century Corinth, Greece. The conflicts among early Christians have striking parallels to our own. Learn more about God's plan for unity and harmony in the Body of Christ during our 11-week parish Bible Study on 1st Corinthians: The Church and Christian Community, part of the acclaimed Great Adventure series. The program will be presented by Dr. Tim Gray on DVD on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. in Hannan Hall from **Feb. 2-Apr. 12** (workbooks \$24). Contact Mary O'Donohue at (703) 379-0255 or daodonohue@aol.com with questions or to register.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Poor Box. This weekend, the collection will go towards the **Poor Sisters of St. Joseph**. Next weekend, the collection will go towards **Parish Charitable Needs**.