

Go Forth, Be Heralds of God's Mercy!



This weekend we begin our yearly Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Next weekend we will have the in-pew pledge. In the framework of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the Church's focus is to proclaim and live God's mercy. Accordingly, then, the BLA theme this year is to "Go Forth, Be Heralds of God's Mercy!"

What does it mean to be a herald of God's mercy? The best answer is to contemplate Jesus himself, the one who reveals in his own person and action God's mercy. Last Sunday's Gospel was the beginning of Jesus's ministry. Reading the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord [...] Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Lk 4:18-20).

With this passage in his heart, St. John Paul II teaches in his encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy), "It is very significant that the people in question are especially the poor, those without means of subsistence, those deprived of their freedom, the blind who cannot see the beauty of creation, those living with broken hearts, or suffering from social injustice, and finally sinners. It is especially for these last that the Messiah becomes a particularly clear sign of God who is love, a sign of the Father" (DM 3).

Jesus Christ is the herald of God's mercy because "in Christ and through Christ, God also becomes especially visible in His mercy... [Christ] Himself makes it incarnate and personifies it. He Himself, in a certain sense, is mercy. To the person who sees it in Him - and finds it in Him - God becomes 'visible' in a particular way as the Father who is rich in mercy" (DM 2).

Thus to be heralds of God's mercy is to make it visible to others, to incarnate and personify God's mercy as Jesus did. That's our mission during this year and some tools to succeed are: to contemplate in prayer Jesus's teaching and practicing mercy; to allow God's mercy to act in our own hearts; and then to practice the works of mercy. In doing so we will be properly equipped to be heralds of God's mercy as we announce this "year acceptable to the Lord."

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8

1 Cor 15:1-11

Lk 5:1-11 (75)



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses this Week

Monday, February 1: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Emily Peckman
9:00 a.m. +Shoukry Said

Tuesday, February 2: The Presentation of the Lord

6:30 a.m. +Raul Monillas
9:00 a.m. +Helen Duffy

Wednesday, February 3: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +George Davis
9:00 a.m. +Barbara Mazur

Thursday, February 4: Weekday

6:30 a.m. Helen Adams
9:00 a.m. +Helen Duffy

Friday, February 5: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

9:00 a.m. +Thomas Benson
6:30 a.m. +Shoukry Said

Saturday, February 6: St. Paul Miki and Companions.

Martyrs

8:00 a.m. +Helen Duffy
5:00 p.m. +Gavino Monzon
7:00 p.m. +Rene Osualdo Lopez

Sunday, February 7: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. +Matthias Lang
9:00 a.m. +Dolores Perez
10:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 p.m. +Narding Diaz

2016 Bishop's Lenten Appeal-Go Forth As Heralds of God's Mercy

Next weekend, every family in our parish will be asked to complete a BLA pledge form at Mass. If you have already donated through the mail or online or are unable to participate, there will be places to note that on the form. Please read the newsletter being distributed with today's bulletin that contains detailed information about how the BLA funds are distributed throughout our diocese. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to support the many programs and ministries that serve the people of our diocese. Every gift is an expression of God's love and mercy!



"Before you were born, I consecrated you." 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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Jan. 31 That all those called to follow Jesus in the priesthood or consecrated life will allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen them each day in their vocation 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 31:

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

Mon., February 1:

Parish Office 7-8 p.m. RCIA

Tues., February 2:

Parish Office 6:30-8p.m. Legion of Mary
Hannan Hall 7:30-9:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wed., February 3:

Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Prayer Group
Parish Office 7:30-8:30p.m. Baptism Class (English)

Thurs., February 4:

Church 7:30-8:30p.m. Holy Hour
Parish Office 6:30-8p.m. High School Bible Study

Fri., February 5:

Chapel 11a.m.-12Noon Children's Adoration Hour
Chapel 3-4p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
Hannan Hall 3:30-5:30p.m. Nazareth Youth Group
School Gym 6-8p.m. Open Gym Night
Cupertino Room 7-9p.m. Hispanic Legion of Mary

Sat., February 6:

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., February 7:

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



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!



Tune In to 2minutes2virtue: The Weekly Challenge Fr. Paul Scalia will host the February series of 2-minute videos created to help Catholics on-the-go get the most out of Sunday readings. You can sign up to receive weekly videos at arlingtondiocese.org/2minutes2virtue. For more information contact the Office for Family Life at (703) 841-2550.

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.

All Saints Car Raffle Car raffle tickets have been mailed to each family. You should receive them soon. We are participating with All Saints; a more generous venture than purchasing a vehicle on our own. Each \$5 raffle ticket gives the purchaser the chance to win all five vehicles and \$20,000 in cash prizes. This makes "selling" at work or to family and friends more like an opportunity-- just show them the ticket-- it will sell itself!

First Confession for Religious Education Students



(baptized students in 2nd grade and above who have attended at least 2 years of RE classes) will be held on Sat, **Feb. 6** at 9a.m. in the church. Especially during this Year of Mercy, families of RE students are also invited to receive the Sacrament of Penance on **Feb. 6**.

During Sunday Masses this weekend, as part of the Period of the Catechumenate and Catholic faith formation, our Catechumens, along with their godparents/sponsors, will participate in the Rite of Minor Exorcism, Anointing and Blessing. Please pray for our Catechumens in their journeys to join in full communion with the Church.

Open Gym Night The QofA High School Youth Group has an Open Gym on Friday, **Feb. 5** from 6-8p.m. in the School Gym. Come play some sports and eat some pizza!

Summer Exchange Program Information Meeting

Families interested in hosting a student or teacher during the Summer Exchange Program, ~**June 30-July 24, 2016**, are invited to attend. The meeting will be held on Thursday, **Feb. 11**, 7-9p.m. in the School Library. Please e-mail Susan Gra at s.gray@queenofapostles.org if you plan to attend. If you are interested in sending your child to Spain, please call the Parish Office or email Susan to arrange a meeting with Fr. Leopoldo.

Support the Youth Parish Mission to Banica, Dominican Republic



Join us at Dogfish Head Alehouse for lunch or dinner Tuesday, **Feb. 16**, or pick up some take out and learn more about the mission while supporting a great cause. Dogfish Head Alehouse will donate 15% of their proceeds that day to the Mission. There will be a raffle and silent auction. For more information, call Mother Maria at (703)354-0395. Thank you for your generous support!

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 **Aid to Eastern Europe**.