

Revelation and Incarnation of God's Mercy

The theme for this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) is "Go forth as heralds of God's mercy." During this Jubilee of Mercy we want to experience deeply and be witness to God's mercy. St. John Paul II stands as a great apostle of Divine Mercy. He instituted this liturgical feast. Visiting the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Poland he stated: "The Message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me... which I took with me to the See of Peter and which in a sense forms the image of this Pontificate" (June 7, 1997). And when in 1980 he wrote his second encyclical about God the Father, he entitled it *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy).

In the coming weeks we will go through this encyclical to explore with this great pope the mystery of Divine Mercy. My wish is that you would also read this encyclical to make more conscious and fruitful your journey during this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

Today we summarize the encyclical's first chapter introducing Jesus as "The Revelation of Mercy" (n.1) and "The Incarnation of Mercy" (n.2). John Paul's II first encyclical *The Redeemer of Man* was devoted to the truth about man which "is revealed to us in its fullness and depth in Christ" (*Dives in Misericordia*, n.1). This new encyclical focuses again in Christ as the one who reveals to us the face of the Father "who is rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4): "Today I wish to say that openness to Christ, who as the Redeemer of the world fully reveals man himself, can only be achieved through an ever more mature reference to the Father and His love" (DM 1).

Therefore, we approach Christ as the one who reveals and makes visible the Father's mercy. We might think that mercy is focused on the person receiving mercy. It's just the contrary: mercy's essential reference is the Father. Jesus reveals God's mercy being the visible mediation of the Father's mercy. He himself is "The Incarnation of Mercy" (n.2).

Christ speaks of mercy and explains it by the use of comparisons and parables, "but above all He Himself makes it incarnate and personifies it. He Himself, in a certain sense, is mercy" (DM 2). When "The present-day mentality [...] seems opposed to a God of mercy, and in fact tends to exclude from life and to remove from the human heart the very idea of mercy [...] the truth, revealed in Christ, about God the Father of mercies, enables us to 'see' Him as particularly close to man especially when man is suffering, when he is under threat at the very heart of his existence and dignity" (DM 2).

May the reading of this encyclical about mercy "bring this mystery closer to everyone. At the same time I wish them to be a heartfelt appeal by the Church to mercy, which humanity and the modern world need so much" (DM 2). May Mary the mother of mercy guide us in this Jubilee.

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10

Rom 10:8-13

Lk 4:1-13(24)



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Masses this Week

Monday, February 8: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Salome De Cestti

9:00 a.m. (L) Elizabeth Said

Tuesday, February 9: Weekday

6:30 a.m. +George Davis

9:00 a.m. +Shoukry Said

Wednesday, February 10: Ash Wednesday

6:30 a.m. +George Davis

9:00 a.m. +Veronica Breznak

12 Noon Priest Intention

7:00 p.m. **(Bilingual)** Living and Deceased Parishioners

Thursday, February 11: Thursday After Ash Wednesday

6:30 a.m. +George Davis

9:00 a.m. +Gertrude Evanski

Friday, February 12: Friday After Ash Wednesday

6:30 a.m. +Shoukry Said

9:00 a.m. +Dr. Shoukry Habib Said

Saturday, February 13: Saturday After Ash Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +Rosemary Bryne Greenbaum

5:00 p.m. +Carol Cole

7:00 p.m. +Leonor Llanos De Lopez

Sunday, February 14: First Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. +Donna Hein

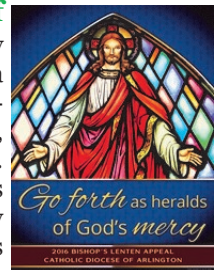
9:00 a.m. +Barbara Mazur

10:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners

12:00 p.m. +Lucia and Jose Antonio Venero

2016 BLA- Go Forth As Heralds of God's Mercy

This weekend every family in our parish will be asked to complete a BLA pledge form at Mass. If you have already donated or are unable to participate, there will be places to note on the form. After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that funds many programs, offices, and ministries that serve people in need and further Jesus' mission in our diocese.



"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart."

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time –Feb. 7: World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

For those called to the more excellent way of celibacy for the sake of the kingdom as priests, sisters and brothers, that they will be encouraged to follow the Lord, faithful to His choice of them, we pray to the Lord.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Kathleen Donohoe, 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 Sprahit, Consuelo Jocsion, Cheryl McGlynn, Teresa Subalusky, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Donna Smith, Andres Encinas Fernandez.

This Week in Our Parish

Sun., February 7:	PTO Pancake Breakfast
School	9-10:15a.m. Religious Education
Hannan Hall	2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group
Mon., February 8:	
Parish Office	7-8 p.m. RCIA
Tues., February 9:	Mardi Gras Party 6-8p.m.
Hannan Hall	10-11:30a.m. Bible Study
Hannan Hall	7:30-9:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Wed., February 10:	
Hannan Hall	7-9p.m. Ghana Prayer Group
Thurs., February 11:	
Church	7:30-8:30p.m. Holy Hour
Parish Office	6:30-8p.m. High School Bible Study
Fri., February 12:	
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., February 13:	
Parish Office	9-11a.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 14:	
School	9-10:15a.m. Religious Education
Hannan Hall	2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group
Chapel	6-8p.m. Prayer Group

Preparing for Lent

Ash Wednesday Services — Wednesday, **Feb. 10**, we will have the following Masses: 6:30a.m., 9 a.m., 12Noon and 7p.m. (bilingual service).

The Light is On For You— Starting on Ash Wednesday, and throughout Lent, Queen of Apostles will extend Wednesday confession times to 6:30-8p.m.

Speaking of Extending Confessions... — Next Sunday, **Feb. 14**, will continue our parish's Jubilee of Mercy practice of offering Sunday Confessions the 2nd Sunday of the Month: 30 minutes before the 9a.m., 10:30a.m. and 12Noon services.

Eat, Drink and be Merry, for Tomorrow You Shall Fast! — We will host our annual Mardi Gras party this Tuesday, **Feb. 9**, from 6 to 8p.m. in Hannan Hall. \$5/adult and \$15/family.



Bring your palm branches to be made into ashes at the Mardi Gras party! You can drop your palm branches in the vestibule this Sunday or bring them to the Parish Office by Tuesday, 5 p.m.



QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FAITH, EXCELLENCE, JOY

PTO Pancake Breakfast Join us this 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!



Rite of Election and the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion, Feb. 14 Cat-



echumens and candidates from QofA will be attending the Rites at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More on **Feb. 14** at 2:30p.m. Please pray for the adults and students who desire and are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and for those to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

QofA High School Youth Group Adoration, Feb. 13 Join Fr. Juan on **Feb. 13**, 7:30-9:30p.m. Meet in Hannan Hall for fellowship and desserts followed by adoration, prayer, and confessions.

Summer Exchange Program Info 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 this Thursday, **Feb. 11**, 7-9p.m. in the School Library. Please e-mail Susan Gray 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 **Aid to Eastern Europe**. Next weekend, the collection will go towards **ACCA** and the **Missionaries of Charity**.

QofA Women's Group Meeting—Feb. 10 In recognition of Pope Francis' dedication of 2016 as the Year of Mercy, the Women's Group will view the movie "Ocean of Mercy" at their meeting on Wednesday, **Feb. 10** after the 9 a.m. Mass in Hannan Hall. Featured are the three lives and one vision of Saints Maximillian Kolbe, Sister Faustina, and John Paul II.

Craft Group Mark your calendar for the Craft Group Meeting on Thursday, **Feb. 18** at 10a.m. in Hannan Hall. All are welcome! Come and have fun as we prepare for the Craft Sale in November.

Pauline Books and Media Catholic Book Fair The Daughters of St. Paul, from Pauline Books & Media in Old Town Alexandria, will have a book fair at QofA after all Masses the weekend of **Feb. 27/28** in the vestibule. The sisters will have a variety of biographies of saints, children/teen books, Catholic fiction, Bibles, DVDs, music and more for all ages available, as well as a selection of books in Spanish.

Hogar Immigrant Services: English Classes at QofA English classes are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-9p.m. at QofA School. For the next three weeks late registration for classes will be on Monday nights from 7-9p.m. We offer six levels of classes. The cost is \$60 for the semester and includes the textbook. Cash or money orders accepted. For more information call Hogar at (571) 208-1572.