

The Jubilee of Mercy

In the movie “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” there is a remarkable scene in which the fire lit at Minas Tirith’s warning beacon travels from beacon to beacon bringing the request for help to Rohan and hope to the White City. I would like to use this image to illustrate the wave of hope that is shaking our suffering world these days:



the Holy Doors ushering us into the depths of Divine Mercy. The first Holy Door is already opened: Pope Francis opened it at Bangui’s Cathedral. Then, Francis himself will open a second one in Rome initiating the opening of countless Holy Doors all around the Catholic world.

We would like so much to be carried along by this wave of hope like the sparks of a fire filling our world with light! And this is challenging us to let this fire of God’s mercy transform us like St. John of the Cross’ wooden log.

There are many Holy Doors and there are several paths that can usher us into this Jubilee of Mercy. Advent being a call to conversion is a very good one. We also have many quotes of Pope Francis about mercy. There is St. John Paul II’s encyclical “Rich in Mercy” (1980) and many other places where he talks about mercy.

But there is a most fundamental path to enter and explore: the Gospel. Go and listen to Jesus’ teachings. Be inspired by Jesus’ parables. Watch Jesus’ encounters with sinners and make them personal because I am the sinner in need of his mercy. Jesus does not give mere sympathy or some coins to the blind Bartimaeus. He gives him back his sight so that he can follow him on the road (Mk 10:52). Jesus raises us from our sin. He heals our wounds. He offers us the real opportunity of a new life (Jn 8:11). And this is what we as the Church are called to do in this Jubilee of Mercy: to invite others to conversion because in God’s mercy there is a real opportunity to reject sin and become disciples of the Holy One.

“This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched! [...] All one needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion and submit oneself to justice during this special time of mercy offered by the Church” (Francis, “Misericordiae Vultus” 19).

Vocation Intention for the Week That all those now discerning their vocations will be alert and responsive to the invitation of Christ. Are you seeking “knowledge and full insight to help you determine” your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Contact Fr. Juan (703) 354 8711, general@queenofapostles.org or Fr. Jaffe (703) 841 2514, j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18(9)



Second Sunday of Advent Masses this Week

Monday, December 7: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

6:30 a.m. +Rodrigo Cestti
9:00 a.m. (L) Kekoa Chu

Tuesday, December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

6:30 a.m. +Tom Smith
9:00 a.m. +Maria Nguyen Thi Thuat
12:00 p.m. +Juana Catilo
7:00 p.m. Priest Intention

Wednesday, December 9: Advent Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Joseph Lawrence Ciresi
9:00 a.m. +Harold Baker

Thursday, December 10: Advent Weekday

6:30a.m. +Ryan McGrale
9:00 a.m. +Janet Schmidt

Friday, December 11: Advent Weekday

6:30 a.m. +Raul Monillas
9:00 a.m. (L) Nancy Ault

Saturday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 a.m. +Purificacion Mercado Floren and Filipinas
Mercado Villaflor

5:00 p.m. +Lucia Soto
7:00 p.m. +Valeria Marta Castellon

Sunday, December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. +Rosemary Byrne Greenbaum
9:00 a.m. +Ilse Pollard
10:30a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 p.m. (L) Mark and Marsha Bush



Advent Caroling Party—Share the Joy of the Season!

Please join us for a Caroling and Potluck Party in Hannan Hall on Sunday, **Dec. 13** at 4p.m. The QofA Music Ministry will lead carolers through the neighborhood and upon returning to Hannan Hall, warm up with delicious food and hot cocoa, while our musicians serenade us with carols. Bring family, friends, and a dish to share! RSVPs are appreciated so that we can plan accordingly for food and caroling packets but walk-ins are welcome! Please dress accordingly for the weather and for walking. For more info and to RSVP, contact Michelle at m.jacobeen@queenofapostles.org, look for the invitation in the weekly Parish E-mail, or go to: bitly.com/adventcaroling.

Open Call for Musicians! All musicians who would like to join the Music Ministry for the Advent and Christmas season are welcome to begin attending rehearsals Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9p.m. in the Choir Room (in Hannan Hall). Contact Michelle for more info: m.jacobeen@queenofapostles.org.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill Helen Duffy, Lyda Tanco, Mark Bush, Silvia Serban, Joseph Covas, Glenda Delosier, Luta “Cornie” McGrath, Margaret Peiffer, David Stencosky, Barbara Mazur, 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, 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., December 6: Sunday Social/Jewelry and Bake Sale
 Hannan Hall 2-8p.m. Ghana Group

Mon., December 7:
 Church 6:30p.m. Potluck Reception
 Hannan Hall 7:30p.m. Vespers (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
 Parish Office 7-8p.m. RCIA

Tues., December 8:
 Hannan Hall 10-11:30a.m. Bible Study
 Choir Room 7:30-9:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wed., December 9:
 Hannan Hall 9:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Women's Group Christmas Party
 Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Prayer Group

Thurs., December 10:
 Hannan Hall 6:30-7:45p.m. High School Bible Study
 Parish Office 6:30-8p.m. Legion of Mary
 Church 7:30-8:30p.m. Holy Hour

Fri., December 11:
 Chapel 11a.m.-12p.m. Children's Adoration Hour
 Cupertino Room 7-9p.m. Hispanic Legion of Mary

Sat., December 12:
 School 4-6:30p.m. Spanish Prayer Group
 Hannan Hall 7-9p.m. Ghana Choir

Sun., December 13:
 School 9-10:15 Religious Education
 Hannan Hall 2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group
 Hannan Hall 4p.m. Advent Caroling and Potluck Party
 Chapel 6-8p.m. Prayer Group

Jewelry & Bake Sale—This Sunday, Dec. 6 The Queen of Apostles Women's Group will hold a Bake and boutique Jewelry Sale after all Masses this Sunday **Dec. 6** in Hannan Hall during Sunday Social. Please stop by and pick out a piece of cake, pie, or jewelry to suit your fancy!

Women's Group Annual Christmas Party The QofA Women's Group invites you to our annual Christmas Party and meeting on Wednesday, **Dec. 9** after the 9a.m. Mass in Hannan Hall. Joining us will be Fr. Tony Appiah of the Ghanaian Catholic Community who will speak about Advent spiritual practices. Breakfast "nibbles" will be served, and later a magnificent luncheon!

Simbang Gabi Queen of Apostles will host 3 nights of *Simbang Gabi*, a nine-day Novena Mass to the Blessed Mother which begins on Dec. 15 and ends on Dec. 23. Our Masses will take place at 7p.m. on Dec. 16, 17, and 18 in the Church, with light refreshments to follow in Hannan Hall after each Mass. We are seeking in-kind food donations, as well as volunteers. Please contact Nenita de Guzman at n.deguzman@queenofapostles.org or Cheryl Madlansacay at (703) 333-2809.



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.

School Book Fair Queen of Apostles School would like to invite all parishioners to our Book Fair! Both fiction and non-fiction books and games are available for all ages. This is the perfect chance to find Christmas presents for everyone. The Book Fair will be held on Tuesday, **Dec. 8**, from 1-3:30p.m., on **Dec. 9 & 10** from 9a.m.-3:30p.m., and on Friday, **Dec. 11**, from 8:15a.m.-12:00p.m. Thank you for supporting our school library!

Angel Tree 2015—Volunteers Needed

For the 14th year, we will have Angel Trees set up in the back of the Church to provide Christmas gifts to children in need. Gifts (including gift cards) should be brought to the Parish Office during the week and are due by 1p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 13**. Please do not leave gifts under the trees before **Dec. 13**! We will need angel volunteers to help move gifts to the Parish Office after the 12noon Masses on **Dec. 6** and **Dec. 13**. Contact Frieda Coccozza: (703) 399-9946 or email f.coccozza@queenofapostlesschool.org.



KofC Annual Freethrow Contest The Knights of Columbus is having its annual free throw competition for boys and girls ages 9-14 on **Jan. 28** at 5:30p.m. in the QofA School Gym. Winners of this competition go on to compete in the district competition and later at the state level competition. All that is required is to show up! Please consider testing your free throw shooting skills in this fun competition.

Parents of RE Students who desire and are preparing for First Penance and First Holy Communion (2nd grade and higher) may pick up the Sacraments Packet at the Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9a.m.-5p.m. and sign for it. The Registration Form and sacramental fee are due **Dec. 20**. Students in 8th grade and high school who desire and are preparing for **Confirmation** are required to attend the **Dec. 12** Retreat, 8:30a.m.-3:30p.m. at Queen of Apostles.



Children's Adoration Hour Bring your children to spend some time with Baby Jesus during the Children's Adoration Hour every Friday from 11a.m. to 12Noon. The Rosary and other vocal prayers may be said. For more information please contact Genevieve Erkens, (703) 719-7955.



**And Mercy Became Flesh...
 O Come, Let Us Adore Him**

On Sunday, Dec. 13, we will again be inviting parishioners to become active participants in Eucharistic Adoration. The beginning of the Year of Mercy is an opportune time to make this commitment... to pray for God's mercy on us and on the whole world.

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 **Little Sisters of the Poor**.