

Merry Christmas!

Dear Parish Family,

We just celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following the joyful announcement of the angels we have run to the manger with the shepherds to visit our savior. What have we brought to Jesus?

The shepherds offered what they have: cheese, milk, wool... the Magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. What are our gifts?

This Christmas, I would like to present with joy to Jesus those extra talents, "Sir, you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made" (Mt 25:20). I would like to pick some noteworthy achievements, but there are many other ones.

After two and a half years of the presence of the Disciples, the vision of the parish as a family of families is becoming more evident. Families gather in small groups to help each other to grow and be strengthened. Last October we started a year-long program Towards a Family Friendly Parish focused on the family. Finding a strong message about family life, new families are now joining us.

The Disciples brought another program: the Summer Exchange Program. Working with the Disciples' "Stella Maris" school in Madrid we hosted 12 teens and teachers from Spain. I would like to thank the host families for their generosity. We just started a series of videoconferences between QofA and Stella Maris students, and soon two students from Stella Maris will spend six weeks at Queen of Apostles.

We hosted a well-attended panel about the Encyclical "Laudato Si" that had a great impact also outside the Parish, and sent three buses to the Papal Mass at Philadelphia for the closure of the World Meeting of Families.

The culture of stewardship is also growing: we hosted two very positive Heads of Ministries meetings. One helped to put together a successful Ministries Fair. The School dinner and auction with a new format also had a great impact.

Fr. Juan's pilgrimage with high schoolers to Rome was also a significant event. The parish family embraced and supported the trip as a collective "thank you" for our excellent altar servers. As a consequence, we have also seen a growing involvement in both these youth and their families in the parish life (please, visit the Nativity Scene in the vestibule).

And there are so many other things... How much the Lord has blessed us. Overwhelmed by his blessings, we want to offer to Jesus all these fruits. After visiting the manger we go back home filled with joy, "glorifying and praising God" (Lk 2:20). During this Jubilee of Mercy we will practice the works of mercy so next year we can offer Jesus a nice handful of them. And with the joy of the work well done I wish you a merry Christmas and a blessed and holy New Year.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Masses this Week

Monday, December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

6:30 a.m. +Romeo Monillas
9:00 a.m. +Walter Kenton Burton

Tuesday, December 29: Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:30 a.m. +Michael Nino Villahermosa Senora
9:00 a.m. +Doris Balsamo

Wednesday, December 30: Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:30 a.m. +The Souls in Purgatory
9:00 a.m. +Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Thach, Sr.

Thursday, December 31: Seventh Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:30a.m. +The Souls in Purgatory
9:00 a.m. +Shoukry Said
7:00 p.m. The Espino Family

Friday, January 1: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 a.m. +Deceased Members of the Monillas Family
10:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners
12 Noon +Park Kyu Sun (Joseph)

Saturday, January 2: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:00 a.m. +Raul Monillas
5:00 p.m. +The Souls in Purgatory
7:00 p.m. (L) Eduardo Palacios

Sunday, January 3: The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 a.m. +Rosemary Byrne Greenbaum
9:00 a.m. +Constantino Perez
10:30a.m. Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 p.m. The Priests of Queen of Apostles

Vocation Intention for the Week

For all Catholic families, that they will esteem the grace of each child's vocation and prayerfully encourage their children to consider being a priest, religious sister or brother, we pray to the Lord.

"He gave power to become children of God." 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:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12(20)



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 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 27:

School 9-10:15 a.m. RE Potluck Breakfast: **No Classes**
 Hannan Hall 2-8p.m. Ghana Group
 Chapel 6-8p.m. Prayer Group

Mon., December 28:

No RCIA

Tues., December 29:

Parish Office 6:30-8p.m. Legion of Mary

Wed., December 30:

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

Thurs., December 31:

No Holy Hour

Parish Office Closed

Fri., January 1:

Cupertino Room 7-9p.m. Hispanic Legion of Mary

Sat., January 2:

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

Sun., January 3:

Sunday Social

No Religious Education

Hannan Hall 2-5:30p.m. Ghana Group



New Year's Mass Schedule

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve: 7 p.m. Vigil (in Spanish) & 10:30 p.m. (Ghana Catholic Community). **There will be daily Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Dec. 31*

Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation): 9 a.m.,

10:30 a.m., & 12 Noon

No Confessions Dec. 28-Jan. 3

There will be no confessions heard from Monday, **Dec. 28** through Sunday, **Jan. 3**. We apologize for the inconvenience. Please see masstimes.org for confession times in our area. Our normal schedule will resume Monday, **Jan. 4**.

Holy Hour

There will be no Holy Hour on **Dec. 24** or **Dec. 31**.

The **Parish Office will be closed** on Friday, **Jan. 1**.



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.

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. Thank you catechists and aides for your dedication in the faith formation of our children!



Feast of the Holy Family, Potluck Breakfast with RE Families, Sunday, Dec. 27 Religious Education families are invited to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family by sharing breakfast on Sunday, **Dec. 27, 9-10:15a.m.** in Hannan Hall (please note change from Multipurpose Room). Meet other RE families and bring a dish or beverage to share. Please contact Blanca Barrios at blancabarrios07@yahoo.com to RSVP.

Please give a Gift for Life this season to help Diocesan outreaches: Gabriel Project and Project Rachel, which offer pregnancy and post-abortion support and care. Go online to arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife to learn more about our Diocesan pregnancy and post-abortion healing efforts.

Thank you to all who donated gifts for the Angel Tree this year, and to all volunteers who helped carry gifts from the church! The donated gifts benefited children through Community Lodgings, an organization assisting families experiencing homelessness and instability in our area (<http://www.communitylodgings.org/>).

KofC Annual Freethrow Contest The Knights are having their annual free throw competition for boys and girls ages 9-14 on **Jan. 28** at 5:30p.m. in the School Gym. Winners of this competition go on to the district competition and later at the state competition. All that is required is to show up!

Banica Mission Trip All teens 16+ are invited to participate in the Summer Youth Mission **Jun. 25-Jul. 5, 2016** to serve our brothers and sisters in the Arlington Diocesan Mission in Banica, Dominican Republic. Teens interested in applying to take part in this year's mission should contact Mother Maria, 703-354-0395 or Jo Balsamo, 703-623-5607. There will be a meeting for all participants on Sunday, **Jan. 3** after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please apply now, space is limited!



The **Adoration Chapel** will reopen on **Dec. 28** after the 6:30a.m. Mass. It will close again on Wednesday, **Dec. 30** at 10p.m. and reopen on **Jan. 4** after the 6:30a.m. Mass.



Opportunities throughout the Jubilee of Mercy to participate in Eucharistic Adoration

Thank you to our generous parishioners who made a commitment to Eucharistic Adoration during the Jubilee of Mercy. If you are still discerning the call to participate in this most important ministry of our parish, please know that we have now introduced monthly commitments in addition to our continual outreach for weekly adorers. Please see the desk next to the Adoration Chapel in the vestibule for hours of need and for sign-up forms.

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**.