



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

CHRISTMASTIDE IN THE ORDINARIATE

Unlike the secular world, the Church does not celebrate Christmas as a single day. For Christians, it is a season. The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil masses of Christmas Eve. The precise ending of Christmastide is defined differently by different Christian denominations. In our Anglican days, Christmastide, commonly called the Twelve Days of Christmas, was held to last 12 days, from December 25th to January 5th, the latter date being named as Twelfth Night. Now, as members of the the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, we celebrate Christmastide a few days longer: "Christmas Time runs...up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany." Thus we end our Christmas with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which commemorates Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St. John the Baptist; this year it falls on January 10.

Significantly, the feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, whose death is described in the Acts of the Apostles, comes immediately after the joy of Christmas Day, on December 26th. Also during Christmas, on December 28th, the Church

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recalls in the Feast of the Holy Innocents the martyrdom of the little children who were slain by King Herod. As with the stoning of Stephen, this feast looks not merely at death but to the coming glory of heaven.

Then, at the turning of the year, we have the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on January 1st. This beautiful [and obligatory] holyday recognizes our Lady's maternity under a title which serves to underscore her son's Divinity.

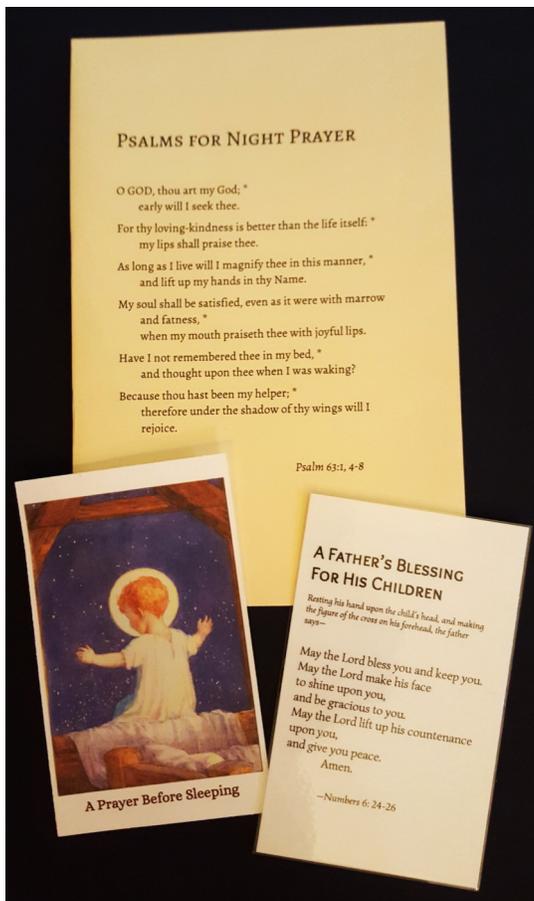
JANUARY 6TH: EPIPHANY MASS IN THE EVENING

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrates the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem. Epiphany represents the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (and thus to all peoples). Often in the Roman Rite, Epiphany is transferred to the nearest Sunday. In the Ordinariate, and here at St. Luke's, we celebrate this beautiful Christian feast on its traditional date, January 6th, with a Mass at 7 pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The launch on December 6th of St. Luke's new Christian education program “The Domestic Church: Building a Christian Home” was well-attended and a resounding success. The focus was on prayer at night.

Parishioner James Guinivan gave a brief talk on praying before retiring at night, including blessing your children and teaching them to pray before sleeping. We left with helpful material for the coming month, including cards with evening prayers and psalms, plus a calendar to help us chart our progress. And since it was December 6th, the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, after a short talk on the miracles and popular traditions of this well-known saint, the children received a gift of candy, including foil-wrapped chocolate “coins” to remind us of the fourth century saint's generosity to the poor. The next session is January 3rd, in the convent, immediately after Sunday Mass. We will talk about the Morning Offering. You owe it to yourselves—and your children—to be there.



Please check our website for more
information on upcoming events!
StLukesOrdinariate.com

MUSIC THIS MONTH

3 JANUARY: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Missa *O Magnum Mysterium* [Tomás Luis de Victoria, 1592]

O Magnum Mysterium [Tomás Luis de Victoria, 1572]

10 JANUARY: THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Short Communion Service [Adrian Batten, early 17th century]

Tribus miraculis [Luca Marenzio, 1585]

17 JANUARY: THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Missa *Alleluia* [Jean Mouton, early 16th century]

O Salutaris Hostia [Josquin des Prez, early 16th century]

24 JANUARY: SEPTUAGESIMA

Missa *Aspice Domine* [Cristóbal de Morales, 1544]

Wash me thoroughly [Samuel Sebastian Wesley, circa 1840]

31 JANUARY: SEXAGESIMA

Missa *l'homme arme* [Cristóbal de Morales, 1540]

Per Signum Crucis [Francisco Guerrero, mid-late 16th century]

CONSECRATING THE BISHOP

On February 2 in Houston, Texas, a historic event will take place: the ordination of the first-ever bishop of an Ordinariate, a landmark moment in the unfolding story of Christian unity. Friends and parishioners of St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception are cordially invited to attend the Mass of Ordination of Bishop-Elect Steven J. Lopes,

who will on that day become the bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St Peter.

Pope Francis named then-Monsignor Lopes, 40, an official in the doctrine section of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome since 2005, a bishop on November 24. The appointment of a bishop is hailed as a sign of the permanence of the Ordinariates within the Catholic Church.

Monsignor Jeffrey N. Steenson, former ordinary and now



Msgr. Steven Lopes

administrator of the North American Ordinariate, who made the request for a bishop, called the appointment the “happy outcome” of a year's consultation with officials in Rome.

Although Bishop-Elect Lopes has never been an Anglican or Episcopalian, it is safe to say that nobody has a greater feeling or more extensive knowledge of the Anglican patrimony than our bishop-elect. As Secretary of Rome's *Anglicanae traditiones* Interdicasterial Commission since 2011, Bishop-Elect Lopes is largely responsible for the shaping our beautiful and reverent new missal which includes language from texts going back to 1549.

Unlike an ordinary, a bishop can ordain priests. But this isn't merely an administrative change. In episcopal ordination, a bishop's soul is profoundly changed as he receives special gifts to lead his people. According to a statement by the Congregation for the Clergy, the Second Vatican Council recognized that “bishops were not just simple priests with superior power over other priests merely for the sake of making someone a delegate, either of the Pope or of the community. Rather, the consecration which they receive inserts them into the mystery of the apostolic succession and brings about in them a change in being.”



Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston

The rite of consecration will take place at 7 pm on February 2, 2016, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston, Texas. The Principal Consecrator will be Gerhard Ludwig Cardinal Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Principal Co-Consecrators are William Joseph Cardinal Levada, retired Archbishop of San Francisco and Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Donald

William Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, DC. In total, there will be eight cardinals and as many as forty bishops and four hundred priests in attendance, as well as the ordinaries of the other two Personal Ordinariates, Msgr. Keith Newton of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, and Msgr. Harry Entwistle of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

Fittingly, for an event of such historic significance, a full calendar of associated activities has been arranged. Festivities will include opportunities to worship, see art, and special activities for children. It all starts with a Vigil of Prayer with the First Evensong of Candlemas on February 1. And there will be a Texas BBQ lunch with our bishop-elect. For a full schedule of events and for information on special hotel rates for the ordination, go here: <http://ordinariate.net/ordination-mass>.



1315 8TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20001

The Very Rev. Mark W. Lewis, Pastor

OFFICE

4002 53RD STREET
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

202-999-9934

STLUKESORDINARIATE.COM

St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception is a parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, which was established on January 1, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI in response to repeated requests by Anglicans seeking to become Catholic. Ordinariate parishes are fully Catholic while retaining elements of their Anglican heritage and traditions, including liturgical traditions.

**THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE
OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER**

That we all may be one

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The New Year is a good time to reflect back upon our blessings and to look forward to new ones; it is particularly true this year as 2016 brings an unique opportunity to reflect upon the ending of one ministry and the beginning of a new one.

Ever since the establishment of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, we have enjoyed and benefited from the leadership of our Ordinary, Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson. On January 1, 2012, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI appointed Jeffrey Steenson, not just to be its Ordinary, but to establish and build a diocese from the ground up. Msgr. Steenson humbly accepted this challenging work. During this time he has worked tirelessly to fulfill the vision and plan of our former Pope. He has indeed had help from some extraordinary men and women, but this too is a credit to his leadership skills. In just three short years Msgr. Steenson has laid enough foundation that it became evident the time had come to move onto other tasks that required a bishop.

On November 24, 2015, our Holy Father Pope Francis appointed Msgr. Steven J. Lopes the first bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. Bishop-Elect Lopes is no stranger to the Ordinariate. He comes to us from the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, where he has served as secretary to the Cardinal Prefect. In this capacity he has been intimately involved in the development of the Personal

Ordinariates. There is no other priest more suited to be our bishop than Bishop-Elect Lopes. With that said, the challenges of the Ordinariate are still great. I am confident he is the man for the job.

My Brothers and Sisters, I propose we use the month of January to pray daily for these two humble, holy men. Let us praise God and thank Him for the selfless ministry of Msgr. Steenson. Let also praise Him for Bishop-Elect Lopes; may he be strengthened by our prayers.

Happy New Year!

Fr. Mark Lewis

The February issue of *The Epistle* will have a delayed distribution date to allow coverage of the Bishop's consecration [February 1st through 3rd]. Check your inbox the first week of February for more from St. Luke's.