



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

Volume 3, Issue 1
January 2017

St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany this year at our regular Sunday Mass on January 8th. Previously, St. Luke's has

celebrated Epiphany, which commemorates the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, on January 6th, which is the traditional date for Epiphany. However, national bishops' conferences have the authority to transfer a holy day that falls on a weekday to a Sunday. Thus the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to which the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter belongs, transfers Epiphany to a Sunday between January 2nd and January 8th. St. Luke's will now be using the liturgical calendar of our national bishops' conference. Celebrating Epiphany on the eighth means another adjustment to the calendar: The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which would ordinarily be celebrated on January 8th, will be moved this year to Monday, January 9th. This feast marks the end of the Christmas season.



St. Matthew's Gospel is the only one of the four that tells the story of the Magi, who were led by a star to find the Christ Child. The word epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “manifesting” or “showing forth.” If the announcement to the shepherds and their finding the babe in the manger in St. Luke's Gospel represents the manifestation of Christ to the

Jews, the discovery of the Christ Child by the Magi symbolizes that salvation is open to all people. The idea of an epiphany is traditionally tied to three manifestations of Christ: the Adoration of the Magi; the Baptism of the Lord—when the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ in the form of a dove; and the miracle of the wedding at Cana—where Christ began his public ministry.

There are several other important days in January to mark on your calendars: January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (a Holy Day of Obligation when a Catholic must attend Holy Mass). January 4th is the memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a former Episcopalian, who converted to Catholicism and became the first native-born American to be canonized (of special interest to Ordinariate Catholics). January 23rd is a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Because this is an inaugural year, the March for Life will be held slightly later this year, on January 27th; St. Luke's will hold Mass before the March, at 10 am. It will serve as a gathering place for members of the Ordinariate attending the March, but all are welcome to attend.

A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT IN ADVENT



St. Luke's Advent Lessons and Carols service was again a huge success, capturing in readings and music the Advent message of preparing for Christ's coming again. Under the direction of Carmen Balthrop Delaney, the choir turned in a superb performance. Adhering to the tradition of readers starting with a young parishioner and moving up the parish ranks, Kemi Onakoya opened the Lessons with a reading from the Book of Genesis about our first parents (Father Mark could not resist recalling that he used to carry her about in his arms). Joining the list of readers was Brother Ignacio Gonzalez, a friend of the Ordinariate and Vocations Director of St. Anselm's Abbey [where we hold our monthly Evening Prayer service]. The service was followed by a well-attended reception in the school next door with refreshments prepared by members of the parish under the admirable direction of La-Verne Williams, our director of hospitality.



JANUARY CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: SOCKS AND GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS

Cold weather is here and with it special peril for the homeless, who are at risk for hypothermia and frostbite. Warm gloves or pair of socks can make a big difference for someone on the streets. Therefore our Corporal Act of Mercy for the month of January is collecting socks and gloves for the homeless. Thickness is the key consideration for both socks and the gloves for the homeless. Men's sizes are preferred. If you buy cotton

socks, remember that sometimes two pairs are worn at the same time when it is cold. White is the preferred color for socks. We will collect the socks and gloves at the coffee hour after Mass and deliver them to 801 East Men's Shelter, a shelter supported by DC Catholic Charities.

Sometimes we encounter homeless people who are hungry and in need of shelter, but who are probably unable to make it to the nearest shelter on their own. When this happens, we suggest that you call the DC Shelter Hotline, which has vans that can be sent to help. The number is [800-535-7252](tel:800-535-7252). If you would like to be equipped at all times to offer help, carry some crackers with you. Crackers can provide immediate relief to someone who is hungry.

VOLUNTEER VOICES

St. Luke's is fortunate to have two extremely talented groups of volunteer singers.



The St. Benet Schola, under the leadership of Valeria and Vayla Lamarra, sings the minor propers at our Sunday Masses, while Lucy and Emily Guinivan lead the music at Evening Prayer at St. Anselm's Abbey. Both groups have exquisite voices, but they are eager to have more talented singers, male and female, join them. The St. Benet Schola chants the minor propers in plainsong and Gregorian chant. Chanting at Evensong is Anglican Chant, with anthems drawn as much as possible from the repertoire of medieval music.

If interested in singing at Mass, contact Valeria Lamarra valerialamarra@yahoo.com. If interested in singing at Evensong, contact Lucy Guinivan lucy.guinivan@gmail.com.



EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY



Please join us for our first Evening Prayer at the Abbey of 2017! It will take place on Saturday, January 7th at 4 pm at St. Anselm's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Northeast Washington, D.C. Evening Prayer, or Evensong when chanted, is one of the glories of the Anglican patrimony. After the service, there are refreshments and fellowship in the Fort Augustus Room at the monastery. It is a good way to get to know each other and become more familiar with the Benedictine tradition, which gave rise to many elements of Anglican worship. A group of future St. Luke's members began holding Evening Prayer services at the abbey several years ago, in anticipation of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's erection of the Ordinariate. We urge all St. Luke's parishioners to make these wonderful liturgies and gatherings a part of their lives.

Evening Prayer is the first Saturday of each month of the school year: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6.



St. Anselm's Abbey [4501 South Dakota Avenue NE] is a community of the English Benedictine Congregation, a group of autonomous monasteries which all draw their origins in some way from the survivors of pre-Reformation Benedictine monasticism in England. The monks of St. Anselm's are generous supporters of the Ordinariate's mission in the DC metro area.

Saint Luke's at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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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



*Wishing all our parish family and our
friends a most blessed Christmastide and
a grace-filled New Year!*

Our next Family Formation class will be after Mass on Sunday, January 8th. Stay for coffee hour that morning; grab a cookie and a cup of coffee and join the circle of chairs to continue growing in your knowledge of the Faith.