

January Agenda

The Circumcision of Our Lord
Low Mass, Thursday, 1 January, 10am

The Epiphany
Low Mass, Tuesday, 6 January, 7pm

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, 25 January, after the Mass

Charles I, King & Martyr
Low Mass, Friday, 30 January, 7pm

New Brochure

A newly-revised color brochure is available in the back of the church, by the west doors, for use in advertising the parish. Please take one (or two) to pass on to a friend (or two).

Standing Notices

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Confession, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

Please call or e-mail the Church Office or the Rectory to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in hospital.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE PARISH IN YOUR WILL

The Anglican Church of
S. John the Baptist
PO Box 550
Marshall, VA 20116



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If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please email:

Ecce@st-johnthebaptist.org

**The Anglican Church
of
S. John the Baptist**

4107 Winchester Road
P.O. Box 550
Marshall, VA
20116-0550

Office: 540.364.2554
Rectory: 540.253.5113

www.st-johnthebaptist.org

ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church
Marshall, Virginia
Issue 15 January 2009

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

With this issue of *ECCE*, we find ourselves in a new calendar year, facing new challenges, both personally and parochially. Who of us does not find oneself in a position radically different from the beginning of last year. Plans we may have made under a different set of circumstances must now be put on hold. Perhaps we were planning a special holiday or some other major expenditure. Or perhaps we were even hoping to retire this year. But now, with the current financial crisis affecting so many areas of our lives, these plans must be deferred.

In a similar way, our parish faces difficult financial challenges. Our pledging for 2009 has fallen behind last year's level. We had hoped to move forward with some specific programs such as with music, but unless we can at least meet last year's budget, these programs will have to be put on hold. We find ourselves in the proverbial chicken-and-egg scenario: we need to make a greater investment in our programs to attract more parishioners, but without more parishioners we don't have the additional capital to fund these programs. Please don't misunderstand me; we don't need additional parishioners so that we might be a more successful parish. We desire that more people might share in the fullness of the Anglican worship we so appreciate. We want to spread the Good News.

In the spirit of making "New Years' resolutions," perhaps we could each commit to introducing someone we know to our parish. Some of you already have and we have appreciated both your effort and the joy of seeing them incorporated into the parish family. Any "church growth" expert will say that one of the most effective ways to facilitate parish growth is by parishioners inviting their friends and neighbors.

Since I have introduced the topic of "New Years' resolutions," perhaps another resolution we could adopt is to make every effort to be present at Mass each Sunday, unless prevented by *grave* cause. And for those of you who do attend regularly, perhaps you might resolve to attend more weekday services. See you at church!

Your friend and Pastor,

The Deacon's Dais

Recently I watched the 2005 film “*Die Große Stille*” (“Into Great Silence”) by director Philip Gröning. It is a highly acclaimed film with an amazing history. By way of background, the Carthusian order was founded in 1084 by S. Bruno of Cologne and follows a rule more in line with a hermitage than that of the traditional western rule of S. Benedict. As hermits, even living together, silence and individual rooms dominate their time. While they come together for religious offices, the Mass, walks and even a bi-annual day of recreation, their lives are spent in prayer, meditation, study and work within the monastery.

The director of this film approached the monastery in the Chartreuse Mountains located deep in the French Alps with the hopes of filming their ascetic life. He was told that his request would be considered. Sixteen years later(!), he was given permission and spent six months within the monastery.

While the film follows the entire community, with a fantastic ending that I will not spoil, one of the Religious is filmed throughout the six months in his cell. We see him in personal prayer, in personal study and in the mundane times of work and meals.

As I watched this nearly three hour movie, I kept seeing this same monk return to his reading in his cell. Almost immediately I started to think, “Where is his pen? Where is his paper? Why is he

not writing about the results of his constant prayer and study?”

Is my hubris obvious? It is to me now. Rather than seeing the benefit of this man in the study of God’s will and in prayer for humanity (which includes me and you), I thought: “Wow, with such time to spend in study and prayer, I’m sure I would have something important to write.” Could “I” be writ any larger in this thought? While publications have come from the Carthusians, life in their monasteries is one of prayer.

In a recorded talk Fr. Thomas Hopko recognized a man in the audience that was about to enter religious orders. He remarked that those that enter the Religious are either truly called by God, or will be driven to insanity by their rule of life. Watch this movie with a better mind than I did. This movie captures not three hours or even six months, but a lifetime of monasticism.

Our latest issue of *New Directions* has an article reminding us to remember the role that Religious Orders play in the Church. While we celebrate Christmastide and Epiphany, we should not forget those that have dedicated their lives to prayer. Their prayer is offered to the Glory of God first and foremost, but also daily, every single day, in intercessory prayer for us all.

The Rev’d Deacon John Needham

Kudos

To Susan Knutsen, Gail Muller and Michelle Needham for decorating the church interior in such a festive way for Christmas.

To the Fishers for providing a Christmas tree.

To the Parlis for providing the Jesse tree.

Transitus

Lionel Dickinson is now recovering at home.
Dorothy Duryee is still in the Gainesville Health and Rehabilitation Center, having celebrated her 94th birthday on Boxing Day.

Sanctity of Life

In the most recent Fortnightly newsletter sent out by Bishop Paul Hewett to parishes in the Diocese of the Holy Cross, he has the following: “*Sanctity of Human Life Sunday – January 18. To learn more about the outstanding work done by Anglicans for Life, go www.anglicansforlife.org. Under “Publications,” go to p. 3 of the November 2008 Newsletter for the superb Resolution passed at the 52nd General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church. Also available on the website are bulletin inserts for January 18. The annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., is on January 22. To march under the AFL Banner, email lisa@anglicansforlife.org or call 1-800-707-6635.*”

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is the Sunday each year closest to the date the Supreme Court ruled on the Roe v. Wade appeal (22 January 1973). In their 7-3 ruling, the Court deemed abortion a fundamental right under the U.S. Constitution based on the “right to privacy.” Even before addressing the logic of such a position, what needs to be said is that when the Church speaks out about taking the life of the most vulnerable members of our society - those unable to speak out for their own rights - she does so *not* from a **political** perspective but from a **moral** one. From her beginning, the Church has spoken out against this immoral act. Accused by non-Christians of cannibalizing young children at the *Agape* meal, the Early Church Fathers made their appeal to the laws of the Church, which stated that all murder was forbidden, even children in the womb of their mother.

The Church teaches there can never be any instance in which the State can authorize the murder of an innocent life, or by extension, allow a member of society to take the life of such an innocent. This teaching has only been strengthened in recent years, most notably in John Paul II’s teaching on “the culture of death” that permeates our Western mindset. We have become so jaded by scenes of death on our TV screens, video games, even on our streets that we do not stop to take in what this acceptance of death says about our culture. The fact that we as a society can stand back and allow our most vulnerable members to be part of the “slaughter of the innocents,” is shameful indeed. When we allow innocent members of our society to die at the hands of others, the relativism of life will not stop with the unborn, as we witness in Washington and Oregon States. As Christians, we must speak out in defence of life, for if we do not, who else will?

“In Germany, they came first for the Communists, And I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Communist; And then they came for the trade unionists, And I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist; And then they came for the Jews, And I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew; And then . . . they came for me . . . And by that time there was no one left to speak up.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

Beginning 4 January, we will start a new class examining contemporary issues facing Christians in an increasingly secular culture. This class is strongly recommended for everyone, particularly for those who would not be prepared to “give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.” *1 Peter 3:15*

Weekly Bible Study: Wed, 10:30am

Our Bible Study meets after Morning Prayer at 9:30am and Mass at 10am. We will pick up again 7 January. Please join us for our study of S. John’s Gospel and bring your friends.



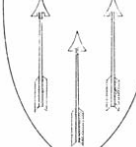












Epiphany of Our Lord: Tue, 6 Jan 7pm

Join with us as we celebrate this glorious feast that concludes the Christmas season, “Twelfth Night.” This is also a Holy Day of Obligation.

Wednesday Movie Night: 14 Jan, 7pm

This month’s Wednesday Night at the Movies will meet on Wednesday, 14 January, at 7pm to watch the film “Bella.” The Netflix synopsis reads: “Two lost souls, Nina (Tammy Blanchard), a pregnant, unmarried waitress, and Jose (Eduardo Verástegui), an introspective yet troubled cook with a mysterious past, find solace in each other as their lives become unpredictably linked throughout the course of one incredible day. An uplifting story of love, hope and forgiveness, this remarkable tale is co-written and directed by Alejandro Gomez Monteverde.” Popcorn and drinks provided, with discussion to follow.

January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 EPIPHANY	 S. POLYCARP	 S. SEBASTIAN	 S. AGNES	1  Feast of the Circumcision M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am E.P. 5.30pm	2  Octave Day of S. Stephen Protomartyr M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	3 Octave Day of S. John, ApEv M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
4  Christmas II M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	5 Vigil of the Epiphany M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	6  Feast of the Epiphany M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7.00pm	7 Of the Octave <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am E.P. 5.30pm	8 Of the Octave M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	9  Of the Octave M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	10 Of the Octave M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
11  Holy Family (Epiphany I) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	12 Of the Octave M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	13 The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	14 S. Hilary, BCD <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am E.P. 5.30pm	15 S. Paul, Hermit M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	16  S. Marcellus, PM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	17 S. Anthony, Ab M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
18  Epiphany II M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	19 S. Wulfstan, BC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	20 SS Fabian, PM & Sebastian, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	21 S. Agnes, VM <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am E.P. 5.30pm	22 S. Vincent, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	23  S. Raymond of Pennaforte, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	24 S. Timothy, BM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
25  Conversion of S. Paul (Epiphany III) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	26 S. Polycarp, BM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	27 S. John Chrysostom, BCD M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	28 S. Peter Nolasco, C <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am E.P. 5.30pm	29 S. Francis de Sales, BCD M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	30  Charles I, KM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7.00pm	31 S. John Bosco, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm

Ab=Abbot; Ap=Apostle; B=Bishop; C=Confessor; Dn=Deacon; D=Doctor; Ev=Evangelist; K=King; M=Martyr; P=Pope; Pr= Priest; Q=Queen; V=Virgin; W=Widow; SCF = School of Christian Formation

ACW NEWS

Good news from the Fauquier Food Coalition at the 20 December distribution. The food drive donation, the 28 new and 3 used blankets we donated, along with 22 shoebox gifts for children went to help the coalition serve an estimated 286 households, or 925 people; 446 were under the age of 18 and 100 over the age of 65. In addition to all the food, coats and blankets, they gave away \$470 in food gift cards. We received a thank you e-mail from Susan Dove, the President. Don't forget we have signed up to help on the 21 February distribution and will be having another food drive as well as a paper products drive during the run-up to that.

Last Friday, I delivered 31 6-7 lb cooked hams. As I drove up to the Food Bank on Garrett Street, Warrenton, and popped my head in the door, the staff working there knew the hams were coming and allowed me to pull my SUV right up to the door. With some helping hands the hams were soon in the Food Bank store and were put to good use in Christmas baskets for local needy families. They were very appreciative. I noticed something special that I took away from this experience - everyone using the Food Bank while I was there, said "hello" to me. Something we don't always experience while shopping at our grocery stores.

Thank you for your participation in the Adopt-a-Family Program at the Fauquier Family Shelter. The Shelter is very grateful for our help and Shannell and her daughters now have some clothes and items that will help them, especially during this difficult time. Larry and Alex took the gifts to the Shelter on Sunday evening. Liberty High School were there to wrap the gifts as part of a community project. Thank you once again. For those that did not get chance to participate in this program, and would still like to help, please consider donating funds to the ACW for its Outreach Programs.

Thanks again and a very Merry Christmas to all!

Susan Knutsen
(540) 349-2728

DEPARTMENT OF SHAMELESS COMMERCE

One of our parishioners, Bill Stevens, has been hard at work designing various parish-related articles. These can be found on the following website: www.zazzle.com/saintjohnthebaptist+see+gifts or you may simply go to our own parish website and on the homepage you can select the link on the left that says: Shameless Commerce. You will find items such as coffee mugs, mouse pads, keychains, cards and even bumper stickers. The great news is that this not only promotes our parish but some of the proceeds will trickle back to S. John's to help in funding the parish budget. If you have any questions, please e-mail Bill at: ybcos12003@yahoo.com or speak with him at the coffee hour after Mass.