

January Agenda

Circumcision of Christ	Saturday, 1 January, 10am
Epiphany of Our Lord	Thursday, 6 January, 12pm
Vestry Meeting	Sunday, 9 January, 12.30pm
Baptism of Christ	Thursday, 13 January, 12pm
Thursday Night at the Movies	Thursday, 20 January, 7pm
Mid-Atlantic Ordinarate Meeting	Sun, Mon, 23-24 January

Advertising Brochure

A 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).

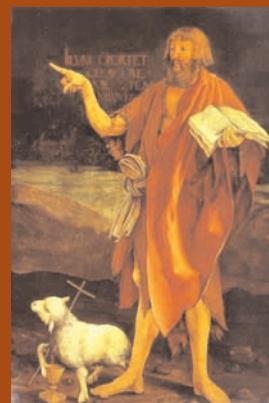
Standing Notices

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:

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ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church
Marshall, Virginia
Issue 39, January 2011

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

Right off the bat, I will confess that you will be receiving this issue of the newsletter late. What else is new, you might very well ask! Now that things are winding up with the rectory renovations, I will be able to focus on my primary responsibilities as your priest. I am grateful for your patience over the past several months and am looking forward to no longer camping out nor living out of a storage unit!

With the New Year comes the common resolve to do things differently or better or more disciplined in the coming year. This desire for a new beginning is innate to the human character. Each of us long for the opportunity to do things better, to be given a second chance, to be able to prove ourselves once again. We can sense deep within us the potential for greater things, to be a better person. The truth is that we are made for God, and He is the source of that deep longing within us.

So what will be your New Year's resolution? Perhaps it will be to lose weight or to work on being more disciplined in other ways. It may even be to try to deal with a particular besetting sin or to grow in a particular virtue that we lack.

None of us are growing any younger and our character is getting increasingly set in the habits we have long established. As we look forward to the gift of another year, may we each commit to use this gift wisely. May this be the year when we take seriously the vocation we each have to become a Saint and begin to live our lives as God would have us live them. We know that only the Saints gain the Beatific Vision in heaven, but yet we continually make excuses as to why we cannot possibly become one.

In the final analysis, we are the ones who choose our destiny. Remember the adage: "Thoughts breed Deeds: Deeds breed Habits: Habits form Character: Character makes Man." The character we form over our life is the character with which we will die, and the character which will determine our final destiny.

Oh, and my New Year's resolution? To be on time with the newsletter!

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

Ordinariate Update

From the *National Catholic Register* **Anglican Ordinariate Arrives**

Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster calls the move to unity by Pope Benedict XVI 'a prophetic gesture'
 by JAMES KELLY

The first Anglican ordinariate will be canonically established this weekend. John Broadhurst, Andrew Burnham and Keith Newton, having resigned their positions as bishops in the Church of England and having been received into the Catholic Church on New Year's Day, will be ordained to the Catholic priesthood at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, Jan. 15.

In a statement, Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster said, "This is a unique moment, and the Catholic community in England and Wales is privileged to be playing its part in this historic development in the life of the universal Church."

At the beginning of Lent, at least 35 groups and 50 Anglican clergy will enroll as candidates for the ordinariate and will be received into the Catholic Church at Easter. The clergy will then be ordained around the time of Pentecost.

The ordinariate will be overseen by an "ordinary" who will have, according to a statement issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, "similar authority and responsibilities in canon law to a diocesan bishop." He will be assisted by a governing council of at least six priests, whose consent he will

Kudos

To Karen & Giulia Parli, Anita Kamphuis and Betsy Bradford for the hours spent greening the church.

To J.T. & Didi McConnell for the hours spent ungreening the church.

need to admit a candidate to holy orders and erect or suppress an ordinariate parish.

The first ordinary will be appointed from the three "founding" members of the ordinariate. At the time of writing, no date had yet been set for this announcement. However, Father Marcus Stock, general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said that it could happen at any moment.

The ordinary will become "an ex officio member of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales," the statement said. "As a member of the conference, the ordinary will, like a diocesan bishop, take a full part in its discussions and decisions. The ordinary will exercise collegiate responsibility for implementing the resolutions taken by the conference within the life of the ordinariate in the same way that a diocesan bishop does so within his diocese."

However, he will not oversee a specific territory or diocese, but only those who are members of the ordinariate. He will be directly appointed by Pope Benedict, although, "a married former Anglican bishop or priest who has been subsequently ordained as a Catholic priest cannot however be ordained as a Catholic bishop whilst their spouse is still living."

Any Catholic will be able to attend Mass at an ordinariate parish. However, they will not be registered members of the ordinariate and will remain under the ordinary jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop where they are resident. In short, membership of the ordinariate is for former Anglicans: Catholics cannot join it.

Father Stock stressed that members of the ordinariate

Transitus

On 24th December, a **Requiem Mass** was commemorated for Joseph and Lucille Lagler. *May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

A Look at the Liturgy

Most of us are clear on the meaning of the Real Presence in the Mass: Christ is truly present in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the elements of the consecrated Host and Chalice. This realization moves us to a desire to prepare ourselves properly before participating in the Mass.

So how do we make a proper preparation? First, it's important that we come a few minutes before the beginning of Mass. This allows us to collect our thoughts as we kneel in the pew, and to examine our consciences to determine if there is anything preventing us from receiving the fullness of the grace of the Sacrament. Saying a prayer to the Holy Ghost asking Him to reveal anything that is not pleasing to God is a good practice, and if there is any serious sin we should resolve to make our confession at the next opportunity. Both *The Practice of Religion* and *Saint Augustine's Prayer Book* have a number of helpful prayers and questions that may be used for self-examination.

But the Real Presence of Christ in the Mass also leads us to behave in certain ways that are peculiar to the Liturgy. For example, we have a desire to want to dress in ways that differ from our ordinary activities. And we also practice a certain decorum knowing we are in the presence of the Creator of all that is.

We also practice certain behaviors within the context of the Liturgy, such as bowing the head at the Name of Jesus, acknowledging the power and holiness of that great Name given at His birth. We also bow our heads when the crucifix passes in procession, again giving homage to Our Lord upon the instrument of our salvation. We genuflect (bowing on the right knee) in the Nicene Creed at the mention of Our Lord's incarnation as well as in the Last Gospel where S. John speaks of "the Word was made flesh," in acknowledgement that God walked among us in our human nature.

Lastly, we want to spend time after Mass giving thanks for the great benefits we receive when we partake of Our Lord's Body and Blood. While the candles are being extinguished is a perfect time to kneel in one's pew and recite a thanksgiving such as the *Anima Christi* or simply tell God how grateful you are for His prodigious love manifested towards us prodigals in such a miraculous gift. But the most authentic act of thanksgiving is when we allow that grace to actually transform us into Christ Himself.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Bible Study: Wed., 10:45am

We begin a **new** Bible Study this month on Wednesday mornings following the 10am Mass. Please join us as we study the Book of Genesis, and bring any friends.

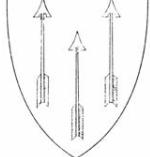
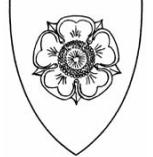
Thursday Night at the Movies:

First it was travel, then the wintry weather! We will again attempt to view "Tender Mercies," this time on Thursday 20 January at 7pm. Here is the Netflix review: *Alcoholic drifter Mac Sledge (Robert Duvall) comes into the life of a lonely widow (Tess Harper) and her young son (Allan Hubbard) in the barren flatlands of Texas. But when Mac is revealed to be a once-famous country singer, he must face a painful past and an uncertain future. The new relationships Mac forges inspire him to revive his career in this touching drama.*

Mid-Atlantic Gathering in Baltimore:

Ordinariate-bound Anglicans and Catholics will gather on January 23rd and 24th, beginning with an Anglican Use Mass on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 114 West Saratoga St., Baltimore, Maryland. The celebrant will be Fr. Eric Bergman, Chaplain of the St. Thomas More Society. Immediately after Mass everyone is invited to assemble at Mount Calvary Church, 816 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, for a time of fellowship and discussion, including presentations by the various Anglican Use communities present, describing their current activities and hopes for the Ordinariate. On Monday, January 24th at 1:00 p.m., participants in the Gathering are invited to take part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., by meeting at 7th St. and Independence Ave. SW. They will march under a banner which proclaims, "Thank you, Holy Father, for Anglicanorum Coetibus!" This is a great opportunity to help build up the corporate life of the future Ordinariate by giving a public witness to the sanctity of human life.

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 HOLY NAME	 ST JOHN	 HOLY INNOCENTS	 NATIVITY	 EPIPHANY	 GLASTONBURY THORN	1  Circumcision M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am E.P. 5.30pm
2  HOLY NAME L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	3 Octave Day of S. John, ApEv	4 Octave Day of the Holy Innocents	5 Vigil M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	6  EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	7  Of the Octave	8 Of the Octave M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
9  HOLY FAMILY L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	10 Of the Octave	11 Of the Octave	12 Of the Octave M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	13 Baptism of Christ	14  S. Hilary, BCD	15 S. Paul the First Hermit, C M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
16  EPIPHANY II L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	17 S. Antony, Ab	18 Chair of S. Peter at Rome	19 S. Wulfstan M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	20 S. Fabian, PM S. Sebastian, M	21  S. Agnes, VM	22 Ss Vincent & Anastasius, Mm M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
23  EPIPHANY III L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	24 S. Timothy, BM	25 Conversion of S. Paul, Ap	26 S. Polycarp, BP	27  S. John Chrysostom	28  S. Peter Nolasco, C	29 S. Francis de Sales M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
30  EPIPHANY IV L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	31 S. John Bosco, C	 ST PETER	 ST POLYCARP	 ST SEBASTIAN	 ST AGNES	 NATIVITY

Ab=Abbot; Ap=Apostle; B=Bishop; C=Confessor; Dn=Deacon; D=Doctor; E=Emperor; Ev=Evangelist; K=King; M=Martyr; P=Pope; Pn=Penitent Pr=Priest; Q=Queen; V=Virgin; W=Widow; SCF=School of Christian Formation; SOC=Stations of the Cross; TNM=Thursday Night at the Movies

will be deemed fully Catholic and explained in the statement that the “Anglican patrimony” they are to maintain within the Church may be “difficult to define, but it would include many of the spiritual writings, prayers, hymnody and pastoral practices distinctive to the Anglican tradition, which have sustained the faith and longing of many Anglican faithful for that very unity for which Christ prayed.”

Of course, apart from this more spiritual side, married clergy are also part of the Anglican tradition.

“If an Anglican clergyman wants to become a Catholic priest in the ordinariate and he is not married then, because the rule of celibacy still pertains for the ordinariate, he will remain unmarried,” Father Stock clarified.

“If someone who is not a clergyman enters the ordinariate, there might be a situation in which the ordinary and the governing council of the ordinariate believe it is appropriate to ordain a married man within the ordinariate. But we don’t know what those circumstances are. All we know is that a limited provision has been made for that within the constitution.”

The clergy joining the ordinariate are being ordained especially quickly so that they can continue serving their community. As Father Stock stated, these men “will be looking after their own communities from day one, from the day they are ordained, so they will need continuing assistance in learning many of the distinctive elements of Catholic life.” As such, their training will be ‘on the job,’ through day courses, e-learning and so on.

It is, therefore, clear that whilst the ordinariate has an understandable communal focus, each case will nevertheless be decided individually. The same is true for lay Anglicans seeking to join the ordinariate: As Father Stock said, “It is an individual decision on the part of each layperson to desire to come into full communion with the Catholic Church.”

Those involved in the establishment of the ordinariate

are certainly well aware that interested parties around the world are watching the development of this first ordinariate very closely.

“This is the first ordinariate to be canonically established, but there are other ordinariates that will be established in other places of the world where there are sufficient groups to create the capacity to make an ordinariate,” Father Stock pointed out. “Just two groups of 15 people could not constitute an ordinariate; as a diocese has to reach a certain capacity to make it viable as a canonical entity, so an ordinariate does as well. There are no fixed figures on that, just as there are not for a diocese, but it depends on the individual circumstances of each place. So it will depend on where these groups form in different parts of the world. ... For example, you might find that in somewhere like Australia there wouldn’t be just one ordinariate for the whole of the country, but there would be an ordinariate within each of the [geographic] provinces.”

This brings out the other characteristic of the ordinariate: the pioneering nature of Pope Benedict’s effort at true ecumenism, seeking to achieve Christian unity without insisting on uniformity of rites and customs.

Archbishop Nichols summarized this neatly:

“Pope Benedict has made clear his own intentions: that the ordinariate can serve the wider cause of visible unity between our two churches by demonstrating in practice the extent to which we have so much to give to each other in our common service of the Lord. With this in mind, he describes this step as ‘a prophetic gesture.’”

In short, it is a gamble, but a very brave and very real effort for unity that could form a blueprint for around the world.

Register Correspondent James Kelley, Ph.D., is a columnist for The Universe, the biggest-selling Catholic weekly in Britain and Ireland, and a researcher at the University of London.