

# The Epistle

December 2011

Advent is a season of great anticipation; it calls for us to be prepared-to be ready-for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church invites us to recall the Incarnation, and to look forward to His Second Coming.

Throughout salvation history God spoke to His people; He promised He would free them from the bonds of slavery. He promised He would be their king, and that He would be their shepherd, guiding and protecting them. He promised to be their Savior. Of course, we know God was faithful. In the fullness of time God fulfilled His promise; God became man.

We remember and celebrate this miraculous event, for it is the greatest gift we could possibly receive-God became one of us. Yet, the Church also compels us to look to the future-toward the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus.

The Church teaches we must be ready for this Second Coming; we must prepare ourselves to meet Jesus! Jesus said there would come a day when He would return to earth, this is known as the *Parousia*, when all will see His glory and He ushers in the *Eschaton*, the end of this present world. We are assured this day will come, because

Jesus said it would-remember, God is faithful to His word.

The Church also teaches the Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. It is most likely we will die prior to the Second Coming of Jesus, but at the time of our deaths we will meet Jesus-and we will be judged.

The Gospel for the first Sunday in Advent warned us against not being prepared when the master returns. It admonished us to be watchful, to be prepared, to be ready-for we do not know the day or hour.

All this may seem a little “off-putting” during this joyous season, but it is what the Church teaches. We need not be afraid. God is faithful to His promises. He loves us, He redeems us, He wants to guide us, He invites us to share in His Holy life-and He saves us from our sin. All we need to do is accept the most precious gift-that miraculous gift of the babe lying in a manger.

Advent is a season for us to prepare ourselves to make a proper response to God’s love-to answer YES to new life that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mark

## *Ordinariate News*

On November 15 at the fall meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Cardinal Wuerl announced our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has approved the establishment of an Ordinariate in the United States. The Ordinariate will be established on January 1, 2012-The Solemnity of Mary.

The name of the Ordinariate, as well as its ordinary, is expected to be named on this day.

The following link is Cardinal Wuerl's address:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/usccb-general-assembly/implementation-of-the-apostolic-constitution-anglicanorum-coetibus.cfm>

Anglicanorum Coetibus questions and answers:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/usccb-general-assembly/anglicanorum-coetibus-apostolic-constitution-questions-answers.cfm>

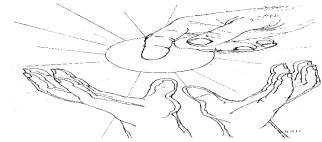
Please continue to pray for the Establishment of the Ordinariate, as well as: Cardinal Wuerl, Fr. Steenson, Fr. Hurd, and for all those who will be entering the Ordinariate. Pray for Msgr. Newton and Our Lady of Walsingham Ordinariate in the UK. Also pray for Archbishop Peter Elliott and the establishment of an Ordinariate in Australia. Finally, I ask you to keep me, your pastor, in your prayers.

This is a very exciting and historic period in the life of the church!

## *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)*

RCIA is the official term to be used for adult catechism classes. All adults interested in becoming a Catholic must enter this process.

RCIA classes will begin on Jan. 3, 2012.  
The Classes will begin at 7:00pm.



## *Thanksgiving Sunday*

Thanksgiving Sunday is the last Sunday of each month, where a special offering is collected, over and above your weekly giving, to give thanks to God for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

The next Thanksgiving Sunday will be on Dec. 25.

## *Weekday Mass Schedule Suspended*

Our normal weekday Mass schedule has been suspended until further notice. However, Holy Days of Obligation will be celebrated at 6:30pm.

Please check our web site for updates.

# Prayer Requests



## Remember St. Luke's in your prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of thy servants, and grant unto this parish family all things necessary for its spiritual welfare: schools to train up thy people in thy faith and fear, ministers to labor in this portion of thy vineyard, a church restored and maintained in the beauty of holiness. Strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy Holy Catholic Church Through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth on God, world without end. Amen.

## Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Charles Sommerkamp;  
Chet & Espie Stewart; Auburn Traycik;  
Ginny Mcknew; Moses Alusi;  
Catherine Jones; Rimisa Williams;  
Jean Ashman; Juliette Scott;  
Norma Brumfield; Alice McNeil;  
Larry Maske; Lawrence McDowell;  
Victor & Gloria Deigh; Martha Krabandam;

Malcolm Parkinson; Angela Koker;  
Joyce Stewart; Ron Alert; Natalie Reeves;  
Andrew Keegan; C.C. Onejeme;  
La-Verne Williams; Debbie Holt;  
Susan Gibbs; Robert Gibbs; Toketo Sanders  
and family; Theresa; Joey; Thomas, Lynn &  
Dallas Love; Robert King; and Fr.Zera

## Please provide us with your e-mail address

In an effort to keep you up to date with the current events at St. Luke's, we are asking you to provide us with your e-mail address Please send an e-mail to Fr. Lewis providing your name.

Fr. Lewis' e-mail address is:  
[frmarklewis@gmail.com](mailto:frmarklewis@gmail.com)

## Your Sacrificial Offering

### Pledges

Please keep your giving current.  
We need your support.

*"Where your heart is there will your treasure  
be also"*

Please give generously!

You can now stay current with your pledges, (offerings, and donations), by using PayPal on our website. Just click on the PayPal emblem and complete the form- it's easy!

2012 Pledge Cards and envelopes can now be picked up in the back of the Church.

## Upcoming events

Dec. 8 – Mass 6:30pm; The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**This is a Holy Day of Obligation**

Dec. 11 – Christmas Concert 6:30pm

Dec. 18 – Lessons and Carols; 10:00am  
Children’s Christmas Pageant; 6:00pm

Dec. 20 – Greening the Church 6:30pm

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Mass 11:00pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day – **One Mass 10:00**

Jan. 1 – The Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God. **Establishment of Personal Ordinariate in America- The names of the Ordinary and Ordinariate are to be announced on this Day.**

Recitation of the Rosary every Thursday evening 6:30pm.

Study Group every Thursday evening 7:00pm.



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## Recommend Reading

The Lamb’s Supper by Scott Hahn  
First Comes Love by Scott Hahn  
Hail, Holy Queen by Scott Hahn  
The Catholic Way by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl

The Sacraments by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl

The Catechism of the Catholic Church **A Must!**  
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults  
Anglicans and the Roman Catholic Church

edited by Stephen Cavanaugh

Forgiveness: A Catholic Approach by Fr. Scott Hurd

Rome Sweet Home by Scott Hahn

The Mass by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl and Mike Aquilina

## New Suggested Readings

Scripture Matters by Scott Hahn

Fatima For Today: The Urgent Marian

Message of Hope by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R.

## Building fund

As part of the agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, we will continue to use our present Church under the terms of a leasing agreement. Our leasing agreement calls for us to rent the property for a period of three years, at which time we can purchase our property at 75% of the market value or build a new church. Either decision will require \$\$\$\$\$\$. Please make a donation toward our future. Make checks payable to St. Luke’s, memo: building fund

## Advent Concert

Our annual Advent concert will be held on Sunday December 11, 6:30 pm. The St. Luke’s Singers will present: **O Magnum Mysterium**. There will be a

reception in the undercroft immediately following the concert.

A free will donation is greatly appreciated. All monies received will go directly toward aiding the less fortunate children in Bladensburg.

### *Christmas Pageant*

On December 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm the children of St. Luke's, under the direction of Mrs. Susan Mathis will present a Christmas Pageant. There will be a reception in the undercroft immediately following the pageant. Please mark your calendars for this event. Hopefully a Christmas pageant will become an annual event.

### *Calling All Women*

Most all parishes have an Altar Guild. For much of the recent past our Altar Guild consisted of one or two women.

About a year ago, a Women's Guild was established. In addition to performing Altar Guild duties, these women also took on the responsibility of learning floral design-thus providing our Sunday Altar arrangements.

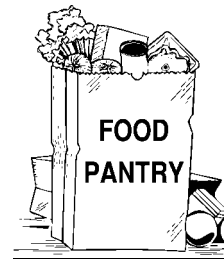
There is a great deal of work to be done. It is not necessary to be here to contribute; linens need to be washed, ironed and folded. Your help in this ministry would be greatly appreciated. **We need your help!**

### *Protecting God's Children*

The Archdiocese of Washington is committed to protecting all of God's children. It is of the utmost importance to them that we provide a safe, loving environment in which our children can play, learn and grow.

To help us provide such an environment and in order for us to be in compliance with the polices of the Archdiocese, **every adult working with children or in a leadership role, rather an employee or volunteer is required to attend a workshop on Protecting God's Children.**

Please contact Mrs. Susan Mathis for questions and registration.



### *Food Pantry*

Our Food Pantry needs to be restocked. Please buy some extra canned goods on your next visit to the market. We are particularly low on canned: meats, vegetables, sauces, beans, and peanut butter.

***Merry Christmas!***