

April Agenda

1	S. Joseph, Spouse of BVM
2	Feria
3	S. Richard of Chichester, B.C.
4	S. Isidore, B.C.D.
5	S. Vincent Ferrer, C.
6	Easter II
7	Feria
8	Feria
9	Patronage of S. Joseph, Spouse of BVM
10	Of the Octave
11	S. Leo the Great, P.C.D. (Of the Octave)
12	Of the Octave
13	Easter III
14	S. Justin Martyr (Of the Octave)
15	Of the Octave
16	Octave Day of S. Joseph (S. Magnus the Martyr)
17	Feria
18	Feria
19	S. Alphege, B.M.
20	Easter IV
21	S. Anselm, B.C.D.
22	Feria
23	S. George, M.
24	Feria
25	S. Mark, Ev.M.
26	Feria
27	Easter V (Rogations)
28	S. Paul of the Cross, C. (Rogation Monday)
29	S. Peter Martyr (Rogation Tuesday)
30	S. Catherine of Sienna, V. (Rogation Wednesday, Vigil)

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 notify 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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ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church,
Marshall, Virginia
Issue 6, April 2008

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

I pray these words be impressed on our hearts during this Paschal-tide. This has been an extraordinary Holy Week, *Triduum* and Easter for me and I hope for the parish as well. It's been two years since I've had the privilege of standing at the Altar during Holy Week, and to have been able to conduct these services at this parish has been a particular joy. I have appreciated the many comments I have received on both the poignancy of the services and their orchestration. But to be honest, we have done nothing more here at S. John's than what has been offered by the Church for centuries. This is our heritage, and what a rich treasure we have indeed!

During the cycle of Gospel lections read during Easter week, I was again struck by the encounter of our Lord and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. "Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?" For those who walked with our Lord each day of Holy Week, who stood with him at the Cross, and saw the tomb where his body was laid, we can appreciate Mary's thoughts when she came back to the tomb that Easter morning. The last thing she expected was to find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. In fact, when she saw our Lord she assumed him to be the gardener who had taken the body away. But when our Lord calls her by name, "Mary," only then does she recognize him and call him, "My Master."

The same question can be put to each one of us: whom do we seek? Like Mary, do we seek someone who conforms to our expectations, or do we seek the God who surpasses more than we could ever imagine?

Recall also that when our Lord spoke her name, she recognized him. But this is nothing more than what our Lord spoke about when he said: "I am the Good Shepherd; and *know my sheep*, and *am known of mine*. . ." The One who laid down his life for his sheep, knows each of his sheep intimately. How well do we know him? I pray that during this Paschal-tide, we may come to know more deeply the reality of the Risen Lord in our lives.

Your friend and Pastor,

From the Deacon's Dais

"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." (St. Matthew 26:38)

As I think back over our Holy Week this year, I am drawn into a contemplation of the watch at the Altar of Repose. Last year, our priest's heart was being used as the pincushion of Spain's brightest and best surgeons. The palms that were to be shipped at the last moment to "ensure their freshness", never arrived for Palm Sunday. We stripped the Altar on Maundy Thursday and, as His loving faithful, made our way from the Cross to the Resurrection on Easter Day with the Reserved Sacrament of our Lord. God Almighty preserved his Presence with us.

This year, Easter Day hearkened back in time at St John's and also pointed to our future: Our priest in full array at the Altar of our Lord while the triumphant hymns played and the smoke of incense floated up between the glorious flowers and fresh pressed Altar linen. How could anyone present this year not feel they were sharing in the glory of our Lord's triumphant Resurrection as our new Paschal candle burned bright at its tallest height!

Triumphant! No other word can describe our Easter celebration. Yet, as your Deacon I am drawn each Holy Week to the message of Maundy Thursday. For at the ordination of a Deacon these words from

Blessed Paul to Timothy are read: "Likewise must the deacons... [hold] the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

With all my struggles and failings, this one demand has been the yoke that is easy and burden light. When I entered the church to prepare for the Maundy Thursday service, and first saw the Altar of Repose, I said to Fr Jonathan, "oh, so it will be in here..." or some such thing. Inside, its beauty shocked me. That night as I sat, kneeled and prayed in the Real Presence of our Lord my thoughts went from anguish to glory. I thought on the Sorrowful Mysteries while my eyes passed from flower to flower and my fingers passed from bead to bead.

At the Altar of Repose, we join our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane, amidst his temptations and sharing his cup of sorrow. However, knowing that the Resurrection comes after the Cross, on this night we can feel the comfort of the Altar's beauty. Yet, in His very Presence, reposed amongst the flowers and candles, we, who as unworthy onlookers do not sweat blood, also get the tiniest glimmer of his torment.

So many of our parish worked to make this Holy Week very special. I send these words not only as thanks to those who participated in the Altar of Repose, but to all those in their quiet ministries at St John's. You may not see or hear them, but that is how it should be. For it is God's glory working through your hands that touches the souls of others.

- The Rev'd Mr John Needham

Transitus

There were no Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals recorded in the Parish Register during the past month.

Kudos

To Celeste Wheelwright and the Flower Guild for their beautiful floral arrangements for Easter.

To Gail Muller and the Altar Guild for the many hours they put in during Holy Week and Easter.

To J.T. McConnell for his continued maintenance work in the church.

To the Rev'd Deacon John Needham for his very capable assistance during Holy Week.

A Look at the Liturgy

It's important to remember that when we experience the Mass, we are participating in a timeless liturgy; timeless in two senses: first, it takes us *out* of time, and second, we continue faithfully a pattern of worship that comes down to us *through* time. This is very beneficial, for on the one hand, we do not have to worry about how to craft the liturgy; we simply follow rubrics laid down in the early centuries of the Church. This gives us tremendous freedom, as any good habit does. On the other hand, it keeps us worshipping with the *whole* Church, and not embarking on our own idiosyncratic path. This latter point is crucial, for we need to remember that we are part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

The Anglican reformers held to the principle that the Church *in* England was both Catholic and reformed. (It should be noted that the term "Protestant" originated as the result of a solemn protest issued by Martin Luther and Phillip Melancthon against the findings of the Second Diet of Spires in Germany. So the concept of Protestantism is actually tied to the Continental Reformation.) In fact, Henry VIII was awarded the title, "Defender of the Faith," by Leo X, for his theological defense of the seven sacraments. Only later, when Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and the universities came under the influence of Lutheranism, did the Church *of* England begin to vacillate as to its doctrinal position. But there is a reason why the Church in England is called the Church of England and not Cranmerianism. In the main, Anglican reformers sought to recover the undivided Church, before the "Great Schism" of 1054 A.D. (when Eastern and Western Christians threw *anathemas* at each other). There was a great interest in the Church Fathers, as well as in the liturgy of the early Church. Somewhat confusingly, when Anglicanism was established as the Episcopal Church in the United States, the title "Protestant" was also adopted, to distinguish their episcopal polity from that of Roman Catholicism. This led many to misunderstand the true nature of the Episcopal Church, leading to their wholesale abandonment of Catholic doctrine that we see today.

So when the Oxford Movement developed in the early 19th century, an attempt was again made to revive an understanding of the Universal Church. These "new reformers" sought to recover what had been lost over time in Anglican worship. Great emphasis was made on regaining an historical sense of liturgical worship, for they understood that recovery of ancient worship is what ties us to the ancient Church and the Church throughout the centuries. This is our heritage at S. John the Baptist, for which we can only be thankful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

We begin a new discussion during Easter-tide: "Jesus of Nazareth," the recent book from Benedict XVI. Pick up a copy from your local bookstore or Amazon.com and come prepared to join in a lively discussion.














Diocesan Synod: 23-26 April

The Diocese of the Holy Cross will hold its annual Synod at S. Andrew's Church in Greenwood, SC. Fr Ostman will attend both as the clergy delegate from S. John's and as a member of Diocesan Council. Arch and Connie Hoxton will also be in attendance. Please keep the Diocese and those attending from S. John's in your prayers. be away from the parish. If you would like information on attending, please speak with Fr Ostman.

Vacation Bible School: 23-27 June

Once again, S. John's will be joining in with our neighbors, Marshall Baptist Church, for a summer VBS program. Several of our parishioners have already agreed to participate in various capacities but there is a need for additional assistance as well. If you enjoy helping with children up age 12 and are available in the mornings during this time, please speak with Fr Ostman.

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>S. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM (Transferred)</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	2 <i>Feria</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	3 <i>S. Richard of Chichester, B.C.</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	4  <i>S. Isidore, B.C.D.</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	5 <i>S. Vincent Ferrer, C.</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
6  EASTER II MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	7 <i>Feria</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	8 <i>Feria</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	9 <i>Patronage of S. Joseph, Spouse of BVM</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	10 <i>Of the Octave</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	11  <i>S. Leo the Great, P.C.D. (Of the Octave)</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	12 <i>Of the Octave</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
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20  EASTER IV ACW Garden Tour MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	21 <i>S. Anselm, B.C.D.</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	22 <i>Feria</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	23 <i>S. George, M.</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	24 <i>Feria</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	25  <i>S. Mark, Ev.M.</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	26 <i>Feria</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM
27  EASTER V (ROGATIONS) MORN. PRAYER 9AM SCF 9.30 MASS 10:30 AM	28 <i>S. Paul of the Cross, C. (Rogation Monday)</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	29 <i>S. Peter Martyr (Rogation Tuesday)</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 5.30PM	30 <i>S. Catherine of Sienna, V. (Rogation Wednesday, Vigil)</i> MORN. PRAYER 9.30AM EVE. PRAYER 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

SOME DEFINITIONS

Over the past month or so, there has been some rather lively discussion surrounding the topic of outreach. Having been involved in some of these conversations from the onset and then hearing from some of you about additional discussions, it seems there might be some confusion about certain “church” terms frequently used in such discussions. This confusion has led to people, who believe essentially the same things, talking at cross-purposes and believing that they are fundamentally at odds with each other. In an attempt to address this confusion, below is a list of problematic terms with *my* definitions:

- 1. Outreach** - reaching out to people in genuine need to address their temporal concerns within the limits of the resources we possess and in accordance with the procedures we have established.
- 2. Evangelization** - communicating the “Good News” that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ [Messiah], “Very God of very God,” sent to restore our relationship with the Father (broken as the result of our sin). We evangelize both by word and deed.
- 3. Church growth** - the fallout from the two preceding items, when they are done faithfully to the best of our ability, and thus imbued with God’s grace.

The Gospels make it abundantly clear that Christians are to share the Gospel *as well as* assist those in need. In addition, I don’t believe we can engineer “church growth,” rather, it is the result of being faithful in our Christian vocation. After all, the definition of Christian is to be “Christ-like.” The more we desire to be like Christ in all that we do, the more we will attract people, just as he did. The truth of human nature is that when people have something of value, others want the same thing. We won’t have to worry about cramming our faith down their throats, they will try to take it from us!

ACW NEWS

After Church on Sunday 20 April, the ACW will be taking the Fauquier-Loudon Garden/Home Tour. The homes are open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will be carpooling. If you would like to drive and take passengers, please let me know so we can set up the transportation. I will be driving my Tahoe and can fit quite a few in. We will be having a light lunch after Church before proceeding to five farms with their gardens and homes on display. You can find more information on the Garden Club of Virginia website www.vagarden-week.org. There are also some brochures for the Historic Garden Week in Virginia in the Community Room at the church that Celeste has very kindly brought in. The tickets cost \$35 each, which includes admission to all five properties. Advance tickets are \$30 if purchased through the mail by 8 April or at one of several information centers. I plan on doing a bulk purchase for advance tickets once I get names of all those interested in joining us. If you would like to come along, please let me know via e-mail or telephone by 1 April. I will be calling those not on e-mail. Rides and ride sharing home can all be worked out. Why not join us for a leisurely spring afternoon taking a look at our local surroundings.

Susan Knutsen
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