

## July Agenda

**Rosary** 4 July 9:45am

**Wednesday Night at the Movies**

15 July, 7pm

**S. Mary Magdalene**

**Low Mass, 22 July, 10am**

**S. James Major, Apostle & Martyr**

**Low Mass, 25 July, 10am**

## 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



## In this issue...

Deacon's Dais	ii
Kudos	ii
Transitus	ii
Ordo Kalendar	iv
Year for Priests	iii
July Agenda	vi

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

[Ecce@st-johnthebaptist.org](mailto: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](http://www.st-johnthebaptist.org)

# ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church  
Marshall, Virginia  
Issue 21 July 2009

*Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,*

Summer is definitely upon us, and with summer in Virginia comes the heat and the humidity and the plans to make our escape to cooler climes, whether the mountains or the beach. May I offer two reminders. First, God does not go on holiday; but our holidays provide a wonderful opportunity to explore the Church wherever we make our summer escape. As sound Anglican parishes are all too often few and far between, we may find ourselves having to worship in Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox parishes. While we are free to worship in these parishes, we are not free to receive the Sacrament. This gives us the opportunity to make an act of spiritual communion by remaining in our pews (or remain standing in an Orthodox church) and praying the following while others are making their communion: *O my Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love Thee above all things, and I desire to receive Thee into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace Thee as if Thou wert already there and unite myself wholly unto Thee. Never permit me to be separated from Thee. Amen.* These occasions should also encourage us to pray for the visible reunion of the Church, in accordance with Our Lord's own prayer as recorded in S. John's Gospel. I hope that it will also give us a deeper sense of gratitude for what we have here at S. John the Baptist, as well as a deeper sense of appreciation for the Blessed Sacrament.

Second, the cost of running our parish is the same whether you are in attendance or are absent. I would ask that you please remember to keep your pledge current, even when away on holiday. We all need to share in the tremendous privilege and responsibility God has given us as parishioners of S. John the Baptist. As baptized Christians we have each made a commitment to give of our resources to advance the Kingdom of God. This is true even if we have not made a specific pledge to S. John's. When we stand before the Throne of God on Judgement Day, we will each give an account of how we used the resources God so generously bestowed upon us. May we not be ashamed on that Day.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

## From the Deacon's Dais

I was recently looking at the bioethics of germ cell research. This is an area of research in which the sperm or ovum is genetically modified prior to conception. In this way diseases passed on genetically could be prevented. It is still a far off in application, but I was fascinated by the thought of a pre-conception procedure that would eliminate so many ethical issues surrounding *in vitro* fertilization and embryonic stem cell research. The Church will need a full teaching on this, I thought, because it is a thin line between genetic disease prevention and genetic "enhancement."

This is because, contrary to modern secular thought, it is the duty of the Church to issue moral directives to guide her flock in the cases of new discoveries. Just as importantly, it is the duty of Christians to follow those directives. I am not speaking here of every paper that comes from the Patriarch of the West or the Patriarch of Constantinople or the Archbishop of Canterbury, but of those teachings on which intellectual honesty demands that the Church Catholic is in agreement.

As Christians, we recognize this as submission. The Orthodox theologian Fr. Thomas Hopko writes that it is very easy to claim Christianity when you allow yourself to go through the Bible and write "good point" in the margin. However, the faith once delivered to the

saints is not a cafeteria line of Christian doctrine from which we are free to pick and choose. In fact, it is the very opposite: complete surrender of oneself is the only way to complete freedom.

Keep in mind, we are not surrendering our intellect, but our pride. Spiritually, the sin of pride is manifest when we think that we and we alone must be convinced of the soundness of every doctrine of the Church. This attitude is dangerous to our spiritual health.

When we find ourselves in conflict with a particular teaching, we are free to search the Holy Scriptures (all of them), the Ecumenical Councils, as well as the Tradition that binds us with those who have gone before us in the Faith. We are called to examine new discoveries in this light in order to determine what to do in a world that continues to unfold even while heaven has already come. But in the end, if we find ourselves outside the teachings of the Church, it is our pride that has put us there and not the truth. We must ever guard against opposition to the teachings of Mother Church, as it does not put us on the side of the angels

Another Orthodox theologian, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, once found himself conversing with a woman in clericals. She told him that she was convinced that the spirit led her into the priesthood. He replied that he did not doubt that it was a spirit that led her, the question was - which kind?

The Rev'd Deacon John Needham

### Transitus

**Col. H.B. Wells** has been hospitalized in Fauquier Hospital due to pneumonia and complications with kidney stones. **David & Hastings Masterson** have recently made a decision to join the Roman Catholic Church. We wish them God's blessings on their spiritual journey.

### Kudos

**To Susan Knutsen** for organizing our participation in the Project One Run as well as recent Patronal Picnic.

**To The Hoxton Agency, Inc., Shaklee of the Plains, Dragon Ridge Home Inspections, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Young, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Muller and Mrs. Linda Bixler** for helping to sponsor the Project One Run race.

**To all Family and Friends of the Parish** for providing the delectable delicacies we all enjoyed at the Patronal Picnic.

continued from page iii.

To let oneself be totally won over by Christ! This was the purpose of the whole life of St Paul to whom we have devoted our attention during the Pauline Year which is now drawing to a close; this was the goal of the entire ministry of the Holy Curé d'Ars, whom we shall invoke in particular during the Year for Priests; may it also be the principal objective for each one of us. In order to be ministers at the service of the Gospel, study and a careful and continuing pastoral and theological formation is of course useful and necessary, but that "knowledge of love" which can only be learned in a "heart to heart" with Christ is even more necessary. Indeed, it is he who calls us to break the Bread of his love, to forgive sins and to guide the flock in his name. For this very reason we must never distance ourselves from the source of Love which is his Heart that was pierced on the Cross.

Only in this way will we be able to cooperate effectively in the mysterious "plan of the Father" that consists in "making Christ the Heart of the world"! This plan is brought about in history, as Jesus gradually becomes the Heart of human hearts, starting with those who are called to be closest to him: priests, precisely. We are reminded of this ongoing commitment by the "priestly promises" that we made on the day of our Ordination and which we renew every year, on Holy Thursday, during the Chrism Mass. Even our shortcomings, our limitations and our weaknesses must lead us back to the Heart of Jesus. Indeed, if it is true that sinners, in contemplating him, must learn from him the necessary "sorrow for sins" that leads them back to the Father; it is even more so for holy ministers. How can we forget, in this regard, that nothing makes the Church, the Body of Christ, suffer more than the sins of her pastors, especially the sins of those who are transformed into "a thief and a robber" of the sheep (Jn 10: 1 ff.), or who deviates from the Church through their own private doctrines, or who ensnare the Church in sin and death? Dear priests, the call to conversion and recourse to Divine Mercy also applies to us, and we must likewise humbly address a heartfelt and ceaseless invocation to the Heart of Jesus to keep us from the terrible risk of harming those whom we are bound to save.

I have just had the opportunity to venerate in the Choir Chapel the relic of the Holy Curé D'Ars: his heart. It was a heart that blazed with divine love, that was moved at the thought of the priest's dignity and spoke to the faithful in touching and sublime tones, affirming that "After God, the priest is everything! ... Only in heaven will he fully realize what he is" (cf. *Letter, Year for Priests*, p. 3). Dear Brothers, let us cultivate this same emotion in order to carry out our ministry with generosity and dedication, or to preserve in our souls a true "fear of God": the fear of being able to deprive of so much good, through our negligence or fault, those souls entrusted to us, or God forbid of harming them. The Church needs holy priests; ministers who can help the faithful to experience the merciful love of the Lord and who are his convinced witnesses. In the Eucharistic Adoration that will follow the celebration of Vespers, let us ask the Lord to set the heart of every priest on fire with that "pastoral charity" which can enable him to assimilate his personal "I" into that Jesus the High Priest, so that he may be able to imitate Jesus in the most complete self-giving. May the Virgin Mary, whose Immaculate Heart we shall contemplate with living faith tomorrow, obtain this grace for us. The Holy Curé d'Ars had a filial devotion to her, so profound that in 1836, in anticipation of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, he consecrated his parish to Mary, "conceived without sin". May the Blessed Virgin, our Mother, accompany us during the Year for Priests which we are beginning to day, so that we are able to be sound and enlightened guides for the faithful whom the Lord entrusts to our pastoral care. Amen!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

In July, we continue our discussion of C.S. Lewis' book, "The Great Divorce." This class is strongly recommended for all in the parish. Scripture teaches we should 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. Please join us for our study of S. John's Gospel and bring your friends.

### Rosary: 9:45am, Saturday 4 July

We will gather after Morning Prayer to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. For those who have never prayed the Rosary corporately, prayer materials will be provided, including rosary beads.

### Wednesday Night at the Movies:

On Wednesday 15 July we will meet at 7pm to watch and discuss the film, **Cry, the Beloved Country**. South African author Alan Paton's celebrated novel gets fine treatment in this adaptation starring James Earl Jones as a rural minister who makes his first trip to Johannesburg in search of his son whose destiny has been linked to that of a doomed, young white man. Richard Harris has never been better as the racist white father who's approached by Jones's character in the universal spirit of mutual understanding and brotherly love. (Netflix review)

### S. James Major: Saturday, 25 July 10am

We will keep this Prayer Book Holy Day with a Low Mass, as is our usual practice.

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> ✠ MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10.00am</b> Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	<b>2</b> VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>3</b> 🐟 St Leo II, PC (Octave) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>4</b> Octave M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
<b>5</b> ✠ TRINITY IV (OCTAVE) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b>	<b>6</b> Octave Day M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>7</b> SS Cyril & Methodius, BBCC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>8</b> St Elisabeth of Portugal, QW M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10.00am</b> Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	<b>9</b> ST JOHN FISHER, BM & ST THOMAS MORE, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>10</b> 🐟 Seven Holy Brothers, MM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>11</b> Of Our Lady M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
<b>12</b> ✠ TRINITY V M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b>	<b>13</b> St Anacletus, PM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>14</b> St Bonaventure, BCD M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>15</b> St Henry, EC M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10.00am</b> Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm WNM 7.00pm	<b>16</b> Our Lady of Mount Carmel M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>17</b> ST ALEXIUS, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>18</b> St Camillus de Lellis, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
<b>19</b> ✠ TRINITY VI (St Vincent de Paul, C) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b>	<b>20</b> St Margaret, VM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>21</b> St Praxides, V M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>22</b> St Mary Magdalene, Pn M.P. 9.30am <b>Mass 10.00am</b> Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	<b>23</b> St Appollinaris, BM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>24</b> 🐟 Vigil M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>25</b> ✠ ST JAMES, AP M.P. 9.30am Low Mass 10am E.P. 5.30pm
<b>26</b> ✠ ST ANNE (TRINITY VII) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am <b>Mass 10.30am</b>	<b>27</b> St Pantaleon, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Low Mass 7.00pm	<b>28</b> St Nazarius et al, MM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>29</b> St Martha, V M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>30</b> SS Abdon & Sennen, MM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	<b>31</b> St Ignatius Loyola, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	 <p>ST MARTHA</p>

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; WNM = Wednesday Night at the Movies

CELEBRATION OF VESPERS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

OPENING OF THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SAINT JOHN MARY VIANNEY

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI  
 Vatican Basilica  
 Friday, 19 June 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a little while, we shall be singing in the Antiphon to the *Magnificat*: "The Lord has welcomed us in his Heart *Suscepit nos Dominus in sinum et cor suum*". God's heart, considered to be the organ of his will, is mentioned 26 times in the Old Testament. Man is judged according to God's Heart. Because of the pain his heart feels at the sins of man, God decides on the flood, but is subsequently moved by human weakness and forgives. Then there is an Old Testament passage in which the subject of God's Heart is expressed with absolute clarity: it is in chapter 11 of the Book of the Prophet Hosea in which the first verses describe the dimension of the love with which the Lord turned to Israel at the dawn of its history: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son" (Hos 11: 1). Israel, in fact, responds to God's tireless favour with indifference and even outright ingratitude. "The more I called them", the Lord is forced to admit, "the more they went from me" (v. 2). Nonetheless he never abandons Israel to the hands of the enemy because "my heart", the Creator of the universe observes, "recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender" (v.8).

The Heart of God throbs with compassion! On today's Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus the Church offers us this mystery for contemplation, the mystery of the Heart of a God who feels compassion and pours forth all his love upon humanity. It is a mysterious love, which in the texts of the New Testament is revealed to us as God's immeasurable love for the human being. He does not give in to ingratitude or to rejection by the People he has chosen; on the contrary, with infinite mercy he sends his Only-Begotten Son into the world to take upon himself the burden of love immolated so that by defeating the powers of evil and death he could restore the dignity of being God's children to human beings, enslaved by sin. All this comes about at a high price: the Only-Begotten Son of the Father is sacrificed on the Cross, "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (cf. Jn 13: 1). A symbol of this love which goes beyond death is his side, pierced by a spear. In this regard, the Apostle John, an eye-witness, says: "one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water" (cf. Jn 19:34).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us pause together to contemplate the pierced Heart of the Crucified One. We have heard again, just now, in the brief Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians, that "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love

with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2: 4-6). To be in Jesus Christ, is to be already seated in heaven. The essential nucleus of Christianity is expressed in the Heart of Jesus; in Christ the whole of the revolutionary newness of the Gospel was revealed and given to us: the Love that saves us and already makes us live in God's eternity. The Evangelist John writes: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (3: 16). His divine Heart therefore calls to our hearts, inviting us to come out of ourselves, to abandon our human certainties to trust in him and, following his example, to make of ourselves a gift of love without reserve.

If it is true that Jesus' invitation to "abide in my love" (cf. Jn 15: 9) is addressed to every baptized person, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Day for priestly sanctification, this invitation resounds more powerfully for we priests, particularly this evening at the solemn inauguration of the Year for Priests, which I wanted to be celebrated on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Holy Curé d'Ars. One of his beautiful and moving sayings, cited in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, immediately springs to my mind: "The Priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus" (n. 1589). How is it possible not to remember with emotion that the gift of our priestly ministry flowed directly from this Heart? How can we forget that we priests were consecrated to serve humbly and authoritatively the common priesthood of the faithful? Ours is an indispensable mission, for the Church and for the world, which demands full fidelity to Christ and in unceasing union with him this to remain in his love means that we must constantly strive for holiness, this union, as did St John Mary Vianney.

In the Letter I addressed to you for this special Jubilee Year, dear brother priests, I wanted to highlight certain qualifying aspects of our ministry, with references to the example and teaching of the Holy Curé d'Ars, model and protector of all of us, priests, and especially parish priests. May my Letter be a help and encouragement to you in making this Year a favourable opportunity to grow in intimacy with Jesus, who counts on us, his ministers, to spread and to consolidate his Kingdom, to radiate his love, his truth. Therefore, "in the footsteps of the Curé of Ars", my Letter concluded, "let yourselves be enthralled by him. In this way you too will be, for the world in our time, heralds of hope, reconciliation and peace!"

continued on page v.