

July Agenda

Parish Barbecue Sunday, 4 July, 12.30pm

Wed. Night at the Movies Wednesday, 14 July, 7pm

S. James, Apostle Sunday 25 July, 8am, 10.30am

S. Anne, Mother of BVM Monday, 26 July, 6pm

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

Parish Brochure

Color brochures are available for advertising our parish. You will find them in the back of the church by the west doors and in the Annex. Please take a few, and leave them in any place you frequent during the week.

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



In this issue...

G. K. Chesterton: Babies	ii
Kudos	ii
Transitus	ii
St Jean-Marie Vianney	iii
Ordo Kalendar	iv
Look at the Liturgy	v
Upcoming Events	v
July Agenda	vii

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 33, July 2010

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

Arguably, one of the most important qualities we could exhibit as Christians is that of personal integrity. That is to say, our outward behavior reflects our inward character. For example, our desire for God is manifest in our desire to attend Mass as often as we are able.

We were created by God to be in relationship with Him. It follows then that we are most honestly human - and exhibit the greatest amount of integrity - when we are in proper relationship to Him. To be in proper relationship with God is best expressed in our worship of Him, for then we acknowledge ourselves as creatures prostrate before our Creator.

Yet, how many times do we find excuses to avoid opportunities of worship? Our lives tend to be so focused on ourselves that we live as though God is an afterthought. We might not consciously or willfully squeeze God out of our lives, but we effectively do just that. We are, in modern parlance, functional atheists. We may profess a belief in God but live our lives as though He has no bearing upon them.

It's like knowing someone who professes to be kindly affectioned towards you but never asks how you are or what you think. And whenever engaged in conversation with this person, he or she goes on interminably, giving the distinct impression that you exist only to enhance this person's ego. This is all too often the way we are towards God.

The result is a lack of integrity in our lives. Because we are not focused on our Creator, we get distracted by everything else that comes along. Our lives become fragmented and chaotic and we can even become depressed and despondent. Our interests become fleeting and we end up dabbling at this or that until we eventually lose interest in everything.

The remedy for this malaise is the proper, frequent and disciplined worship of God, for only then will we become ordered and gain that integrity we all desire.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

Babies - G.K. Chesterton

The two facts which attract almost every normal person to children are, first, that they are very serious, and secondly, that they are in consequence very happy. . .

The most unfathomable schools and sages have never attained to the gravity which dwells in the eyes of a baby of three months old. It is the gravity of astonishment at the universe, and astonishment at the universe is not mysticism, but a transcendent common sense. The fascination of children lies in this: that with each of them all things are remade, and the universe is put again upon its trial. As we walk the streets and see below us those delightful bulbous heads, three times too big for the body, which mark these human mushrooms, we ought always to remember that within every one of these heads there is a new universe, as new as it was on the seventh day of creation. In each of those orbs there is a new system of stars, new grass, new cities, a new sea.

. . . If we could see the stars as a child sees them, we should need no other apocalypse. . . We may scale the heavens and find new stars innumerable, but there is still the new star we have not found - [the one] on which we were born. But the influence of children goes further than its first trifling effort of remaking heaven and earth. It forces us actually to remodel our conduct in accordance with this revolutionary theory of the marvellousness of all things. We do actually treat talking in children as marvellous, walking in children as marvellous, common intelligence in children as marvellous. . . [and] that attitude towards children is right. It

Kudos

To all who provided food and helped set up for the Parish Picnic on 20 June.

To all who sign up for cleaning, flowers and coffee hours on Sundays.

is our attitude towards grown up people that is wrong. . .

Our attitude towards children consists in a condescending indulgence, overlying an unfathomable respect; [we reverence, love, fear and forgive them.] We bow to grown people, take off our hats to them, refrain from contradicting them flatly, but we do not appreciate them properly. . . If we treated all grown-up persons with precisely that dark affection and dazed respect with which we treat [the limitations of an infant, accepting their blunders, delighted at all their faltering attempts, marveling at their small accomplishments], we should be in a far more wise and tolerant temper. . .

The essential rectitude of our view of children lies in the fact that we feel them and their ways to be supernatural while, for some mysterious reason, we do not feel ourselves or our own ways to be supernatural. The very smallness of children makes it possible to regard them as marvels; we seem to be dealing with a new race, only to be seen through a microscope. I doubt if anyone of any tenderness or imagination can see the hand of a child and not be a little frightened of it. It is awful to think of the essential human energy moving so tiny a thing; it is like imagining that human nature could live in the wing of a butterfly or the leaf of a tree. When we look upon lives so human and yet so small. . . we feel the same kind of obligation to these creatures that [God] might feel. . .

But [it is] the humorous look of children [that] is perhaps the most endearing of all the bonds that hold the cosmos together. . . [They] give us the most perfect hint of the humor that awaits us in the kingdom of heaven.

Transitus

We welcome **Steve and Lois Kerchner** to the parish.

A Look at the Liturgy

As we examine the liturgical calendar, we discover that it is built around two sets of events, those pertaining to our salvation and are concerned with the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord, and those commemorating or celebrating the heavenly birthdays of the Saints.

The Christian year begins with the season of Advent, four weeks before the Nativity of Our Lord. This is a penitential season, during which time we are called to prepare ourselves for not just the first advent of Christ in his birth, but for His coming again at the end of time "to judge both the quick and the dead."

From the Twelve Days of Christmas we enter into Epiphany-tide, dedicated to the various manifestations of Christ's divinity. During this season we reflect on the visit of the Magi, Our Lord's baptism in the River Jordan and His turning water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana.

From Epiphany we enter into Pre-Lent as we anticipate Ash Wednesday and the forty days in the wilderness of Lent. Here we undergo a more stringent penitence as we engage in a concerted effort to increase our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. All of this helps us to identify with Our Lord's own experience in the desert when He was tempted by Satan before beginning His public ministry. The end of Lent brings Passion-tide and Holy Week and finally the Sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, during which time we stand beside Our Lord in His Passion, Crucifixion and entombment.

The central feast of the Christian year is that of Easter or Pascha, when we celebrate Our Lord's victory over sin and death as He bursts triumphant from the grave. For forty days we rejoice in Our Lord's defeat of our ancient enemies who would rob us of our true destiny. Then when Our Lord ascends to His Father and returns to the place of honor, we undertake a *novena* of prayer, asking Him to send that other Paraclete, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, who then descends upon the Church on Whitsunday or Pentecost. From Pentecost we enter into Trinity-tide, during which time we delve more deeply into Our Lord's teachings as recorded throughout the Epistles and Gospels.

At the same time, and penetrating this cycle concerning Our Lord's life and ministry, we encounter the various Saints' days. Usually, the Saint is commemorated on the day of his heavenly birthday, when he passes to his heavenly reward. Each Saints' day is an opportunity to learn more deeply about our faith and to appreciate anew how the life of Christ can saturate the human spirit, shining forth in each generation and to every age. Each Saints' day removes the excuses we give as to our sloth and calls us to a life of greater sanctity and stronger witness to our generation. Let us give thanks for a extraordinary instructional tool.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4th Barbecue: Sunday July 4, 12.30pm

In place of Coffee Hour after the 10.30am Mass, Anita Kamphuis has invited us to join in a neighborhood barbecue at her house (corner of Conde Road and Great Dane Lane, Marshall). This occasion will give us a great opportunity to meet those potentially interested in the parish.

Weekly Bible Study: Wed, 10:30am

Our Bible Study meets after Morning Prayer at 9:30am and Mass at 10am. Please join us as we study S. Luke's Acts of the Apostles and bring your friends.

First Saturday Rosary: 3 July, 9:45am

We will meditate on the Sorrowful Mysteries this month. Please join us even if you have never prayed the Rosary before. Rosaries and prayers are available at the Lady Shrine.

Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

In July, we continue our examination of Archibald Campbell Knowles book, **The Practice of Religion**. This class is strongly recommended for all who are new to the parish or 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*

Wednesday Night at the Movies:

On Wednesday 14 July at 7pm we will view **In this House of Brede**. Here is the Rotten Tomatoes synopsis: The story of a woman named Phillipa (Diana Rigg) and her quest for love in the sequestered world of the Benedictine nuns at Brede Abbey. She becomes involved in relationships with two women: one a young and confused novice, and the other an older and frigid conservative. Phillipa comes to the conclusion that both women can be loved equally. Based on the novel by Rumer Godden and filmed on location in Irish and English convents.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 S. JAMES	 S. IGNATIUS	 S. CYRIL	 THE VISITATION	1 MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD (Octave Day) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	2 VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	3 S. Leo II, PC (Octave) M.P. 9.30am Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm
4  TRINITY V L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am Parish Barbecue	5 S. Anthony Mary Zacharias, C (Octave) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	6 Octave Day M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	7 SS. Cyril & Methodius BB, CC M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	8 S. Elizabeth of Portugal, W M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	9  SS. John Fisher, B & Thomas More, MM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	10 Seven Holy Brethren, MM SS. Rufina & Secunda, VV MM M.P. 9.30am Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm
11  TRINITY VI (S. PIUS I, PM) L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	12 S. John Gualbert, Ab M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	13 S. Anacletus, PM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	14 S. Bonaventure, BCD M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm WNM 7pm	15 Translation of S. Swithun, BC (S. Henry, EC) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	16  Our Lady of Mount Carmel M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	17 S. Alexius, C M.P. 9.30am Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm
18  TRINITY VII (S. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, C) L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	19 S. Vincent de Paul, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	20 S. Margaret of Antioch, VM (S. Jerome Emiliani, C) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	21 S. Praxedes, V M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	22 S. Mary Magdalen, Pn M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	23  S. Appolinaris, BM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	24 Vigil M.P. 9.30am Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm
25  S. JAMES, AP (Trinity VIII) L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	26 S. ANNE, MOTHER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm	27 S. Panteleon, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	28 SS. Nazarius & Celsus, MM, Victor I, PM & Innocent I, PC M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm	29 S. Martha, V (S. Felix II, PM, SS. Simplicius, Faustinus & Beatrix, MM) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	30  SS. Abdon & Sennen, MM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	31 S. Ignatius Loyola, C M.P. 9.30am Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm

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

S. Jean-Marie Vianney - On Death

A day will come, perhaps it is not far off, when we must bid *adieu* to life, *adieu* to the world, *adieu* to our relations, *adieu* to our friends. When shall we return, my children? Never. We appear upon this earth, we disappear, and we return no more; our poor body, that we take such care of, goes away into dust, and our soul, all trembling, goes to appear before the good God. When we quit this world, where we shall appear no more, when our last breath of life escapes, and we say our last *adieu*, we shall wish to have passed our life in solitude, in the depths of a desert, far from the world and its pleasures. We have these examples of repentance before our eyes every day, my children, and we remain always the same. We pass our life gaily, without ever troubling ourselves about eternity. By our indifference to the service of the good God, one would think we were never going to die.

See, my children, some people pass their whole life without thinking of death. It comes, and behold! they have nothing; faith, hope, and love, all are already dead within them. When death shall come upon us, of what use will three-quarters of our life have been to us? With what are we occupied the greatest part of our time? Are we thinking of the good God, of our salvation, of our soul? O my children! what folly is the world! We come into it, we go out of it, without knowing why. The good God places us in it to serve Him, to try if we will love Him and be faithful to His law; and after this short moment of trial, He promises us a recompense. Is it not just that He should reward the faithful servant and punish the wicked one? Should the Trappist, who has passed his life in lamenting and weeping over his sins, be treated the same as the bad Christian, who has lived in abundance in the midst of all the enjoyments of life? No; certainly not. We are on earth not to enjoy its pleasures, but to labor for our salvation.

Let us prepare ourselves for death; we have not a minute to lose: it will come upon us at the moment when we least expect it; it will take us by surprise. Look at the saints, my children, who were pure; they were always trembling, they pined away with fear; and we, who so often offend the good God--we have no fears. Life is given us that we may learn to die well, and we never think of it. We occupy ourselves with everything else. The idea of it often occurs to us, and we always reject it; we put it off to the last moment. O my children! this last moment, how much it is to be feared! Yet the good God does not wish us to despair; He shows us the good thief, touched with repentance, dying near Him on the cross; but he is the only one; and then see, he dies near the good God. Can we hope to be near Him at our last moment--we who have been far from Him all our life? What have we done to deserve that favour? A great deal of evil, and no good.

There was once a good Trappist Father, who was trembling all over at perceiving the approach of death. Someone said to him, "Father, of what then are you afraid?" "Of the judgment of God," he said. "Ah! if you dread the judgment--you who have done so much penance, you who love God so much, who have been so long preparing for death--what will become of me?" See, my children, to die well we must live well; to live well, we must seriously examine ourselves: every evening think over what we have done during the day; at the end of each week review what we have done during the week; at the end of each month review what we have done during the month; at the end of the year, what we have done during the year. By this means, my children, we cannot fail to correct ourselves, and to become fervent Christians in a short time. Then, when death comes, we are quite ready; we are happy to go to Heaven.