



ECCE

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church
Marshall, Virginia
Issue 32, June 2010

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Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

Let me say that my prediction of a late Spring snow storm did not come to pass. This should prove that I do not have the powers of prognostication, and thus am not able to predict the future. Nor can I read people's minds, nor do I have extra-sensory perception. All of this is a preamble to remind everyone that if you or a loved one is in hospital, word needs to get to me so that a visit can take place.

Why is a visit when hospitalized important? First, the priest brings the presence of Our Lord into the hospital room in a very real way. Because he participates in the eternal priesthood of Christ owing to his ordination, the priest brings Christ with him wherever he goes. This should be a sense of comfort both to the priest and to the hospitalized. I say that because if I am honest, I bring very little to people in my own self. It is only by bringing Our Lord into a pastoral situation that something of substance takes place. Second, depending on the circumstances, the priest may bring the Blessed Sacrament so that the hospitalized person receives the very Body of Christ Himself. In situations where this may not be possible, due to an unconscious state or a feeding tube or something similar, the priest may then administer the Sacrament of Unction, anointing the person with Holy Oil. Third, the hospital staff are often encouraged by the presence of a priest. They lead extraordinarily stressed lives and knowing there is someone present who can share in their burden is appreciated.

So what might you expect during a pastoral visit in hospital? The priest's visit is primarily to bring the presence of Christ, so the first matter at hand will not be pleasantries but the administration of the Blessed Sacrament or the Sacrament of Unction. There are specific prayers to be offered in either occasion, and there will be an opportunity to make your confession, should that be necessary or desired. The priest will then take the time to chat, but will try not to spend too much time, so as to wear out his welcome.

Remember, the arrival of a priest in the hospital room does not signal that the end is nigh! Sometimes there is a fear that if the priest is called the worst will happen. This amounts to superstition. If anything, the arrival of the priest should be a sign of hope!

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

On Eucharistic Adoration

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today's solemnity of Corpus Domini, which in the Vatican and other nations was already celebrated this past Thursday, invites us to contemplate the great mystery of our faith: the most holy Eucharist, the real presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the altar.

Every time that the priest renews the Eucharistic sacrifice, in the prayer of consecration he repeats: "This is my body & this is my blood." He does this giving his voice, his hands, and his heart to Christ, who wanted to remain with us as the beating heart of the Church. But even after the celebration of the divine mysteries, the Lord Jesus remains living in the tabernacle; because of this he is praised, especially by Eucharistic adoration, as I wished to recall in the recent postsynodal apostolic exhortation, "*Sacramentum Caritatis*" (cf. Nos. 66-69).

Indeed, there is an intrinsic connection between celebration and adoration. The holy Mass, in fact, is in itself the Church's greatest act of adoration: "No one eats this food," St. Augustine writes, "if he has not first worshipped it" (Commentary on Psalm 98:9; CCL XXXIX, 1385). Adoration outside holy Mass prolongs and intensifies what happened in the liturgical celebration and renders a true and profound reception of Christ possible.

Today, then, in all Christian communities, there is the Eucharistic procession, a singular form of public adoration of

the Eucharist, enriched by beautiful and traditional manifestations of popular devotion. I would like to take the opportunity that today's solemnity offers me to strongly recommend to pastors and all the faithful the practice of Eucharistic adoration. I express my appreciation to the institutes of consecrated life, as also to the associations and confraternities that dedicate themselves to this practice in a special way. They offer to all a reminder of the centrality of Christ in our personal and ecclesial life.

I am happy to testify that many young people are discovering the beauty of adoration, whether personal or in community. I invite priests to encourage youth groups in this, but also to accompany them to ensure that the forms of adoration are appropriate and dignified, with sufficient times for silence and listening to the word of God. In life today, which is often noisy and scattered, it is more important than ever to recover the capacity for interior silence and recollection: Eucharistic adoration permits one to do this not only within one's "I" but rather in the company of that "You" full of love who is Jesus Christ, "the God who is near us."

May the Virgin Mary, Eucharistic Woman, lead us into the secret of true adoration. Her heart, humble and silent, was always recollected around the mystery of Jesus, in whom she worshipped the presence of God and his redemptive love. By her intercession may there grow faith in the Eucharistic mystery, the joy of participating at holy Mass, especially on Sunday, and the desire to bear witness to the immense charity of Christ.

Kudos

To all who helped make the Ascension Day barbecue a success.

To all who participate in cleaning the church, hosting the coffee hour, reading at Mass and supply flowers for the altar.

Pope Benedict VI

Given at S. Peter's Square 10 June 2007,
after the mid-day *Angelus*

Transitus

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

S. Jean-Marie Vianney - On the Real Presence

Our Lord is hidden there, waiting for us to come and visit Him, and make our request to Him. See how good He is! He accommodates Himself to our weakness. In Heaven, where we shall be glorious and triumphant, we shall see him in all His glory. If He had presented Himself before us in that glory now, we should not have dared to approach Him; but He hides Himself, like a person in a prison, who might say to us, "You do not see me, but that is no matter; ask of me all you wish and I will grant it." He is there in the Sacrament of His love, sighing and interceding incessantly with His Father for sinners. To what outrages does He not expose Himself, that He may remain in the midst of us! He is there to console us; and therefore we ought often to visit Him. How pleasing to Him is the short quarter of an hour that we steal from our occupations, from something of no use, to come and pray to Him, to visit Him, to console Him for all the outrages He receives! When He sees pure souls coming eagerly to Him, He smiles upon them. They come with that simplicity which pleases Him so much, to ask His pardon for all sinners, for the outrages of so many ungrateful men. What happiness do we not feel in the presence of God, when we find ourselves alone at His feet before the holy tabernacles! "Come, my soul, redouble thy fervour; thou art alone adoring thy God. His eyes rest upon thee alone." This good Saviour is so full of love for us that He seeks us out everywhere.

Ah! if we had the eyes of angels with which to see Our Lord

Jesus Christ, who is here present on this altar; and who is looking at us, how we should love Him! We should never more wish to part from Him. We should wish to remain always at His feet; it would be a foretaste of Heaven: all else would become insipid to us. But see, it is faith we want. We are poor blind people; we have a mist before our eyes. Faith alone can dispel this mist. Presently, my children, when I shall hold Our Lord in my hands, when the good God blesses you, ask Him then to open the eyes of your heart; say to Him like the blind man of Jericho, "O Lord, make me to see!" If you say to Him sincerely, "Make me to see!" you will certainly obtain what you desire, because He wishes nothing but your happiness. He has His hands full of graces, seeking to whom to distribute them; Alas! and no one will have them. . . . Oh, indifference! Oh, ingratitude! My children, we are most unhappy that we do not understand these things! We shall understand them well one day; but it will then be too late!

When we are before the Blessed Sacrament, instead of looking about, let us shut our eyes and our mouth; let us open our heart: our good God will open His; we shall go to Him, He will come to us, the one to ask, the other to receive; it will be like a breath from one to the other. What sweetness do we not find in forgetting ourselves in order to seek God! The saints lost sight of themselves that they might see nothing but God, and labor for Him alone; they forgot all created objects in order to find Him alone. This is the way to reach Heaven.

A Look at the Liturgy

The liturgical theme this month is that of the Blessed Sacrament. While the Church commemorates Our Lord's Institution of this Sacrament on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week, She gives us an opportunity to celebrate more fully on the first Thursday after the Easter/Ascension/Whitsun cycle. This feastday is known as the Corpus Christi, and is given a full octave or eight days in which to celebrate this most precious gift of Our Lord's Body and Blood to His mystical body, the Church.

Why have a separate celebration in addition to the commemoration during Holy Week? As the articles in this newsletter suggest, this is a mystery so tremendous, so awesome that even in the course of eight days we could never comprehend its full meaning. In Biblical language, the number "8" signifies a new beginning or a new first. Just as Our Lord rose on the "eighth day" signifying a new creation, so the celebration of a feast with an octave suggests that we should find renewal or restoration as a result of our celebration. Each year that we go through the liturgical kalendar, we are meant to grow more deeply in our knowledge and appreciation of the faith. And each iteration of each of these octaves suggests that we are to be renewed in our understanding and appreciation of that particular feast.

In the Feast of Corpus Christi, where we reflect upon Our Lord's very Body and Blood given to us in this most Blessed Sacrament, we could never exhaust the significance of so wondrous a gift. At the same time that Our Lord

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>NATIVITY OF S. JOHN BAPTIST</p>		<p>1</p> <p>S. Nicomede, PM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SS. Marcellinus, Peter & Erasmus, B, MM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CORPUS CHRISTI</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>Octave (S. Francis Caracciolo, C)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Octave (S. Boniface, BM)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<p>6 </p> <p>SUNDAY AFTER CORPUS CHRISTI</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Octave</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Octave</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Octave (S. Columba, Ab)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Octave Day (S. Margaret of Scotland, QW)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SACRED HEART OF JESUS</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>S. Barnabas, AP (Transferred) (Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<p>13 </p> <p>SUNDAY AFTER SACRED HEART</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am</p>	<p>14</p> <p>S. Basil the Great, BCD (Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Octave (SS. Vitus & Companions, MM)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Octave</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm WNM 7pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Octave (S. Botolph, Ab)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>18 </p> <p>Octave Day (S. Ephraem Syrus, Deacon, CD)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>S. Juliana Falconieri, V (SS. Gervasius & Protasius, MM)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<p>20 </p> <p>TRINITY III</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am Picnic 12pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>S. Aloysius Gonzaga, C</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>S. Alban, Protomartyr of Britain</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Vigil</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NATIVITY OF S. JOHN BAPTIST</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<p>25 </p> <p>S. William, Ab (Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>SS. John & Paul, MM (Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<p>27 </p> <p>TRINITY IV</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am Vestry 12.30pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>S. Irenaeus, BM (Octave) (Vigil)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>SS. Peter & Paul, APP</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Commemoration of S. Paul, Ap</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	 <p>S. COLUMBA</p>	 <p>S. ALBAN</p>	 <p>TRINITY</p>

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as both Priest and Victim offers Himself to the Father on our behalf, He also ensures that the efficacy of that sacrifice would be perpetuated within the life of His mystical Body, the Church. Not only does that "self-oblation of Himself once offered" stand between each one of us and the Father, but in this Sacrament Our Lord has created a means whereby we receive the very essence of His life into our own.

God created us for relationship with Him. We were created in His image, and are meant to grow into His likeness, seeking only Him and His will for our lives. This is the only way that we will find authentic fulfillment in our lives. We may seek alternatives pursuits, such as power or wealth or social recognition, but we will always come up empty.

So to provide the means whereby we can truly grow into the likeness of God Himself, Our Lord provides us with the essence of His own life - His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity - contained within the sacred species of the Blessed Sacrament. This is why S. John records these words of Our Lord in his Gospel: "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*" Thus, when we participate in the Sacrament of the Altar, we participate in the means of our salvation.

While this Sacrament was instituted primarily to be the means of salvation, we also find fulfillment when worshipping Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout the year, particularly during Lent, we offer Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a service in which we have the opportunity simply to worship and adore Our Blessed Lord in the Monstrance placed on the altar. There are also occasions when we offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, that is, when the Sacrament normally reserved within the tabernacle is exposed or placed upon the altar for our adoration. These occasions give us the opportunity outside of the Mass to bask in the Presence of Our Blessed Lord, and to give thanks for His love towards us and most especially to rejoice in the particular means He has instituted whereby we become one with Him.

So whether in the context of the Mass or outside of the Mass, let us always give thanks for this most inestimable gift, the very life of God Himself.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 the Acts of the Apostles and bring your friends.

First Saturday Rosary: 5 June, 9.45am

We will meditate on the Luminous 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 June, we will discuss the book: *The Practice of Religion*, a practical manual of religious instruction. This class is recommended for all in the parish so that we will be able 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 16 June we will meet at 7pm to watch: "Molokai: The Story of Father Damien." Here is the Netflix review: *In 19th-century Hawaii, lepers are exiled to the island of Molokai and left to fend for themselves without any outside assistance – until a courageous priest named Father Damien risks his own life to help ease their suffering. Although he's shunned by his church's greedy elders, Father Damien inspires others to reach out to the residents of Molokai.*

Parish Picnic: Sunday, 20 June

In honour of our Patronal Feast, the Nativity of S. John Baptist, 24 June, we will have a parish picnic in place of the Coffee Hour following Mass. Please sign up in the Annex.

Vestry Meeting: Sunday, 27 June

The Vestry will meet after the Coffee Hour on Sunday, 27 June, for their quarterly meeting. We have several important topics to discuss so please plan on being in attendance.

June Agenda

Corpus Christi	Thursday, 3 June, 6pm
Rosary	Saturday, 5 June, 9:45am
Sacred Heart	Friday, 11 June, 6pm
Wed. Night at the Movies	Wednesday, 16 June, 7pm
Nativity of St John Baptist	Thursday, 24 June, 6pm
SS. Peter and Paul	Tuesday 29 June, 6pm
Commemoration of S. Paul	Wednesday, 30 June, 10am

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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