

May Agenda

Diocesan Synod, Spartanburg 7- 9 May

Bishop's Visitation Sunday, 10 May

Wednesday Night at the Movies
Wednesday, 13 May, 7pm

The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Thursday, 21 May, 7pm

Rosary (Last Saturdays) 30 May, 9.45am

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



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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 19 May 2009

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

Summer seems to have arrived in Virginia having by-passed Spring altogether. Perhaps this is one aspect of living here I have yet to get used to. But with the arrival of May, we can look forward to a very busy month in the life of our Diocese and our parish. If you are not aware, Diocesan Synod will take place at the Anglican Church of S. Francis in Spartanburg, South Carolina from 6 May through 9 May. At present count, there will be three representatives from our parish in attendance. Annual Synod gives the Diocese the opportunity to come together in worship and fellowship, with our Bishop Paul Hewett, so that we may be renewed in our vision and ministry to advance the Kingdom of God in our vocation as Anglicans. We pray that this Synod will be another occasion of outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon us so that we might be invigorated in His power as we go forward in our respective responsibilities.

Then, on Sunday 10 May, Bishop Hewett will be with us at S. John's for his episcopal visitation as well as to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. I do hope everyone will make a special effort to be with us on that Sunday. As it is also Mothers' Day, I can think of no better way to express our gratitude to mothers than to be in church, giving thanks for the Church, the Mother of all who have been baptized into the Body of Christ.

May is also known in the Church as the Month of Our Lady. This devotion dates back to 13th century and was particularly strong in England. As we recently recollected during Holy Week, Our Lord bequeathed his mother to S. John at the foot of the cross, who then "took her into his own home." In that act., S. John stands for the whole apostolic company, and witnesses to our responsibility to "take her into our own home" as well. I encourage all of us to look more closely at how we might do this, whether it be by reciting the Rosary or perhaps even by placing an icon or statue of her in a place of prominence. Our Lord gave us a great gift, and as she proclaimed in the *Magnificat*, "all generations shall call me blessed..." [Luke 1:48] May we be such a generation.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

From the Deacon's Dais

I always find something special hidden beneath the great majesty of the Easter Mass; those new faces approaching the altar rail I've never seen before or at least not since last Easter. What a joy it is at the Offertory to fill the chalice to almost overflowing for so many communicants. What a satisfaction in my ministry to handle (I hope and pray, gently) the clumsiness of those not used to regular communion and not sure how to receive the sacrifice of our Lord's precious blood.

Years ago my daughter, on her way to King's Dominion with friends, found a chunk of lead in her right foot that pushed her car over the speed limit and found herself introduced to the Virginia State Police. As she was a minor and this was in another county, a month later we, father and daughter, spent the day in family court to resolve this matter in front of a judge. Again, because she was a minor, we along with all the other minors and their parents were sequestered in a side room to protect their privacy.

This experience had a profound effect on me and my ministry. As we were gathered in a group of about thirty, I soon discovered that

the pervasive mentality in the room was one of "us against the court." One mother next to me asked her son who was about to meet the judge, "where is he...who ratted you out?"

How can your heart not bleed for these young souls being raised to "not get caught?" Those who are have not been taught such basic social skills that jeans and a t-shirt are deemed the proper attire for both parent and child on their day in court. How do we go from the nefariously minded juvenile with no family support to the mature Christian? We do so by the Grace of God.

This is why the new faces at the Easter Service are so special to me. Most of them are visiting and have come to Easter services as usual. Some of them have come to share the Easter holiday as a family and find themselves in that increasingly rare occasion of attending church as a family. On these occasions, my fervent prayer is that at least one unchurched person, of whatever age, is able to break through the sins visited upon him, who decides Easter is worthwhile to attend...and then finds God at the Altar. Then after that one seminal experience with the one true living God, goes on to find a holiness in this life that the rest of us can only aspire to reach.

The Rev'd Deacon John Needham

Kudos

To the ACW Ladies for decorating the church for Easter.

To John Hagan for maintaining the lawn and for the plantings around our new sign.

To all the parishioners who helped look for Eva during her recent over-night adventure.

Transitus

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

A Look at the Liturgy

As this is the Month of Our Lady, I thought it might be helpful and appropriate to review the history of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and in particular discuss the origin and practice of the use of the Rosary. The first point to be made is that the Church has always distinguished the **worship** of God from the **veneration** of the Saints. In the Greek language, *latria* is worship due to God alone, as signified by the early Church Fathers. *Dulia* is veneration due to the Saints, and *hyperdulia* is the veneration due to the Blessed Mother alone. Now the question might be rightly asked as to why the Saints or the Blessed Mother are due *any* veneration. To the extent that Christ is made visible through their lives, they become an extension of His revelation to the world and thus share in His glory. The Seventh Oecumenical Council decreed that it was heresy to forbid icons and their veneration - and by extension, veneration of the Saints themselves - as that equates to a denial of the Incarnation itself. If the Son "became flesh and dwelt among us," then He has a human nature and can be represented as such. Furthermore, that representation can and should be venerated, even when He is represented in the form of the Saints.

Veneration of the Blessed Virgin is actually a Biblical concept. In the *Magnificat*, her hymn of praise to God for selecting her to become the *Theotokos*, or "God-bearer," as recorded by S. Luke, she states: "All generations shall call me blessed." [Luke 1:48] In each generation of the Church, the faithful have done just that. The Fathers in both the Eastern and Western Church spoke of her exalted role in God's plan of salvation, and drew from analogies in the Hebrew Scriptures, such as the role of the Queen Mother in the court of King Solomon, to illustrate the place of the Blessed Virgin Mary within the Church.

In the West, one particular devotion that began to take definite shape by at least the twelfth century, was that of repeating the salutation of the Angel Gabriel: "Hail, full of grace," or *Ave, gratia plena*. Many ancient cultures had the practice of using pebbles, berries or bits of bone as a way of counting repeated prayers, and by the Middle Ages, a string of beads called a "Paternoster" was being used to count repeated "Our Fathers." This was soon adapted to count "Hail Marys" and by the time of S. Dominic (b. 1170) the practice of reciting up to 150 of these salutations was common. Tradition assigns the present arrangement of the Rosary to S. Dominic - fifteen each of the "Our Father" and "Glory be," and 150 "Hail Marys," divided into three parts, each containing five Decades, consisting of an "Our Father," ten "Hail Marys," and one "Glory be." To each Decade is assigned one of the principal Mysteries of the life of Our Lord or of His Blessed Mother, as a matter for meditation. The idea is to exercise the mind in the Mysteries of the faith while in prayer, using the beads to keep track of the individual prayers.

The Mysteries are divided traditionally into the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries, and recently, the Luminous Mysteries have been added. Thus the Rosary becomes a combination of mental and vocal prayer, allowing anyone serious about prayer to take on this devotion. As one begins to master the practice of the Rosary, this devotion becomes a means of contemplating the central Mysteries of our faith, not only heightening our understanding but affording us the opportunity to enter more deeply into them. I hope you will make the effort to join us as we undertake this devotion in our parish family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

In May, we continue our discussion on "Building a Christian Character." 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*

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.



















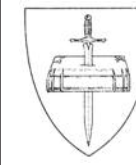
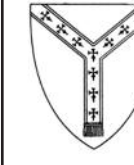
Wednesday Night at the Movies:

On Wednesday 13 May we will meet at 7pm to watch and discuss the film, **Diary of a Country Priest**. Here is the Netflix review: The priest of Ambricourt (Claude Laydu) is a reserved and dedicated young man whose inability to mesh in social situations causes him to feel isolated from the very population he's supposed to be serving. Adding to his troubles are his health problems, which make him unable to carry out his obligations. Growing ill and ever more confused as to what his life really means, the priest is further distanced from his village and from God.

Rosary: Saturday, 30 May 9:45am

Beginning this month, the Month of Our Lady, we will gather to recite the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary after Morning Prayer. Please join us for this ancient devotion, and bring your favorite rosary (or see Fr Ostman if you don't own one). Materials for the prayers will be provided.

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 HOLY CROSS	 ST BEDE	 ST DUNSTAN	 ST JAMES	 ST PHILIP	1 Ss Philip and James M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7.00pm	2 S. Athanasius, BCD M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
3 Holy Cross (Easter III) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	4 St Monica, W M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	5 St Pius V, PC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	6 St John before the Latin Gate M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	7 St Stanislas, BM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	8  Apparition of St Michael M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	9 St Gregory Nazianus, BCD M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
10  Easter IV M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	11 feria M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	12 S. Pancras, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	13 S. Robert Bellarmine, BCD M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10.30am E.P. 5.30pm WNM 7.00pm	14 St Boniface, M M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	15  St John Baptist de la Salle, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	16 St Simon Stock, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
17  Easter V (Rogation) M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	18 St Venantius M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	19 St Dunstan, BC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	20 St Bernardin of Siena, C M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10.30am E.P. 5.30pm	21  Ascension Day M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7.00pm	22  Octave M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	23 Octave M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
24  Sunday after Ascension M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	25 St Gregory VII, PC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	26 feria M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	27 St Bede, CD M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am Bible Study 10.30am E.P. 5.30pm	28 Octave Day (St Augustine of Canterbury, BC) M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	29  St Mary Magdalene of Pazzi, V M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	30 Vigil of Pentecost M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
31  Pentecost M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	 PENTECOST	 ORDINATION	 ST BERNARDIN OF SIENA	 ASCENSION	 ST BONIFACE	 ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

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; SOC = Stations of the Cross; WNM = Wednesday Night at the Movies

PROJECT ONE RUN

Please mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday 20 June and join in the PROJECT ONE RUN in beautiful WARRENTON.

WHAT IS IT?

This is a 1 Mile Kiddie Run beginning at 8:00 am, and 5K run/race for teens/adults beginning at 8:30 am, in which our parish will participate on the Warrenton Greenway. If you want to walk, you can, too! This is open to all levels of runners and walkers, families and kids. In the past we have done our own 5k race in Marshall, and made about \$500 for our outreach programs. But this year we are joining forces to pool our resources better with other local charities: Fauquier Family Shelter, Fauquier Faith Partners for Domestic Violence, St. John the Evangelist Church, Fauquier Food Coalition, and our parish, guided by Coach Mike Stanislaw of On the Run Sports Shop and Fauquier Runners. And because we are joining forces this time, we expect this to be a bigger event, bring in more money for these causes, and our programs, and give us a little publicity at the same time. I have been attending the organizing meetings at On the Run Sports Shop in Warrenton. A sponsor letter is coming out soon, along with the application forms to enter the race. So be on the look-out for that. We need your participation to make this a success.

WHAT WE NEED:

We are looking for **sponsors**. Being a sponsor will get your business on the back of the "Project One Run" T-shirt, which will be produced by Coach Mike at his store. Last time we did our race we contacted lots of local businesses for sponsorship but did not have great success. We are asking that if you have a business and would like to be a sponsor, please consider the event as an opportunity to get your business name out into the Fauquier County population. As a sponsor your name will be added to the T-shirt and on publicity leaflets before and at the event. If you do not have a business, but work closely with or know of a business/organization that would be willing to be a sponsor, please contact them personally and let them know about the event and what it is for, and ask if they would be willing to sponsor us. This would also be an opportunity for individuals to donate to the charities/churches they like. All donations tax deductible.

The sponsor funding will come directly to our church for ACW outreach programs - details of current projects are on the parish website. We will have a minimal charge along with the other groups to help defray the expenses for such things as: porta-potty fees, advertising, T-shirts, etc. All race entrant fees will go into a Project One Run joint account and will be split evenly between all the groups listed above for their charities/programs. So basically, the more sponsors St. John the Baptist Church gets, the more funds we will have for our outreach programs. And, the more race participants, the more money for the charities involved, including us. And as you know, some of our outreach funding goes to some of these charities anyway, so it is good all around, and it promotes good health.

We are also looking for **runners**. If you are a runner or know of one, please spread the word. Entry forms will be available soon. Pre-registration (up to one week before the event) = \$20.00 per person. Race day fee = \$25.00 per person. Kid's 1 mile fun run: \$12.00 per child. There will be a \$2 discount per additional family members if families make this a family event. Registration will be via On the Run Sports in Warrenton. There will be awards for winners in different age groups and raffle prizes after the event, with snacks/refreshments offered to all.

We are looking for **volunteers**. We are hoping to set up a table at the event for our church with bulletins, brochures, maps, etc. and possibly an opportunity to sell some mugs/stickers etc. We may also have a bake sale (still working that). So we will need volunteers to man the table, and to be race monitors along the way. We also need donations for raffle prizes. So PLEASE let me know how YOU can help.

We will be having an ACW meeting soon to discuss further and answer any questions you have. This is an event that needs full church participation, not just the ladies of the ACW. Please feel free to call me at 540-349-2728 if you have questions.

Thank you,
Susan Knutsen