

September Agenda

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Monday, 14 September, 7pm

Wednesday Night at the Movies

Wednesday, 23 September, 7pm

250th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, 19 September, 10am

S. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Monday, 21 September, 7pm

Parish "Yard Sale"

Saturday 26 September 8am-1pm

S. Michael and All Angels

Tuesday, 29 September, 7pm

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

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.

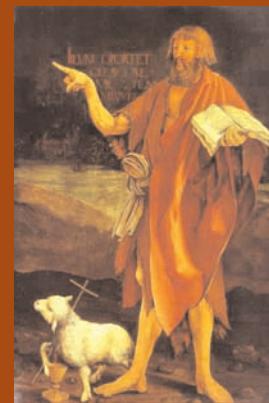
Please take one (or two) to pass on to a friend (or two).

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



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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 23 September 2009

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

With the summer months behind us, we often tend to look ahead and make our plans for the remainder of the year. With the autumn comes a renewed sense of purpose and the hope for certain accomplishments, an attempt to redeem what time remains in the calendar year. Maybe this desire arises from the pattern imprinted indelibly on our lives from years of schooling; rejoicing in the summer hiatus, but then anxious for school to pick up again so that once more we can measure our accomplishments.

What is true of our material lives points to the greater truth in our spiritual lives. Quite often in our spiritual journey we will experience times when we can sense movement towards the heart of God and then there will be other times when we find ourselves on a spiritual plateau, when we feel almost no connection with the Divine. This dynamic is one all the Saints record, and can be the result either of our own spiritual state -- such as when we have unrepented sin in our lives -- or it can come from God distancing Himself intentionally, to test the strength of our spiritual character.

The challenge is how we respond when we find ourselves on that spiritual plateau. If there is sin that needs to be confessed, we have recourse to the Sacrament of Penance. If it is a time of testing, such as Job underwent, then we need to redouble our efforts to be faithful, to be present frequently at Mass so that we might enter into that Mystery of Love, knowing there will come eventually a day when we will again sense movement towards the heart of God.

I pray that these next several months will be a time of spiritual accomplishment, a deepening of our love for God and for each other. Only as we persevere individually will we together become the parish Our Lord desires us to be.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

Holy Recycling

The discipline of recycling is one to thank God for. Before the big grey wheelie bin arrived I always struggled with this spiritual discipline. I tended not to care too much about what I threw away where. But now there is nothing that is not scrutinized, and less and less is designated 'landfill'. In the kitchen and office the same examination takes place. Sometimes objects must be washed, dismantled or folded, sometimes beaten flat with a hammer; it all takes time but it is worthwhile.

To me the environmental benefits are almost secondary. For me the encouragement to be careful about the small things in life is really important for my prayer – for my relationship with God. For 'he created all things and by their will they have their being'. The Word who is Christ can speak to me in the smallest and perhaps unwanted article and now I can look and listen for him as I practise the discipline of recycling.

Some friends tell me they are annoyed by the demands of it all, that it is dirty and time-consuming and a waste of time. For me it is a chance to live out what I believe and teach; that faithfulness in small things leads to faithfulness in great. There are some huge truths held by the discipline of recycling. All these things come to me as I press down the newspaper and hammer flat the shiny clean dog food tins. I contemplate my dependence on God's creation and the work of others all over the world. It is a religious experience, for by the wheelie bin I am bound together with them to God, the source of all (reli-

gion meaning to 'bind things together'). In this discipline I also live out the love of my neighbour – be it in the next village or the next continent.

I understand why the district council provides me with the bin. It is to stop landfill and to reduce the environmental impact for future generations. It is true I may not see the benefit myself. There is, however, something fearful about that grey bin I cannot share. There is in its existence a slight desperation in the face of environmental disaster. Can recycling the loo rolls really save the forest canopy of Amazonia? Will washing the dog food tins and hammering them flat prevent open-cast mining in Northern China? I don't know.

More important to me is the question: will recycling hasten the kingdom of God? I think the answer to that question is 'probably'. If we are exerting care for God's creation and responsibility for people at the poles of the earth, if we are questioning what the future holds, or if there is a future – there is a good chance it will lead us to God. God has set humanity as stewards of his creation and if we exercise stewardship in the small things in our lives and cease to treat creation like a fast food store, the divine nature in us all can be reawakened and restored. Being green could help us all to become godly. Praise God for recycling! I am being perfectly serious – cross my heart.

Andy Hawes is Warden of Edenham Regional Retreat House.

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Kudos

To *Didi McConnell* for her photographic contributions to the Vacation Bible School.

To *Laura Needham* for helping to teach the older children at VBS.

Transitus

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

A Look at the Liturgy

Over the past several months, I have commented on several of the attributes and qualities of the early Church. These beginning followers of Christ, far from being suppressed by the overwhelming political and cultural powers of the day, were able, in fact, to conquer the world for Christ. Animated by the quickening power of the Holy Ghost, sustained by the grace of the Sacraments, they moved without hesitation or fear into one of the most implacable of civilizations and by their bold witness won even their persecutors to faith in Our Lord.

I addressed their commitment to worship and how the Sunday Mass obligation figured prominently in their relationship to God and to each other. I would also remind us of their discovery of the importance of the fasting communion as a small discipline to more greatly appreciate the benefits of so great a Sacrament. But more fundamental to these issues is the matter of the greater reality that lies behind these fundamental traditions of the Church.

It is fair to say that a common concern amongst those of a Catholic liturgical bent is the often found preoccupation with form over substance. That is to say, they emphasise matters concerning the form of worship and neglect matters concerning the authentic Centre of our worship. Tradition, for Anglicans, can be misunderstood as simply maintaining that which has been passed over to us from the previous generation. And in fact, *traditio* or *paradosis*, literally means "giving over," or "handing on." In this sense, the whole of the New Testament is tradition in that the basic gospel message itself is handed over from one generation to successive generations. Our Lord's teaching, inaugurated during His public ministry, clarified after His Resurrection, and more deeply illuminated with the descent of the Holy Ghost, was carefully handed on from Apostle to Church Father. But even this misses the foundational point of tradition.

What is actually transmitted in the handing on of tradition is nothing less than the presence and life of Jesus Christ Himself in the active ministry of the Holy Ghost within His Body the Church; Christians handing over a living relationship with the Risen Christ to those who follow faithfully. This is what makes the Catholic religion so exciting! It's not about how closely we follow what came before as much as it's how deeply we imbibe at the Well of Living Water. As we talk about the importance of tradition at S. John's, please keep in mind that beneath the surface of the traditions we have inherited from the Church Fathers gone before us is the fundamental tradition of the life of Christ that continues to be poured into us. We could do no better than to use this fundamental truth to remind us why we must always hold fast to that "faith once delivered to the saints."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Formation: Sundays, 9:30am

In September, we continue our examination of C.S. Lewis' book, "The Great Divorce." 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. Please note that the Bible Study will not meet on the 2d and 16th of September.

250 Anniversary Celebration: Sat, 10am - 9pm

The 250th anniversary of Fauquier County will be celebrated in Marshall on Saturday, September 19 beginning with a parade at 10am. Handcrafts and food will be available at the church.

Wednesday Night at the Movies:

On Wednesday 23 September we will meet at 7pm to watch and discuss the film, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*. Set in Australia in the 1930s, it is based on the true story of Molly Craig, one of the "Stolen Generation" of half white, half-Aborigine children taken from their families to be integrated into white society.

11th Annual Parish "Yard Sale" : Sat, 8am - 1pm

On Saturday, September 26th, the 11th Annual Parish "Yard Sale" will be held on the church grounds. Be sure to invite family and friends! White elephants, clothes and other articles to be donated can be brought to the church during the week leading up to the sale.

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 St Giles, Ab M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	2 St Stephen of Hungary, KC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	3 St Pius X, PC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	4  feria M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	5 Of Our Lady M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
6 ✠ TRINITY XIII M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	7 feria M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	8 ✠ NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7pm	9 St Peter Claver M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm	10 St Nicholas of Tolentino, C M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	11  Requiem M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	12 Most Holy Name of Mary M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9.45am E.P. 5.30pm
13 ✠ TRINITY XIV M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	14 ✠ Exaltation of the Holy Cross M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7pm	15 Our Lady of Sorrows M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	16 St Cyprian, BM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	17 Stigmata of St Francis M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	18 Ember Day M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	19 Ember Day <i>250th Anniversary Celebration 10am-9pm</i> M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
20 ✠ TRINITY XV M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	21 ✠ ST MATTHEW, AP EV M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7pm	22 St Thomas of Villanova, BC M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	23 St Linus, PM M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm WNM 7.00pm	24 Our Lady of Ransom M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	25  feria M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	26 <i>Parish Yard Sale 8am-1pm</i> M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm
27 ✠ TRINITY XVI M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am	28 St Wenceslas, KM M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm	29 ✠ ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 7pm	30 St Jerome, C M.P. 9.30am Mass 10.00am <i>Bible Study 10:30</i> E.P. 5.30pm	 NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN	 HOLY CROSS	 ST MATTHEW

Ab=Abbot; Ap=Apostle; B=Bishop; C=Confessor; Dn=Deacon; D=Doctor; 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

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church kalendar keeps only three feasts of nativity: Christmas, the Nativity of S. John Baptist and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are reminded that in God's plan of salvation for our fallen race He took our human nature to Himself, through the willing coöperation of the Blessed Mother.



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This feast marks the discovery of the True Cross in 326 by S. Helena, the mother of the Constantine during a pilgrimage she made to the Holy Land. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was then erected at the site of the discovery, under the patronage of Helena. The church was dedicated nine years later, with a portion of the cross placed inside. Although the church was actually consecrated on 13 September, the cross itself was brought outside the church the following day so that the clergy and faithful could pray before the True Cross, and all could come forward to venerate it.



S. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

We might remember that S. Matthew wrote his Gospel to a Jewish audience, to encourage them in the face of persecution. Before his conversion, he was a tax collector, both collaborating with the Roman occupation and aligned with a profession known for abuse and extortion. Matthew was one of the twelve Apostles and was called to follow Our Lord while sitting in the "place of custom" in Capernaum. In later years, his primary ministry was to his fellow Jews, for which, tradition tells us, he suffered martyrdom.



S. Michael & All Angels

Michaelmas is not simply the celebration of the Archangel Michael and his defeat of Satan, but is also the celebration of the entire angelic host as God's messengers to the human race as well as our protectors. S. Michael is one of the principle angels, and is called upon to fight against our adversary the devil as well as to rescue the faithful from the hand of the enemy, particularly at the hour of our death.

