

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 14

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2012

## REHEARSING THE LAW

To speak of the moral law is a dangerous thing. It may provoke perverse rebellion (“don’t tell me what to do”), or legalistic self-righteousness, both equally dangerous to the soul. The law is “holy and righteous and good”; “if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law” (Galatians 3:21); but we are not justified by the works of the law. The ground of our justification and acceptance by God is the free gift of his grace, Christ’s perfect righteousness imputed to those who believe.

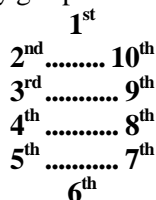
To speak of the law has its dangers. Not to speak of it, however, is also dangerous. For the law has an important function, both before and after our justification: either to move us to repentance, by exposing our disobedience, so that we may seek God’s grace in Christ; or to guide us in righteousness, and to stir us from our indolence, after we have been forgiven and justified through his mercy. In reading the law, therefore, we must be on our guard against rebellion and self-righteousness; we must ask and hope instead to be moved to repentance and to good works in gratitude for grace.

All that is a necessary theological and moral preamble to any reading of the Ten Commandments (or Decalogue). But what I want to say about the Decalogue itself begins with an analysis

of its structure. There is a figure of speech called chiasmus – a term derived from the Greek letter *chi*, which looks like the roman letter ‘x’ - because it is a criss-cross arrangement of words or ideas. A phrase or clause (ab) is repeated in an inverted order (b’a). A simple example is found in Matthew 19:30:

- a – but many that are *first*
- b – shall be *last*
- b’ - and the *last*
- a’ - shall be *first*.

A chiasmus may well have more than four elements, and there may be central element (c) framed within the outer elements (abcb’a). The Ten Commandments exhibits an unusual chiasmic structure, which may be conveniently grasped in a diagram:



The normal inversion of order in a chiasmus obtains in II and X (bb’), III and IX (cc’), IV and VIII (dd’), V and VII (ee’). But this is complicated by the coupling of I and IV (aa’), which stands outside and inside the others. This structure means that the reader begins and moves from I towards VI and returns from VI to I again in a structure of procession and return.

**THE PARISH PAPER**  
OF  
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**STANDING NOTICES**

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS**

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

**ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE**

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site: [www.stjohnsav.org](http://www.stjohnsav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. Lawrence L. Heam III

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Joseph R. Ross, Esq.  
and Mr. Robert F. Brannen

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson Walker, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson Myers by Mr. and Mrs. James T. Walker, Jr and Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Hill.

And in loving memory of Jettie L. Mooney by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Johnston and family.

The flowers at the altar in the Chapel on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Betty Shepherd by Laura Wimbish, Mary Burnett, Teeny Fulenwider and Jessie Fawcett.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf, Mrs. Edwin H. Culver  
Mrs. Wynton J. Ezelle, Mrs. F. Debele Maner  
Mrs. Michael Maloney, Mrs. William E. Osborne

**DAILY LENTEN SERVICES**

Mrs. Neil H. Victor, Mrs. Timothy E. Coy  
Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf, Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague  
Mrs. David A. Young

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Cord Helmken  
**10:30** John DeBacker  
Kameron Sallee, Charles Perrie  
John Osborne, Peter Stein  
Patrick Perrie, Louis Palla

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. James Holtzclaw

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES**

- Clergy: *Epistle to the Galatians* – (Chapel)
- David Noble: *Canterbury Tales*—Reading Rm

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Tuesday** 6:45 a.m. *Men's Breakfast Discussion on the Psalms* – Fr Dunbar (Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)

**Thursday** 7 a.m. *Acts of the Apostles* (Reading Room, with the Rector).

**Thursday:** Noon - MEN'S FORUM

**WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Reading Rm, Cranmer Hall.

**Wednesday:** 10:45 a.m.-Noon *Philippians*.

**Thursday:** 9:15 -10:30 a.m. - Athanasius *On the Incarnation* (with Fr O' Brien)

**EASTER LILIES**

If you wish to give a lily for the decoration of the Church at Easter, send a check for \$35 payable to St. John's Chancel Society marked "Easter Lily" to the Church Office. Please be sure to indicate clearly the specific intention of the gift (memorial, thanksgiving, etc.). *The list will be published the Sunday after Easter.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**

All this, I know, sounds rather dry; but it illuminates the the meaning of the Decalogue. Let me illustrate by one example. The first commandment, “Thou shalt have none other gods but me” is the first principle of the Law – the absolute priority of the Creator, and the claim he makes on us for an undivided allegiance. The positive injunction that is the counterpart of this prohibition is expressed in Deuteronomy 6:4, 5: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might”.

The first commandment is paired with the sixth: “thou shalt do no murder”. The positive injunction that is the counterpart of the negative prohibition is expressed in Leviticus 19:18b, “thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self; I am the Lord”. The addition of the clause “I am the Lord” indicates that love of neighbor is required by love of God. This is borne out in numerous places in the New Testament also, such as the Lord’s own summary of the Law, which combines these texts from Deuteronomy and Leviticus, or in this: “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (1 John 4:20, 21). Our right relation to God is inseparable from our right relation to our neighbor, the human creature made in the image of God. (*To be continued*). GGD

## PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

### MONDAY– FRIDAY:

8:15AM - *Morning Prayer  
& Holy Communion*

5:30PM - *Evening Prayer  
& Holy Communion*

### WEDNESDAY

8:15 – *Morning Prayer  
& Holy Communion*

9:45 – *Litany*

10am *Sung Eucharist*

5:30PM– *Evensong, Supper,  
& Adult Classes (6:30- 7:30 p.m.)*

### CLASSES: ADULT CATECHISM:

*For Inquirers, Newcomers, and  
adults seeking baptism and/or  
Confirmation – Fr Dunbar*

### T. S. ELIOT’S FOUR QUARTETS.

*Fr O’Brien*

### THURSDAY:

NOON: MEN’S FORUM

### SATURDAY:

10:30 AM - *Holy Communion*

### WOMEN’S LENTEN QUIET DAY

A Lenten Quiet Day for the Women of the Church will be held Wednesday, March 14, from 9:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Green-Meldrim House. Led by Fr O’Brien on the theme of *Acquiring the Character of Jesus*. *Lunch provided*. RSVP to the Church Office 232-1251, and advise if you will require a sitter.

### ECW MEETING

The ECW Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish House Dining Room, Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>.

The ECW General Meeting will be Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Parish House immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service.

### LENTEN SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Tuesdays in Lent 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

*At St. Thomas Church, Isle of Hope*

Classes are offered on: Holy Week readings from Isaiah; Passion Narratives; the Gift of the Holy Spirit. *Leaflet at Church Office.*

**8:00 A.M. –HOLY COMMUNION—***(No organ during Lent)*

Collects, Epistle, and Gospel *(The Gloria in excelsis is omitted until Easter)*.....127 (124)  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30—12 Noon NURSERY** *(Cranmer Hall)*

**9:30A.M. —ADULT, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN’S CLASSES** *(Chapel & Cranmer Hall)*

**10:30—Pre-school continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten** *(Cranmer Hall)*

**1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir**

**10:30 A.M. —MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

CARILLON

HYMN #61 *The Glory of These Forty Days* ..... Spires  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution, Lord’s Prayer ..... Prayer Book, pages 6, 7  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #608 .....9  
 Psalm #25 .....369  
 First Lesson: Genesis 32: 24—31 *Jacob wrestles with the Angel of the Lord.*

BENEDICITE ..... *insert*  
 Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 4:1, St. Matthew 15:21 ..... 127, 128

BENEDICTUS #638 .....14  
 Apostles’ Creed .....15  
 Versicles and Responses .....16  
 Collect for the Day .....127 (124)  
 Fixed Collects .....17  
 Other Prayers, Prayer of St. Chrysostom and the Grace ..... 17- 20

HYMN #449 *My faith looks up to thee* ..... Olivet  
*1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.*

THE SERMON .....Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *Adoramus te Christe* ..... Orlandus Lassus  
 Presentation of Alms: #732 *All Things are Thine*  
 Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #567 *Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us* .....Dulce Carmen

ORGAN: *Allegro, from 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Sonata VI (Opus 65, no. 6)*..... Felix Mendelssohn

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*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service.  
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

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**12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - Collect, Epistle, Gospel BCP pp 127.)**