

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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Septuagesima

February 16, 2014

## THE CALL TO LABOUR

Like the canon of Scripture and the Catholic Creeds, the major lines of the Church's year were debated, developed and settled in the first five centuries after Christ: not only the primacy of Sunday in the structure of the Christian week, but also the great festivals and seasons, such as Christmas and Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension Day, and Whitsunday. Lent seems to have originated as a forty-day season of fasting of catechumens (adult converts) in preparation for baptism, and also in the preparation of penitents for reconciliation. Only in the 4th century, perhaps at the Council of Nicea, was Lent adopted universally as a corporate fast of the whole church in preparation for Easter. It was fitting for the whole church to take upon itself the disciplines of catechumens and penitents in preparation for the yearly commemoration of Christ's death and resurrection; for, as the first Prayer Book noted, "Baptism doth represent unto us our profession, which is to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him, that as he died and rose again for us: should we (who are baptized) die [to] sin, and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections [i.e. appetites, passions], and daily proceeding [i.e. growing] in all virtue and godliness of living". As we approach the feast of Christ's death and resurrection, we are put in mind of the sign of our death and resurrection with him, and we are called to the "works worthy of repentance" – fasting, prayer, and almsgiving - whereby we die to sin and rise to righteousness.

As with the canon of Scripture and the

Creeds, there were some "loose ends" in the Church's year that were tied up in the 6th to 8th centuries. Among these was the addition to the calendar of the western church of three Sundays before Lent. Since Lent's first Sunday was called Quadragesima ('fortieth [day]'), these were called Quinquagesima ('fiftieth'), Sexagesima ('sixtieth'), and Septuagesima ('seventieth'). They were abolished by the Roman Catholic church in 1969, and by the Episcopal Church in 1979, leaving the observance of Sundays after Epiphany to continue until it runs smack into Lent. The abruptness of this transition is precisely what these pre-Lenten Sundays were designed to mitigate. There are similar Sundays before Lent in the ancient calendar of the Eastern church, about which the great Eastern Orthodox liturgical theologian, Alexander Schmemmann, has this observation: "the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state to another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can practice Lent we are given its meaning" (Great Lent, 1974). Before we begin the corporate disciplines of Lent, the Church takes care to instruct her members in their importance and purpose.

So this Sunday's epistle speaks of the training and discipline of the spiritual athlete to attain the incorruptible crown of glory; this Sunday's gospel of the call to labour in the vineyard of the kingdom, and

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1 WEST MACON STREET

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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, as hospitals are reluctant to give out any information.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert Brannen, Jr.

The flowers at the altar last Sunday were also given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Victor L. Johnson, Jr. and Victor L. Johnson III by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn C. Hagin.

And on the occasion of the wedding of Casey Durden Branch and Daniel Joseph Moriarty on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. William E. Osborne, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.
Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard
Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. F. Deble Maner
Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons, Mrs. Howard Kearns
Mrs. Jonathan D Sprague

ACOLYTES

8:00 John Osborne
10:30 Lawson Turner
Mikel Kelly
Jamie McClellan, Henry Osborne
Hawkins Pindar, Joseph Saffold

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Ms. Sharon Morris

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Fr. O'Brien Upper School, Fellowship Hall
Fr. Dunbar: St. Mark, Reading Room
Dr. Noble: Shakespeare's History plays 3rd floor Cranmer Hall will NOT meet this week!

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Monday Noon: Women's Study - NO MEETING THIS WEEK.
Tuesdays 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Offices of Instruction, Parish House Dining Room (enter by kitchen), with Fr O'Brien
Thursdays 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study, on Samuel, Reading Room (Fr Dunbar)
Thursdays 9:15 a.m. Women's Study, on The Imitation of Christ, with Fr O'Brien

THURSDAY AT NOON - MEN'S FORUM

"Children of Abraham? What Jews, Christians, and Muslims have in common - and what they don't"
(Fr Dunbar)

Good Food for Body and Soul.
Guests welcome. Donation suggested.
Food served 11:50, Talk starts at 12:10 ends at 12:50

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

the free reward of God's goodness. The Old Testament reading from Genesis highlights the example of Adam, who was called to obedience to the Word of God, in the labour of dressing and keeping the garden of Eden, and in abstinence from the forbidden fruit. The virtue that is being cultivated is therefore *faith* in God's goodness (here opposed to pride and the "evil eye" of envy), and the discipline in view is *fasting and abstinence*, to temper the body and its appetites: for (as the Lord answers the first temptation in the wilderness) "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God".

The Prayer Book (page *li*) does enjoin fasting and abstinence on the forty days of Lent – a complete fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (which may be broken with a modest meal in the evening); and partial fast (normally abstinence from rich food and drink, especially meats, and other pleasures) on the other days. (Sundays are always feast days.) The very young, the old, the sick and infirm, those in hard labour, and those whose duties require it (such as soldiers) are excused from this requirement.

Next Sunday, Sexagesima, addresses the virtue of *hope* in God's power and promise, which is practiced in the discipline of *prayer*. The last Sunday before Lent, Quinquagesima, addresses the virtue of *love and charity* toward God and man, the culmination of the soul's pilgrimage toward God in faith and hope, which is practiced in *almsgiving*. The growth of faith, hope, and charity; through the practice of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving - that is the purpose of our Lenten discipline. GGD

#### ART AUCTION & COCKTAILS

*to benefit the Scholarship and Enrichment fund of the Children's School at St. John's Church.* Friday March 7th at 7 p.m., at the Green Meldrim House. \$75 per guest.

#### ADULT CATECHISM

Adults seeking baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church (from another denomination in which they have been confirmed by a bishop in historic succession) - and adults seeking a refresher course in the fundamentals - are invited to the Adult Catechism class at 9:30 a.m. which begins this **Sunday**. Confirmation is set for Sunday, May 4th. To register, please email Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom [jbergstrom@stjohnssav.org](mailto:jbergstrom@stjohnssav.org).

*Note: The historic Anglican and Episcopalian norm is confirmation by a bishop in historic succession. If you were not so confirmed, please speak to one of the clergy.*

#### NEW CLASS - THIS SUNDAY

A nine week class, taught by Jack Wray, on the seven penitential psalms of David, centering on our Lenten disciplines of repentance. The class will end on Palm Sunday, April 12. Taught by Jack Wray.

#### PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

##### MONDAY – FRIDAY

8:15AM & 5:30 PM- *Daily Prayer*

##### in addition on WEDNESDAY

9:45am *Litany*

10 am *Sung Eucharist*

*The Church office will be closed*

**Monday, February 17, 2014**

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

**NO 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer**

**CALLING ALL "YOUNGER ADULTS".** Mark your calendar for *Wine, Wisdom - and Oysters Too*: 7 p.m. on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Bill Osborne. Please bring your favorite appetizer and drink of choice. To RSVP or for questions, contact Caroline Hayes [chayes@stjohnssav.org](mailto:chayes@stjohnssav.org). **All RSVPs must be received by Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel.....p. 119  
*A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30a.m.-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)**

**9:30-10:15 A.M.: ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)**

**10:30 A.M.-END OF SERVICE: PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

*(Activities in Cranmer Hall for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times)*

**10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**

HYMN #288 <i>O Worship the King</i> .....	Hanover
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer.....	3-7
Versicles and Responses .....	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (Hymnal #608) .....	9
Psalm #9.....	351
First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:3 <i>God created the heavens and the earth</i> .....	<i>insert.</i>
BENEDICITE.....	<i>insert</i>
Second Lesson I Corinthians 9:24 & St. Matthew 20:1.....	119
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638) .....	14
Apostles' Creed .....	15
Versicles and Responses .....	16
Collect for the Day.....	115
Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace.....	17-20
HYMN #573 <i>Go, Labor On!</i> .....	Angel's Song (Song 34)
Kindergarten through 4 <sup>th</sup> grade children may exit following the Cross for music.	
THE SERMON.....	Dr. Bergstrom, Deacon

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Jesu, Grant Me this I Pray* .....

Presentation of Alms: #732 *All things are Thine* .....

and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #279 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*.....

ORGAN: Voluntary on *Hyfradol* .....

*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.*

**12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Church- as 8 a.m.)**