

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 14

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2014

SPRING FORWARD THIS SUNDAY

Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday evening.

PRIESTLY MINISTRY

A 1987 ordination sermon of the late Fr Robert Crouse.

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Corinthians 4:1). In St. Paul’s first letter to the infant Church in ancient Corinth, he recalls how first he came among them, preaching the Gospel of the sacrificial death of Christ for man’s salvation – the Gospel of the Cross; which, he says, makes foolish the wisdom of this world. To the Jews among his hearers, that doctrine was a stumbling block; to the pagan Greeks, it appeared utter nonsense (1:17-23). The Jews and Greeks who came to hear him were, doubtless, mostly pious people who thought they understood religion; and it seemed incredible to them that Almighty God, the Son of God, should take our flesh; impossible that God should suffer as a victim on the Cross, to pay the price of human sinfulness. How could such things be?

Surely, the Gospel of the Cross does contradict all worldly wisdom and experience, all our worldly knowledge and assumptions about the way things are and the way things work – all the wisdom of the present age. But, says St. Paul, “the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men”, and to them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ crucified is God’s power and God’s wisdom (1:24, 25). And therefore, St. Paul came to Corinth, not with “enticing words of human wisdom”,

but determined to know nothing, “save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (2:1-2). He came not to foster and confirm their worldly aspirations and ambitions, not to encourage and facilitate the optimistic schemes of the rulers of this present age; but to contradict them, and to demonstrate their folly. He came to Corinth as a minister of Christ, a steward of the mysteries of God.

Now, all that is history. But it is a history quite precisely relevant to our business here tonight, as we celebrate the ordination of a priest; for what is Christian priesthood but the living proclamation of the saving sacrifice of Calvary: the showing forth, in word and sacrament, of Christ’s body broken, and his blood shed; the demonstration of that love of God which forgives our sins and pledges life eternal? What is Christian priesthood but the living proclamation of the mysteries of God? That is, of course, the calling and mission of the whole Church; and thus the whole Church is a royal priesthood, in which every one of us, ordained or lay, must have a share in the offering of “spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). The whole Church is priestly. And yet, within that priestly Church, the ministry of priests is a quite specific one.

According to the Preface to the

St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

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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 John M. Hewson III, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert F. Brannen

The flowers at the altar on Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. George Eaves by Mr. David and Dr. Lucinda Schultz.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan
Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard
Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. John Reiter
Mrs. Holly Montford, Mrs. William E. Osborne, Jr.

Daily Lenten Services

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Neil H. Victor
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. W. Howard Helmken
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff

ACOLYTES

8:00 Chris Dixon
10:30 Lindsay Pindar
Hunt Wasden, Jamie McClellan
, Turner Stevens, Henry Osborne
Finn Repella, Edwin Shepherd

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. JoAnn Risher

YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Fr. O'Brien Upper School, Fellowship Hall
• Dr. Bergstrom: Adult Catechism Reading Rm
• Dr. Noble: Shakespeare's History Plays will NOT meet until further notice
• Mr. Jack Wray: The Seven Penitential Psalms. 3rd floor, back left classroom Cranmer Hall.

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Monday Noon: Women's Study- Athanasius on the Incarnation, with Dr. Bergstrom, Reading Room.
• 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, The Imitation of Christ, Reading Room (Fr O'Brien)

THURSDAY AT NOON - MEN'S FORUM

Good Food for Body and Soul.

Why We Worship

(Fr. Dunbar)

Guests welcome. Donation suggested.

Food service begins 11:50

Talk starts 12:10 ends sharp 12:50

Ordinal, in the Book of Common Prayer [...] “It is evident unto all men diligently reading holy Scripture and ancient Authors, that from the Apostles’ time there have been these Orders of Ministers in Christ’s Church: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons” [p. 529]. These holy orders are established in the word of God; and therefore they are not just matters of institutional convenience, to be adopted, or altered, or discarded, according to our whim, or according to the dictates of worldly prudence, or according to the temper of the times. They are the gifts of Christ, the Risen and Ascended Lord, “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of Christ’s body” (Ephesians 4:7).

Thus, these holy orders, by the grace of ordination, signify and effect, in their several ways, the ministry of Christ to his Church. The ministers of the church are really ministers to the Church: “ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God”. They are not primarily representatives or delegates of the communities from which they come; nor are they to be construed as presidents or chairmen of Christian assemblies. Rather, they are Christ’s delegates among the faithful, ministers of Christ to his Church. As St. Paul puts it, “we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20).

Therefore, the ministers of Christ do not speak as representatives of synods [i.e. conventions], or parish councils [vestries], or committees, and their authority does not derive from thence. As ambassadors, their commitment is to the Word of God, the Living Lord, who sends them; and it is Christ, the Head, and not the Church, his Body, from whom they have their true authority, and whom they must ever

strive to represent. That is why, of course, our traditional ordination vows have always been first and principally promises of obedience to the Word of God in holy Scripture, and only secondarily promises of allegiance to the community of Christians. *(To be continued)*

EASTER LILIES AND EASTER BRASS

To give a lily for the Church at Easter, send a check for \$35 payable to St. John’s Chancel Society marked “*Easter Lily*”.

To contribute to the cost of the Brass players on Easter, please send a check payable to St. John’s Church marked “*Easter brass*”.

Please indicate the specific intention of the gift (memorial, thanksgiving, etc.). *The list will be published the Sunday after Easter.*

PARKING ON SAINT PATRICK’S DAY

Spaces in the parking lot are available to parishioners *by reservation*, in return for a donation of \$20.00 to the Men’s Club. Speak to Rick Wright 598-2073. or email Mensclub@stjohnssav.org.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY FAMILY SERVICE

9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist.

Parade Garb Welcome!

ST. PATRICK’S SNAKE HUNT

For children, after the service, in the Mall, with a SPECIAL GUEST.

THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN’S

General Meeting this Wednesday, March 12th following Holy Communion. Fr. O’Brien and Tim Coy will present wonderful images and stories of “**The Holy Mountain: Pilgrimage to Mt Athos**”.

Women’s Quiet Day, Wednesday, March 26th in the Green-Meldrim House from 9:30am until 2:00pm. Father O’Brien will speak on the **Seven Deadly Sins**. A light Lenten lunch will be served. Please call the church office - 232-1251 - to save your place.

8:00 A.M. —HOLY COMMUNION—*(No Gloria in excelsis during Lent)*

Collects, Epistle, and Gospel (Exhortation p.85)..... 125, (124), 126
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:00—12 Noon NURSERY *(Cranmer Hall)*

9:30 A.M. —ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *(Cranmer Hall)*

10:30a.m. to end of service: Sunday School for Three and Four year olds *(Cranmer Hall)*

10:30 A.M. —SUNG EUCHARIST & ADDRESS

HYMN #55 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*Heinlein

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KYRIE ELEISON (Hymnal #702)..... John Merbecke

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ADDRESSFr. Dunbar

OFFERTORY

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ORGAN: *Our Father, Who in Heaven Above*Johann Sebastian Bach

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.)