

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 31

The Second Sunday after Trinity (Sunday Before Independence Day)

July 3, 2011

We welcome this morning as our preacher Mr. Sam Martin, life-long parishioner of St. John's, former Marine, currently Second Lieutenant in the Georgia Army National Guard, and now studying in Divinity in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood and a ministry in the military chaplaincy.

CHARITY, TRUTH, AND LIFE (II)

For Christians of the early 21st century, marooned in the culture and ideology of our time, the passions of the martyrs – ancient reports of arrest, trial, torture, and death – often seem very strange. We enjoy a little consumerized otherness in food or travel, but the otherness of the past, of our own culture's roots, baffles and repels us. We are tempted to ascribe that difference to our own intellectual or cultural superiority. Putting aside such self-flattering explanations, we might rather consider it a sign of our own alienation from the history that has made us what we are, and spur ourselves to study.

The passions of the martyrs record the moment when the sharp-edged clarity of their testimony to Christ challenged the religion of the ancient empire. What is easy to miss, at the distance of many centuries, is the precise nature of this challenge: for the claim of the Christians is that the longing expressed in ancient religion and philosophy, the longing for the liberation of the soul, to the life of the gods, is fulfilled by the mediation of Christ. In Christ is accomplished what we find described in Book VII of *The Republic*: the deliverance of the soul from its bondage to the flickering shadows of unreality, its conversion by grace to that which truly is, and its ascent towards the dazzling light of the ineffable first principle called “the one” or “the good” or “god” or even “father” and “creator”. One who has made that ascent shares the life of

the gods, is truly virtuous, happy, and free. In the knowledge of truth, man finds life everlasting.

When the martyrs threw down their challenge to the officials and peoples of the empire, they did so as free men come to liberate their former fellow-slaves from the demonic delusions of unreality. Alban took his interrogation as occasion for testimony to the Father of Christ, “the true and living God who created all things”. Invited to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods if he wished to live, Alban replied: “The sacrifices which you offer to devils cannot help their votaries nor fulfil the desires and petitions of their suppliants: on the contrary, he who has offered sacrifices to these images will receive eternal punishment in hell as their reward”. The confession of one God, the Creator, the polemic against idolatry, is expressed in language that is Biblical; but it is also Hellenic. Moses and Plato alike find their fulfillment in Christ, the Saviour of Jews and Greeks, of Israel and the Gentile nations.

Alban dressed himself in the long robe (the alb), the distinctive garb of the Christian priest and thus dressed gave himself up to the soldiers sent to arrest the priest to whom he had given refuge. It was a daring imposture, designed to permit the escape of the man who had taught him this way of salvation. This

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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.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. W. Barron Crawford III

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John Riley

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Phyllis Carolyn Bennett by Alfred and Carolyn Cooper and family.

And in loving memory of Paul Godfrey Hass by Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan, Mrs. Adam W. Lee
Mrs. Edward J. Derst, Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff
Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.
Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Mrs. Roland S. Summers
Dr. Linda Ann McCall

ACOLYTES

8:00 John DeBacker
10:30 Clayton Compton, Austin Nichols
Lawson Turner, Mikel Kelley

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

ALL-AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

... CONTINUES ALL SUMMER!

9:30 AM—NOON—Nursery

9:30 A.M.— Child Care for ages 3—5.

9:30 A.M. ADULT CLASS

➤ THE PROBLEM OF PREDESTINATION:
FREEDOM HUMAN AND DIVINE (Fr Dunbar,
Chapel)

➤ **10:30 A.M. CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM**

➤ For *Preschool--Kindergarten* ages 3 to 5.
(Teen Helpers and Adult volunteers needed)

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups
NO Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast & Study
on Tuesday, July 5th.
NO Thursday 7:00 a.m.—*Bible Study* will
resume August 4th.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Office closes at Noon on Fridays.
Open 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to
Thursday.

PANTRY AIDES NEED YOUR HELP!

If you can help Pantry Aides this summer (while members are on vacation), please call Caroline Warner at 354-3242. Pantry aides deliver food to families with newborns, illness or bereavement.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

courageous act was a function of substitutionary love – the charity by which Christ represents us before the Father, and through which we participate in him. As the priest, by his office, represents the person of Christ – who himself stood in our place, as our representative – so Alban, dressed in the priest’s long robe, takes on the *persona* of the priest, and in fulfillment of the priestly office offers himself in the priest’s place. What Christ has done for us – set forth in the word and sacraments and teaching of the priest – Christ also accomplishes in us, and we (at least, the martyrs and confessors) imitate. Man is caught up into Christ’s sacrifice, into the freedom and power of love. In Alban’s action he testified, therefore, to Christ, who gave himself for us, whose Spirit conforms us to him, and whose “name” (*Christianus*) he confessed. “Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32).

Two miracles are recorded of Alban’s progress to the green and flowery hillside of his execution (itself a classical topos of the *locus amoenus*, the ‘pleasant place’, that symbolizes paradise). The river in his way dries up temporarily to allow his passage, and on the hill a spring bursts forth to quench his thirst. These miracles echo the miracles that marked Israel’s exodus through the sea and the desert on their way to the promised land, and we may consider them pious embroidery. Perhaps so; but they express symbolically the conviction expressed in Alban’s own testimony, that in the faith of the martyrs the exodus accomplished by Christ in his death and resurrection was fulfilled in them. To die for the knowledge of the truth was not loss but gain: it was to complete one’s passage from the Egypt of spiritual bondage, into the promised land

of everlasting life – from unreality to reality. Thus, as the ancient prayer puts it, what we pray for is always “in this world knowledge of thy *truth*, and in the world to come *life everlasting*”. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR
Monday to Friday
Morning or Evening Prayer
 8:15 am and 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY:
 9:45 a.m. *Litany*
 10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

PICTORIAL PARISH DIRECTORY
APPOINTMENTS

There are two ways to sign up for photographs to be taken:

1. Sundays in Cranmer Hall or the Green Meldrim House—sign-up tables will be set up in their foyers.
2. Sign up on-line and choose a sitting time. The web link is:
<https://signup.olanmills.com/familyinfo.aspx?chcontract=60979>

Please do not call the church office to sign up.

BAZAAR CANNING

The canners need fresh veggies and fruits (figs, peppers, pears, peaches, apples, mangos, etc) sugar, mint, pecans and half-pint jars. Jane Pressly 233-6551.

FRUITS OF OUR LABOURS

The Church School year that begins in September and concludes in June with Vacation Bible School is a great labour for all those involved, but the fruits are sweet, and some of them may be seen in the **Church School Year Book** for 2010-2011, profusely illustrated with fine colour photographs, and recording some of the high points of the Church School year. Two copies are available for inspection, one in the Church Office and the other in the Cranmer Hall foyer.

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL263 (191)

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)

9:30-10:15 – ADULT CLASS (CHAPEL)

Pre-School through 6th Grade - Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)

10:30—Activities for Pre-School & Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)

Jr. Choir—1st through 4th Grade (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. – SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN #143 *God of our Fathers*National Hymn

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity Prayer Book, page 67

Summary of the Law 68

KYRIE ELEISON: #710 Healey Willan

Collects and Epistle 263 (191)

HYMN #141 *My Country 'Tis of Thee* America

The Holy Gospel 264

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #147 *God of our fathers, known of old* Old Hundred Twelfth

SERMON Mr. Sam Martin

OFFERTORY

Sentences

Anthem: *I Vow to Thee, My Country* Gustav Holst/arr. Rich Mays

Presentation of Alms #139 and THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (#142, both stanzas)

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution 75

Sursum Corda #734 76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711 Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80

The Lord's Prayer & Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) 82

AGNUS DEI # 712 Healey Willan

HYMN #198 *O God, unseen yet ever near* St. Flavian

MOTET: *Verily, Verily I Say Unto You* Thomas Tallis

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #739 Old Scottish Chant

The Blessing (*Kneeling*) 84

HYMN #276 *Now Thank We All Our God* Nun Danket

ORGAN: *Fugue in G (BWV 577)* Johann Sebastian Bach

Everyone is invited to attend 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 in the Chapel. (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as 8 a.m.)