

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No.10

Septuagesima

February 1, 2015

THIS SUNDAY 5:30 P.M.--CHORAL EVENSONG & PROCESSION FOR CANDLEMAS

Reception to follow in the Green Meldrim House

THE CALL TO LABOUR

All modern Christians (even those least aware or most reluctant to acknowledge it) owe a deep debt to the Church of the first six centuries. It was the early Church that settled the canon of Scripture (which books belong to the Bible and which do not), that articulated the Rule of Faith in the Catholic Creeds, and that settled the structure of the Christian Week, based on the observance of Sunday as the Lord's Day. The early Church also settled the structure of the Christian year, based on the principal feasts of the Gospel - Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension Day, and Whitsunday. Lent it seems began as a season of fasting in which catechumens prepared for baptism and penitents for reconciliation. In the 4th century, perhaps at the Council of Nicea, this discipline was extended to all Christians, as a forty-day season of preparation for Easter. It was fitting that all Christians prepare for the yearly commemoration of Christ's death and resurrection in this way, for (as the first Prayer Book put it) "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". In the Lenten disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, the entire church seeks to live out the grace of baptism, and prepare for Easter, by dying to sin and rising to righteousness.

The three Sundays before Lent were added between the 6th and 8th centuries, a late stage in development of the Christian year. 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 Eastern Orthodox theologian, Alexander Schmemmann, observed: "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

THE PARISH PAPER

OF

St. John's Church

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.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. R. Gilbert Wells.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert F. Brannen

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Dr. Thomas C, Stults;

and in loving memory of William Perry Thompson, Robert Mather Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mather by Mrs. William P. Thompson;

and in loving memory of Sara Jane Kuszak by Cheshire Nash McIntosh, Christopher Wood Dixon McIntosh, Dr. and Mrs. James T. Walker, Jr. and James Andrew Walker;

and a permanent memorial given in memory of John H. Calais and Mr. and Mrs. John S. Calais by the Chancel Society

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs J. Pridce Sheahan
Mrs. F. Debele Maner, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas
Mrs. Marie Simmons

ACOLYTES

8:00 need volunteer
10:30 Charles Perrie, Hunt Wasden
Patrick Perrie, Edwin Shepherd
Phillip Inglesby, Henry Osborne

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David A. Reid

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION
Men's Discussion Group Third Floor, Cranmer Hall. Led by Rick Wright, Walter Strong, and Charles Ezelle.

Women's Discussion Group Reading Room, Cranmer Hall. Led by Carol Hewson, Susan Donahue, Linda Sheahan, and Laura Wimbish
Harlotry, Compassion, Shepherding, and Jesus - 3rd Floor East. Led by Jack Wray.
Sin and Judgment in Shakespeare's History Plays 3rd Floor East. Led by David Noble..
Middle and High School Youth. Third Floor Resource Room. (Mrs. Jennings and Fr. Bergstrom).

St. John's Gospel Chapel. Led by Fr. Dunbar.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion, led by Fr. O'Brien.
Thursday 7 a.m., 2 Samuel, Reading Room, Cranmer Hall, led by Fr. Dunbar

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Monday Noon, Epistle to the Hebrews, led by Fr. Bergstrom
Thursday 9:15 a.m., Phaedo, (Fr. O'Brien)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

we can practice Lent we are given its meaning".

In the season of Epiphany, the Church celebrated the manifestation of Christ - a manifestation not only *to* us, but also *in* us. We are to be transformed - but this transformation requires disciplined effort: and so the lessons of the three Sundays before Lent speak of the athlete's training, the labourers in the vineyard, the apostle's willingness to suffer for the sake of the gospel, the patient cultivation of the seed, which is the Word of God in our souls. These images speak of the effort required in the disciplines of Lent. Then on Quinquagesima, we hear more clearly of their purpose: that we may go up to Jerusalem, as witnesses to the death and resurrection of Christ, that we may grow up into the maturity of faith, hope, and charity. Lent is a pilgrimage of spirit from the bondage of corruption to the glorious liberty of the children of God. Through fasting and self-denial, we gain the freedom of spirit to serve God in prayer and our neighbour in giving alms.

Now therefore is the time to think about participation in the corporate disciplines of Lent. The Prayer Book (page *li*) enjoins fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (which may be broken with a modest meal in the evening); and partial fast abstinence from rich food and drink, especially flesh meat, 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; but there are always opportunities for self-denial for us to take - even if it is but to take some inconvenience or disappointment uncomplainingly and with good humour - opportunities to displease ourselves that we may please God.

GGD

THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday February 7th

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep this sale in mind! Storage units available, call Nita Ann Klein 927-4270. Rummage received at Cranmer Hall 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Tuesday February 3rd to Friday February 6th.

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

REGISTRATION FOR 2015-2016

New Students from St. John's Families:

Wed. January 28th -Tues. February 3rd.

Please contact Director Cathy King at 232-

1225 or childrenschool@stjohnssav.org

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday:

Daily Prayer 8:15am & 5:30pm

Monday, February 2nd: CANDLEMAS

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Daily Prayer and Holy Communion

In addition, on Wednesday

Litany 9:45 a.m.

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

ADULT CATECHISM

Confirmation and Reception of new members takes place Sunday May 3rd. Adult Catechism class on THURSDAYS 6-7 p.m. beginning **Thursday February 12th**. Light supper provided. (Donation requested). All preparing for Confirmation or Reception should attend; others welcome. Please email Fr Dunbar if you are planning to attend: gdunbar@stjohnssav.org

WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN:

Board Meeting Monday, February 2nd, 10 a.m.

General Meeting Wednesday February 4th after the 10 a.m. chapel service. Speaker: Mr. Jack Wray, "Who Saved Savannah?", concerning the events of 1864. All welcome.

COFFEE TABLE HOSTESS NEEDED!

Sign up at Coffee Hour or call Joyce McClellan 201-3895.

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.: JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS

Music, Teaching, and Active Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten:

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 1 Corinthians 9:24 & St. Matthew 20:1	119
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638).....	14
<i>Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)</i>	
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)
THE SERMON	Fr Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *God Is Our Hope and Strength* (*Cantata no. 24*) J. S. Bach

Presentation of Alms: #732 *All things are Thine* Gardiner
 and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #279 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*..... Lobe den Herren

VOLUNTARY: *Chorale Prelude* Paul de Maleingreau

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 (Chapel as 8 a.m.)