

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS...

COME, LABOR ON!



There is delicious irony in singing hymns on the Sunday closest to Labor Day...the hymns share a common theme...*labor and hard work!* The hymns we sing at Mass are also powerful teaching tools. We can learn much from them. Perhaps we could say **SING**, mark, learn and inwardly digest.

The secular holiday observed on the first Monday in September, originally honored the 19th Century American labor movement and its contribution to the strength, prosperity, laws and well being of the country. It became a Federal holiday in 1894.

Labor Day and the long weekend associated with it...is considered the "unofficial end of summer"...time to take last-minute vacations...before the kids go back to school...and mom and dad head back to work. The last thing most people are thinking about is work. But is there such a thing as taking time off from being Church...from doing OUR work? The answer is clearly NO!

Let's consider for a moment the words to Hymn #576...*Come, Labor On, Who Dares Stand Idle*. It is based on what Jesus says about a field ripe for the harvest..."Look at the fields ready to be harvested...where are the workers...ask God to send workers into the fields"...*(Matthew 9.37-38; Luke 10.2)*. Put in plain language we can all understand...**HELP WANTED!**

800 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah had a vision of God on his throne in heaven. God asked the question, "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?" And Isaiah answered, "I will go! Send me!" *(Isaiah 6.8)* God asked for help...Isaiah said yes...and spent the rest of his life being God's mouthpiece.

Jesus asks us to pray for workers to go into the field ready for the harvest. The agricultural imagery of Holy Scripture may be lost on 21st Century Christians. The field out there is the world...and it is ripe for the harvest...the harvest of souls desperate to hear the Good News about Jesus. God sends an invitation to all of us to get busy and do his work.

The question we must ask ourselves is...are we willing to follow Isaiah's example and answer God's **HELP WANTED** sign and say..."We will go! Here we are, send us!"

Father Craig Looney +

THE EMBER DAYS

The *Book of Common Prayer* (Page li) designates the Ember Days as special days of prayer and fasting and other "extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion". The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after September 14 are the Fall Ember Days. What are the Ember Days?

The Ember Days are four sets of three days occurring in the same week. They are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after the First Sunday in Lent, the Feast of Pentecost, September 14 and December 13. Ember Days occur roughly at the Four Seasons.

Although spelled the same, the word "ember" doesn't have anything to do with glowing ashes in a fireplace...but comes from the Latin "*quattuor anni tempora*" (the "four seasons of the year"). It sometimes helps us remember the meaning of the word **ember** in the *Ember Days* when we see it used in **September**, **November** and **December**.

Why September 14? Since 335 AD this day has been observed as the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The feast day commemorates the finding of the True Cross in 326 AD by Saint Helena, mother of Constantine, and the consecration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem nine years later. A piece of the True Cross was brought out of the church on September 14 so people could venerate it.

Historically, ordinations to the diaconate and priesthood often took place on the Ember Days. The Collect for the Ember Days reflects this in asking God to send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of men to offer themselves for the ordained ministry.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS...

Our Annual Blessing of Animals for Saint Francis' Day will take place at 10:30 AM on Sunday, 1 October, in the Saint Francis Garden. Please feel free to bring your pet(s) to Mass. If you don't have a live pet...photos, statues, and stuffed toy animals may also be blessed. Francis preached God created the world good and beautiful but it needed redemption because of the Fall of Adam and Eve, He was known to love animals and the environment. Please join us for this always enjoyable and entertaining event.



"Praise the Lord, all creation; sing his praise and honor him forever." (Song of the Three Children v 35)



On Sunday, 29 October, we will observe the Feast of All Saints (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 256-257*) and dedicate the Parish Hall in loving memory of Mary Wheeler and Florence "Tommy" Young. Their generous bequests enabled the Parish to meet financial obligations and ultimately to pay off the mortgage...and led to the consecration of the church building in February 2004. The dedication of the Parish Hall will take place immediately after the Parish Mass.

BLESSED BE GOD IN HIS ANGELS AND IN HIS SAINTS...



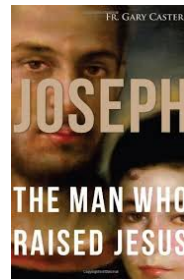
In the Collect for Saint Michael and All Angels Day (*Book of Common Prayer, Page 251*) we acknowledge God has "ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order." The word *angel* comes from the Latin *angelus* and the Greek *angelos*...and means messenger.

Angels are God's messengers...and they have been active throughout human history. We usually think of angels as the blond and blue-eyed creatures with wings pictured on Christmas cards. Both Isaiah and Revelation give us a strikingly different visual of angels with many wings. They are often shown in art dressed for battle...ready to protect us from Satan's tricks.

When angels do appear to human beings...such as Gabriel's appearance to Mary at the Annunciation...they usually say something like, "Don't be afraid." Their appearance must be extraordinary and startling. Do angels really exist? Jesus says they do.

Jesus tells us to trust God like little children trust their parents...and we are not to harm children. The proscription against hurting children can be applied on a wider level to include new members of the Church...we must not say or do anything that would cause them to lose their faith. Their angels in heaven...Jesus tells us...are in God's presence...and watching over them.

JOSEPH: THE MAN WHO RAISED JESUS...



Since the Season of Trinity 2014 the Parish has been restored to its original identity with Saint Joseph. Joseph is a mystery man...Scripture tells his story in few words. He is simply called a "good and just man" (St Matthew 1.19).

Joseph clearly was a devoted husband to Mary and loving foster-father to Jesus. While Scripture doesn't record anything Joseph said...it does show him to be a man of action. He is the patron saint of workers and of the Church.

The Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John describe Joseph as a "tekton" (τέκτων). He is not mentioned at all in the Gospel of Mark or any of the Epistles. Although "tekton" is traditionally translated into English as "carpenter", it has a more general meaning and is from the same root that gives us "technical", "technician" and "technology". It evokes an artisan highly skilled in his profession.



For our Lenten Study 2015 we read Father Gary Caster's wonderful book *Joseph: The Man Who Raised Jesus*. The book focuses on Joseph's virtues...his patience...his faith...his purity...his courage...exploring what the Bible tells us about this great saint.

We have a few extra copies of the book available. It is easily readable and will give you a greater appreciation of the man who raised Jesus and who is our Patron. Please speak with Father Looney if you would like to purchase a copy.

CALL PRIMROSE...



CALL means Christian Action Lifeline. They rely on the generous non-perishable food and other contributions from Saint Joseph Parish and other churches to meet the needs of less-fortunate families and individuals.

For the month of September we will be collecting deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion and similar products, either regular or travel size. For the month of October we will be collecting low sodium varieties of canned stews, chili (with or without meat) and hearty soups.



THE ALTAR GUILD NEEDS WOMEN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR, TO PREPARE THE CELEBRANT'S VESTMENTS FOR MASS AND OTHER LITURGIES, AND TO MAINTAIN THE VARIOUS LINENS FOR SUCH SERVICES. TRAINING IS PROVIDED. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS A WILLING HEART, AND REVERENT APPROACH TO THE TASKS. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS IMPORTANT WORK.



A new Saint Joseph Parish Directory is in the works. Draft Contact Information sheets will be available at the Coffee Hour following Sunday Mass beginning 3 September and for the following Sundays through 1 October. Please verify the information shown is correct: Name (as you want it listed); Children's Names; Address; Phone (Home, Office, Mobile); e-mail address.

The target date for distribution of the new Saint Joseph Parish Directory is 22 October.

GREETINGS FROM THE HARRIS FAMILY...



David and Zoe Harris send their greetings from Royal Oak, Michigan, where they recently purchased a townhouse. The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary came with the house. Since their move to Michigan in October 2016, the Harris Family joins the diaspora connected to the Parish.

David reports all are doing well. Emma is spending a year in Amsterdam with the Dutch National Ballet. Maya Lane is in High School. They miss attending Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph Parish...the nearest Anglican Catholic parish is three hours away. We hope to see the Harris Family when they visit the Bay Area. In the meantime...they would love to hear from you.

SAINT JEROME...

Jerome was a priest, confessor, theologian and historian best known for his translation of most of the Bible into Latin, which became known as the "Vulgate"...or "Common Language" version.



The painting by Antonio da Fabriano II, depicts Saint Jerome in his study (*painted circa 1451*). The writing implements, scrolls and manuscripts speak to his life as a scholar. (*Walters Art Museum, Baltimore MD*)

Although the painting shows a cardinal's hat hanging on the wall behind him, Jerome was never a cardinal. In fact, cardinals did not exist in Jerome's time. It wasn't until 1059 AD the College of Cardinals obtained the exclusive right to elect the Pope.

Born in 347 AD in what was then northeastern Italy, Jerome was not baptized until 366. While he was a student in Rome, he engaged in "superficial escapades and wanton behavior of the students there" which caused him to have great bouts of guilt.

During a prolonged illness, Jerome had a vision, which convinced him to lay aside secular studies. He embraced a life of estheticism and study of Holy Scripture, which led him to commence the translation of the Bible into Latin.

Jerome spent the last 20 years of his life in a cave in Bethlehem, living the life of a hermit, and acting as a priestly guide and teacher. He died on 30 September 420. His remains were originally buried in Bethlehem...and were later transferred to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM SUNG MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP

WEEKDAYS AS ANNOUNCED

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR



THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
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