

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK...

IT'S ABOUT GROWING...



Trinity Sunday is the Octave of Pentecost (or Whitsunday), although the *Book of Common Prayer* treats Trinity Sunday as a separate festival. This may have something to do with Pentecost being the last "event" in the Church Year. Pentecost effectively closes the first half of the Church Year. Trinity Sunday isn't about an event. It celebrates the doctrine that states God is "three in one...one in three"...Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If we think about how the Church Year is organized...the first half focuses on specific events in the life of Christ...his birth...his suffering and death under Pontius Pilate...his resurrection on the third day...and his ascension into heaven. His work complete...Jesus gets to take the place of honor and sit down on the Father's right side. We're still waiting for the next event...the Second Coming...and the Life of the world to come. The first half of the Church Year gets summarized in the Nicene Creed.

The second half of the Church Year begins on Trinity Sunday and continues until the Church Year begins all over again on Advent Sunday. Our Trinity Season this year includes twenty-three numbered Sundays after Trinity and the Sunday Next Before Advent (the Last Sunday in the Trinity Season). This numbering scheme follows the Sarum Missal, which became the standard Liturgy of the English Church from the late Eleventh Century until the Reformation.

Acts 2 describes the Coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter's radical transformation from the coward who ran away from Jesus on Maundy Thursday, into a convincing mouthpiece for Jesus. The mass conversion that followed Peter's sermon is why we consider Pentecost to be the Church's birthday. Acts 2.42 tells us that the people "spent their time learning from the Apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers".

We experience our own "Pentecostal" conversion at our Baptism, although most of us were infants and don't remember the event. We get to make the promises made on our behalf for ourselves at our Confirmation. When we were baptized, the priest thanks God the child (or adult) has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and will grow as part of Christ's Body...the Church...and live his/her life according to God's plan. Confirmation doesn't complete

Baptism...it provides for a booster shot of the Holy Spirit. The Bishop when he lays his hand on the head of the person being confirmed, prays he/she may receive God's grace, and "...daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more, until he/she comes into the everlasting kingdom".

Now that we have been charged and super-charged by the power of the Holy Spirit...we have been given the strength we need to grow and continue to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ. Like Peter, we are mouthpieces for the Gospel.

We get an idea of how important the Holy Trinity is in our lives by looking at the collects in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Every collect addresses the Trinity. The Collect for Trinity Sunday (BCP Page 186) sets the tone for the entire Season:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Trinity Season is about growing...about taking what we have learned in the first half of the Church Year and becoming spiritually mature...about letting the Holy Trinity go to work in our lives...in the mystical way it does. The seed has been planted...now let's watch it grow.

Father Craig Looney +

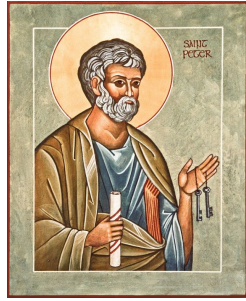
The Transfiguration of Christ



**Sunday, August 7, 2022
(Transferred from August 6)
9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon
Coffee Hour following**

Summer Holy Days

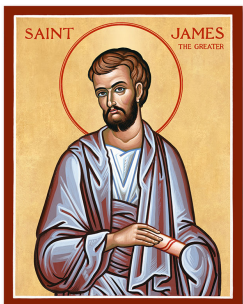
June 29...Saint Peter the Apostle (Book of Common Prayer, Pages 244-246)...The Lesson from Acts records Herod's arrest and execution of James (the Great) and subsequent arrest of Peter. It was Herod's intention to give Peter to "the people", possibly with Peter meeting the same fate as James. During the night, Peter escapes from jail with the help of an angel who sees him safely out of the city.



The Gospel records Jesus' commissioning of Peter after Peter acknowledges Jesus to be "the Christ, the Son of the Living God". Jesus tells Peter he couldn't have figured this out on his own...it was revealed to him by God. Jesus goes on to give Peter the "keys" to lock or unlock...the power to bind or to loose...to arbitrate that which should be allowed or prohibited with the Church.

There is no question Peter held a position of pre-eminence in the Jerusalem Church. Scripture alone attests to this fact by his presence and argument with Paul at the First Council in Jerusalem. In spite of Peter's impulsiveness and wavering, Jesus saw in Peter a leadership quality he could use. Jesus gave Simon the nickname "Peter", "Rock"...because of his character.

There is no evidence in Scripture or in the writings of the early Church Fathers, that Jesus gave Peter primacy over the Universal Church. Peter's "primacy" is one of personal grace given to him by God.

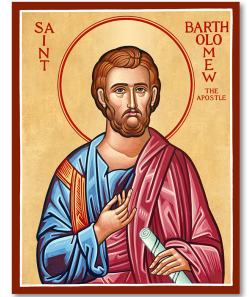


July 25...Saint James the Apostle (Book of Common Prayer, Pages 246-247)...The Lesson appointed for the Epistle is also from Acts. James was a son of Zebedee and brother of John. Like Peter and his brother Andrew...they were fisherman. James and John worked for their father in a successful fishing business in Capernaum.

Jesus nicknamed James and John "Boanerges"..."Thunder Boys"...because they were loud.

James is called the "Great" to distinguish him from the other Apostle James called the "Less". "Great" means "older" or "taller". James was the first of the Apostles to be martyred and the only Apostle whose death is recorded in the New Testament. According to tradition, he made a visit to Spain before his martyrdom and his relics were translated and re-interred in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. There is an annual pilgrimage to his grave..."The Way of Saint James"...held every year. James is the Patron Saint of Spain

August 24...Saint Bartholomew the Apostle (Book of Common Prayer, Pages 249-250)...Bartholomew was one of the Twelve Apostles. "Bartholomew" is a patronymic meaning "Son of the Furrows". In the List of the Apostles in the Synoptic Gospels he is always listed with Philip. In John's Gospel Philip is identified as a friend of Nathanael and it is Philip who introduces Nathanael to Jesus. Tradition identifies Nathanael with Bartholomew.



Eusebius of Caesarea's Fourth Century *Ecclesiastical History* (5.10) states after the Ascension, Bartholomew traveled to India where he left a copy of the Matthew's Gospel. Tradition teaches he and Saint Jude Thaddeus introduced Christianity to Armenia and both men were martyred there in the late 1st Century. Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as the State Religion. Bartholomew and Jude are considered the Patron Saints of Armenia and the Armenian Apostolic Church.

(Edit: Material for above articles from *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, by Massey Shepherd, Oxford University Press © 1950 Second Printing 1951, and other sources.)



The Sunday Discussion Group is on hiatus during the summer. We will resume meeting on September 4. We will begin a study of the lives and work of the Twelve Apostles and Saint Paul. Please join us as we learn from the Apostles.

Stained Glass Window Repair

We have begun an ambitious project to repair or replace damaged panels in our beautiful stained glass windows.



The bottom right triangular piece in the Narthex window shown above was recently replaced by an artist who specializes in working with antique glass. He used the same techniques employed by the original artists who installed the windows in 1870. It is virtually impossible to tell the difference from the bottom left triangular piece.

Parish Summer Seder

Rebekah Shapiro and Alex Gorelik hosted the first ever Saint Joseph Parish Seder on Saturday, June 18. Rebekah explained the Order ("Seder" in transliterated Hebrew) differed from a traditional Jewish Seder in several ways. Following is a condensed version of the narrative Rebekah included in the Order.



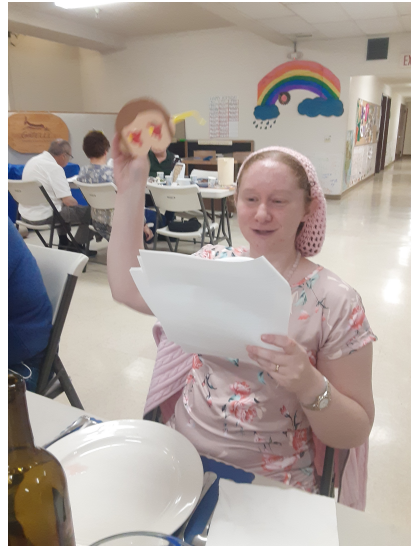
Jewish tradition, like Christian tradition, is, in the words of Pope benedict XVI, "living" and "flowing". There are almost as many versions of "a traditional Jewish Seder" as there are Jewish families. Rebekah pointed out some accommodations that were made tonight:

- We met during the Octave of Corpus Christi instead of the night of the first full moon of spring.
- We started well before sunset.
- The only Hebrew used was the untranslatable "'Dai aynoo."
- The Bible translations are from the King James Version.
- The Psalm translations are from the Coverdale translation included in the Book of Common Prayer.



Rebekah noted there is some debate as to whether the Last Supper of Jesus Christ before His death and resurrection, when he instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, can be called a Seder. But we know that Jesus Christ observed many of the same rituals in that meal that we did tonight. Christians, therefore, hold Seders to better understand

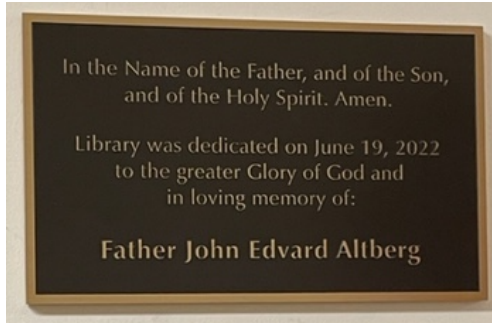
the context in which Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



This year, as usual, the Passover fell during Western Holy Week and Easter. Holy Week is already full with observances of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For this reason, since the 13th century the Western Church has observed a sort of repeat Maundy Thursday at the beginning of Trinitytide with the Feast of Corpus Christi. We honor the connection between the Seder and the Lord's Supper by holding our Seder during the Octave of Corpus Christi.

Editor's Note: The Parish Seder was originally planned for two years ago prior to the pandemic. We are very grateful for the effort Rebekah and Alex took to make this happen and the support of their families and friends and parishioners who were present. We hope to be able to repeat the Seder in the near future.

Dedication of Parish Library



On June 19, 2022, the First Sunday after Trinity, the Saint Joseph Parish Library was dedicated in loving memory of our Fourth Rector, Father John Altberg. The date marks the fifth anniversary of his death.

Many of the books in the Library are from Father Altberg's personal collection and were donated to the Parish by Rosemarie Altberg, who died in November 2021. Our thanks to Parish Librarian, Rebekah Shapiro, and husband Alex Gorelik, for organizing the Library.

Our Library is a warm inviting place to read, meditate, and have a conversation. Our Sunday Discussion Group and Vestry meetings are held in the Library.

Diocesan Synod News

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity held its Annual Synod on Friday June 10, at Saint Matthew's Parish, Newport Beach, CA. Candyce Francis (left) and Rebekah Shapiro (right), were lay delegates from Saint Joseph Parish, and are pictured with Bishop Scarlett.



Father Looney was sidelined with Covid but was able to fully participate in the Synod remotely via Bluejeans. Father Plimpton was attending a funeral on the East Coast and was unable to attend.

The focus of Bishop Scarlett's address to the Synod was Mission and Spiritual Renewal in the parish. He encouraged clergy and laity in a parish to live by a Rule of Prayer and Fasting. The Bishop has asked parishes to set aside every Wednesday as a day of fasting and prayer for Mission.

Our thanks to Candyce and Rebekah for representing the Parish at the Diocesan Synod.

Rector's Vacation



Father Looney will be away from the Parish June 23 through July 19. He will be back in the office on Wednesday July 20.

Father Plimpton will celebrate the Sunday Parish Mass and preach and provide pastoral care during the Rector's absence.

Age-Friendly San Mateo News Medical Equipment Loans

If you or a loved one needs a wheelchair, walker, cane, bathing chair or other medical equipment because of a temporary medical issue you do not have to rush out and buy the equipment. There are two local sources serving San Mateo residents where you can borrow these items free of charge.

Call and find out whether they have what you need.

- **San Mateo Senior Center Medical Equipment Loan Closet**

<https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/638/Senior-Center>

2645 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA
94403 Phone: (650) 522-7490

- **MELP** (operated by Villages of San Mateo County, Rotary, and City of San Carlos)

BRS.Rotary.MEP@gmail.com
Phone: (650) 590-9112

This information is brought to you by the City of San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force and is printed here as a service to the Saint Joseph Parish Family.

Note: Any references in the above article to any commercial products, services or facilities, does not constitute endorsement by Saint Joseph Parish.

THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Late Trinity 2022 edition. The target date for publication and distribution is early September. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail or in writing by August 28. All submissions are subject to space limitations and approval by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon
Coffee Hour and Discussion Group

Weekdays/Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Penance by Appointment

The Reverend Father Craig Looney, Rector
The Reverend Father Herbert Plimpton, Assisting Priest

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.

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