



Trinity Topics

July 2017

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**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” *Matthew 28:19-20***

With the conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter on Pentecost, we begin the Liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Perhaps that isn't the most thrilling name. I don't know a lot of people who would take it as a compliment if you called them “ordinary.” Yet for all the grandeur and joy of the Resurrection of Jesus, there comes a day when ordinary, day to day life has to begin—even the apostles, after the events in Jerusalem, returned to their lives fishing on the Sea of Galilee. What does an “ordinary life” informed by the Holy Spirit mean?

This means a life of mission. Mission is not necessarily going to Africa to build schools or going door to door passing out pamphlets, though let me know if you feel that is your calling! Mission means living the life the Lord has given us to live, ordinary life, with charity, gratitude, and joy. “Mission” might sound like a calling to go change the world with the next great program, but simply being Jesus for another person, to offer another soul kindness and understanding, can be world changing enough. It is enough to grow, day by day, in the Spirit of God.

Mission does, of course, also mean spreading the Gospel of Christ in our parish. It must be emphasized that this does not necessarily mean “Church growth.” There are plenty of soulless church communities that are growing in leaps and bounds. Mission is about parish health more than parish growth. In that sense, it is about “ordinary” life. It is about the parish the Lord has given us growing in the love and teachings of Jesus. On the other hand, a parish that can offer a genuine encounter with the Living God in its worship and fellowship will often attract new members.

This will be something of a theme in my second year of ministry at Trinity Church. Our bishop reminded me when I started here that a wise priest only “dusts the furniture during his first year; he doesn't rearrange it.” Well, the time has come to start rearranging the furniture! Figuratively speaking of course—we won't be moving out the altar or installing a drum kit under my watch. Now that your priest is “broken in” a little, it is time for our community to seek new ways to preach the Gospel of Christ to a world thirsty for new life.

I believe that Trinity Church's mission is to offer the people of Jacksonville a new spirit with which to lead their day-to-day lives. I believe that the Gospel of Christ can offer consolation and strength in a life already full enough of anxiety, busyness, and stress. I believe this work begins with opening the Bible ourselves and looking there for the Living God who is ever offering his Spirit anew. It begins with us, as a community, looking for ways we can be ever transformed into a community of the Spirit. I look forward to exploring with this community how we can grow and thrive in that Gospel.

Fr. Zach Brooks

Who's That Saint?

The Episcopal Church Year calendar lists **Joachim and Anne, The Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, on July 26.

The Scriptures tell us nothing about the parents of the Virgin Mother, not even their names. An early but unreliable document, known as the Proto-Gospel (or Proto-Evangelion) of James, calls them Ann and Joachim, by which names they are customarily known. Our only real information about them, however, is an inference from the kind of daughter they reared.

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. Not only is his mother's family neglected, we also know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names *Joachim* and *Anne* come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died.

The heroism and holiness of these people, however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people.

The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past.

Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith, and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

Reflection

This is the “feast of grandparents.” It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

(Taken from *Franciscan Media*)

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we remember in thanksgiving this day the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and we pray that we all may be made one in the heavenly family of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(*Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, page 309)

News & Announcements

A Special THANK YOU!

The Choir ended its regular singing season on Trinity Sunday. We need to thank them for their dedication to Trinity Church, and we look forward to when they return to their places in the Chancel in September. It is very inspiring, however, to hear their voices among the congregation in the summer months.

And...what would the choir be without their director Mary Wilson?! We are so very fortunate to have her as both the choir director and organist, and she does not get a “break.” She works very hard and puts in many long hours so that we are able to enjoy her selections, which give glory to God.

Funeral Planning (reprinted from the April issue of *Trinity Topics*)

Losing a friend or loved one is never easy, but having clear plans for their final farewell is a big relief. If you would like to express your wishes for your funeral service, such as the location of the visitation or the hymns for the liturgy, please contact the church office for a form. **If you have previously filed a form in the office, you may wish to review it.**

(Only four people have picked up forms, and no one has returned one yet.
Every blank does not to be filled in.)

Summer Children’s Church

Children are meeting in the basement of the parish hall for a Bible story, an activity, and a light snack before joining the rest of the congregation in the church after the sermon. Of course, this will be provided as an option for children and their parents—children are always welcome to stay with their parents in our services.

Attendance has been very light, but those who attend have enjoyed the activities. All children are welcome, so if you have visiting friends and relatives, please bring them to church.

Summer Bible Study

Fr. Zach continues the summer Bible study course in the lounge at 7 pm every first and third Wednesday in June, July, and August. Classes last approximately one hour, with light refreshments provided. The class is studying the Book of Genesis. Contact brooksz@gmail.com for more details.

Congratulations!

June 11 was a special day at Trinity Church. In addition to celebrating our Feast of Title, we witnessed the Baptism of Jordan Leah Barrett. Welcome into the household of God, Jordan!

Death

Dorothy Malanaphy died on June 5, 2017, in Port Charlotte, Florida. Her funeral was at St. Luke’s Church in Fort Meyers. She is survived by her husband Richard, two daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. The Malanaphys were active members of Trinity Church for many years.

*May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

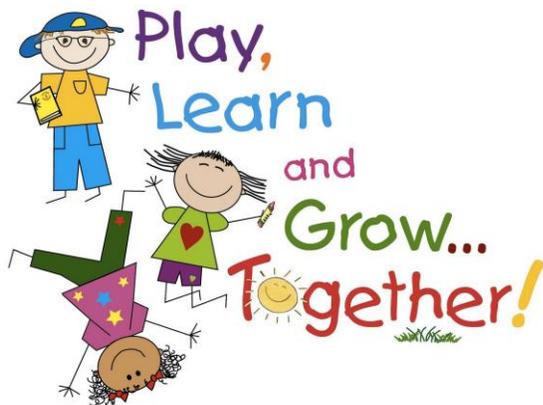
****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Pledge Statements

Included in this mailing is the six-month pledge statement, if you made a pledge for 2017. Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Wednesdays, July 5 & 19

Join Fr. Zach for Bible Study
at 7:00 pm



Sundays during the Summer
at 10 o'clock

Bible Stories and Activities
for children
in the basement of the Parish Hall

Children will join their families in church after the sermon.

SERVICES IN JULY 2017

**Sunday, July 2: THE 4th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 5:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 9: THE 5th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 12:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 16: THE 6th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 19:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, July 22: St. Mary Magdalene

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 23: THE 7th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, July 25: St. James

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 26: *Joachim & Anne*

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, July 30: THE 8th SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist