



Trinity Topics

MAY 2018

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“Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

- 1 Corinthians 11:28

This month I would like to write to you about the importance of spiritual preparation for Holy Communion. In the Eucharist “we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body with him, and members of one another (*BCP*, 316).” The Holy Eucharist is Jesus’ gift of Himself to His Church. Of course, Jesus’ gift of His salvation to us in the Eucharist is never in question—however, opening our hearts fully to that gift of grace is a matter of lifelong formation in the story of Jesus. Preparation for receiving the Eucharist is the process of returning once again to a place of gratitude for Jesus’ work for us in his death and resurrection. Only from this perspective of faith can we really know Jesus in the breaking of this bread.

The first part of receiving Communion is being baptized. The Eucharist is part of lifelong Christian formation, and Baptism is the beginning of that new life where we are united with Christ and with one another. Jesus does not turn anyone away in the Eucharist—he invites all to the resurrection life of the Kingdom of God, and that life is initiated in the sacrament of Baptism. To receive the Holy Eucharist outside of the baptized life would be to remove it from its context of Christian formation. There is no real Communion between the individual on one hand and God and His Church on the other without *commitment*; in Baptism the individual commits himself to God and the Church commits itself to the individual.

Life being what it is, this unity with Jesus and his Church needs continual renewal. Sins damage this unity—the wrongs we commit have consequences that must be reconciled if possible before we can truly participate in the Lord’s Supper. It is essential to spend time examining your conscience for specific ways you have fallen short of God’s commandments before coming to the Eucharist. Ask God for forgiveness and promise to try to do better, pray for patience and mercy when it is difficult to forgive others, seek out those you have wronged and apologize, and if necessary ask a priest to undergo the sacrament of Confession. Of course, it is not necessary to be sinless to receive Communion; sinners need Communion all the more, but it does require a readiness to receive both Jesus and our fellow Christians in love.

There are many traditional disciplines with which people have sought to cultivate the pure conscience that is ready to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Giving alms to the poor or other works of mercy are always a great start. Many Christians abstain from meat on Friday and go to Confession as a way of beginning the process of examination of conscience. Others fast before Communion, starting 1 or 3 hours before the service, or from the midnight before, so physical hunger becomes spiritual hunger that is relieved by the Bread of Heaven. Page 834 of the *Book of Common Prayer* offers prayers for individuals to say to themselves before and after receiving Communion which recall the wonderful presence of Jesus to us in this ceremony. Many say to themselves, simply, “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I will be healed!” while walking up to the altar rail.

As a final note, I would like to emphasize again that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance—he does not require perfection. It will take most of us our whole lives and perhaps beyond to reach that state of grace that Jesus envisions for us—it is Communion with Jesus in the Eucharist that will get us there, not the other way around. Spiritual preparation for Communion hopefully draws us more deeply into this great work of God.

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part II

The marriage of Henry, second King of the Tudor Dynasty, to Catherine of Aragon, Aunt of the King of Spain, was by all accounts exceedingly happy at first. However, Catherine suffered a long succession of difficult pregnancies. She endured 4 miscarriages and still births. Two other children, a daughter and a son, died soon after birth. Only Princess Mary (born 1515) survived infancy, and while Mary could theoretically inherit the throne under English law, Henry was highly motivated to produce a male heir. England's last attempt at female rule, Empress Matilda (Queen of England 1141 to 1148), was vividly and accurately remembered as "The Anarchy." The Tudor Dynasty's claim on the throne, asserted by force and intrigue in the Wars of the Roses in 1486, was thoroughly dubious—Henry VIII's father, Henry VII, was the son of the daughter of the illegitimate son of the third surviving son of King Edward III, who had been dead 109 years when the Tudors came to power. With far more credible claims to the English throne still very much in circulation, Henry could ill afford the uncertainty of a female heir. As the years marched on without a male heir, Henry became convinced God was punishing him for something. He turned to the Bible to discern what his sin could be.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

Via de Christo

If you come to the church building on Monday evenings, you may wonder who is meeting in the Parish Hall. Trinity Church has opened its doors to a group planning a Via de Christo. Greg Bergschneider is leading the group and appreciates the use of the hall for a couple months so that a meaningful experience can be planned for members of the Jacksonville community.

Altar Flowers

If you are interested in donating the Sunday altar flowers, there are open dates. Contact Jo Ann in the Parish Office.

Corpus Christi

All are invited to **St. Paul's Cathedral** (815 S 2nd St, Springfield), on **May 31, at 6:00 pm**, for the festival of **Corpus Christi**. This festival (on page 927 in the *BCP* under the heading "Of the Holy Eucharist") is a celebration of Jesus' saving presence to us in the Holy Eucharist. Bishop Daniel Martins will preach at the service of Evening Prayer, followed by a procession with the consecrated Host. The service will be followed by a reception.

Contacting the Rector

Father Zach wants us all to know that he is available at his mobile phone number in case of urgency or emergency. If you leave a message on the church phone, he may not see it for some time. Please call him when needed. His number is **217-602-8423**.

News & Announcements

The Heifer Project International

The Church School would like to announce that they exceeded the goal they set at the beginning of Lent. They raised **\$2,769.64** for *The Heifer Project International*. This enables them to buy an irrigation pump, a flock of chicks, a heifer, rabbits, 2 llamas, fish, a goat, a pig, honey bees, trees, ducks, sheep, and a knitter's basket, containing a llama, sheep, an alpaca, and a rabbit. The teachers and children met on April 11 to finalize their choices, in addition to planting flowers and eating pizza, veggies, and cookies!

Thanks to all the members of the Parish who contributed throughout the Lenten season. Without your generous donations, this would not have been such a great success and learning experience for the children.

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches (JACC)

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is focusing on **College Welcome Packets** during the months May, June, and July. Each packet will have information about the JACC and contact information for the specific churches participating. They need tissues, hot chocolate, gum, and granola bars. There is a box for your donations in the upper hallway.

Some items also announced at the April meeting: Grace Methodist Church is again coordinating the *Take It to the Streets* summer lunch program and can use financial and volunteer help.

First Baptist Church is planning a community garden this year.

Foodbank

The collection box for nonperishable food items is in the upper hallway. We take the items to the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center at the end of each month. Last month we had over a hundred pounds of food!

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 21-25. Please contact Adah Mitchell to let her know when you can help.

Trinity Fellowship

On Tuesday, May 1, members of Trinity Fellowship will gather for a potluck supper at 6:00 pm. **All are invited.** There is a sign-up sheet next to the kitchen counter.

Church Women United

Grace United Methodist Church will host the May fellowship coffee at 9:00 am, on Friday, May 11. It would be good if some of us attend. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested.

Summer Children's Church

This summer, we will offer an opportunity for children to continue being engaged by the Christian story with Summer Children's Church. Starting on June 3, through the Sunday School kick-off in the Fall, children will meet 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. Volunteers are welcome to lead classes. Leading classes will require no prep time—activities and supplies will be provided. Please find the sign-up sheet on the table in the lobby.

Good News

Hazel Jane, daughter of Sam and Molly Leak, and granddaughter of Rob and Maureen Vidakovich, was born on Maureen's birthday, March 25! Welcome to the world, Hazel! (Hazel was Margaret Evans' middle name.)

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

Trinity Fellowship

Tuesday, May 1, 6 pm

Please join us for our annual potluck supper.
A sign-up sheet is by the kitchen counter.

ECW

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.

Monday, May 14
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Vestry

Tuesday, May 15

7:00 pm.

Sunday, May 27

Last day of regular Church School

Summer Church School begins June 3.

Sunday, May 27

Trinity Sunday

is Our Feast of Title.

Bishop Daniel Martins
will visit us that day.

We will have our **Parish Potluck**
after the 10 o'clock Holy Eucharist

SERVICES IN MAY 2018

Tuesday, May 1:

St. Philip & St. James

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 2:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 6: EASTER VI

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 9:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 10:

ASCENSION DAY

6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 13: EASTER VII

The Sunday after Ascension Day

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 16:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 20: PENTECOST

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 23:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 27: TRINITY SUNDAY

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, May 30:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 31:

The Visitation of the BVM

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist