



Trinity Topics

October 2020

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***“When the righteous cry for help,
the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.”—Psalm 34:17***

This pandemic has been going on for over half the year now. Somehow it seems like it has been going on forever, while it is also hard to believe that it is already October. “The days are long, but the months are short,” as the saying goes. At the beginning of this whole ordeal I never would have imagined that it would go on this long. I remember telling another priest that he was being overly pessimistic when he said it would still be going on by Christmas, but now that dispiriting possibility seems entirely likely. Now that it is clear to everyone that we cannot simply wait the pandemic out, what can we do with ourselves? We must find a new, if temporary, way of living.

I know many of us have never gone this long without going to church in their whole lives. I know how painful it must be to go without the Holy Eucharist week after week. We are isolated from friends and family. We have cancelled activities and annual traditions that are important to us. We must not let our spiritual lives fall by the wayside during these times. It is the Spirit of God that will see us through while so much of the world despairs. It is God’s grace that gives us joy even as the world has so much to be anxious about. It is the love of Jesus that will bind us all together even as the world is lonely in its isolation.

The life of the Spirit does not just happen. Many in this age of ours claim that they are spiritual, as if it is simply an intrinsic part of their characters. We Christians, however, believe that our relationship with God is something that must be cultivated through hard work. “Fear and trembling,” as St. Paul put it. Isn’t that true of any relationship, though? Friendships take work, as do marriages and parenting. Spirituality is a connection to Jesus, who is alive for us. The first and foremost way of cultivating our relationship with God is prayer. Just like we cultivate friendships by spending time with another person and opening our hearts to them in sincere conversation, so our relationship with God is the result of taking time to be with God and to speak with Him.

There are many ways to pray. Some offer formal prayers like the Lord’s Prayer or a Psalm. Meditating on some passage of scripture so that God might speak to us in the silence is another great method. Some people have a knack for extemporaneous prayers, a skill that can take some practice. I was taught the “A.C.T.S.” method. Open with *Adoration* of God and his work in your life. *Confess* your sins and ask for forgiveness. *Thank* God for his blessings (including blessings as small as a warm sweater on a chilly day to blessings as grand as creation and salvation). Conclude with *Supplication*, which is praying for the thing you need such as your daily bread, patience, or relief from suffering. I cannot think of any wrong way to go about it so long as it is earnest and humble. The important thing is to DO IT so that it can sustain you in difficult times.

Those who pray have hope, for they know that this world is not all there is. This pandemic is not all there is. This is certain—this too shall pass. This is not going to go on forever. Far from believing things will go back to normal, I believe that we will come back from this with renewed joy in our worship and fellowship together. Perhaps all of Jacksonville, after months and months of isolation, will leave their homes eager to find community and meaning again. This may well happen precisely because of Trinity Church’s prayers.

Fr. Zach Brooks +

Fall Bible Study

Fr. Zach has started a Bible study via Zoom, an online video conference program. The 45-minute meetings take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month starting at 7 p.m. No “homework” is required. We begin by focusing on the Gospel of Matthew. **Please email Fr. Zach if you are interested in joining us.** After you have emailed Fr. Zach, a link will be sent to you before the meeting. Contact: **brooksz@gmail.com**

The Readings for the Sundays in October

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
4	Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20	19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
11	Exodus 32:1-14	106:1-6,19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
18	Exodus 33:12-23	99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
25	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	90:1-6,13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

October 4: St. Francis of Assisi



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

**On Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 pm,
Trinity Church will have its third annual Blessing of the Animals
on the lawn on the west side of the church.**

(Masks will be required, and we will be spaced appropriately in the church yard.)

News & Announcements

Apology

In the last issue of *Trinity Topics* I congratulated Owen Blackorby and his family for his being named the King of the Beaux Arts Ball of The Art Association of Jacksonville. I then recalled other royalty from Trinity Church who were recognized in the past. I failed to list Lindsay Keaton Jones. She was also a Queen. My sincere apologies to the Keaton Family.

Church School

Even though we are not able to have in person classes, Hilda Radcliffe and her team delivered Bible Story books and lesson sheets with activities to each family. We applaud this work which is keeping our church family involved. They will also have the Bible Story read each week on our Facebook page.

Outreach

- Please remember that our container for donations to the Jacksonville Food Center is always located in the upper hallway. The need for food is great during these troubling times. If you are able, monetary donations are always also welcome. Checks can be mailed directly to
Jacksonville Area Community Food Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 1143
Jacksonville, IL 62651
- At its August meeting, the Vestry voted to donate the *Festival Offerings* to these three groups: \$291 to Jacksonville School Foundation for remote learning; \$145.50 to the Lions Club for School Supplies; and \$145.40 to the Salvation Army.
- *Doorbell Dinners:* Trinity Church will be delivering meals the week of October 12 – 16. K-Lou Ashmore is coordinating the volunteers. Please let her know if you can help.

United Thank Offering

Since we were closed in the spring, we did not have our usual UTO Ingathering. And now it is fall! If you wish to make an offering, please send it to the Parish Office by October 10, so that we can send it in.

Pledge Statements for 2020

If you made a pledge for this year, you will find in this mailing the statement as of the third quarter. We appreciate the continued support of all of our parishioners. Even though our services are limited, our expenses remain the same. If you did not make a pledge, but would like a copy of your contributions, please contact the Parish Office.

Pledge Campaign for 2021

Letters will be mailed on or before October 16.

Congratulations!

Charlie Tavender and Marisol Mondragon welcomed their son, Logan Richard, on August 24. He is the grandson of Deanna Tavender. Welcome to the world, Logan!

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

**Synod of
The Diocese of Springfield**

October 2 - 3

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
is October 4.

We will have a
Blessing of the Animals
on Sunday, **October 4, 4:00 pm**
on the west porch and in the churchyard.

Mailing for the
2021 Pledge Campaign
Mid-October

Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, October 20
7:00 pm



SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER 2020

The Sunday 10 o'clock service with limited attendance is our only service. It is also live streamed on Facebook. Attendees must follow the Reopening Guidelines.

October 4:
The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11:
The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18:
The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 25:
The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

HOLY DAYS

will be celebrated with a 10 o'clock Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.

October 19:

St. Luke

October 23:

St. James of Jerusalem

October 28:

St. Simon & St. Jude