



The Shepherd's Staff

***Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States***

March 2019

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Saint Bartholomew's Woodinville, Washington



Saint Bart's has been without a Rector for six months and is doing just fine, thank you! Under the leadership of Senior Warden Larry Talbott and the Vestry this vibrant parish has maintained its family atmosphere. During last six months, visiting clergy have covered St. Bart's on at least three Sundays a month with Lay Reader Rick Gregory reading Morning Prayer when needed. I am pleased to announce that Suffragan Bishop Peter Hansen has agreed to become the priest-in-charge at Woodinville, sharing his time with his own parish of Saint Augustine's, Chico CA. I am deeply grateful to all the clergy who have assisted in Woodinville these last months, especially to our Suffragan Bishop.

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Saint Joseph of Arimathea 2019 Summer Session

July 15th to July 26th

Plans are currently underway for the Seminary Summer Session. The primary purpose of the Saint Joseph's Summer Session is to assist men to prepare for ordination as deacons and priests in the Anglican Province of Christ the King – and to help deacons and priests continue to grow in their skills and vocations. The fees are the same as last year and some scholarship money is available, but to allow more students to attend the lectures and practicums at distance, we will make use the Zoom platform which we have used successfully for Seminary classes all year. One of our goals this year is to create the beginnings of a video library so that priests and deacons will be able to access visual instructional materials whenever they need.

Below is the tentative schedule which (this year) will emphasize the History of the Reformation and the American Church (Colonial to modern day) as well as instruction in the pastoral sacraments and celebrating the mass. The provosts believe that the liturgical practicums in the afternoon had to be structured so as to supply instruction, hands on practice and discussion.

Date	9:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	Noon	3:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
M – July 15	Morning Prayer	History of the Reformation	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Holy Baptism Holy Matrimony	Evensong
Tu – July 16	Morning Prayer	History of the Reformation	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Penance	Evensong
W – July 17	Morning Prayer	History of the Reformation	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Burial of the Dead	Evensong
Th – July 18	Morning Prayer	History of the Reformation	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Holy Unction Communion of the Sick	Evensong
F – July 19	Morning Prayer	History of the Reformation	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Rites of Holy Week	Evensong
Sa – July 20	Rest, (Study) and Relax in the morning All attendees are invited to the home of Father Ben and Sharon Brown Saturday Evening for refreshments and dinner – rides will be provided.				
Su – July 21	Attend Mass at a local APCK Parish				
M – July 22	Morning Prayer	History of the American Church	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Prayer Book Mass	Evensong
Tu – July 23	Morning Prayer	History of the American Church	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Prayer Book Mass	Evensong
W – July 24	Morning Prayer	History of the American Church	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Missal Mass	Evensong
Th – July 25	Morning Prayer	History of the American Church	Mass	Liturgical Practicum: Missal Mass	Evensong
F – July 26	Morning Prayer	History of the American Church	Mass	Session ends after the noon Mass	

The Bishop Morse Youth Camp

Remember the Youth Camp. The date is from Sunday, June 30th to Friday July 5th, 2019. The location is at Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center, 20800 Marine Drive, Stanwood, WA 98292. The theme this year is *Keeping the Faith*. **The fee is \$325.00 per person (adjusted for families), if paid by March 31st.** The fee between April 1st and May 31st, rises to \$350.00 per person. After June 1st, contact Bishop Ashman ASAP as space may be taken. Scholarships are available and as always, applications will be kept confidential. Please contact Bishop Ashman directly if you know of a camper that needs assistance: 818-749-8139 or bishopashman@gmail.com. And a THANK YOU to the ACW and the parishes who help fund our campers!!!

Lenten Mite Boxes

The Provincial ACW has organized the Lenten Mite Box fundraiser for many years, with much success. This year the proceeds will go to student support at St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary. This must be one of the easiest ways to donate: you receive the box on Ash Wednesday and return it to your church full(?) on Easter Sunday. Many people put their spare change in the box at the end of each day, or perhaps donate the money they would have spent on the chocolate they have given up for Lent! It doesn't matter how small or large your church or your donation is – if every parishioner took part, we could make a big difference for clergy, or potential clergy who may need a little financial assistance. [Some smaller parishes just write a check] Remember, the person helped may be from your church! If your parish needs boxes or you have questions, please contact to Gillian Golden, P.O. Box 558, Selma OR 97538 or gillian.golden@yahoo.com.

Bishop's Travels



On January 27th, Bishop Ashman traveled to Saint Mark's Victoria for a parish visitation and meetings with the Vestry and clergy. On February 10th, the Bishop took his "rotation" Sunday at St. Bartholomew's in Woodinville WA and, after a beautiful Eucharist and unbelievably wonderful luncheon in the parish hall, met with the vestry and search committee. Two days later, after driving through (what seemed to him a blizzard), he called on Saint Jude's in Grants Pass ORE. After a mid-day Eucharist celebrated by Father David LaBarbera, everyone attended lunch at the Powder Horn Restaurant with much good cheer and fellowship.

Dear clergy and parish leaders. I need your help. I need news of what is happening in your parishes and, even better, pictures. Please, o please help the *Shepherd's Staff* inform the Diocese about the activities of all our parish families. It may not mean much to you, but your news means a lot to others, especially the more isolated and smaller parishes. +dma

A Sermon for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales and he received sight forthwith and arose and baptized. Acts 9.18

I keep telling myself that I should never be surprised where and how inspiration from God is revealed. It can come from anywhere, and at any time. Sometimes we recognize it and sometimes – actually more often than not – we miss it completely. It can come from something we have read, heard or seen. Most of the time I find that it doesn't come when we are diligently searching for it, but most of the time it comes when we least expect it; not necessarily thinking about it at all. Well, in the waning days of the Epiphany Season, one of these epiphanies hit me about a week ago.

One of the things that brought me out of the Evangelical non-denominational denominations was the casualness in the treatment of the Sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. I am really troubled by the Evangelical denial of any Spiritual benefit from either sacrament. Most of them teach that Baptism is merely an outward expression that you follow Jesus, and that Baptism is not necessary for salvation. As for the Eucharist, there is no spiritual benefit, but it is only a memorial of Christ's death. But it is Baptism that has been on my mind lately.

I once had a friend tell me that she was baptized again over the weekend. "Again," I asked? She then told me that she had been feeling kind of in a funk and thought that her first baptism didn't take; so she was baptized again. (I am not sure what many of them think is going to occur at their baptism. I think they are expecting a dove to descend upon them, and they are to hear the Father's voice, or like the shout of a famous news commentator, have a thrill running up and down their bodies.) As strange as this seems, this is not an uncommon occurrence among Evangelicals. The Calvary Chapel that I used to attend in Paradise, California, would hold large baptisms at the Fore Bay at Lake Oroville. Hundreds of people would gather together with all the fixin's for a combination picnic and baptism. It did not matter if you had already been baptized; you could "get dunked" again. If you were baptized as an infant, you needed to be baptized again, because you had no choice in the event. It needed to be what they called "Believer's Baptism" that made it official. Believer's Baptism is done when you are of the age of accountability for it is then and only then a person can make a decision to be baptized. I was confused. If baptism really doesn't matter, you can be baptized if you wish; or not. You can be baptized as many times as you want. Then why was my infant baptism invalid?

So, the other day I was in the drive-through at (I hate to say it) McDonald's. In front of me was a familiar van, familiar because I see it almost every day that I take my walks or ride my bike through Riverside Park. I take walks during the winter months because hand brakes on a bicycle don't work well in wet weather, and frankly, it's too cold to ride a bike. So, I walk. When I walk, it is usually when I get home in the afternoon, and before dark. I am usually dressed in black, with a black jacket and ball cap. I have been mistaken for a police officer. I know, because one time a guy told me he thought I was a cop. Now the reason this van is so familiar (and not because I see it all the time) is because all the windows of the van have decals, and each of these decals is a verse of scripture. I call the van's driver, "Scripture Van Man."

As I sat behind him in line, on of the decals was suddenly in 99-point font It was Mark 16.16, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" These were the words of Christ himself, I thought to myself, but then I remembered that this section of Scripture is controversial because it is not found in the earliest manuscripts and many Bible scholars believe them not to be the words of Jesus, but those of an over-zealous scribe. But, as it would happen, the Mark passage reminded me of the Great Commission of Matthew 28.19, "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*" I immediately pulled out my Textual Commentary and looked up the passage in Matthew and the only textual question was whether the word Amen should end the chapter or not.

The **Great Commission** proves that Christ did indeed command the Sacrament of Baptism, and with references such as St. Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost that people must believe and be baptized, and of other New Testament passages, gives us reason to believe that from the earliest days of the Church, Baptism was considered to be a Sacramental Rite which admits a candidate to the Christian Church. It also spells out the Baptismal formula, "*I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,*" and nullifies the claim of those who are baptized in the name of Jesus only, as some sects do.

I felt that I owed "Scripture Van Man" a thank you for his decal getting me started on this "Adventure in Scripture." I had walked through the park several times since the McDonald's encounter, but either the van was not there or there was some other reason to not speak with him. I had always wondered about him anyway, was the park his mission field? I had seen him on occasion bring large quantities of food to the park and distribute it to the other "residents" that hang out there. I had seen him also on many occasions sitting at tables with those same people to whom he gave the food, talking with his Bible on the table. Was it his mission field, or is he one of the park's homeless? I tended to believe the latter, but the former could always be true also. Often, I wondered if I would ever really find out; my thanking him would give me the to find out for sure, but the opportunity had failed to arise.

I mentioned above how God can bring inspiration at times when least expected. He is also very good with chance meetings. The other day, while on one of my walks and was crossing the 7th Street bridge, I noticed up in one of the trees in the park was a young eagle watching the ducks and geese swimming in the river below. I pulled out my phone and took a couple of pictures, but I was so far away that I could barely see the eagle. I thought to myself, "If he is still there when I walk under the tree that he is sitting in, I will take another picture."

I arrived at the base of the tree and the eagle was still there, but someone else was also sitting near that tree; it was "Scripture Van Man." I took a picture of the eagle and noticed that was also staring up at the bird. He asked me as I looked over at him, "That's the American Bird, right?" I said, "Yes, it's an eagle." I then told him about my being behind him at McDonalds and about the decal and what it inspired, and I thanked him. He seemed a little confused. We had a little talk about Baptism, and I believe he holds onto the old idea about Baptism. The Emperor Constantine and others of his time believed that baptism should be delayed as long as possible. They did this hoping to be absolved from as much sin as possible. I think my new acquaintance believes this also. I walked away from our encounter thinking that God might just have inspired me once again. Thanks be to God!

David A. La Barbera+

Friendly Reminder Time

- Please try to get your Parochial Reports into the Diocesan Office and to Bishop Hansen well before the cut off date of April 24th. Parish assessments and the Diocesan Budget are contingent on your parish reports. Thank you, ahead of time. Your promptness really helps!
- Be sure to get your Synod and hotel reservations in on time which is April 8. Sending in your registration forms does not mean you have made hotel reservations. That must be done by calling the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa. If there are financial concerns, contact the Bishop.
- (Personal one from the Bishop) Keep your clergy in your prayers and let them know that they are appreciated.