



The Shepherd's Staff

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

October 2019

***The Right Reverend Donald M. Ashman
bishopashman@gmail.com
provostjact@gmail.com***

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Fall Classes Have Begun

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Theological College is currently offering the five classes. Father Michael Mautner of Saint Peter's Oakland is teaching the Torah or the first five books of the Bible. Bishop John Upham of the Atlantic States is teaching a class in diaconal formation. And Bishop Ashman of Church of Our Saviour Los Angeles is teaching second-year and third-year Ecclesiastical Latin and first year Biblical Greek. In addition to these formal classes on the Zoom platform, Canon Ben Jones of Saint George's Raleigh is guiding three postulants through an intensive course in vocational discernment using as a text *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis.

The Bowditch street building has seen some shuffling and remodeling. The old library has been converted into a classroom and the old main office is in the process of being transformed into a boardroom and classroom. Further details with pictures will be forthcoming.

A great thank you is owed to Carol Karcher who is cataloguing, sorting and discarding damaged or outdated books. It is an enormous task. THANK YOU, Carol.

2020 Ordo Kalendars

The Provincial ACW President, Nona Gourley, is again reminding us that now is the time to order our 2020 Ordo Kalendars. This full color calendar has been edited by the Right Reverend John E. Upham, Bishop Ordinary of the Atlantic States, for use with the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and the American and Anglican Missals. There will be a place on the front of the calendar where a parish, if desired, may place its name and address after receiving the calendars. Pocket Calendars are also available. The Ordo Kalendars will be delivered before the end of October. Please contact Nona for more information at 2038 Carlsbad Caverns Court, Newman CA 95360-9635.

Anglican Church Women

In our next issue of the Shepherd's Staff, Gillian Golden will be announcing a simple and we hope effective fund-raiser to help raise funds for the Bishop Morse Youth Camp this coming June 28th to July 3rd, 2020.

Confirmation at Saint Mark's Portland

On September 8th, Bishop Ashman confirmed Diana Starr at Saint Mark's Portland during a beautiful Solemn Mass followed by a sumptuous brunch in the parish hall. It was a driving trip so the Bishop managed to have lunch on the the day before with Father LaBarbera and parishioners of St. Jude's Grants Pass Ore at the Powder Horn and breakfast on the 9th with Canon Mitchell, Deacons Lawrence and Shepard with members of St. Luke's Redding CA.



A Sermon for Saint Luke's Day, 2015

Almighty God, who calledst Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul: May it please thee that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer made a number of revisions and the best known of them was the moving of the Prayer of Humble Access (We do not presume to come to this thy table...) from just before the Prayer of Consecration to its present place just before receiving Holy Communion. Today's collect in honor of Saint Luke is another change. The older one (above) was composed by Archbishop Cranmer for the First Book of Common Prayer in 1549. It emphasized that Saint Luke's Gospel teachings were medicines to cure the diseases of our souls. That makes a lot of sense, especially when it is remembered that Saint Luke's Gospel has many parables not found in the other three Gospels: The Prodigal Son, the Rich Man and Lazarus, the Rich Fool, the grain of Mustard Seed, and the Good Samaritan. It makes sense because it is by following the prescriptions found in those parables that our souls are made spiritually healthy and sound.

I like that logic and I think the comparison of spiritual medicine to physical medicine is a good one. But the 1928 revision committee under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Charles Addison wanted to go a step further and also emphasize the power and love found in Luke's prescriptions. So this morning we heard that Saint Luke the Physician sets forth in his Gospel the love and healing power of God's Son, that is, that we might be healed both in body and soul. There are many ancient traditions concerning Saint Luke: that he was one of the Seventy commissioned by Jesus (referenced in the Gospel); that he was a historian (he also wrote the Book of Acts) and a physician; that he was Greek and companion of Saint Paul; and most interestingly that he was the first icon painter. But I think that Physician of Souls best expresses the significance of this most gentle of the four evangelists.

In religious art, Saint Luke is often depicted with an ox or a winged ox. It is important to remember that the ox was one of the major sacrificial animals of the Jews and the ox was often used in Renaissance paintings to represent the Jewish people. But the ox is also a symbol of patience and strength; and almost invariably the ox and the ass appear in paintings of the nativity – and our modern nativity scenes. For the early Church Fathers, the ox was also a symbol for Christ, who was the one true sacrifice for all sin. And just as Jesus bore his temptations and trials with supreme and implacable patience so in like manner the ox represents Jesus' disciples – then and now – who patiently bear their burdens while laboring in the Lord's vineyard – for the good of their brothers and sisters. And so, the ox is the special symbol of Saint Luke whose Gospel emphasized the sacrificial aspects of our Lord's atonement for our sins as well as his divine priesthood.

I like the symbol of the ox who works patiently to bring forth good because that is what we are supposed to do. A lot of people – Christian and non-Christian – think that the Church is finished or that it will disappear into the values of this world. But as I wrote to a priest recently, I don't believe that we are finished – not for a second! When Jesus said that his followers had to eat his flesh and drink his blood, many abandoned him. Only a handful was at his crucifixion and before Pentecost, the apostles hid in fear of their enemies. But the Church born at Pentecost changed the world. And it wasn't easy. The Church grew nourished by martyrs' blood. Every century has seen persecution, agnosticism, heresy, and cowardice. But Christ's faithful have always triumphed. To be faithful to that calling calls for the strength of an ox; it is what we mean when we promise the bishop at our confirmations that we will follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Saint Luke truly followed Jesus as Lord and Saviour. No one is sure whether or not he was martyred but he is considered a martyr because there is no doubt that he endured great sufferings and undertook great labors for his Lord – like a faithful ox. So today we commemorate Saint Luke’s efforts and the divine medicine he gave us to help us fight the good fight; to love and serve the Lord; to work in the Lord’s vineyard! I mentioned that Saint Luke was considered by many Church Fathers to be one of the Seventy sent to evangelize and grow the Kingdom of God. Those Seventy are symbolic of us because we, when we go out of the doors of this church into the world, we are the Seventy doing the work of the Lord. Despair is the tool of the devil, but we oxen are proof that the church is not finished but continuing!

+dma

Church of Our Saviour Santa Barbara Fall Picnic Pictures



Church of Our Saviour and the Holy Apostles finishes its Garden...

...which was celebrated at our Fall Party on the Feast of St. Michael and all Angels, September 29th

