

# The Shepherd's Staff



## *Newsletter of the Anglican Province of Christ the King October, 2023*

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The Ordination of Father Darius Gasatura  
Christ Anglican Church,  
Cave Creek AZ



By the grace of God, on Saturday, September 16, 2023, in the presence of a vibrant congregation, Father Darius Gasatura was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests by the Right Reverend Peter F. Hansen, Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of the Western States. He was previously ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Hansen in February of 2022.

Father Gasatura served as Deacon at Christ Anglican from August 2022 until July 2023; he will continue serving alongside Canon Dart at Christ Anglican Church as Curate.

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## A Homily for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity, 2023, by Bishop Donald Ashman



Do you ever think that you have reached a point in your life where life is beginning to take more than it gives – that the good old days are gone? We fear getting older; poverty; and the approaching death. Or in today's Gospel, let us consider the plight of the widow who lost her only son. In her culture she no longer had anyone (any male family member) to provide for her; she stares bleakly at destitution and perhaps malnutrition. And there is even the haunting fear and guilt that her son's death may be a punishment inflicted on her and her son by God for their sins. But such is not the case. For it

is a matter of compassion – the lesson for today. Let me try to illustrate.

There is a taddled story told about a frail old man who many years ago went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man had worked hard all his life; now his hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table, but the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The old man's son and daughter-in-law became increasingly irritated with the mess. "*We must do something about grandfather,*" said the son. "*I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor.*" And so the husband and wife set a small table in the corner of the dining room. There, the grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since the grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family occasionally glanced in the grandfather's direction, they never noticed the tears in

his eyes as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled his milk.

The four-year-old grandson watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "*Oh, I am making little bowls for you and mama to eat your food in when I grow up.*" The four-year-old smiled and went back to his work. But the child's words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what had to be done.

That evening the husband took his father's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled. In the collect this morning we asked God to let his pity cleanse us and defend us, the Church, because without his pity and mercy we cannot go on. Not everyone we meet is lovable like the grandfather; yet for our souls' sake, we must be struck down with the same compassion as the husband and wife in the taddled-parable-story. And I would be a liar if I said that it was easy.

So it is important to remember that not everyone we meet is like the lovable but messy old grandfather! Some people will exercise their A-type personalities and not even know how much they have hurt us. Others will be grumpy no matter how cheerful we are. Still others will be downright evil and seek to hurt or misuse us. We will be convinced that they are as dead as the heartless society in the Gospel that would impute sin on a dead man and his mother. I want to make it clear that every one of those people who hurt us want to be loved and it is our job to return love for hurt – or hate. Every one of them had a mother or a father or someone who loved them and perhaps wept – or even now weeps over them. Every one of them is God's child, whom God wants us to love. So it is that we do God's work when we take them by the hand and lead them to the table of love. And yes, I know, it sometimes does no apparent good, but sometimes we make a crack in their armor of selfishness and hate; and moreover, every time we try, the more we try, the more our own pride is crushed and the more love and

compassion will come our way. What goes around really does come around on earth as it is in heaven!

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## St. Joseph's Seminary Off and Running

The Seminary is offering five classes this fall: ***A Survey of the New Testament*** on Mondays (at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.); ***Patristics, A Study of the Early Church Fathers*** on Tuesdays (at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.); ***Moral Theology*** on Wednesdays (at 11:00 a.m.); ***Third Year Latin, Second Year Greek*** and ***First Year Greek*** on Fridays (at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.).

Engie Lee, one of our First Year Greek students was able to visit at Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai and sent us the pictures below. At left, Engie is pointing to the Steps of Saint James and (above right) is the well of Moses and (below right) the site of the Burning Bush (***I am that I am***).







# Why Study the Bible?

*by Fr. David St. John, assisting priest, St. George's Anglican Church, Las Vegas, Nevada*

Whether verbally or in printed form, whenever I invite people to join our Bible Safari, I tell them that doing so will “enhance their faith”. What do I mean by this?



To enhance something is to increase or improve its value or quality. When the word “enhance” was borrowed from Latin and translated into English in the 13th century, it literally meant “to raise something higher”. And that is why Bible study will enhance your faith. It increases your faith and raises it to another level. It completes your faith. It equips your faith and makes your faith more effective. And if your faith is enhanced, the effectiveness of your life, which flows from it, will also be enhanced.

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 explains that God’s Word is “profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” The Holy Spirit teaches, convicts, and encourages every believer as he or she interacts with the Biblical text and discovers the wisdom of God in its pages. God’s Word is living and effective, and it transforms our hearts as we read and obey what it says (see Hebrews 4:12).

## **We need to know how to accurately handle God’s word.**

In Ephesians 6, Paul describes the word of God as “the sword of the Spirit”. Like any weapon, we need to know how to wield it properly, and so the word of God can be dangerous if it is mishandled. Those who “distort” the Scriptures do so “to their own destruction” (2nd Peter 3:16). Therefore, it is essential that we study the Scriptures to know how to handle them properly and effectively.



**We need to be able to teach others.**

As responsible Christians, we all have a responsibility to teach others in some capacity – either by publicly preaching the word (2nd Timothy 4:2, 5) or by giving an answer to those who have questions about our faith (1st Peter 3:15). Regardless of the situation, when we speak on spiritual matters we have an obligation to teach accurately. Peter wrote, “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God” (1st Peter 4:11). There is condemnation for those who distort the gospel (Galatians 1:8-9), so we cannot take this lightly. We need to study to make sure we can teach faithfully.

**We need God’s wisdom in order to handle life’s difficulties.**

In his epistle, James acknowledged that we will “encounter various trials” that will test our faith. Therefore, he went on to explain that we are to pray for wisdom.

As James later said, we must hear God’s word and do it. We must be: “Quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger... in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves” (James 1:19-22).

If we want to gain the wisdom necessary to know how to handle the hardships of life, we need to study the Scriptures.

**We need to be properly equipped for our lives.**

The Scriptures were inspired by God and revealed to us in order to guide us “in righteousness.” By following its teaching, reproof, correction, and training, we will be “equipped for every good work.” God wants His people to be engaged in doing good works.

**Finally, we need to live lives of obedience to God’s Word.**

That’s the key to it all. We can read the Bible. We can study it. We can memorize all the Bible verses we want. But unless we put it all into action, it becomes meaningless. As we breathe in the Word of God, we must also breathe it out. If we receive the light, we must let it shine:

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they

put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

God has shown us in His word how to be pleasing to Him and do His will. It is our responsibility to study His word so that we can understand it and obey it.

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## Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (also known as Eucharistic Adoration) is the service in which Jesus Christ is adored in the consecrated Host exposed in a monstrance set upon the altar, and in which the priest blesses the faithful with the Sacred Host.

The Book of Common Prayer tells us that the adoration of God, in prayer, is the “lifting up of heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God’s presence”. A few prayers are said, and there is time for quiet adoration and the experience of a spiritual communion with Him.

There is a long-standing practice of corporate Eucharistic Adoration in the English, Roman, and Orthodox expressions of the faith. Devotions to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament outside of the Eucharistic Celebration (the Mass) have been documented as early as the 8th century.

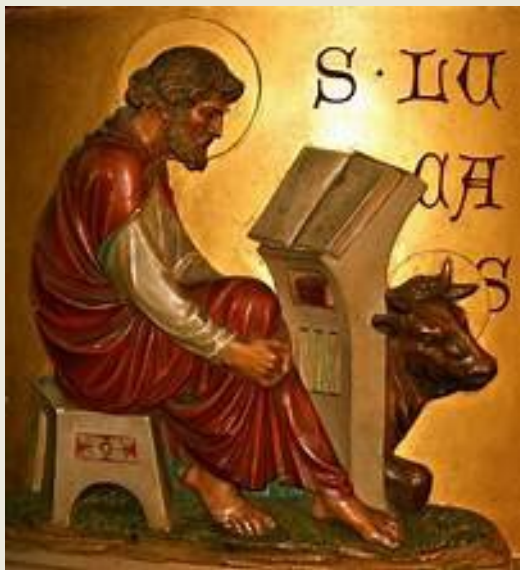
The adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Altar is not the stuff of superstition and false doctrine. It is, for us, a legacy and inheritance of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and its faith in the Real Presence of the living Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

During the months of October and November, St. George's Church in Las Vegas will offer the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following the Wednesday 11:00 a.m. Mass. (Lasting approximately 15 to 20 minutes, and ending at 12:00 Noon).

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## St. Luke: Doctor, Writer, Companion, and Friend

Feast Day: October 18



Saint Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile in Antioch, Syria, into a prosperous Greek family and was trained as a physician. He is the author of the Gospel that carries his name, as well as the historical book of Acts.

His books are considered the most poetic and beautiful of all. He uses the best grammar and the most eloquent and correct Greek of the New Testament. In his Gospel, he presents Jesus not as the Jewish Messiah, but as the world's Savior

and Lord.

Luke was a man of prayer. As a result, his Gospel is filled with the power of prayer. He had a high regard for the dignity of women, and they played an important part in his writings. Luke writes about the

women who accompanied Jesus, such as Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, Martha and Mary, and "many other women who used their own resources to help Jesus and his disciples".

Luke also wrote about the birth of Christ from Mary's point of view and she is especially important in Luke's gospel.

It is only in the Gospel of Luke that the story of Mary's Annunciation, her visit to Elizabeth, the Magnificat, the Presentation, and Jesus' remaining in Jerusalem are told. In Luke's gospel, we learn the words spoken by the angel to Mary at the Annunciation, "Hail Mary, full of grace", and Elizabeth's words to Mary, "Blessed are you and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus." The level of detail in Luke's account of Jesus' early years has led historians to believe that Luke, since he was not one of the original disciples, must have known Mary personally, and heard about these events first-hand from her.

He emphasized Christ's compassion for sinners and for those who suffer. The gospel of Luke focuses on the poor and oppressed, encouraging tenderness and compassion for the less fortunate.

Luke accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey, having joined Paul in Troas, in 51 A.D. and, I am sure, diligently looked after Paul's health. Luke was with Paul in his last days and final imprisonment in Rome.

We have no certain knowledge of what happened to Luke after Paul's martyrdom, but according to a fairly early and widespread tradition he, too, was martyred at the age of 84 after settling in Greece to write his Gospel.

Seeing Luke as a physician, a traveler, a friend of Mary, and a companion of Paul provides a fascinating insight into his writings. As products of both the Holy Spirit's inspiration and Luke's own life and authorship, his Gospel and his book of Acts give us a unique look at the life and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ.





**Churchman's Ordo  
Kalendar**  
For use with  
Book of Common Prayer (1928)  
and  
American and Anglican Missals

January 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
✠	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	✠	✠	

The 2024 Ordo Kalendars are prepared and are available for ordering. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the 1928 Prayer Book and both the American and Anglican Missals and is in full color and edited for Church use by Father Matthew Weber of Saint Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto. There is space on the front of the Kalendar where a parish may, if desired, insert a picture, its name and other information after receiving the Kalendars.

The Ordo Kalendar is of invaluable use to clergy and altar guilds alike. It helps determine the color for the day, whether the day is festal or ferial and a guide to whether the Gloria in Excelsis and/or the Nicene Creed is required. The same applies

for proper prefaces.

Nona has mailed out order forms but if lost or you didn't get an order form, you may direct inquiries to Mrs. Nona Gourley (209) 862-2582 or email our Ordo Kalendar website:  
[order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com).



## Anglican Province of Christ the King

[Visit our website](#)

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