

July 5, 2018

**“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”**

There will be one service  
On Sunday, July 8

—9 am Holy Eucharist.

—10:15 Coffee Hour

— Mother Rhoda will be our Celebrant, Deacon Bill will be our preacher

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## Ascension This Week

**Love God, Love Your Neighbor  
Deacon Bill Baker**



Sunday at church someone asked me how I feel about patriotic hymns for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I replied that I do not have any problem with one or two patriotic songs, as long as we all know who made the wonderful land we live in. For me, patriotism seems fine, as long as we keep it into perspective. We should not lose sight that God made the beautiful world and specifically the lands on which we live.

Jesus helped us answer the question about what the balance should look like. When asked by his disciples in Matthew 22 which is the greatest law, Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

If we remember to love God first and then to love and take care of neighbors, especially our neighbors who have less than we have or who we disagree with, we honor God fully. If we hold those two things sacred, then there should be no issue singing a song of appreciation for our country. I think it comes down to patriotism versus nationalism.

Patriotism is the love of one’s country. Nationalism is the love of one’s country at the expense of other countries or the belief that they are not as good. Jesus certainly loved his country and his people—the Jewish people. Remember, Jesus was Jewish. But Jesus also wanted his people to include outcasts, sinners, Samaritans and other foreigners. Jesus wanted all people to be united as one in him. He wanted his Father’s love to spread throughout the Holy Land and throughout the world.

If we love America, and appreciate the freedoms that our country affords us, that is great. When you hang your flag or celebrate a national holiday, give thanks to God in prayer for the abundant earth and even specifically for this city, Staten Island, in which we live. Then start to think of ways that we might love all of our neighbors—those that are in this country and those that Jesus wants us to love when all the borders are erased.

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As I write this, it is the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I want to wish you all a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Today, I will be barbequing with my family. I will remember to give thanks to God for the beauty of my backyard, for green grass and the site of the flowers growing. I will give thanks that we live in a country that affords me the freedom of a day of rest and a chance to remember that those freedoms came at a cost.

This Sunday, we will sing one or two songs in the spirit of patriotism. Our songs should be prayers of thanksgiving to God for all the abundance we share. At the end, you will probably be reminded that although our Eucharistic service has ended, our service in the world has just begun. Love God, love your neighbor and then--yes, by all means, love your country.

Blessings,  
Deacon Bill

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### Deacon Bill's Schedule for the Week Ahead:

Sunday--At Ascension or St. John's and then 2:30 at Lakeside Manor

(This Sunday Deacon Bill has signed up to be our host for coffee hour after the 9am Holy Eucharist Service.)

Monday--In the field or in rectory office

Tuesday & Thursday--In the Ascension office all day; unless I am at a meeting or visiting someone in their home or hospital

Wednesday--Morning Prayer at Ascension and then at St. John's for supervision with Fr. Cole from 11am-5pm.

Friday is my day off

Saturday--Available for events; Finish sermon, generally in the rectory office

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### Can You Help —

**You are always welcome to join Deacon Bill at Lakeside Manor on Sundays at 2:30pm.**

**Altar Guild can use your help. If you want to join in this service for the church, please contact Nancy Murphy.**

**Coffee Hour** is a wonderful time to enjoy fellowship with your friends at Ascension! And your help is both needed and appreciated. Bring your baked goods, or any purchased items of your choice. We continue to provide rolls, butter, coffee and tea. Please contact Nancy Williamson for more information (718) 448-9508.

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*"The providence of God means that with God there is always, even in the bleakest of circumstances, another possibility. A creative, a hopeful, a life-giving possibility."*

- Most Rev. Michael Curry

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*The Church of St. Andrew*  
*presents*  
**The Fruit of the Spirit**  
**Vacation Bible School Program**

July 23, 2018 - July 27, 2018

10:00am - 12:00pm



Join us this summer for our Vacation Bible School Program. This year we are exploring all of the fruits of the spirit that God gives us to give to others.

Register online at [bit.ly/vbscsa2018](http://bit.ly/vbscsa2018)

Call the parish office at **718-351-0900** or email us at [churchofstandrew@mac.com](mailto:churchofstandrew@mac.com) for more information

There is a suggested registration fee of \$20 to help offset costs. Scholarships are available.

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**Save the Date: Meetings and Church Services for the next few weeks --**

Deacon Bill will be ordained a priest on **Saturday, September 15, 2018**. A Church Picnic will be held in honor of his installation on **Sunday, September 16th**, after a 10:00 mass. We look forward to having him with us for years to come!

**Sunday, July 8:** 9am Holy Eucharist, 10am Coffee Hour, 2:30pm Service at Lakeside Manor, 6pm AA

**Wednesday, July 11:** 9:30am Morning Prayer, 10am Coffee Hour

**July 23—July 27: Vacation Bible School** will be hosted by the Church of St. Andrew (718-351-0900, or email at [churchofstandrew@mac.com](mailto:churchofstandrew@mac.com))

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**“Brother, Give Us A Word.”** Every day, on the SSJE website, one of the brothers gives a word that we might use as a focus in our prayer and meditation. **“Compassion”.** *Compassion is at the heart of God’s very being, and Jesus’ consistent preference for choosing compassion over the law signified the new life he was bringing into the world. Those who follow Jesus must be channels of his compassionate presence in the world.* — Br. David Vryhof, SSJE. You can see his full page of comments on this word on SSJE.org.

**Richmond Episcopal Ministry Clergy Rota --- July, August, September**  
**(Note: The first name on the list is the Celebrant, the second name, if there is one, is the preacher.)**

July Ascension	July St. John’s
1 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Bill Baker	1 Fr. Cole (and Bishop Andrew St. John - Confirmation)
8 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Bill Baker	8 Fr. Mark Brown
15 Fr. Cole and Deacon Geri Swanson	15 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Bill Baker
22 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Bill Baker	22 Fr. Cole
29 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Geri Swanson	29 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker

August Ascension	August St. John’s
5 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Geri Swanson	5 Fr. Mark Brown
12 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Bill Baker	12 Fr. Mark Brown
19 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker	19 Fr. Mark Brown
26 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Geri Swanson	26 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker

September Ascension	September St. John’s
2 TBD	2 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker
9 Fr. Cole and Deacon Bill Baker	9 Fr. Mark Brown
16 Fr. Bill Baker and Fr. Cole	16 Fr. Mark Brown
23 TBD	23 Fr. Bill Baker and Fr. Cole
(Saturday)	29 <sup>th</sup> 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Bishop Glasspool Celebrant and Preacher
30 Fr. Bill Baker	30 Fr. Cole and Deacon Geri Swanson (175 Anniversary Weekend)

