

August 23, 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, August 26

—9 am Holy Eucharist.

—10:15 Coffee Hour

— Mo. Rhoda Thomas  
will be our Celebrant,  
Deacon Geri Swanson  
will be our preacher

Inside this issue:

— Who Can We Trust? —Deacon Bill Baker

—*Won’t You Be My Neighbor?* Discussion. Please send your comments.

— Bus on Saturday, September 15

— Announcement of Men’s Ministry Group first meeting at St. John’s

— Meetings, Events and Church Service schedules for the next few weeks

— Richmond Episcopal Clergy Rota for August, September

## Ascension This Week

### Who Can We Trust? Deacon Bill Baker



“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.”

Psalm 146:3-5

I read the newspaper and I watch the news. As Christians we need to know and understand what is going on in the world. Sometimes what happens in our society requires a reaction from us. The last two weeks I admit I have felt shaken to the core as I read some headlines. Let me be specific, there are trusted leaders in both politics and in the Church who have behaved in ways that are both immoral and illegal.

We might read the allegations against some of our politicians or the priest sexual abuse scandal and cover up in the Roman Catholic Church in Pennsylvania, and begin to lose hope or feel angry or sad. How could the leaders that we have entrusted with so much power have made such huge mistakes and with such painful consequences? In my estimation, part of the problem IS that we put our trust and hope in imperfect humans.

The point is we should not put our trust in earthly leaders. We need to put our trust in God. It does not matter who our President is and what the Pope or other Bishops say. God is our leader and he sent Jesus as an example for us to follow. So how should we respond to the headlines? I have a few ideas.

First, we need to pray. We need to pray to God for how to respond to such horrible and destructive behavior. We need to pray for the children who have been victimized and others who have been injured by the abusive behavior of our leaders. We also need to pray for those who trouble us—including the bishops who lied and covered up the abuse, the President and other politicians who abuse their power, and are involved in corruption, and most importantly we need to pray for those priests. Even though we may not want to and it may be difficult, we need to pray for the priests, who by their actions, have injured the souls of countless people and really all of humanity.

We also need to use our emotions and prayers to motivate us. Are there ways that you can get involved? Hearing allegations of abuse can be triggering for abuse survivors. If someone reports to you that they have suffered from abuse of any kind, please listen to them and take it seriously. If they seem to need more support you can offer, refer them to the National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673. As a survivor myself, you can call me and know that I will listen to your pain and get your further help if you need it.

We also need to continue to offer each other support during mass and other fellowship opportunities. We need to take refuge at the altar of God during the Eucharist and leave all our cares (or as many as we can) there. If our hopelessness or anger feel too big for us, God can handle what we can't handle on our own. God also uses our fellow travelers to help to carry us home. Even if you cannot speak about what is troubling you, sometimes being around other likeminded people can lessen our intense feelings.

Life can be overwhelming at times. I know when I read the allegations recently, I felt deeply shaken. I turned to God in prayer and wrote this article as a way of reminding all of us, that we need to put our trust not in human leaders, but in God who will not fail us.

Blessings,  
Deacon Bill



**On Sunday, August 19 we met** after coffee hour to discuss the documentary movie about Fred Rogers and his television show "*Won't you Be My Neighbor?*". Many of those present—even those as old as me—had seen the tv show, having watched it with their children. One mother spoke about how her daughter relates to Mr. Rogers as a real person who is her friend, and loves his show today. (It's available in reruns.). Mr. Rogers gives a secure place from which children and older people too can look at challenges life may present and learn about how we can handle them, and learn about who our neighbors are, and that we are OK and loved as we are.

If anyone who was at the discussion would like to send comments for the newsletter, please email them to me, Janine Jordan, at [gracietec@aol.com](mailto:gracietec@aol.com).

**Deacon Bill's Weekly Schedule is posted on the website. Please go to the Contacts page to view.**

**Please note:** In the event of a pastoral emergency or personal need, Deacon Bill welcomes calls to the rectory (718-447-4501) or his cell (917-863-1516).

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

**Sunday, August 26:** Men's Ministry Group at 11:30 at St John's. See the announcement below for details.

**Saturday, September 8:** Wine & cheese, & soiree at Christ Church. 5PM to 8PM. RSVP to Nikki Johns, 347-322-7348 by August 31.

Deacon Bill will be ordained a priest on **Saturday, September 15, 2018**. Take the bus to the Cathedral (see below).

A Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 16th**, in honor of Deacon Bill's installation after a 10:00 mass. Please bring a dish or a dessert.

Flower Festival at St Paul's. October 13 and 14.

You can always look at the church calendar on the website ([Ascensionsi.org](http://Ascensionsi.org)) for day-to-day listings of what is scheduled at the church.

**Do You Want to Take the Bus?**

Deacon Bill Baker's ordination is fast approaching on Saturday, September 15th. We are hiring a bus to transport any parishioners & guests who would like to attend (9am-2pm approx.) The cost per person will be about \$25-35, depending on the size of the bus. If you are interested, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Undercroft by August 25th. Thanks!

**PLEASE JOIN OUR MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP!**

Our first meeting will be on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Eccleston Hall Community Room - 11:30 am immediately following Ascension's Coffee Hour. Please join Father Roy Cole and Deacon Bill Baker to discuss plans for the group. Our mission will be guided by the spiritual belief that everyone has a purpose on this earth and that we are all called to serve Christ. The power of gratitude both as prayer and as a motivation to serve is what we shall strive to achieve among the men in our group.

**Bring your ideas and enthusiasm!**





**Richmond Episcopal Ministry Clergy Rota --- August, September**

**(Note: The first name on the list is the Celebrant, the second name, if there is one, is the preacher.)**

August Ascension	August St. John's
5 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Geri Swanson	5 Fr. Roy Cole
12 Mother Rhoda and Deacon Bill Baker	12 Fr. Roy Cole
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 Mother DeLellis (9AM)	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 Fr. Bill Baker (8AM) and Mother DeLellis (10AM)	23 Fr. Cole (8AM) and Fr Bill Baker (10AM)
(Saturday – no service)	29 <sup>th</sup> 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Bishop Glasspool Celebrant and Preacher
30 Fr. Bill Baker (8AM & 10AM)	30 Fr. Cole and Deacon Geri Swanson (175 Anniversary Weekend)

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