

April 18 2019

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

On Sunday, April 21

One Service Only for
Easter Sunday:

—10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday School meets in the
Undercroft at 10am

—11:00 am Coffee Hour

—11:15 am Easter Egg
Hunt on the Church Lawn
(or indoors if weather is
wet)

—2:30 pm Service at
Lakeside Manor

—6 pm AA meeting

Inside this issue:

—“Prayer and Piety ...”
Lenten message from Fr
Bill Baker

—Meetings and Events for
the next few weeks .
Includes schedule for Holy
Week at Ascension.

—Maundy Thursday
supper 6PM at Ascen-
sion—joint with St John’s,
followed by church service
at Ascension at 7:30, and
Watch from 8:00 to mid-
night.



Ascension This Week

Prayer and Piety
— from Fr Bill Baker

If you watch me, you’ve probably noticed that I do not kneel. It might be a holdover from my Roman Catholic days, but I just do not enjoy doing it. Although, I realize that some people in the greater Church never kneel, most people in our church kneel during the Communion Prayers. This represents part of the prayer piety that we practice in our parish. I have been thinking a lot lately that I want to kneel again. I sort of remember kneeling being a very humbling prayer position when I was younger. This Holy Week seems like a good time to try it.

What do our prayer postures mean to you? Did your mother or father bow whenever they said the name of “Jesus”, and teach you to do the same? Do you do it without understanding the real meaning of them? There are lots of ways to pray and many prayer postures. You might have heard the quote attributed to St. Augustine, “The one who sings, prays twice.”

Moving when we pray adds to the intensity of the prayer, or at least it can. Prayer postures are not necessary, but they can be a nice addition to our prayer lives and corporate worship. Much like singing adds something to the prayer, yoga is considered to me a moving meditation. But for me, the real reason to bow or kneel or do the sign of the cross during or after a prayer is to remind our body, and specifically our hearts, about the meaning of the words we say.

When we lower our head to bow or genuflect, if we think about it, we are lowering ourselves -- humbling ourselves. When we kneel, it is often painful. I think that is why I disliked it when I was a kid.

I remember both my parents, but especially my paternal grandmother insisting on a straight back when we knelt. We were not allowed to sit or even rest our bottom on the back of the pew.

Kneeling meant kneeling.

(next page)

I also think about the pain that Jesus suffered during Holy Week—the isolation from his friends and the sadness about leaving them and, of course, the horrible physical pain of the crucifixion. He gave so much for us. He suffered so much for us!

I believe if we use prayer postures in the way they were intended to be used, we both add to the intensity of our prayer and ask ourselves to suffer a little bit in the way that Jesus did. Some people do not like to bow or kneel because they already feel unworthy of God's love. I, myself, try to work against the piety of saying we are not worthy because I believe in God's grace.

However, sometimes when we considered the awesome power of what Jesus did for us on the cross, it is okay to feel a little unworthy and feel like we want to feel a shadow of that same pain. For some, it represents the best reason to sit in church for three hours on Good Friday contemplating the three hours that Jesus hung on the cross dying.

I encourage us all to consider using our prayer postures this Holy Week in order to humble ourselves and remind us of the suffering that Jesus endured. If you normally do not bow, consider focusing your attention on Jesus during the prayers and lowering your head to remind your heart of his great love and agony. If you don't kneel, try it. If you sit instead of kneeling, try to kneel or maybe just stand. Standing takes more energy and attention than sitting. If you would normally skip getting your feet washed, consider humbling yourself enough to allow the children in the church to wash your feet tonight.

Blessings, Fr Bill+

Dear Friends of Ascension,

As the book of Proverbs has taught us:

"Hear my son, your father's instructions, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

For they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." -Proverbs 1:8-9

Show your love for Ascension & join us as we celebrate the gift of our parents by the grace of the cross. Each cross will be honored for a minimum donation of **\$10 per name**. Upon receipt of your donation and completed form, we will add the name of your loved one to our Ascension crosses and display them in the Undercroft. With your abundant **generosity**, we will be able to support the work of St. Martha's Guild.

Mother's Day Cross



Father's Day Cross



Form for submission of your donation for a cross is included in this newsletter.

YES! I would like to order a cross/crosses for a minimum donation of **\$10 per name.**

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

On the lines below, please clearly PRINT the name of your loved ones. Be sure to circle whether the cross is in honor of/ in memory of the name written. Your cross will be displayed in the Undercroft.

Mother's Day Crosses:

1. In Honor/Memory of _____

2. In Honor/Memory of _____

3. In Honor/Memory of _____

4. In Honor/Memory of _____

Father's Day Crosses:

1. In Honor/Memory of _____

2. In Honor/ Memory of _____

3. In Honor/ Memory of _____

4. In Honor/ Memory of _____

Please send completed forms along with your check to:

Church of the Ascension

1 Kingsley Avenue

Staten Island, New York 10314

Attention: St. Martha's Guild/ Laura Wonica/Anitha Thomas



A happy occasion! Ownership of the rental house is transferred to new owners. At left, Warden Beverly Sorensen at the signing, with our attorney Andrea Morse seated next to her. Below, our new neighbors, Lorenc and Brigena Kolendrakaj, with their attorney. Lorenc and Brigena have a 6-year-old daughter and another child on the way.

On the last day before the closing the furnace in 16 Benedict sprung leaks and had to be replaced. Thanks to Bill Sorensen and Ed Chow this was accomplished and the closing went through as planned.

Welcome to our new neighbors.



Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

Holy Week at Ascension:

- **Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday. Services at 8am and 10am at Ascension.**
- **Thursday, April 18: Maundy Thursday.** Joint Maundy Thursday light supper of soup and rolls coordinated with St John's. 6PM at Ascension. **Church service** at 7:30pm. **Watch** from 8pm until midnight.
- **Sunday, April 21: One service at Ascension at 10:00am. Refreshments at 11:00am. Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11:15am.** *"On Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children ... following the 10am service. Donations of plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Laura Wonica"*

Saturday, May 4: Spring 2019 Youth Lock-In presented by Richmond Inter-Parish Youth Council. Christ Church at 5PM. Worship! Games! Music! Food! Friendships! Grades 6th—12th. Permission Forms Required—please submit by March 28. Permission form printed in last week's newsletter, which is available on the website. (Ascensionsi.org— Home Page, then select from the left margin.)

For more information or questions, please contact:

Christ Church NB: Catherine Barnett, cgb1@hotmail.com
St. Albans: Chris Gerard, christian.girard@msnbc.com
St. Andrews: Pam Mullane, pamelamullane46@gmail.com

Sunday, May 12: . Please join us in a special worship service on **May 12th at 10 am** acknowledging the grace of the mothers in our lives, as well as on **June 16th at 10 am** commemorating the significance of the fathers in our lives.

Thursday, May 30: Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension, at Ascension.



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<http://www.ascensionsi.org/>