

May 9, 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, May 12

—8 am Said Eucharist

—10 am Sung Eucharist

Sunday School meets in the Undercroft at 10am

—11:00 am Coffee Hour

—2:30 pm Service at Lakeside Manor

—6 pm AA meeting

Inside this issue:

—“Mothers” article from Fr Bill Baker

—Meetings and Events for the next few weeks.

—Mothers’ Day church service flyer.

—IPC Picnic flyer

—Upcoming events—Save The Date.



# Ascension This Week

## Mothers — from Fr Bill Baker

I might cry on the altar this week. This Saturday would have been my mother’s 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Sunday is Mother’s Day. The two days always coincided. My mother never fully expected a big deal to be made out of either day, but I think she sometimes wished that my dad and her four kids would have thrown her a huge surprise party to celebrate both of the days and to say thank you.

I remember once, when I was younger, I asked if I could go roller skating on my mother’s birthday—what a rotten kid. Someone scolded me for the indiscretion of asking, but my mother said, “No, let him go.” As I got older, I always tried to do something nice for my mother, but she was hard to shop for and never really wanted anything. I’d send her gift cards to nice restaurants or flowers or materials so that she could craft. I wanted to take care of her. She always appreciated the gifts that she received, but I never really felt that I could find a gift that embodied how much my mom did for me.

When my mother was really sick, the best gift that we could give each other was time spent together. The last 2 ½ years of her life, my children and I visited her 10 times in Southern California. It got the point where when my son, who was 9 when she died, thought every plane in the sky was headed to see his “Mimi”. He’d point at every passing plane and say, “Daddy, that one is going to California.”

*(next page)*

So Mother's Day and Birthdays remind me of my mom and this week I get a double portion because her milestone birthday and Mother's Day are back-to-back. I wish that each of you could have known her because you would understand who I am that much more. She loved people. She worked as a teacher in a school with adults who had profound developmental, physical and emotional disabilities. My mother adored her clients.

Some of her clients were older than her, but they still became like her children to her. Over the years when they would get close to death, my mother would go to the hospital and take a shift sitting with them, so their much older parents could go home and get some rest. At my mother's funeral 4 or 5 people told me that she was their best friend. I never quite knew how to understand that. I think the people who she knew well saw that she gave so willingly and loved so completely.

How does Mother's Day greet you this year? Are you planning to see your mother or are you the grandmother that everyone adores? Will you spend the day remembering your mother—the way she hugged you or the delicious food she used to cook? Or was your mother sometimes difficult or not able to love you in the way that you needed? However the day finds you, as much as we love our mothers, it can be a difficult day for some of us. We need to try to remember that on Sunday.

I pray in thanksgiving for all of you—especially the women in the church who “mother” me. I am always grateful that the men and women in this place look out for me. I appreciate the maternal love I feel from so many of you. I also pray that this Sunday will find each of you blessed.

If your mother is here, I pray you can spend some time with her this Sunday or in the near future. If she is heaven, spend some time remembering her. Christ came to earth through the womb of a woman, his mother, Mary. Just like all mothers, she allowed God to use her to give life to the world.

So celebrate this Sunday. Give thanks to God for our mothers and for all the surrogate, step, and bonus moms in our lives and everyone who has mothered and supported us. We give thanks this day for all those hugs of assurance and all the dirty clothes washed and, even if it is long overdue, to the women who have nurtured and loved us!

Blessings, Fr Bill

## Mother's Day Service at Church of the Ascension

As the book of Proverbs has taught us:

*"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."* -  
Proverbs 31:29



Please join us at Church of the Ascension for a special worship service celebrating the mothers in our lives.

**When:** Sunday, May 12, 2019, at 10 am.

**Where:** Church of the Ascension, One Kingsley Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314. Telephone (718) 442-4187.



**Special performance by the Sunday School children.**

**Coffee Hour in the church undercroft follows the service.  
Please join us for coffee, tea, and refreshments.**

# **The Staten Island Episcopal Churches Join Together for One Grand Picnic**

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1:00 pm

Location: **All Saints' Church**  
2329 Victory Blvd.

## **Featuring food, fellowship and fun!**

- All Saints' provides the BBQ food and condiments.
- Each church is requested to contribute food items listed below.

All Saints'	Hamburger, Hotdogs, Rolls and Condiments
Church of the Ascension	Desserts and Water
Christ Church	Fruit Salad / Watermelon / Youth Activities
Church of St. Andrew	Green Salads / Vegetables
St. Alban's	Desserts and Water
St. John's	Mayonnaise Based Salads
St. Mary's	Water / Soda / Juice Boxes
St. Paul's	Soda and Snacks
St. Simon's	Salty Snacks

Cases of water, soda, juice and dry snacks may be dropped off at All Saints' on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

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**Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:**

**Wednesday, May 8:** Healing Service and Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am.

**Sunday, May 12:** At the 10am service there will be a special worship service celebrating the mothers in our lives. There will be a performance and flower distribution by the Sunday School children.

**Sunday, May 12: Episcopal Charities Sunday.** On this day the diocese will unite in offering a special collection on behalf of Episcopal Charities to collect funds to support the diocese grant program for parish-based feeding programs and food pantries.

**Thursday, May 30:** Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension, at Ascension. The service will begin at 7 pm, and will be followed by a reception in the undercroft. Clergy: please wear cassock, surplice, and white stole.

**Sunday, June 2:** IPC Picnic, held at All Saints Church, beginning at 1 pm. See flyer included in this newsletter for details.

**Sunday, June 16:** Please join us in a special worship service on **June 16th at 10 am** commemorating the significance of the fathers in our lives.

**Vacation Bible School this summer:** Ascension and St Mary's will work together to present VBS this summer. Information about the location, exact dates, will be available soon.

**The Spaghetti Dinner** has been moved to Saturday, September 21. Details TBA.

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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. **“Thanksgiving”:** “Think of at least five things to be thankful for – your health, your family, a roof over your head... Name them, and say thank you God. And before you know it, something has changed inside you.”

. ”.— *Br. Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE* You can see his full page of comments on this word on SSJE.org.

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