

May 16, 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 19

—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:

—“Vocations” article from Fr Bill Baker

—Meetings and Events for the next few weeks.

—Ascension Day flyer

—Photos from Mother’s Day and from the mass and brunch for Lakeside Manor residents. Thanks to Beth Brown for sending them.



Ascension This Week

Vocations
— from Fr Bill Baker

Recently, I engaged in a conversation with a priest who defined the word “vocation” as limited to ordained ministry. I pushed back, asserting that I believe that everyone has a vocation and that vocations include more than employment. This seemed to shock him. He could not wrap his head around vocation being more than related to job and he said he thought most people would agree with him. I agreed with his assertion, but left the conversation hanging by saying that we seem to have a lot of work to do on changing people’s perception of the meaning of the word vocation.

A vocation, from the Latin word *vocātiō* which means ‘a call or summons’, for Christians means a spiritual calling to something by God. For many of us our choice of employment sticks out as our most obvious definition of vocation because we spend so much time doing it and it uses our spiritual gifts. However, there are other vocations or parts of our overall vocations that take just as much time. I often say that my first, and possibly most important vocation, is to be a parent to Meagan and Justin.

God called me to the role of parent and asked me to love and serve my children as their father. For many years, even when I was working with domestic violence clients and leading workshops on welcoming diversity, the more important part of my vocation, at least to me, included making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, sewing patches on my son’s jeans and scrubbing the toilets in my apartment. God called me to a very important role and I worked hard to understand that calling and do it well.

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As I think ahead to marriage next month, I believe that both being single and being married fit into my overall vocation. Some people, like Paul, are called to a single life from God and many of us are called to marriage as part of our vocation. And I think the list goes on. We should neither be limited nor too expansive in this definition. In a sense everything that we are is part of our vocation, but thinking of our vocation we usually think about the roles we are filling on behalf of God and in the world we live in.

Liking the color yellow seems more like a preference to me than vocation, but planting a beautiful colorful garden to share with the world might be part of your vocation. Where we are situated in our family or the church family is also part of our vocation. Being an aunt, a younger brother or the matriarch of your generation are all part of our vocation.

So, if God calls us to these roles, we need to live into them. When we think of vocation to the priesthood or the diaconate we say need to "discern" how God is calling us to live that out. We must also discern how to be the best teacher, friend, wife, father, lay reader, usher, faith healer, evangelist and the list goes on! We need to start believing that although a bishop never laid hands on us, we ARE ordained to live out these vocations in our lives. I invite each of you to pray and discern your vocations and then share your gifts with the world!

Blessings, Fr Bill+



At left is a moment from the Holy Eucharist service on Sunday, May 5th. The brunch for Lakeside Manor residents followed.

Did you know that Fr Bill's sermons are available from the website via a link to youtube?

Also—several issues of the newsletter are available from the home page of the website.



Above left and right: At the brunch for Lakeside Manor residents.

Below left: On Mother's Day . Preparing to cut the cake.

Below Right: Laura Wonica, Anitha Thomas, Jodi Lamberti.



Come One! Come All!
**Join Us at Church of the Ascension
on Our Feast Day**



When: On Ascension Day, Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 7:30 pm.

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

Clergy: Please wear cassock, surplice, and white stole.

**The Rev. Frederick Schraplau
will be our preacher**

**A reception prepared by St. Martha's
Guild will be served
in the church undercroft following the
service.**



Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

Sunday, May 26: St. John's will have its Memorial Day BBQ on this day. (Weather permitting, it will be held outside). BBQ will begin around 11:30 am—right after the 10 am mass. All members of Ascension are welcome to attend!

Thursday, May 30: Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension, at Ascension. The service will begin at 7:30 pm, and will be followed by a reception in the undercroft. See flyer in this newsletter for details.

Sunday, June 2: IPC Picnic, held at All Saints Church, beginning at 1 pm. See flyer included in last week's newsletter for details. Several weeks of newsletters are available from the home page of the website.

Saturday, June 8: Yard Sale at St John's.

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.

"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. **"Encouragement":**

"Encouragement is an amazing thing. The English word "encouragement" comes from the Old French, "corage," which is the word for heart. Encouragement is a balm to the heart. Encouragement will bind up the broken hearted, just as Jesus promises us. Encouragement is a need we all have; encouragement is a power we all have. Unleash that power. ... every day you can lay down your life for others by bowing before them. Acknowledge their dignity, their amazing worth, their wonderful work, the reality of their forgiveness, the essence of their loveliness. This will change their day, and change their lives, and make an eternity of difference. ... Encouragement is how courage gets into our hearts. Encouragement produces courage; encouragement makes us strong, very strong. It is as simple and profound as that. Encouragement: you have the need; you have the power.

Be encouraging to at least one person every day. You could even be encouraging to two people. Maybe more. You have within your heart almost an endless supply of encouragement for other people. Practice it! And that encouragement will return to you, even a hundredfold."

— *Br. David Allen, [SSJE](#)* You can see his full page of comments on this word on [SSJE.org](#).

