

Nov 3, 2016

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

SAVE THE DATE!!!

- **Saturday Nov 5 Join us for Ascension Café Benefit concert 4-7pm. Tkts \$25.00 All proceeds go to support Safe Horizon for Battered Women and the Alzheimer of Staten Island.**
- **SAFE CHURCH training Saturday Nov 12 10-4. Contact Liz Orlando to register.**

The week past, reflection on the upcoming Sunday’s gospel and more

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Ascension This Week

Volume 1 Issue 5

Grace Gratitude and Generosity



There seems to be two different messages about blessings, one says “count your blessings” and the other “Don’t let God know “ just in case the Lord decides you have used up your blessing quota.

I once saw a wooden sign which sat dead center on the desk of

a superior of a religious order. It was strategically placed to get the attention of those coming into the room. The sign read: *The more you complain the longer God let’s you live.* That has about the same feel as the Sign over the gate of Hell in Dante’s inferno, “Abandon all hope all ye who enter here!”

Gratitude flows out of hearts overflowing with joy and hope, it flows from the place where we are most alive. This is the place we find God. I am reminded of Jesus’ comment at the tomb, “Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

There is so much negativity in the world, so much anxiety, so much fear of not having enough. It is so easy to forget the promise of Jesus to St. Paul in his moment of fear and trial. “My grace is sufficient for you.”

Try an exercise on for size this week. Every evening before retiring for the night name the blessings, the graces God has bestowed upon you that day. Notice how once you get started all sorts of things bubble up that you would not have thought to give thanks to God.

At the end of the week you may discover how Priceless and Precious grace bounds your life.

Planting the Seeds of Prayer –Brother Mark SSJE

Pathways for Spiritual Growth and Discipleship Richmond Inter-Parish Council 2016 - 2017 with Br. Mark Brown, SSJE, priest/religious in residence* FALL 2016: Planting the Seeds of Prayer How can we live in a more prayerful, contemplative way in a busy, stressful and noisy world?

Where does prayer come from? · How do we do it? · What does the Bible say? · How can we say that prayer “works”? Sessions include guided meditation, presentations and discussion.



Two options: Four Thursdays: Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17 7:30 - 8:45 PM St. Paul’s Church, 225 St. Paul’s Ave.

Three Saturdays: Nov. 5, 12, 19 10:30 – Noon St. Andrew’s Church, 40 Old Mill Rd. (Saturday gatherings cover same topics as Thursday; attend either series, or any combination, or both) ·

Gatherings at St. Paul’s preceded by optional Mass at 6:45 PM.

“Deciding to commit yourself to a long term results rather than short-term fixes is as important as any decision you will make in your lifetime.”

-Anthony Robbins



Shared Ministry - “The future isn’t what it used to be.”



Link to an article in the most recent Episcopal New Yorker written by Canon Deb Tammearu on the future of the church and shared ministry. Once you follow the link to the page a box will ask if you want to go to the last page viewed. Select Yes. That takes you to the article.

<http://www.evergreeneditions.com/publication/?m=14595&l=1>

25th Sunday after Pentecost - All Saints Transferred.

St. Augustine wrote a book entitled the City of God, a hefty tome of over a 1000 pages. In its own way it is an explanation of the what is present in the reading from the Gospel according to Luke. The Woes of the ways found in the kingdom of humans and the Blessings of the kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God, this city we are digging the ground for with our lives is really the kingdom of humans turned upside down. It is build for those who are those discounted, outcast, unable to do for themselves. It is for those excluded, reviled, defame. At any given day in any situation what ground are you standing on ? Where are you digging and for whom with how you live your life?

A Great Cloud of Witnesses

In Genesis we hear that we are created in God’s image and likeness. Then things went south and the likeness was lost. Salvation history, salvation in Jesus Christ , who is the Image of the Invisible God gets us back on course. He is as the hymn tells us Our Life Long Pattern. We are called to find our likeness in him and find His likeness in all.

