

Sixth Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2008

“Rogation Sunday”

Invitation

To all who are lonely and need friendship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, this church opens wide its doors and bids you WELCOME!

Today at St. Mary's

7:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite 1)
9:00 a.m. – Adult Bible Study (Navajo Room)
10:0 a.m. – Church School and Nursery Care
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite 2)
11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour (Father Greene Room)
12:00 Noon – Holy Eucharist (Rite 1)

We welcome all visitors to St. Mary's this morning. Please sign our guest book by the front door of the Church and complete a visitor's card so we will have a record of your presence with us.

Preparing Yourself for Worship

To prepare ourselves for worship each week we are invited to kneel or sit quietly before the service begins and offer our personal prayers to God. The following prayer is from “The Sarum Primer” and is found in *Saint Augustine's Prayer Book* (page 30): *God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at my end, and at my departing.*

Baptism of Camryn Lyons

Camryn Lyons (daughter of Tim and Jennifer Lyons) will receive the sacrament of baptism this morning at the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. *We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.*

A Gentle Reminder

Please be sure to turn off your cell phone or other electronic devices before the service begins.

Greeters (10:00 a.m.) – Ted Huck, Pat McKay, and Laurie Grashof

Ushers (10:00 a.m.) – Harry Bulley, David Helmes, Ed Drinkwater, and Jack Stratton

Oblation Bearers (10 a.m.) – Roland and Audrey Smith

Reader (10 a.m.) – Jeanne Griffin Greene

Acolytes (10:00 a.m.): Gordon Fowler (C1), Jonathan Assoian (T), Zach Wetzel (T), Carol Fowler (C2), Michelle Stanford (S), Jennifer Lurie (S), Pat McKay (MC), Mary Turner (SD), Jennifer Lurie (Chalice).

Please join us for coffee hour, hosted by the Parsells family, after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. We thank the Cornman family for hosting coffee hour last Sunday.

Flowers on the High Altar this morning are given by the Rippel and Dixon families to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John V. Bickford.

Flowers on the Lady Chapel Altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Stuart Hayes Lewis by his family.

Please Note

Once again we ask you to write your St. Mary's account number on your plate envelopes, especially if you are giving cash, so that we may give you credit for the gifts you make. (If you forget your number, refer to account numbers posted on the bulletin board outside the Fr. Greene Room and in the Narthex.) Thank you.

Families of the Week

Each week several parish families are prayed for by name at the Sunday and weekday Eucharists. This week's families are:

- * Michael & Laura Giardino and Leslie, Cameron, Claire & Julia Staines
- * Kerry Gibson
- * Adam & Michelle Gottfried and Isabelle & Tyson Jacob
- * Laura Grashof
- * Catherine Greene

Standing Committee Meeting for the Diocese Tonight, April 27 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Standing Committee of the Diocese is sponsoring an informational meeting for all members of the Diocese this afternoon from 4 – 6 p.m. here at St. Mary's. If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the Diocese or would like to have an issue addressed that concerns you, you should plan to attend.

This Week at St. Mary's

The following activities and meetings will take place this week at St. Mary's:

Tues., April 29 – 7:30 a.m. – Bible Study

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

5:30 p.m. – Contemplative prayer

6:00 p.m. – Stewardship Com.

8:00 p.m. – A.A. meeting

Wed., April 30 – 9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Noah's Ark

11:00 a.m. – Bible Study

12:15 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

6:15 p.m. – Junior Choir

7:00 p.m. – Merion Deanery Ann. Mtg.

8:15 p.m. – Adult Choir

Thurs., May 1 – 9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

5:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

7:00 p.m. – Ascension Eucharist

Friday, May 2 – 9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. – Noah's Ark

Sat., May 3 – 10:00 a.m. – Noah's Ark

Today is Rogation Sunday

Rogation Days (from the Latin word *rogare*, “ask”) date from the 5th century and were adopted in England in the 8th century. Traditionally, these days were associated with intercession especially for the harvest and were kept on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. Recently it has become customary to celebrate a Rogation Sunday on the Sunday before the Ascension and to focus our prayers on fruitful seasons, commerce and industry, and the stewardship of creation. At the end of the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this morning, there will be a procession to the St. Francis garden where we

will ask for God's blessing upon our grounds and will give thanks for the goodness of God's creation.

**Feast of the Ascension
Thursday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Feast of the Ascension commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. Thus it falls 40 days after Easter, on the 6th Thursday of Easter. Please join us for a Sung Eucharist to celebrate this Holy Day on Thursday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.

General Parish News

Used Tools Needed

A needy gentleman who frequents St. Mary's looking for help is delighted to have gotten a new job. However, he needs to supply his own tools. We are looking for donations of used tools still in good working order. In addition to basic hand tools, he is especially looking for a wood plane, a power circular saw, and a power drill (with cord, NOT cordless). If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact Mother Jane.

**Annual Meeting of the Merion Deanery
Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Annual Meeting of the Merion Deanery will be held here at St. Mary's this Wednesday, April 30. The evening will begin with a Sung Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. A business meeting will follow at which the Deanery will adopt its budget for the coming year and elect its Treasurer, Secretary and a Lay Representative to Diocesan Council. There will also be reports on various Diocesan issues from Deanery members who serve on Diocesan committees. The meeting is open to all.

**St. Mary's Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 4**

This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 4 following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. To encourage wider attendance the 12 Noon Eucharist will be cancelled and there will be babysitting (including nursery coverage by our regular babysitter Joan) and a special lunch for children. If you plan to attend the luncheon please sign the sheet outside the Fr. Greene Room.

Six parishioners have been nominated to serve on the Vestry: Lucienne Davis, Michael Dernoga, Katie Ferrara, Kerry Gibson, Richard Greene, and Chris Steinhardt. David Parsells has withdrawn his name from consideration for personal reasons. Three others will be selected as representatives to the Merion Deanery and Diocesan Convention.

**Book Discussion Group
Wednesday, May 14 at 12:45**

In May we will discuss the book Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Relin. This book is an inspiration and a true story rather than a great literary read. For more information see the May *Chimes*.

**Save the Date! - All-Parish Progressive Dinner
Saturday, May 17**

Don't miss our fantastic Progressive Dinner for all parish adults on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Sign up for this exciting event at coffee hour with Rena Counsellor, Jill Cutler, Mary Bale or Jean Wetzel, or call Rena at 610-293-6993 to make your reservation. Everyone will start together for cocktails and appetizers and end together for dessert, and travel to two randomly selected homes in between for soup and salad and main course. It's a great way to meet all those new people in the church!

The Griffin-Greene Canoe-athon Returns!

Once again this summer, Jeanne Griffin-Greene and Richard Greene are providing an inspiring way to give to

St. Mary's. They will canoe in the wilderness over the summer, and are asking parishioners to pledge an amount per mile of river canoed that will then be given to St. Mary's. They will paddle between 200 and 300 miles. In the past four years, the Greenes have raised over \$25,000 this way for St. Mary's! To learn more, check out the poster on the community bulletin board, and consider filling out a pledge card for this summer's Griffin-Greene canoe-athon.

Around the Community

**ECS Evensong Workshops and Service
Saturday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m.**

The fourth annual ECS Evensong will be held Saturday, **May 3 at Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr** and will celebrate the theme, *Proclamation through Service*. By helping individuals and families overcome the impact of poverty, Episcopal Community Services is proclaiming the Good News of Christ's compassion and resurrection. **Convocation for Outreach**, a program of interactive workshops, will precede the service, allowing attendees to explore ways to apply the direction of St. Francis in their daily lives. Workshop titles include **New Occasions Teach New Duties: Pastoral Care in the Aftermath of 9/11; Written In Our Hearts: Craft Your Spiritual Biography; Planning for Outreach Part II: Parish Organizing; and A Variety of Gifts: Reconsidering Small Parish Ministry.** *Workshop registration suggested: Contact Donna Wolf at 215.351.1466 or donnaw@ecs1870.org.*

After the workshops, participants will enjoy an Evensong at 5:00 p.m., with a homily by The Right Rev. Frank Griswold III. Worship will begin with the service of light and quotes from 2 Corinthians that it is through our service, for Jesus' sake, that we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. *All local parish members are invited to participate in this special program.*

**Writing as Tool for Companioning Fellow Journeyers
St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne
Saturday, May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Bring your struggles in teaching, preaching, spiritual guidance, counseling, healing, and parenting or any helping vocations. Find grace through your fingertips in relationship and tasks. Through simple exercises, you will explore twin dimensions of writing: the tide of contemplation (self-discovery) and the tide of communication (relating to others) with a spiritual spin in formal presentations or informal notes. The leader will draw from scripture, films, and participants' experiences, and will utilize his book Writing Tides: Finding Grace and Growth Through Writing. (Participants are encouraged to have a copy, which can be purchased from the Oasis office or on the retreat.) For more information or to register, please contact Betsy Keller at Oasis Ministries - (717) 737-8222 or betsykeller@oasismin.org.

**Red Cross Blood Drive Here at St. Mary's
Tuesday May 13 - 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m.**

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. Across the US, healthcare facilities require 38,000 units of blood daily to save the lives of accident victims, organ transplant recipients, and patients with diseases. Each donation can help as many as three people - from trauma victims to surgery patients to cancer patients to premature infants. In conjunction with the American Red Cross, St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday May 13, 2008. It will be taking place from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Father Greene Room.