

Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter
September 17 & 24, 2017

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Zed Howell
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Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

On a Taxi from Killarny to the Torc Falls

The taxi driver was listening to a Christian radio station. When we entered his cab, at the International Hotel, the station was recapping the latest news in the country. It all sounded so familiar to me: A politician has been indicted for corruption, a new bill is trying to decide what will happen to Ireland when England exits the European Union, a papal visit to the nation has been announced for 2018, a new Roman Catholic Bishop has been ordained for a local Diocese, etc. After the news roundup, we listened to a few Praise and Worship songs popular in European Catholic Circles, followed by more news from the Catholic world.

At some point a female commentator announced a "Reflection Moment." Up until this point I had been paying little attention to the radio as I took in the beautiful sights of the city on our way to the base of the Torc Falls at Muckrass House. Unfortunately, I missed the name of the female commentator, but the very first sentence of her reflection woke me up from my slumber. She stated that when she was writing the dissertation for her doctorate, she studied hundreds of churches dating back to the early Middle Ages and the communities that worshiped in them. She had studied churches in Italy, England, France, Germany, and a few Eastern Block countries.

One of the churches she visited in Germany dated back to the 12th century. She was impressed that the front porch of the magnificent structure was much larger than the nave of the Church. She assumed the purpose for such wonderful porches was fellowship before and after church services. She imagined many families congregating at this porch to have a cup of cider or tea, eat sweet treats, and discuss the issue of the day.

These thoughts led her to study the "fellowship" practices of Christian communities from the 10th to the 15th centuries. At some point in her research she discovered that the real purpose for the large porches at the entrance of some churches was for people to lay down their weapons before they entered the church. Bows and arrows, javelins, spades of all sorts, knives, and other medieval weapons were laid down and watched over by hired hands as their owners attended the Mass. The large spaces were not built for fellowship, but were the result of the prohibition of weapons in various churches (Perhaps in case the sermon was too long? Don't get any ideas!)

The female theologian then built a connection to the penitential rites of the Catholic and Anglican Masses of today and this practice of laying our weapons down. Before the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we participate in the rite of Confession. We lay down our weapons before we approach the Altar of the Lord. Our weapons are not the crossbow and arrows or javelins of medieval times, but rather our failures of

thought, word, and deed with which we have offended God. Things we have done and things we have left undone.

Our failure to loved God and others with our whole heart. Our prejudices, intolerance, hatred, and fear. Together in unison at confession we lay down our weapons and approach the Holy Eucharist defenseless and vulnerable, which is the right posture when meeting the one who takes our burdens and fights our fight.

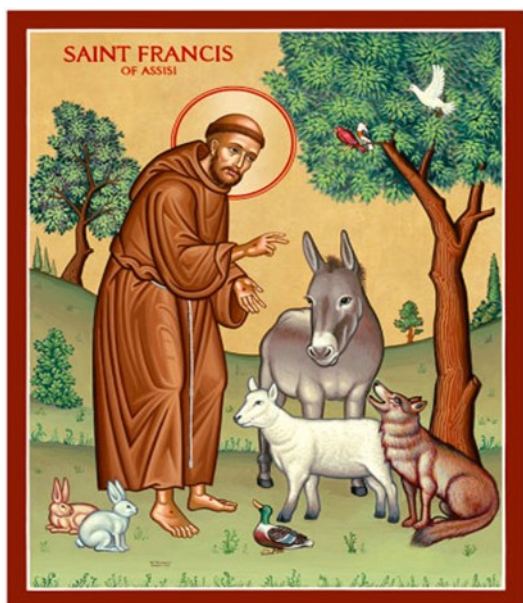
After the brief reflection was over I found myself lost in thought. I wondered how many times I have recited the confession words without making the connection between them and the laying down of weapons. I wondered how many medieval men still held on to a few perfectly concealed weapons they took into the Holy Eucharist. I wondered if perhaps the most dangerous weapons are not the ones we lay down at Confession, but others that are more subtle and much more dangerous: our propensity for self-centeredness, the harm we inflict on ourselves because of our lack of courage and our fears, our addiction to power and control, our anxiety over things we can't control, our faithless despair in the face of a crisis, our pathological need to please others, our utilitarian treatment of our brothers and sisters, and our desensitization to violence.

Laying down the usual weapons of lying, cheating, not-honoring parents, and stealing is relatively easier than laying down the subtle weapons of our own insecurities, lack of empathy, and failure to truly love ourselves as Christ has loved us. Yes, of course we must confess and repent for what we have done to others, but we must also confess and repent for what we have done to ourselves. We must lay down ALL of our weapons at the foot of the cross. Only then can we begin to experience the freedom and joy for which we were created. We must become truly vulnerable and defenseless as we approach a God who loved us all the way to the cross.

May he continue to bless us, Fr. Roldan+

St. John's Church will have a Eucharist this Sunday at 7:30am celebrated by Bp. Jenkins while Grace Church also has a celebration of the Eucharist at 7:30am and 10am at Grace Church led by Fr. Roldan.

The Finance Committee meets at 4:30 pm Tuesday, September 19th and the **Vestry** meets also at 5:30pm.



The Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 8

4:00pm

Join us in front of the Church with your pets: dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, snakes, birds, etc. for a blessing. Be sure they are securely in your control by leash, harness or cage at all times.

*Intercessory prayers
are asked for Grace
Church mem-bers
who are ill:*

Matt Armstrong,
David Barnes,
Daisye Howell,
Lucile Lawrason,
Tom Morris, Eric
Nelson, Sara Nel-
son, Dahn Savell,
Kay Tengler,
Wendell Wade,
David Walker,
Jake Wray, Made-
line Wright.

Birthdays

Tommy Klein,
Mark Clevenger,
Shannon Sparks
Shaffer, Wendy
Hegwood-Sept. 17;
Hayes Howell, Di-
ana Weller, Belton
Didier, Teeta Moss-
Sept. 18; Kenneth
Miller, Nicole Bar-
row, Kim Martin
Wood-Sept. 19;
Madeline Horn-
Sept. 21; Tim Metz,
Wendell Wade,
Travis Williams-
Sept. 24; Clay Har-
douin-Sept. 25;
Rachel Howell,
Eric Nelson, Melis-
sa Higgins, Kelly
Ward, Stacy Bell-
Sept. 26; MacKen-
zie Adams, Joe
Savell-Sept. 27;
Neil Wright, Bill
Perkins-Sept. 28;
Walter Weller-
Sept. 29; Colleen
Hill, David Walker,
Anne Strachan-
Sept. 30.

Wedding Anniversaries

Mark and Sharmila
Mulkey, Joe and
Dahn Savell-Sept.
27.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbutnot, Charles Barham, Michaela Kell Bennett, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Deselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudson, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Cecelia Polito, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Touts, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Rufus Yerger.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragsa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, 745th & 746th Exped Squads,

Please check the prayer list to the left to see if someone you put on can be removed.

Dinners are needed for youth group for September through December. The sign up sheet is in the narthex of the church. Also, Leslie Daniel has offered to pick up meals if you would be willing to support youth group dinners through a monetary donation. Speak to Leslie for more information.

The Fall Bible Study, *Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy*, by Father Richard Rohr, will continue on Wednesdays, at 9am in Bishop Jackson Hall.

Introducing 3 New Ministries: We are excited to announce that we are planning 3 new ministries for Grace Church: (a) Wedding Coordination, (b) Visitors Welcome Ministry, (c) Cancer Support Group. Carol Stamey has been trained and stands ready to help us coordinate all our weddings at Grace. She and Fr. Roldan are revising guidelines, creating various forms, and tightening up various processes. Charlotte Peno and Kerry Hosford will lead our visitors ministry. They are busy creating a team and shopping for inexpensive welcome bags. Both of these ministries begin the first Sunday of October. Lastly, Nicole Pinson, a licensed clinician, will start a Cancer Support Group on the Second and Fourth Mondays of the month at 6:00pm in Jackson Hall. This support group for Cancer Patients and for those Living after Cancer will be free and confidential. It starts on September 11, 2017. Please spread the word and help us welcome these new ministries.

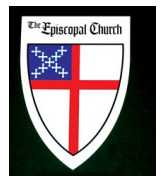
St. Mary's Church will host a Country Roads Supper Club with "a taste of Emeril Lagasse's Meril Restaurant," located in New Orleans, on Sunday, October 8, 5-8pm. The three course feast by Will Avelar, Chef De Cuisine, will include hors d'oeuvres, cocktail and paired wines, to be served at sunset. There will be seating for 80 people. Tickets are \$130, with a portion benefitting St. Mary's Church and Cemetery Association. For more info, contact Sadler Ward at 225 343-3713 or by email: sadler@countryroadsmag.com.

Over 50 and Super Senior: Plans are being made for an overnight pilgrimage to Poverty Point, in Pioneer, Louisiana. We will leave Grace Church at 11:30am on Thursday, October 12, and stay at a hotel in Vicksburg overnight. On Friday we will eat breakfast and then travel about an hour to Poverty Point, tour the area and return to Grace Church between 5-6pm. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 will be needed when you sign up and the balance for the room will be paid by you when you get to the hotel. Please sign the list in the narthex of the church or in the church office.

Louisiana Volunteers for Family & Community (LVFC): Are you looking for ways to share your talents and skills with the citizens of West Feliciana Parish? Do you like participating in service projects that help our community? Join this group in working towards the LVFC mission "to strengthen individuals, families, communities through education, leadership and action". Come to an informational meeting on September 22 at 11am at the West Feliciana Parish Library or contact Layne Langley, LSU AgCenter Area Nutrition Agent at 635-3614 for more information.

Need an Episcopal shield for your car? Stop by the office for one.

West Feliciana Food Pantry needs donations to be shared with our local community: Please put your donations in the orange barrel in Jackson Hall or in the green wagon in the church narthex.



Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville LA 70775

Address Service Requested

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday September 17, 2017

Acolytes: Elizabeth Hughes, Madison Pollet,
Lilly Higgins, Clara Jane Hughes
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier
10am: Drew Nordgren, Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Richard Kendrick, Tom Morris
Lectors: Dixie Blue, Sarah Rhody
Vestry Rep: Adam Whatley
Altar Guild Team 3
Altar flowers: Mary Thompson
Sanctuary Candle: Carolyn Douglas
Coffee Hour: Mary Frances Smart
Babysitters: Emma Olsen, Madison Pollet

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, James Kirschling,
RE Barrow Ella Corinne Howle
Chalice bearers 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10am: Maria Gerry, Sara Klein
Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Will Plettinger
Lectors: Glenn Thomas, Will Plettinger
Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel
Altar Guild Team 4
Altar flowers: Beverly and David Walker
Sanctuary candle: Tapper & Betty Sessions
Coffee Hour: Linda & Jeff Pruitt
Babysitters: Shayn Rayford, Sarah Roldan

September 17, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
(Grace and St. John's)
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

September 24, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, September 20

9:00am - Fall Bible Study
5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, September 21

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, September 22

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, September 24

7:30am - Eucharist
9:15am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, September 27

9:00am - Fall Bible Study
5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, September 28

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, September 29

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study