

FROM THE RECTOR

My dear People:

I would like to commend all of you who helped make last month's Peter Quire Day such a success. A small group of us gathered at the gravesite of our True Founder and First Benefactor on a sunny hot morning to begin our observance with music, Scripture, and an address. Then came the procession to the church while the Litany of the Saints and Suffrages were recited, followed by a wonderful Sung Mass in the Parish Church. The local press was present; and, it was wonderful to see us on the front page! I've have a lot of comments over the last few weeks, usually from strangers who never knew about the unique founding of this lovely church building on the Point. With such a reaction to this year's celebration, you can be sure we will plan something even more spectacular next year!

As I mentioned last issue, Bishop Wolf graciously appointed an Episcopal Visitor to S. John's; and, it came to pass on August 1st. Bishop Wendell Gibbs, The Bishop of Michigan, was with us over that weekend to preach and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Both he and his lovely wife, Karlah, were guests in the Rectory from Friday night (July 30) through Sunday afternoon. For those of you who were present, it was a wonderful weekend. They both toured the Fair, had some time to sample the many delights Newport has to offer, and relax a bit. Saturday evening, we had a marvelous banquet, cooked and served by our talented Organist and the Music Department and young Nicholas Babbitt of the Acolyte's Guild. The evening, coming after the successful completion of our Parish Fair, was delightful. I heard many a parishioner and friend of the parish ask if we could have something like that more often!

Sunday morning, Bishop Gibbs pontificated and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to our candidates, Rachel Chase Francis Wernquest, Patricia Dymphna Miller, and Andrew Robert Ignatius Shores. We were fortunate to have Father Michael Tuck, Curate of S. Stephen's Church, Providence, as our Subdeacon that morning; and, we are most appreciative of their Rector, Father John Alexander, allowing him to assist at Mass here. All in all, the weekend was a tremendous success; and, as one of our long-time parishioners told me later, it would have made Peter Quire very happy to have an African American Bishop, who holds jurisdiction, come to make an Episcopal Visitation to S. John's.

This long hot summer seems to show no signs of abating anytime soon; yet the worship of the Church continues on. We will have two feast days this month on succeeding Sundays: the Assumption of Our Lady and her Immaculate Heart. This is a relatively rare occurrence; and, coming as it does during the "Dog Days" of summer, they are often keep with a minimum of ceremony. However, we will do our best to honour the Virgin Mother of God on the day when she was assumed, body and soul, into heavenly glory, to be crowned as Queen of all the Saints and Queen of Heaven. Yet, she is still our Mother, given to us by Our Lord when on the Cross he told her that S. John our Patron and all humanity were to be regarded as "her son". So it is, that S. Mary's heart, filled with the love of God is afire with love for us her adoptive children. In heaven, she pleads with Our Lord for us, who in turn intercedes for us to the Father.

I had initially planned to be away from the Parish at the end of the month encompassing a couple of Sundays. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, I may indeed be here. That being said, please stay alert to the bulletins where you will see announcements of the daily schedule of Masses. If I am unable to be away for the last week of August and the first week of September, I will probably not take any time away until after next month's SSC Synod (September 22-24). Needless to say, if you are away, make sure you attend Mass on Sunday. Just because you are on vacation doesn't mean you are taking a vacation from God! Our duty as Christians, indeed as our Confirmands learned during Catechism, is to be in Church every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, unless let by illness, and receive the Lord's Body and Blood. You may find yourself in a country or place where there is no Episcopal or Anglican Church. In fulfilling your duty, you may attend a Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox church. Remember, however, that we are not in communion with them; so, we cannot receive the Sacrament. You might take the opportunity to pray for the reunion of the Church during Communion time. I pray all of you will have the opportunity to rest as the summer winds down; and, I'll see you in Church!

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

AUGUST AGENDA

8th: TRINITY X. Low Mass 8, Sung Mass 10.

9th – 21st: Weekday Masses will be offered on Friday and Saturday only as Fr Fraser will be out of town on short trips within New England.

15th: ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY (Trinity XI). Low Mass 8, Sung Mass 10.
Parish Fair Wrap-up & Review meeting after the 10 o'clock Mass.

22nd: IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (Trinity XII). Low Mass 8. Sung Mass 10.

29th: BEHEADING S. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Trinity XIII) Low Mass 8, Sung Mass 10

September 6th: TRINITY XIV. Low Mass 8, Sung Mass 10

PARISH FAIR REPORT

We had a terrific Summer Fair at St. John's on Saturday, July 31. The weather could not have been better - warm, but not too warm - and we had a goodly number of attendees passing through our lovely grounds and buildings. The preliminary net income amount that was earned for the church is about \$6,500, which is \$1,500 more than last year. Kudos and thank you to all the set-up people, workers, donors, cooks, vendors, eaters, buyers, and clean-up people. Ann says she's particularly thankful for everyone who knew or saw what needed doing (even when she didn't) and pitched in to ensure a smooth-running organization that had very few hiccups.

Our third Live Auction brought in over \$3,000 thanks in large part to some very generous donations by parishioners. The Silent Auction was also very successful with every item receiving a bid. Offerings included massages, garden work, entertainment, air-port transportation, many gift certificates to local establishments, jewelry, framed photography, and gift baskets. We hope to have even more donations next year from the parish of gift baskets and services. Start thinking now!

There is a "post-mortem" meeting planned for Sunday, August 15th following the 10 o'clock coffee hour so we can put together a notebook with pluses, minuses, hints, best places to find supplies, and "never-nevers" so that those of us with aging minds will have a reference for next year.

Thank you again to all for a wonderful event! *Ann Boyer & Lisa Babbitt*

August is the Month of the Assumption

1	S. PETER'S CHAINS (<i>Trinity IX</i>)	Parish
2	S. Alphonsus Liguori, BCD	
3	Finding of S. Stephen	S. Stephen's, Providence
4	S. Dominic, C.	Theologians
5	OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS	The Shrine at Walsingham
6	TRANSFIGURATION OLJC	Renewal in the parish's life
7	S. Cajetan, C	The Guild of All Souls
8	TRINITY X	Parish
9	S. John Vianney, Curé d'Ars	
10	S. LAWRENCE, DcM	
11	feria	
12	S. Clare, V	
13	Monthly Requiem	August Chantry
14	Vigil of the Assumption	The Society of Mary
15	ASSUMPTION BVM (<i>Trinity XI</i>)	Parish
16	S. JOACHIM (<i>Octave</i>)	
17	Octave	
18	S. Helena, QW (<i>Octave</i>)	
19	S. John Eudes, C (<i>Octave</i>)	
20	S. Bernard, CD (<i>Octave</i>)	Cistercians
21	Monthly Requiem	Community of S. Mary at Greenwich, NY
22	IMMACULATE HEART BVM (<i>Trinity XII</i>)	Parish
23	Vigil	
24	S. BARTHOLOMEW, ApM	S. Bartholomew's Church, Brighton, UK
25	S. Louis, KC	The Church in France
26	Resumed Mass of Trinity XII	Parish
27	S. Monica, W	All mothers
28	S. Augustine, BCD	For the triumph of orthodoxy in the Church
29	BEHEADING S. JOHN BAPTIST (<i>Trinity XIII</i>)	Parish
30	S. Rose of Lima, V	
31	S. Aidan, BC	The Society of the Holy Cross (SSC)

ADVANCE NOTICE

Next month, we shall be given the opportunity to host a group of priests from all over North America. The first is the Annual Synod of the Province of the Americas of the **Society of the Holy Cross** (SSC). This gathering of Anglo-Catholic clergy from the US, Canada, the Caribbean, and South America will meet in Newport from September 22 through the 24th. All the Masses and other liturgical services will be hosted by S. John's; and, I know the brethren are looking forward to sampling our hospitality for the third time (the previous Synods hosted here were 2004 & 1988, respectively). Parishioners and friends of S. John's would be most welcome to serve the masses and services, greet our visitors and make sure everyone is happy to be in such a beautiful locale.

How to Kill Your Church

(Tattled from Pascha Nostrum)_The Newsletter of Church of the Resurrection, NYC. A very interesting piece for self-examination.

Here is some excellent advice on How to Kill Your Church. If everyone follows even some of them sometimes, they can kill off even a perfectly healthy parish church in no time at all!

1. Don't come (Psalm 42:4, 96:8, 100:4)
2. If you do come, come late (Psalm 84:10)
3. Don't imagine the front seats are for you. People might think you conceited.
4. Come bound to find fault (Psalm 100:4-5)
5. Don't ever think of praying for your Rector or the Church (Ephesians 6:18-19, Thessalonians 3:1)
6. Don't sing (Psalms 95:1-2, I Corinthians 14:15)
7. Don't attend weekday Masses (Acts 3:1, Acts 21)
8. Don't encourage the Rector, but do tell his faults to others (Galatians 6:1)

9. If his sermon helps you, don't let him know, it might make him vain. If you don't like his sermon, do tell him, and tell others too.
10. If you see visitors at Mass, don't shake their hands, or ask them to come again, people might think you bold or odd or you might become involved with their lives (Hebrews 13:2)
11. Never try to bring anyone to church with you (John 1:41-45, John 12:20-21)
12. Don't concern yourself with stewardship, just give whatever time or money you have left over after you do what you like (I Corinthians 16:2)
13. Don't support Mission Work, let them do for themselves (Matthew 28:19-20)
14. Let the Rector do all the work (Isaiah 41:6-7)
15. Don't read your church newsletter, bulletins or magazine
16. Try to take over the church, or make a part of it your empire (Mark 10:42-45)
17. Never speak to anyone about the Faith. The Rector should do all that kind of work (Daniel 12:3, James 5:20)
18. Don't be particular about how God's house looks inside or out, but keep your own house looking nice (I Kings 6:21-22, Haggai 1:2-4) Don't make any gifts of vestments, plate or practical items to the church. Let someone else do that.
19. Attend parish events, classes, socials, Lenten programs and special masses only if you have time and feel like it. After all, someone else will go.
20. The best substitute for actually helping with something like catering, flowers, altar guild, serving at the altar, singing in the choir, being on the Vestry, etc., is complaining about those who actually do it.

Note: Combined from two pieces, one of which appeared in the Grace & St Peter's Window, the parish magazine of that church in Baltimore in the 1920s, the other appeared in the Resurrection parish magazine in 1940. It's quite surprising how similar the two articles are! While I wouldn't suggest that we have any particular problems on this list here, most of us have been guilty of a few of them from time to time. The list might be helpful in catching ourselves and keeping from slipping here and there!