

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 20

The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)

April 10, 2011

## PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

**MONDAY – FRIDAY:** 8:15AM - *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*  
5:30PM - *Evening Prayer & Holy Communion*

**EXCEPT WEDNESDAY** 8:15AM - *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*  
9:45 AM *Litany* 10AM – *Sung Eucharist*  
5:30PM *Evensong & Supper* (6:00PM) and *Adult Class* (6:30PM)

“Understanding the Stations of the Cross” (*Concluded*). *Nursery available.*

**SATURDAY**—10:30 AM *Holy Communion*

9:00-11:00 AM Cranmer Hall: **Help make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday.**

Bring your clippers or scissors. *Young people are encouraged to take part.*

## EVIL THOUGHTS (II)

Last week we began to look at the canonical list of the “seven deadly sins” formulated by the ancient Church and central to Dante’s masterpiece of the moral theology, the *Purgatorio*. A triad of loves perverted, Pride, Envy, Anger, led to the defective love of Accidie or Sloth. Now we consider a triad of loves excessive: avarice, lust, and gluttony.

*Avarice, or Covetousness*, is an inordinate love of material goods, and especially money. The problem with avarice is that it serves money as a kind of false god. “Ye cannot serve God and Mammon”. “Having food and raiment let us therewith be content” advises the Apostle, “for the love of money is the root of all evil” (I Timothy 6:8, 10): “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded [haughty], nor trust in uncertain riches, but in this living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate...” (6:17-18). As this text

and others show, avarice is opposed by *Liberality*: “Let him that stole, steal no more: but rather let him labour with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have to give to them that needeth” (Ephesians 4:28). Covet righteousness rather than riches: “Blessed are those who thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”.

*Lust* is inordinate love of sexual pleasure. In our time the culture has invested vast energies in legitimizing recreational sex, and so it is necessary to affirm that sexual pleasures have their proper place within the loving and faithful union of a man and a woman in marriage and not outside it. “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God... For God hath not called us to uncleanness, but unto holiness” (1 Thess. 4:3-5, 7). Inordinate desire for sexual gratification

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1 WEST MACON STREET  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

*The Parish Paper* of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 W. Macon St., Savannah, GA 31401.

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**STANDING NOTICES**

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS**

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

**ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE** [www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)  
**ON FACEBOOK:** St. John's Church in Savannah

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mrs. R. Bartley Turner

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Robert Brennan

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Joyce P. Howard by Dr. Albert R. Howard.

And in memory or family and loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cunningham.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. William Lattimore  
Mrs. Jayne Holland, Mrs. Rhett N. Willis  
Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III  
Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf, Mrs. William E. Osborne

**LENTEN SERVICES**

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. William B. McNeal II  
Mrs. Philip L. Perrie, Mrs. Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr.

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** John DeBacker  
**10:30** Oliver Maloney  
Kameron Sallee  
Cord Helmken, Lawson Turner  
Lindsay Pindar, John Osborne

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. Warren L. Traver

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Tuesday** 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Study—  
(Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)  
**Thursday** 7 a.m. Bible Study—Reading Room

**WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

*Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.*  
**Wednesday:** 10:45 a.m.-Noon Bible Study  
**Thursday:** 9:15 a.m.—*War in Heaven*—with Fr. O'Brien

*AN EVENING IN VERONA*

Candlelight Dinner for 12 People  
Historic Green-Meldrim House.

Winner chosen—April 24, 2001

Dinner Held—May 29, 2011

**Donation: \$5.00 per ticket**

*Proceeds to benefit*

*St. John's Choir Residency at Wells Cathedral,  
Somerset, England.*

**EASTER LILY**

If you wish to give a lily for the decoration of the Church at Easter, please send a check for \$35 payable to **St. John's Chancel Society**, marked "**Easter Lily**", to the Church Office. Please be sure to indicate clearly who the lily will be in memory of, honor of, or thanksgiving for.

*The list will be published after Sunday after Easter.*

**PASSION WEEK AND HOLY WEEK**

The Green-Meldrim House will be CLOSED during Passiontide and Holy Week.  
There will be **no coffee hours** on April 17<sup>th</sup> or April 24<sup>th</sup>.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

is a kind of “covetousness”, and amounts to “idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). Because the sexual instinct is so strong, the best defense against temptation is custody of the eyes, and, in time of temptation, flight. If you cannot resist helping yourself to cookies, then stay away from the cookie jar! Its contrary virtue is *chastity* (as regards the sexual act itself) and *purity* (in embraces and all that may lead to the sexual act). “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”.

*Gluttony* (Gula, an evocative word!) is the perversion of the natural delight in food and drink, and is not to be identified with joyful exuberance! The Feast and the Fast both belong to the temperate soul. Gluttony may take the form of desire excessive as regards quantity *or* quality. Though eating sparingly, the foodie and the fussy may also be in danger of gluttony. While gluttony may seem tame compared to envy or pride, it destroys the spiritual life by directing the entire world of the soul to sensual pleasure. And it contributes to grave disorders – of bingeing and purging, of overeating, drunkenness, and recreational drug use: “whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things” (Philippians 3:19). Gluttony is opposed by *Temperance* (or *Moderation*), a kind of “self-less self-preservation” which defends and preserves the inner order of the soul against the distortions of compulsive greed. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”.

Knowledge of the seven capital sins and their contrary virtues is part of the Christian’s armour in the spiritual warfare against sin, the world, and the devil. It is a part of the knowledge of God and the soul (the self), that is learned by hearing, reading and ‘inwardly digesting’, in meditative recollection and reflection, the Word of God in Holy Scripture. Such knowledge

becomes *self*-knowledge when applied in the examination of conscience, and that naturally leads to repentance in thought (contrition, or sorrow for sin), word (confession), and deed (satisfaction, or reparation). Such repentance is futile unless it leads to amendment of life – the breaking down of habits of vice and the cultivation of virtues, with the help of fasting, prayer, and alms-giving. The soul from which a demon has been expelled must not be left empty, ‘swept and garnished’, lest the demon return with ‘seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and the last state of that man is worse than the first’. Only new habits of virtue can prevent us from relapsing disastrously into old habits of vice.

It is easy to talk about such things, much harder to do them. When we fail, we are tempted to despair; and when we succeed, we are tempted to pride. The cure for despair is the prayer of hope in God. The cure for pride is humble thanksgiving: giving all the glory of victory to God. Moral renewal requires effort: but it is only possible if it begins in the free gift of God’s grace, received in faith. The practice of prayer and thanksgiving are thus the beginning and end of all our moral disciplines. GGD

#### **THIS SUNDAY – CHOIR IN DOUGLAS**

The Men, Boys and Girls Choirs will sing Evensong at St. Andrew’s Church, Douglas, whose rector is our former priest associate Fr Curtis Mears. Fellow-travellers welcome! Depart St. John’s at Noon, depart Douglas 6:00 p.m. Return to Savannah by 9 p.m. For information, please call Dr. Taylor at 232-1251.

#### **RETIREMENT PURSE FOR MR. JAMES ROBBINS**

A retirement purse for Mr. James Robbins, who has served faithfully as Sexton for more than twenty years at St. John’s, will be presented at the 10:30 service.

**8:00—HOLY COMMUNION** (*No organ during Lent*)

Collects, Epistle, and Gospel (*The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted until Easter*)..... 132, (124)  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30—12 Noon NURSERY** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**9:30—ADULT, YOUTH and CHILDREN’S CLASSES** (*Cranmer Hall and Chapel*)

**10:30 –Pre-school—3 year olds through Kindergarten** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**10:30 —MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

CARILLON

HYMN #340 *We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died*..... Breslau  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer.....Prayer Book, pp. 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #608 .....9  
 Psalm #40 .....390  
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:1-19 *The Calling of the Prophet*

BENEDICITE .....*insert*  
 Second Lesson: Hebrews 9:11 and St. John 8:46 .....132, 133

BENEDICTUS #634 ..... 14  
 Apostles’ Creed .....15  
 Versicles and Responses .....16  
 Collect for the Day ..... 132, (124)  
 Fixed Collects and Other Prayers ..... 17-20

HYMN (*insert*) *The Royal Banners Forward Go* ..... Gonfalon Royal  
*1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.*

THE SERMON .....Fr. O’Brien

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *God so Loved the World, fr. The Crucifixion* .....John Stainer

Presentation of Alms: #732, *All Things are Thine*

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #522 *Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam’st to Men*..... Bohemian Brethren

ORGAN: *Fugue in F minor* ..... Charles Burney

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service. If you are a guest and visiting our Parish please make yourself known.*

**12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel; Propers on pp. 132, 124)**