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"Faith...."



From the Rector:

A Few Suggestions for Pastoral Caring

Here are two simple principles to help you (and me) attend to pastoral needs:

1. Priests are not clairvoyant.

If you want a priest to visit you (or a fellow parishioner, your relative, or a friend), please ask—don't expect us just to "know" what the needs are. Let your clergy know where you are, what times might be better than others, and generally what to expect. It also helps to make it clear whether you would like Communion (which can be brought by the clergy or one of several specially licensed lay people), if anointing and laying-of hands for healing would be helpful, or any other particular needs. Too often, we clergy hear of hospitalizations *after* they are completed. We hear murmuring that we "should have been there," even when we had no idea where *there* was, or that there was an emergent need. It is no imposition to visit anyone, ever. Just ask.

2. Don't tell a priest anything on Sunday—not if you want it remembered.

While some clergy are better at remembering coffee-hour conversations than others, we all find it difficult to keep details of many interactions in our head from Sunday till later in the week. Our most important

activity as Christian people on Sunday is to praise and worship the triune God. Save the questions about subsequent Sundays, the agenda for an upcoming Vestry meeting, or the date of some parish event for later. E-mail is a great way to deal with these (rector@annunciationoradell.org).

I also encourage you all to call me directly, on my cell phone (201-390-8270). If I am otherwise engaged, I may not be able to answer immediately—but I will return your call if you leave a message. Or, we can set up a time to chat, at your convenience and when I can be fully attentive to you, your needs, your wishes. On Sundays, you are one of a crowd. So I encourage you to communicate things you really want me to know at *other* times.

Not every priest will tell you these things explicitly, but every priest will appreciate these little gestures of courtesy and caring. Especially in such a small community as this, your help is needed to make it possible for your part-time clergy to accomplish the many tasks that must be done. So, please, keep me informed of pastoral concerns, and do so at times *other than* Sundays. Thanks.

Barrie t

May dates to Note on Your Calendar:

May 14: Fellowship and Faith @ 5:00 pm
May 8: Mother's Day
May 21: Parish Work Day 8:30 – 2 pm
May 22: Last day of Sunday school

Future dates to Note on Your Calendar:

June 4: Parish work day 8:30 – 2 pm
June 5: Final worship service, All Saint's
June 11: Roman Holiday 5:30-8:00 pm

The Great Confirmation of 2011

My hope is that many of you will be inspired to recommit yourselves to this particular branch of Christendom, and will want to affirm that publicly by participating in the Confirmation service at Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral on May 22 at 3 p.m. There, the Bishop will lay hands on you and pray for your continued strengthening in the faith.

There are three specific prayers that the Bishop may use, depending on your specific situation: confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation.

1. Confirmation is for those who have never received the laying-on of hands in a church of the "apostolic succession." These are primarily Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox churches, although there are some small exceptions, such as Swedish Lutherans. The Bishop will pray for God to strengthen you with the Holy Spirit, and empower you for God's service.
2. Reception is for those who were confirmed in another church, but now choose to make their home in the Episcopal Church. Here the Bishop will recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and receive you into the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.
3. Reaffirmation is for those previously confirmed, who now feel a need to recommit themselves to Christ. Often, these are people who were confirmed at a young age, and now feel moved to make a mature profession of faith. The Bishop will pray for the Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, to direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom.

Confirmation is the rite by which we make a mature public affirmation of our faith. It is also a time to accept that we now make our home in this particular branch of the great Christian tree.

This year, we expect a half-dozen or more adults from the Church of the Annunciation to participate in the Confirmation service on May 22. That morning, we will conduct Morning Prayer at Annunciation, in order to encourage more of you to attend the afternoon service in Newark. This is a big event in a community as intimate as ours, and I hope many of you will attend.

Telling Our Stories

One of the ways we can become stronger as a community is by sharing stories of our lives with each other. When was your baptism? What was a spiritual

highlight of your life? What are some of the challenges you face? We can do this informally, but I also encourage you to consider writing up a story to share in our parish newsletter. To get us "jump started" in this effort, I will share my own Confirmation story.

At the age of 12, when we attended a Methodist Church in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, my Sunday school class was told to "line up" one week. I asked why, and was told that we were all going to be confirmed that morning. How I missed that this was happening is still a bit of a mystery to me, but I declined, insisting that I was not ready or able to make such a commitment. In retrospect, I think I was a very mature 12-year-old! My parents were not pleased that I was not among the number confirmed that day, as you can imagine.

Later, when studying at Boston University, I wandered into Trinity Church in Copley Square. My undergraduate major was architectural history, so this was a kind of field trip for me. Within weeks I was a member of the young-adult group, singing in the choir, and participating in the Sunday-evening service each week. I was confirmed there in 1976, at the age of 21. I have many life-long friends from that time. Even though we are dispersed throughout the country, a group of six of them attended my ordination to the priesthood in San Francisco in 1999—as a surprise. Confirmation was a signature moment in my young adulthood, and a moment I remember with clarity to this day. (The sister of the bishop who confirmed me was a parishioner of mine in my first ordained position, in San Francisco—but that's another story.) ✕

—The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates

Special Thanks to...

Sue Keitel and the Episcobells for ringing such beautiful music for Annunciation.

Nancy Olsen, Adela Wechselblatt and Kathi Bellitto for taking on the challenge of Sunday school instruction.

Note Worthy:

Spring cleaning has been scheduled for the Parish Hall. Please join us on May 21st and/or June 4th.

Suing Gloves and wear your work clothes!

Address Change:

Dorothy Grefrath has moved.

c/o Emeritus at Emerson

590 Old Hook Road

Suite # 316

Emerson, NJ 07630

All Saint's Church - Bergenfield

Sunday June 5, 3 p.m.

Service of thanksgiving for the congregation of All Saint's Church, Bergenfield. All are welcome to attend the final worship service at our neighboring church at 12 West Central Ave. Bergenfield. The Bishop will preach and preside.

Music Corner:

TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK!

Not about *politics*, but about the music at Annunciation this year. Tell me if you were especially moved by something musical in the service or if there is something you would like to hear (and see) in the service. What is your favorite hymn that we have not sung, your favorite anthem that we have or have not sung, a favorite musical activity that you would like to have at church. If you are not in the bell choir or singing choir, is there some other way of making music that you would welcome? In short, I really want to hear from you! Write to me using the web site address, or write a real pencil-and-paper note to me, or simply talk to me. Please sign your name to these communications so that we can have a dialogue.

Linda Lanier-Keosaian
Director of Music Ministries

Bells are ringing:

Dear Friends:

The first Sunday in May brings the church year for the Episcobells to an end. We continue to be and have always been honored to play to the glory of God here at Annunciation.

We will take a needed break during the summer and hope to be back in the fall, ringing beautiful music to our congregation, again.

My deepest thanks to the members of the choir. You have given faithfully to our bell family to make rehearsals, and you work hard at learning new ringing skills. Bravo!

We hope you have enjoyed our choir, and as always, if you would like to try ringing, we would like to have you join us. There is always room for more.

Have a wonderful summer season!

Blessings,

Sue Keitel

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: Ann Graf 5/6, Janice Simpson 5/11, Teagan Bellitto 5/12, Ben Corrado 5/28, Alison Oliff 5/29, Robert Dziemian 5/31

Baptisms: Grace Bensen 5/4, Katelyn Leppert 5/11, Marie Mitchell 5/14

Confirmations: Ava Bramson 5/13

Anniversaries: James and Christina Gwynne 5/3

Finance Report

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer in improving our bookkeeping and accounting, this feature appears regularly in e-News.

As of March 31:

	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	\$22,835	—
Offerings Promised	\$23,555	\$89,500
Difference	\$-739	
Total Income	\$36,998	\$139,251
Total Expense	\$50,864	\$178,963
Difference	\$-13,866	\$-39,711
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$3,317	
Total pledges for 2011:	\$82,400	

ECW News:

Spring United Thank Offering Ingathering

The United Thank Offering is a way to give thanks for the many blessings in our everyday lives. The "blue boxes" have traditionally been used to receive the offerings of our thanks. We put coins of thankfulness for our blessings into them and twice a year we take them to church to lift them up to the Lord for His blessing. This is done all over the world. The monies are then sent to the National UTO Board. This UTO Committee reviews grant applications for monies to help those in need and they pray for the guidance to distribute the funds where they will reach and benefit many.

The Diocesan Spring UTO ingathering will be at Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 10 am. In order that our offerings may be included with the diocesan gifts we will have UTO Sunday on May 8. UTO envelopes will be available in the pews and as you enter church at the Center St. entrance. If you have a "blue box", please bring it. If you'd like to have one, they will also be available.

The monthly newsletter is a joint effort by all members of the congregation. It's a place to get updates and share things that are happening that are important to us.

If you have something you would like shared in a future edition please email me at:

lynnademay@gmail.com

Thank you

Lynna Demay.

Parish Communications

Did you know there is a Google Group for Annunciation parishioners?

If you are not a member and would like to join please send me an email at lynnademay@gmail.com

The monthly newsletter is available via the Google group. It is also available on the Annunciation website. There are hard copies available on the table in the hall.

Prayer Request

Please add this name to the Prayers of the People:

Name _____

Relationship to
You _____

Concern or
Illness _____

Your Name

Date to
Remove _____

Please leave this form in the Administrator's mail box. Instead of using this form, you may send a request containing this information via electronic mail to administrator@annunciationoradell.org.

The Church of the Annunciation

A Parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark
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201-262-7222 ✉ www.annunciationoradell.org