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Volume 40 No. 22

May 30, 2010



Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see thee in thy one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FROM THE RECTOR

It is not unusual for Memorial Day to fall on the same weekend as Trinity Sunday, although the two have little direct relationship. Memorial Day is a national holiday, albeit a secular one: One does not have to believe in God to realize the importance of remembering those who have given their lives in the service of this nation. Those querulous nags who whine about “church and state” (and who seem to understand the roles of neither) have nothing to carp about on Memorial Day. It is not a “faith moment”, to use an awkward phrase I saw in the paper the other day.

The origins of Memorial Day lay in the need and desire to commemorate the dead of the Civil War. Many historians attribute the first such celebration to the citizens of Waterloo, New York, and in time both North and South held observances on what was often called Decoration Day, when the graves of those who had died were visited and adorned with small flags. That aspect of the holiday continues, both locally as in the columbarium here, and on a grand scale as one will see in Arlington Cemetery.

Central to the observance is that those honored have died in the service of the nation. This is not to take away from our need and desire to remember those who have died in other circumstances, but Memorial Day is not the time to do that. This moment refers to specific service and circumstance. Put it another way: Not all who serve in time of war die in time of war. Memorial Day calls us to remember and to honor those who died. Veterans’ Day in November addresses that other honorable aspect of national service.

The coincidence of Memorial Day and Trinity Sunday is felicitous for the Christian, for the importance of remembrance lies at the heart of both observances. Trinity Sunday is one of those rare moments in the church year not devoted to an event in our Lord’s life or to some other historical character such as an

apostle, evangelist, or martyr. This is a church day devoted to a doctrine, a bit of theology, which none can explain. All attempts to explain fully the doctrine of the Trinity jump off the track sooner or later, and it is an preacher devoid of humility who ignores that reality.

So, what does the Christian remember on Trinity Sunday? We could start with that list offered in the ancient hymn *Te Deum laudamus* (Cf., page 52 of the Prayer Book). The text of this hymn is Trinitarian in that it considers aspects of the Trinity, pointing only to bits and pieces of the great, inexhaustible store which *is* this great mysterious doctrine. One way to start to respond to Trinity Sunday is to think about its meaning and try to identify and remember, or learn about, each of the basic assertions the hymn majestically expresses.

That is as good a way to start as any.

It is also meet and right to pray that our memories be kept fresh and clear. Church doctrine, properly understood, is not about avoiding heresy; it is about being kept in the Faith, being enabled to avoid those enslaving pitfalls which are the inevitable consequences of following after erroneous teaching, no matter how attractive and easy such teaching may appear. Trinity Sunday says we need to remember better things, and that in remembering, we are given a security and a liberty we can find no other way.

So, there is much to remember on the last weekend of May 2010: We should remember those who have died in the service of this remarkable land, a nation whose heritage is not without flaw, but remains exceptional beyond reasonable contradiction. And, on a different level, we should remember that we did not invent our Faith, and neither should we forget its content in exchange for some mess of pottage which suits us better for the time being.

CARNIVAL NEXT SUNDAY IS A MUST! BRING YOUR FAVORITE LITTLE ONES

From the somewhat humble roots of a backyard church picnic at the Schneider's last year, a full fledged Picnic plus Carnival has evolved! Next Sunday, June 6th, the Women of Saint Francis have organized a St. Francis Picnic and Carnival after the 10 am service.

Bring your chairs or picnic blanket and prepare to enjoy some

Authentic Texas BBQ

for only \$5.00 a plate with beverages for just \$1.00. Afterward, you can sate your sweet tooth with a little something from the **BAKE SALE**.

You can **win tickets at the Carnival Booths** and redeem them for **Prizes**, so sharpen up your skills at Coin tossing & other tests of dexterity.

Should you overindulge a bit on the Authentic Texas BBQ or at the Bake Sale, you can get a little exercise in at the:

- Spoon Races,
- Horsheshoes,
- Sponge Relays, or play some
- Broom Hockey.

If all this sounds like a bit too much fun, you can just relax in your chair or on your picnic blanket, enjoy some BBQ, and watch the face painting and moon bouncing while you talk with your friends.

*We look forward to seeing
you there!*



ICON PAINTING COURSE IN JULY

Philip Davydov, head of the Sacred Murals Studio in St. Petersburg, Russia, will teach a six day icon writing (painting) course at Trinity Church, St. Mary's City, from July 26th to the 31st, 2010.

Philip is a gifted painter and teacher. He has painted several commission pieces for Episcopal churches throughout the US.



Housing and meals are available on the campus of St. Mary's College at (\$70 per day, which includes housing and all 3 meals) for people who need room/board. For more information, call John Ball at 1-240-925-0752 cell, or 1-301-862-4597 office, or send an e-mail to trinitysmcmd@olg.com. You can also check out www.sacredmurals.com.

MUSIC FESTIVAL SUNDAY JUNE 6TH

St. John's, Lafayette Square will celebrate great hymns of the church at a Music Festival Service set for 10:30 a.m. June 6. The Parish Choir and the St. John's Choir will join with brass instruments and timpani for a choral Eucharist that will incorporate hymnody in anthem texts, canticle settings and congregational singing. No charge: all are welcome.

SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Effective Sunday, May 30th, the Sunday Holy Eucharist services will be held at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, MAY 30

LOAVES & FISHES DELIVERY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Rector's Bible Study

5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 6/6/10

5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

After the 10 am Service:
Parish Picnic and Carnival on
St. Francis Field

The Scripture appointed for Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Periodical postage paid
At Rockville, MD 20850

SOUNDS OF ST. FRANCIS (USPS 561-890) is published weekly (except the last week in December) and biweekly in July and August by St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854; telephone (301) 365-2055.

WEB ADDRESS: www.stfrancispotomac.org.

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Periodical postage paid at Rockville, MD 20850.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sounds of St. Francis, 10033 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854