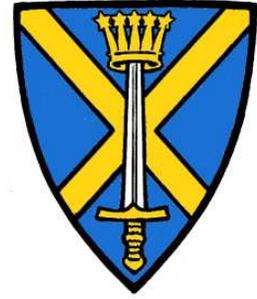


# The Centurion

The Parish Magazine of St. Alban's Church

1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland, 21085



My dear People:

Sorry this got out a little late! This is one of the busiest times of year for me. Have you ever noticed how when it gets very busy and hectic in life one of the temptations we face is to sacrifice our spiritual disciplines so we can get more done? Our schedules get full, and there is so much to do, that we decide we just do not have time to meditate and pray, or study God's word that morning, or that weekend. Well if we do this enough we get into the bad habit of having *no* daily time of worship and fellowship with God. And when that happens we will find ourselves on very shaky spiritual ground. We are all busy... there's no question about that. But we simply have to find a way to carve out time in our busy days so we can spiritually recharge, by spending time with God and giving him the honor and glory due him. If we find that we are too tired at the end of the day to say our prayers and study God's word, or do spiritual reading then we need to try to do it earlier in the evening, or in the morning. If we are not necessarily in the mood to spend time with God because we are exhausted or depressed or whatever we need to give ourselves a little kick in the rear and try to do it the best we can anyway. When I was younger and on my own, before I was ordained, and married, and had a family, I was not always in the mood to go to church on Sunday mornings or read my bible and pray. It would have been easy to stay home and sleep in and just watch TV. But I made myself do those good spiritual things anyway! Because I knew that if I slacked off I would give Satan a foothold in my life to lead me away from God. I knew that each little decision as to what to do or not do was of profound importance. And in retrospect I now see how the good spiritual habits I developed and faithfully practiced are what sustained me through some dark and perilous times. One of the keys to success in the spiritual life is developing good spiritual habits, and we do that by doing good spiritual things over and over and over again (even when we don't feel like it) until the discipline of doing them becomes engrained in us... until they become *habitual*. We should never underestimate the importance of individual acts and daily choices. Because these add up for either good or ill. For as Ralph Waldo Emerson famously said, "Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny."

Faithfully, your priest,

*J. Gordon Anderson*

April 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

**Diocesan News, p. 2**

*Episcopal Election This Summer*

**The Christian Year, p. 3**

*Easter Day*

**Parish News & Updates, p. 4**

*Updates from the Church*

UPCOMING SERVICES:

**Apr 14th-20th - Holy Week**

Schedule posted online & at church

**Apr. 22nd - Easter Monday**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Apr. 23rd - Easter Tuesday**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Apr. 25th - St. Mark**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**May 1st - Ss. Philip & James**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**May 27th & 28th - Rogation Monday & Tuesday**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**May 29th - Vigil of the Ascension & Rogation Wednesday**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**May 30th - Ascension Day**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

**Jun 10th & 11th - Monday and Tuesday in Whitsun**

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

DIOCESAN NEWS: *Bishop Grundorf Calls for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor*

There is an important notice in the parish hall on the “diocesan news” bulletin board from Bishop Grundorf. Our beloved bishop has announced his intention to retire and so he has called for the election of a bishop coadjutor. What does this mean?

In catholic ecclesiology a bishop coadjutor is a bishop who has the right to succeed the bishop ordinary. The “ordinary” (sometimes also called “the diocesan”) is the main bishop of the diocese. He has all canonical authority and ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and is the chief pastor of the diocese. His priests and deacons minister in his stead, and in his name. The sacrament that they offer is the bishop’s sacrament.

But occasionally we hear of other types of bishops. One that we are familiar with is the “suffragan” bishop. This is a bishop who assists the “bishop ordinary” in his sacramental and administrative duties. He is a duly consecrated bishop with all of the sacramental rights and privileges of the episcopal office. But he does not have administrative authority or “jurisdiction.” He only works under the authority and direction of the “ordinary.”

Our diocese has (of course) one ordinary — Walter Grundorf— and two suffragans —Chad Jones and Bill Perkins. In addition there are a few older, retired bishops who sometimes assist with sacramental duties if the ordinary asks them.

The key is that these other bishops — suffragans, and retired assistants— do not have any authority to automatically succeed the ordinary should he no longer be able to serve. Thus we have the “bishop coadjutor” which is a suffragan bishop *with the right to succession*. In other words, once a coadjutor is elected, he will, when the ordinary steps down, become the next ordinary. He will be the chief pastor of the diocese, and will exercise jurisdiction and authority in the diocese that he serves.

So what our diocesan bishop, the Most Rev’d Walter Grundorf, has done is called for the election of a man to succeed him. While any clergyman can be nominated what is most likely to happen is that a man already consecrated bishop and serving as

suffragan somewhere in the Church will be elected coadjutor. If a priest or deacon is elected to this office then he would have to be consecrated as a bishop. The same would be the case with laity, which sometimes happened in the ancient Church... St. Ambrose of Milan, the famous doctor of the Western Church is a good example of a prominent layman who was nominated to be a bishop!

But if a suffragan bishop is nominated to become coadjutor he would not be reconsecrated, because he is already a bishop... he is already in the episcopal office. Despite all of the fancy titles sometimes given to bishops in the Church (bishops, archbishops, pope, metropolitan, patriarch, etc.) there are still just three offices of ministry in the church: bishop, priest, and deacon.

We have no idea who will succeed +Walter. But we trust the Holy Ghost to guide the Church, and ask that the right man —a truly godly servant of the Lord— be nominated for the position. The Holy Spirit always guides and leads the Church. Our Church is certainly blessed with an excellent crop of men from which to choose a new bishop! The men who have been nominated in the past when we have had various elections have all been stellar clergy.

If several men are nominated then an election is held, and clergy and laity all vote for who they think should be the bishop. Only one man can ultimately be elected. But we have to remember that just being nominated to be a bishop (any type of bishop) is a tremendous compliment to that individual! Because it is his colleagues —lay and ordained— who have discerned in him some character and quality that they think would be of use to the larger Church. So people who are nominated but not elected to the office of bishop should not feel jilted or hated. Quite the opposite in fact!

Our election will take place this summer at our annual synod in Florida. Do have a look at the complete list of canonical rules for the election posted in the parish hall. And please pray that God would guide us throughout this incredibly important process. ☩

## THE CHRISTIAN YEAR: "Easter Day" by the Rev'd Lesley Wilder

The great Festivals of the Christian Year are not only the commemorations of events which happened in the life of our Lord a long time ago. They are opportunities for the present and promises for the future. For example, when we celebrate Christmas each year we are not just remembering the birth of Christ in Bethlehem; but we are trying at the same time, to make room in the inns of our lives in order that something of his grace and love might be born there. On Good Friday we do not just commemorate the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, but we literally try to join him on his cross, and to nail there our own selfish wills and desires.

Likewise on Easter we are not just celebrating the resurrection of Christ and saluting the empty tomb. We are also trying to expose the tombs which we have made of our own lives to the incandescent power of God, in order that we might roll away some of the stones which we have placed there. Easter is a day of hope for the present and for the future because Easter is strictly God's doing. At Christmas time God had the loving obedience and willing assistance of the Virgin Mary. On Good Friday the fear and the evil and the complicity of sinful man was involved. But on Easter there was no one but God. Our Lord was dead, sealed in the tomb, and any possibility of his rising to life again rested entirely in God's hand.

In this age of humanism and of man-centered theology, it is good for us to be confronted with two great lessons that Easter has to teach us. One is the fact that God is able to do many things without any help from man. I was reminded of this during the nights of the past week as I would watch from my window the great golden moon, like some shimmering orb, begin its slow ascent across the sky. I am reminded of this each morning when the darkness in my room, like some errant

school boy, grudgingly gives place to the brightness of the morning sun. I gaze at the beauty of the Pleiades and that bright cluster of stars somehow seems to keep its place and run its course without any help from me. Easter reminds us of something that the Psalmist had learned a long time ago... that "God is our hope and strength." (Ps. 46:1)

And now for the second great lesson that Easter has to teach us. This is even more important than the first, and the source of our greatest hope. God is able to accomplish his will in spite of the opposition of man. He does this not by overruling the wills of men and thereby trespassing

upon the very thing which gives them their greatest dignity, namely, freedom of choice. No, he allows them to exercise their freedom in the fullest possible way, even though this means the death of his only Son, which it did. But God has a wonderful way of taking the misdeeds of men and transforming them into instruments of his holy will. God is unbelievably patient with us. He allows us to indulge our egos and our pride to an amazing degree. But when man begins to strut and to shout, "Look at me. I'm really quite a fellow. Why I can even frustrate and thwart the plans and purpose of God! I can even take his whole scheme of

salvation and knock it into a cocked hat" —then we see the Sovereign Lord of the Universe quietly extending his hand to bring his Son forth from the tomb, and to take that wretched cross and reshape it into a throne of victory.

Good Christian people, that is where our real hope lies—in a God who is going to accomplish his plan and his purpose, not just because of an, but even in spite of him. ✠

From, "The Great Days and Seasons: Mediations for the Christian Year" (Seabury Press, 1961) by the Rev'd Lesley Wilder



PARISH NEWS & UPDATES: *Please note these important items!*

### **Aloha Night at Uncles Hawaiian Grindz**

On Thursday, April 25th from 4pm - 9pm come to Uncle's restaurant in Fallston and eat and dine. 10% of all proceeds during that time will benefit Team Saint Alban's which is once again walking in the Amanda Hitchkad CCA Celebration Walk to raise money for Cancer LifeNet at Upper Chesapeake Hospital. Uncles serves fantastic food in a fun and trendy environment. This is a great way to support a truly wonderful organization that assists those battling cancer and their friends and loved ones. Check out the flyer in the parish hall for more details and see you there!

### **Seminarian Update — Mason Waldhauser**

Dear friends,

When I checked my mailbox the other day, I received your card from St. Alban's with a Dunkin' Donuts gift card in it. Thanks for that surprise! Guess where I'm writing you from? There's a DD about five minutes from my school, and it's a great place to get some work done off campus.

Since I've seen you last, I received an update on my discernment process toward priesthood: Fr. Menees (who is Tyler's rector down in NC) called me yesterday and gave me the go-ahead to begin work on the exams. There are three tests I need to take, two open-book, which are on theology and on the Prayer Book, and one which is proctored: the "Bible knowledge" exam (which my time as a Baptist has prepared me well for). I've got a lot of work ahead of me to complete these before I meet with the Board this summer at synod, but if Nashotah House has prepared me for anything, it's handling a lot of work! Fr. Menees told me that his answers totaled seventy pages when he took the exam! But he told me not to agonize over it, that the interview is what will really count. I feel like those guys on the board are very supportive of my vocation, so I'm not worried; I'll just plod through these questions and have them done by the June 1 deadline.

This is distance week on campus, when the students in the online program come for a residential week. It's been fun catching up with

these students: we only see them once a semester. Because Fr. Holtzen is teaching their intensive course, I've got the day off class!

The provost asked me to be on a student panel to interview two candidates for a new position on campus: director of chapel life and pastoral care. I am very excited to be a part of this, because we could really use a pastor for the community. The six of us on the panel just finished our second interview, and now we email him our impressions and wait to see who is picked. I think it's a clear choice, but regardless, I'll appreciate having someone to go to in order to process the program here. The discussions showed me that most of my spiritual growth has been in response to the program rather than fostered by the program itself. That's why I'm thankful that our formation is the goal of our whole life here, not just the classes.

We're about to start Holy Week. I'll be on break from Easter until Low Sunday, when I'll be back home, and I'll get to preach again. The weekend after that, I'll be at a conference that the school is sending me to: so I'll be away from my internship parish out here for three weeks in a row, and the next time I'm there, it will be my last week. This past Sunday at that parish, we did an "instructed Eucharist" and narrated the service, describing the symbolism and history of the Mass. People seemed to get a lot out of it, and I know I did! Fr. Sias did the service and I narrated. The notes we used actually came from Bp. Chad, and they taught me a lot.

Tomorrow I'm heading into downtown Milwaukee for a friend's violin recital, so I think I'll stay downtown for a while after that and enjoy the time away from campus before Holy Week begins - that will be an all-day everyday kind of thing, if it's anything like last year. Hoping you have a meaningful Triduum, and I looking forward to catching up the week following. United in prayer!

Best,

Mason ✂