



Tidings

NEWS FROM ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 2009



Fr. Paul

The Ash Wednesday liturgy says that the 'devotions' or special observances of Lent are self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on God's holy Word. All of these practices are intended to remind us of the inescapable but easily forgettable truth that we are not God. Altogether these Lenten devotions may seem daunting, so why not start with just one, "reading and meditating on God's holy Word". A good way to start is by joining the Bible discussion group that meets Thursday mornings from 10:30 to noon at the church. During Lent we'll examine the biblical roots of the Seven Deadly Sins - lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride - and their opposites, the four Cardinal and three Theological Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Courage, Faith, Hope, and Love). All you have to do is turn on the nightly news to see that the 'Seven Deadlies' have stood the test of time since the early Middle Ages and before, and though we don't often hear about them on the nightly news, so have the Virtues. I think you'll find this interesting. Come and see!

"Reading and meditating" can also mean reading and meditating beyond just the Bible. God speaks to us in literature of all kinds. St. Catherine's library and Sunday morning book cart have a host of material for Lenten reading. Drop by and pick something up. Also, I have just finished reading Phyllis Tickle's The Great Emergence, an insightful look at where the Church (capital 'C') has been, where it is now,

and where it's going - and an easy read! It is also an excellent choice for Lenten reading. I plan to convene a one-time Saturday morning discussion of The Great Emergence in April. If you are interested, copies can be ordered from one of our local bookstores or from Trinity Cathedral bookstore in Portland (1-800-790-2877) or the Episcopal Bookstore in Seattle (1-800-803-6223). And, if you're reading something else that you'd like to share with others, just let me know. I'm going to assemble a list for the next issue of Tidings.



La Corriente

Padre Jorge

Los Monaguillos - Those who were present on the 6th Sunday of Epiphanytide were blessed with the presence of three of our acolytes, Jackie Pérez, Alejandro Quintana, and Tavo Pérez, resplendent in scarlet cassocks and brilliant, crisp, white cottas.

Miercoles de Cenizas - There will be a bi-lingual service at 5:00 pm and an all-Spanish service at 8:00 pm on Ash Wednesday, with Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist.

Primera Comunion - Marisol Quintana continues to prepare our five First Communion candidates. The festal day will be after Easter and the date will be broadcast widely.

Quinceañera - August 1st is set for Marisol Quintana's *quinceañera* celebration. The whole community will be invited to share in the costs and efforts to make this a memorable day for Marisol and the whole congregation. Marisol will

be inviting everyone to be *Padrinos* and *Madrinas* to help sponsor the *fiesta*. Typically, we have sponsors for the hall rental, the music, the flowers, the cake, the drinks, the centerpieces, her dress and earrings, and the food. Members will cook for several days beforehand to prepare a sumptuous festal meal. *Padre Jorge* (AKA George+) will provide the celebration Eucharist.

Nuevo Restaurán Mexicano - In case you haven't caught the buzz, we have a new, authentic, Mexican restaurant in town: *El Mariachi Loco* at 114 Laneda in Manzanita. My favorite breakfast - *Huevos Rancheros*. My favorite lunch - *Caldo Siete Mares*. My favorite dinner - *Camarones al Mojo de Ajo*. If you go, expect to find some familiar faces in the kitchen and waiting table. ¡Andale! Send me your own favorites for the next issue! G+

WOSC Happenings

Jean Hemingway

The doors at Pine Grove will open at noon Friday, March 27th to receive donations for the Church Mouse Sale. Please price your items before leaving them, and be sure there are items suitable enough to be attractive to others. (We don't want to have to pay to dispose of unsold goods.) The sale will be Saturday, March 28th, and will include silent auction treasures. Chuck and Dana Winkelman, of Seattle, have generously donated two stained glass window pieces, and we have a beautifully hand stitched tablecloth, made by a family member of the Hispanic congregation. Deane Falby has graciously donated this prized item. In addition to bringing items for sale, you can help with a donation of your time the day of the event. There will be a sign up sheet at the services.

It's not too soon to mark your calendar for the Diocesan ECW Spirituality Day, May 2nd. The theme this year is *Bridges over Troubled Waters*, sharing visions for these difficult times. The special worship service, workshops, & luncheon will be held at Christ Church Episcopal Parish, Lake Oswego. Carpools will be arranged for those interested. More details will be available April 1st.

Lenten Midweek Program

Lola Sacks invites you to take a five week Lenten journey with one of the greatest Christian mystics of all time: Julian of Norwich. At 5 PM on Wednesdays beginning March 4 and ending April 1, we will meet for a brief Eucharist, a short meditation from Julian of Norwich, and a simple soup supper.

March Birthdays

- 9 Carol Linstedt
- 14 Roy Andriesse
- 16 Phyllis Mannon
- 18 Sue Meislahn
- 26 Kay Stepp
- 29 Dick Park



March Anniversaries

- 9 Ann and Jim Fontaine
- 17 Melinda and Joseph LeRoy

The Story of St. Patrick



It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people.

Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.)

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice-which he believed to be God's-spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation-an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission-to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.)

Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

The Poets' Corner

Despedida - Goodbye

(Federico García Lorca, 1898-1936)

If I should die
leave the balcony open

The boy eats oranges
(From my balcony I see him)

The reaper reaps the wheat.
(From my balcony I sense him.)

If I should die,
leave the balcony open!

"Revelations of Divine Love", Chapter V

(Dame Julian of Norwich, 1342-1417)

"And with this insight he also showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand. It seemed to me as round as a ball. I gazed at it and thought, 'What can this be?' The answer came thus, 'It is everything that is made.' I marveled how this could be, for it was so small it seemed it might fall suddenly into nothingness. Then I heard the answer, 'It lasts, and ever shall last, because God loves it. All things have their being in this way by the grace of God.'"

"Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, Meditation XVII"

(John Donne, 1572-1631)

"All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated . . . As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon, calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to come: so this bell calls us all: but how much more me, who am brought so near the door by this sickness . . . No man is an island, entire of itself . . . any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

NCRD

RiverBend Players Present



The Matchmaker

By
Thornton Wilder

March 6 – 8 and March 20 – 22
Friday & Saturday nights at 7 PM
Sunday Afternoons at 3 PM

\$12.50 includes refreshments

