

The Epistle

November 2011

“Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee; ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.”

These powerful words taken from the third verse of Joachim Neander’s hymn “Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of Creation” have always meant a great deal to me. They seem to have a way of reappearing at significant times in my spiritual journey. Such was the case on October 9, as we sang this hymn as the processional hymn for our confirmation liturgy at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

“Ponder anew what the Almighty can do.” How appropriate these words were for such an occasion—for it was (is) Almighty God who deserves praise for what He has done in our lives. Certainly not one of us could have ever imagined being confirmed as Roman Catholics—not to mention by a Cardinal in the National Shrine! It is God’s doing.

To use a phrase of our good friend Alfred Turnipseed: “Let us unpack this.” God had been busy preparing many people for this moment in time. The Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, which allows for groups of Anglicans to become Roman Catholics while maintaining some aspects of

their Anglican heritage and patrimony did not just fall out of the sky; it was years in the making. The Holy Spirit had been moving in minds and hearts for years. This openness to the work of God allowed our Holy Father Benedict XVI to announce the Apostolic Constitution. Obviously, God had been working in his mind and heart to bring him to this decision. There are others too: Bishop Chane, Cardinal Wuerl and his staff at the Archdiocese of Washington, and of course you and me. God had been preparing all of us for this historic moment; it was (is) His doing, “Ponder anew what the Almighty can do.”

In his homily, Cardinal Wuerl stated our Confirmation and First Holy Communion completes our initiation into the Church. God had been working, in some cases for 40, 50, 60, 70 and even 80 years to bring us into full communion with His Church. God is faithful and He is at work to restore, reconcile, heal, make whole, and unite His people with Holy Mother Church. In many ways our reception into the Catholic Church was the completion of a long journey. Yet in reality, it is just the beginning.

We have a great task before us, and obstacles to overcome. We must take care to nurture our infancy as a Roman Catholic

Community, while at the same time wisely planning our future. We must assimilate ourselves in the Catholic faith, providing all things Catholic to the members of the parish for our spiritual growth. We must also be looking to the future. We signed a three year lease with the Diocese of Washington for this property. We will need to raise money, and decide if we are going to purchase this building, or another, or build a new church. We must begin thinking about God's vision for us. We must do better at making every effort to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, we must do better in our financial support of the parish, and we must commit ourselves to each other's education and to the education of our children. It is a daunting task, but it is the task God has set before us.

On our own this task would prove to be most difficult; but God is not asking us to do this alone, using our abilities alone. He has invited us to share in His vision for St. Luke's, His plan for our future-we simply need to be open to His will and to be obedient.

Our reception into the Catholic Church, while historic and exhilarating, cannot be the end to what He has in store for us; surely it is just the beginning. May we commit ourselves to humbly take this journey, and to fulfill the work God has given us to do; by doing so all challenges and obstacles will be overcome.

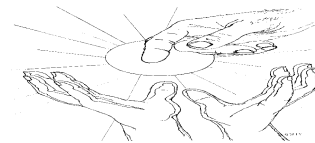
“Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee; ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.” - *Mark*

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is the official term to be used for adult catechism classes. All adults interested in becoming a Catholic must enter this process.

Mr. Alfred Turnipseed, Coordinator of Christian Initiation for the Archdiocese of Washington, is making plans now for a class to begin in Advent.

Please check our web site for further developments.



Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday is the last Sunday of each month, when a special offering is collected, over and above your weekly giving, to give thanks to God for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. The next Thanksgiving Sunday is Nov. 27.

Weekday Mass Schedule Suspended

Our normal weekday Mass scheduled has been suspended until further notice. However, Holy Days of Obligation will be celebrated at 6:30pm.

Please check our web site for updates.

Prayer Requests



Remember St. Luke's in your prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of thy servants, and grant unto this parish family all things necessary for its spiritual welfare: schools to train up thy people in thy faith and fear, ministers to labor in this portion of thy vineyard, a church restored and maintained in the beauty of holiness. Strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy Holy Catholic Church Through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth on God, world without end. Amen.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Charles Sommerkamp;
Chet & Espie Stewart; Auburn Traycik;
Ginny Mcknew; Moses Alusi;
Catherine Jones; Rimisa Williams;
Jean Ashman; Juliette Scott;
Norma Brumfield; Alice McNeil;
Larry Maske; Lawrence McDowell;
Victor & Gloria Deigh; Martha Krabandam;

Malcolm Parkinson; Angela Koker;
Joyce Stewart; Ron Alert; Natalie Reeves;
Andrew Keegan; C.C. Onejeme;
La-Verne Williams; Debbie Holt;
Susan Gibbs; Robert Gibbs; Toketo Sanders
and family; Theresa; Joey; Thomas, Lynn &
Dallas Love; Robert King; and Fr.Zera

Please provide us with your e-mail address

In an effort to keep you up to date with the current events at St. Luke's, we are asking you to provide us with your e-mail address Please send an e-mail to Fr. Lewis providing your name.

Fr. Lewis' e-mail address is:
frmarklewis@gmail.com

Your Sacrificial Offering

Pledges

Please keep your giving current.
We need your support.

*"Where your heart is there will your treasure
be also"*

Please give generously!

You can now stay current with your pledges, (offerings, and donations), by using PayPal on our website. Just click on the PayPal emblem and complete the form- it's easy!

2012 Pledge Cards and envelopes can now be picked up in the back of the Church.

Upcoming events

Nov. 1 – All Saints Day; Mass 6:30pm

Nov. 2 – All Soul's Day; Evening Prayer 6:30pm.

Nov. 20 – Christ the King Sunday

Nov. 26 – Advent Wreath-Making 12:00pm

Nov. 27 – The First Sunday of Advent

Recitation of the Rosary every Thursday evening 6:30pm.

Study Group every Thursday evening 7:00pm.



Recommend Reading

The Lamb's Supper by Scott Hahn

First Comes Love by Scott Hahn

Hail, Holy Queen by Scott Hahn

The Catholic Way by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl

The Sacraments by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl

The Catechism of the Catholic Church **A Must!**

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

Anglicans and the Roman Catholic Church

edited by Stephen Cavanaugh

Forgiveness: A Catholic Approach by Fr. Scott Hurd

New Suggested Readings

Rome Sweet Home by Scott Hahn

The Mass by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl and Mike Aquilina

Building fund

As part of the agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, we will continue to use our present Church under the terms of a leasing agreement. Our leasing agreement calls for us to rent the property for a period of three years, at which time we can purchase our property at 75% of the market value or build a new church. Please make a donation toward our future. Make checks payable to St. Luke's, memo: building fund

Advent Wreath Making

On Saturday Nov. 26, we will have our annual Advent Wreath making day. Vickey Lewis will again lead us in the project.

The day will begin at noon with a pot luck lunch; please bring something to share.

Vickey asks for you to bring some "greens" from your yards and pruning shears (if you have them).

Christmas Pageant?

On Sunday Nov. 13, Mrs. Susan Mathis will meet with all, (children and parents), interested in having a Christmas Pageant this year.

Susan already has the program planned; she needs our support.

The meeting will take place in the Church immediately following the 8:00am Mass.

Calling All Women

Most all parishes have an Altar Guild. For much of the recent past our Altar Guild consisted of one or two women.

About a year ago, a Women's Guild was established. In addition to performing Altar Guild duties, these women also took on the responsibility to learning floral design-thus providing our Sunday Altar arrangements.

There is a great deal of work to be done. It is not necessary to be here to contribute; linens need to be washed, ironed and folded. Your help in this ministry would be greatly appreciated.

Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Washington is committed to protecting all of God's children. It is of the utmost importance to them that we provide a safe, loving environment in which our children can play, learn and grow.

To help us provide such an environment and in order for us to be in compliance with the polices of the Archdiocese, every adult working with children or in a leadership role, rather an employee or volunteer is required to attend a workshop on Protecting God's Children.

Mrs. Susan Mathis has agreed to be the coordinator of this ministry. She and I will be providing all the necessary information to those who must attend this workshop.

It is of the utmost importance that we become compliant as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry needs to be restocked. Please buy some extra canned goods on your next visit to the market. We are particularly low on canned: meats, vegetables, sauces, beans, and peanut butter.

Liturgical Norms & Policies of the Archdiocese of Washington

In the past it had become somewhat acceptable for those seeking to be married in the church to make plans for the wedding and even set a wedding date before speaking with the priest. Likewise, arrangements have been made for baptisms before speaking with the priest,

In the Catholic Church, and therefore the Archdiocese of Washington, there are Liturgical Norms (practices) and Policies which must be followed. For instance, it is required that all persons seeking to be married attend a 6-month marriage preparation class.

These Liturgical Norms and Policies are not meant to cause undue pain or stress to your celebrations, but rather are in place to ensure the teachings of the Church for such events are taught and followed.

It is therefore necessary that you speak with your priest as soon as you begin considering marriage, or baptism, confirmation and such. Speaking to your priest well in advance, prior to setting any dates or making any plans, will allow for proper teaching to take place.

It is important for us to realize the teachings of the Church are in place to help us to grow in the fullness of our faith.

An Update On Your Pastor's Status

As all of you know I am seeking to be ordained as a Catholic priest. At this time I do not know exactly how this formation will take place; what I do know is the following.

During the summer my initial dossier was sent to Rome to be reviewed. In late summer I was informed I had received *Nulla Osta*; that is, approval to proceed into the next phase of the ordination process.

Information for my second dossier is being gathered; it will consist of a criminal background report, a psychological assessment report, and letters from Bishop Chane and Cardinal Wuerl. This second dossier will be sent to Rome soon; if approved I could be ordained a Deacon soon thereafter.

In late January 2012 (at least, that is the date I am being told now), Vickey and I will fly to Houston to meet with other former Anglican priests and their wives. An intense 14-week period of study will follow. If all goes well I could be ordained a Priest around Pentecost.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Set your clocks back one
hour this Saturday
night!

You Are Being Remembered

My greatest Joy as a priest was to celebrate Mass. Each and every day I would prepare myself to say Mass, to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus, and to carry you (all of you) to the Altar before Almighty God. As your pastor it was my great privilege to offer up prayers and supplications on your behalf. As I went before the Altar, so too did you.

Obviously, I can no longer celebrate the Holy Mysteries of the Eucharist. Vickey and I attend Daily Mass-though I am not celebrating, I still continue to pray for you before the Most Blessed Sacrament daily.

Please know that, while you are about doing God's work wherever you are, I am praying for you in the Presence of our Lord.



A letter from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Washington

In his 2008 Pastoral Letter, *Catholic Education - Looking to the Future with*

Confidence, Cardinal Donald Wuerl reflects on the importance of the education ministry of the Catholic Church and the important mission of raising our young children in the Faith. His Eminence shares with us the effective role Catholic schools play in assisting parents in passing on the Faith to their children.

As the Superintendent for Schools of the Archdiocese of Washington, I am so proud to be a part of the mission of Catholic education, and specifically Catholic schools. I believe Catholic schools provide a daily environment in which children proclaim and live out the Gospel message, experience service to others, and live in community where Christ is present every day. Children in our schools receive an academically excellent education and a faith formation that will develop and sustain them throughout their lives.

I welcome you to consider a Catholic school for your child. With over ninety-eight schools in the Archdiocese of Washington, there are many wonderful options from which families can choose that are best for their child. We strive to provide families with academically excellent schools rich in Catholic identity that are affordable and accessible. Please visit our website at www.adw.org/catholic-schools to view Cardinal Wuerl's pastoral letter on education, to learn more about our schools, and available tuition assistance programs.

Deacon Bert L'Homme
Superintendent for Schools
Archdiocese of Washington