

July 21, 2019

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Who is my neighbor?

A message from
Presiding Bishop
Michael Curry

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to
the calendar: email
stthomassooffice
@googlegroups.com with
your submission.

Daily Nourishment

"...I have treasured the
words of His mouth more
than my daily bread."
JOB 23:12

I'm Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. It goes without saying that there is a humanitarian crisis at the southern border of the United States. It is a human crisis, a crisis that has deep and complex roots, sources, and origins. But it is a crisis, a crisis of the human children of God. There is suffering and there is hardship. There is complexity and difficulty. But it is a crisis that we as a nation, that we as a global community, must face and find a way forward for the sake of our brothers and our sisters, for the sake of us all.

In the Hebrew scriptures in the book of Deuteronomy, the book writes and says you shall love the stranger, for remember you were once strangers in the land of Egypt. In the 25th chapter of Matthew in the New Testament, Jesus in the parable of the last judgment says that when you welcomed the stranger, when you did it to these who are members of my family, you have done it to me. When you welcome the stranger, you welcome Jesus. The book of Hebrews in the New Testament says those who have welcomed the strangers have sometimes welcomed angels unawares. Welcoming the stranger, or as some translations call the alien, welcoming those who are visiting among us is a cardinal virtue and value in our Christian faith.

Jesus was talking to a lawyer once; the story is told in Luke's gospel. And, when he was talking to the lawyer, the lawyer asked him what he must do to inherit eternal life. And Jesus said, what did Moses teach in the Hebrew scriptures? The lawyer said, well, Moses said you shall love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself. And Jesus said do that and you will find life. But the lawyer went on and he asked, well, can we define neighbor more precisely? Who is my neighbor? And that's when Jesus told what we now know as the Parable of the Good Samaritan where one person helped another person, a person who was completely unlike them, someone that person considered other, not my tribe, not my nationality, not my religion, not even my friend. And Jesus at the end of the parable said, who was the neighbor to the man who was in need? And the lawyer said, well the one who actually showed compassion. And Jesus said, now go and do that likewise. That parable of the Good Samaritan invites us, calls us, challenges us, to be neighbor to the neighbor.

Some of our neighbors are at the border and some of our neighbors are those who have immigrated to this country and are living right in our neighborhood or in our city or in our community, or our state. To show compassion to them is to obey Jesus. Go and do likewise.

Show compassion. Show mercy. Help the neighbor. Help the stranger. Love the Lord your God. And love your neighbor as yourself.

"Deeply embedded in the Christian faith, indeed deeply embedded in the Jewish tradition, which is the mother of the Christian faith, and deeply embedded in the faith and traditions and values of many of the world's great religions, is a profound conviction in a sure and certain value and virtue that care for the stranger, the alien, the visitor, is a sacred duty, a sacred vow."



Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4.

Sometimes I need a reminder to prioritize daily Bible reading, even if it’s just for a few minutes, because this fundamental habit of the Christian life is transformative to our lives as busy parents, workers, and children of God.

Since morning time is a bit crazy for me in this season of life with little ones, nighttime is usually my most trusted time to open up the Bible as a peaceful closure to my day. (After an exhausting day, I sometimes take pretty seriously the words of St. Jerome: “Let sleep find you holding your Bible, and when your head nods let it be resting on the sacred page.” At least nodding off during Bible time gets saintly approval...?)

There are many ways to receive that daily nourishment. **Have you noticed the morning Psalm and Prayer posted to our FaceBook page: a link from the Episcopal Church in Delaware? A second source readily available to you are the Forward Day by Day mini books in the rack next to the parish office.** In addition to these two resources, there are numerous podcasts available through YouTube, and countless bible companions and journals that can lead you through daily prayer. Or just literally take the Good Book into your hands and dig in. *Do you prefer electronic or hard copy? Do you have a favorite book or method you can share with us?*

Plan a reliable time every day to open your heart to what God has to say to you through the Holy Scriptures. The consistent time investment will manifest itself in powerful ways in your personal and family spiritual life.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, July 21

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:15 am (DO) Coping with Grief
 10:30am (U) Nursery
 10:30am (GH) Children's Worship
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, July 22

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, July 23

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
 8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, July 24

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 10:30am (C) Bible Study Group
 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
 5:30pm (P) Centering Prayer
 8:00 (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, July 25

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 3:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty

Friday, July 26

6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
 12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, July 27

-available-

Sunday, July 28

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:15am (P) Adult Education
 10:30am (U) Nursery
 10:30am (GH) Children's Worship
 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(DO) Deacon's Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office