

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States
www.dmas-acc.org
<https://stpetersacc.org>

The Rev. Paul Beutell, Priest-in-Charge
September 2019
www.anglicancatholic.org

From the Pen of the Priest in Charge...

The Cross is the most distinct, and powerful, symbol of the Christian Faith. When we see the symbol of a cross we think of Jesus. We best know Jesus by the Cross. And we should. It was on the Cross the world's salvation, our salvation, was accomplished.

But the Cross is more than a symbol. It is more than a decoration; something to be worn around the neck, on pierced ears, or tattooed on bodies. The Cross needs to be burned into our minds, into our souls and into our lives.

Were it not for the Cross, we could not be saved. Period. This truth cannot be stated too strongly. When I hear Christians say God may save people outside of faith in Jesus' finished work on the Cross, I shutter! Jesus ties salvation to the Cross in St. John 3:14-16. In 1 Corinthians 1:18 St. Paul writes "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." The Cross is the only way of salvation we can proclaim to others (1 Corinthians 2:2). Belief in the Cross is essential to salvation and to the Christian Faith. If it is not necessary for salvation, then Jesus died in vain...and so is our faith vain!

But Jesus did not die in vain (and neither is our faith)! His death upon the Cross was vindicated by His bodily resurrection and bodily ascension into heaven. Both prove the Father's plan of salvation is perfect and complete. It is the "...narrow way that leadeth to eternal life..." (St. Matthew 7:14).

We must travel on that way. Jesus' taking up of *His* Cross is both the means of our salvation and His example to those He is saving. I must take up *my* cross and follow Him. Jesus is very clear about this.

In St. Matthew 16:24 Jesus says "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" In St. Matthew 10:38 He says if we do not take up our cross we are not worthy of Him. In St. Luke 9:23 He says we must do this daily. And in St. Luke 14:27 Jesus says: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." The Cross is both undeniable and unavoidable, if we are to be saved.

In taking up our cross, Jesus is saying we must die unto ourselves and take up a new identity. It is personifying Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." It is Galatians 5:24 "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." It is Galatians 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Being crucified with Christ is a process. Even St. Paul states he had yet to fully attain it (Philippians 3:8-14). But like St. Paul this must, daily, be what we are striving for, doing so within the context and boundaries of the life we have been given in Christ. We need to be men and women, spouses, parents, workers, retirees, students, priests who are striving to be "made conformable to [Jesus'] death."

We need to be conscientious partakers of the divine nature infused into us when we were regenerated, given a new nature, in Christ at Baptism. God sowed the seeds of faith into our soul at Baptism.

From there we must build, following the way marked out for us in 2 Peter 1:4-7: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue;

and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (love).”

If we will do this, St. Peter states in v. 8 “...ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (in the knowledge of the Cross). If we will not do this, St. Peter warns in v. 9 “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” (by the power of the Cross). If we lack the will to strive for the virtues of the divine nature, we forget the message of the Cross, and in truth forget Jesus.

The cross we wear around our neck, on our ears, or on our body must be more than a symbol. It must be a “sacramental”; an outward symbol of what the Holy Ghost is working within us. If the Cross is not in our hearts, souls, strength and mind then we wear the symbol in vain.

The Feast of the Holy Cross is Saturday, September 14. We will celebrate it at the Noon mass on September 19. – Fr. Paul

September Birthdays

1. Catherine deRosset

24. Bill Huber

18. Julie Daugherty

News and Notes

Many thanks to Phil and Carole Pappas for hosting the Parish Picnic at their home on August 25. It was a very nice gathering with comfortable weather. Good food and fellowship was shared by all.

As you know, Bishop Lerow was to visit St. Peter’s the day we had the picnic, but was unable to. A rescheduled date for his visit has not yet been scheduled.

Sunday School resumes on September 8. We will be studying the book New Testament Bible Basics for Catholics by Dr. John Bergsma. This book follows up on the material we studied last session on Old Testament basics.

On Saturday, September 21, from 2-4 pm, St. Philip’s Anglican Church in Blacksburg will host a presentation by Alice C. Linsley, a writer, speaker, and independent researcher. A former Episcopal priest and college professor of philosophy and anthropology, for over 35 years she has been pioneering a new field of anthropology that applies an empirical method to the Bible. She will speak briefly about the role of women in the Church and society and then take questions, so come prepared! The presentation will include a break for coffee and light refreshments.

Wisdom from the Church Fathers

St. John Chrysostom commentary on Galatians 6:14

“But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Truly this symbol is thought despicable; but it is so in the world’s reckoning, and among men; in Heaven and among the faithful it is the highest glory. Poverty too is despicable, but it is our boast; and to be cheaply thought of by the public is a matter of laughter to them, but we are elated by it. So too is the Cross our boast. He does not say, I boast not, nor, I will not boast, but, Far be it from me that I should, as if he abominated it as absurd, and invoked the aid of God in order to his success therein. And what is the boast of the Cross? That Christ for my sake took on Him the form of a slave, and bore His sufferings for me the slave, the enemy, the unfeeling

one; yea He so loved me as to give Himself up to a curse for me. What can be comparable to this! If servants who only receive praise from their masters, to whom they are akin by nature, are elated thereby, how must we not boast when the Master who is very God is not ashamed of the Cross which was endured for us. Let us then not be ashamed of His unspeakable tenderness; He was not ashamed of being crucified for your sake, and will you be ashamed to confess His infinite solicitude? It is as if a prisoner who had not been ashamed of his King, should, after that King had come to the prison and himself loosed the chains, become ashamed of him on that account. Yet this would be the height of madness, for this very fact would be a special ground for boasting.

“Through which the world has been crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

What he here calls the world is not the heaven nor the earth, but the affairs of life, the praise of men, retinues, glory, wealth, and all such things as have a show of splendor. To me these things are dead. Such an one it behooves a Christian to be, and always to use this language. Nor was he content with the former putting to death, but added another, saying, and I unto the world, thus implying a double putting to death, and saying, They are dead to me, and I to them, neither can they captivate and overcome me, for they are dead once for all, nor can I desire them, for I too am dead to them. Nothing can be more blessed than this putting to death, for it is the foundation of the blessed life.

July, 2019						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 10:00 a.m. HE TRINITY XI	[2]	[3] 10:00 a.m. PG	[4]	[5] 12 noon HC ST. JOHN VIANNEY	[6]	[7]
[8] 10:00 a.m. HE; SS TRINITY XII	[9]	[10] 10:00 a.m. PG	[11]	[12] 12 noon HC HOLY NAME OF MARY	[13]	[14]
[15] 10:00 a.m. HE; SS TRINITY XIII	[16]	[17] 10:00 a.m. PG	[18]	[19] 12 noon HC THE HOLY CROSS	[20]	[21]
[22] 10:00 a.m. HE; SS ST. MATTHEW	[23]	[24] 10:00 a.m. PG	[25]	[26] 12 noon HC LANCELOT ANDREWES	[27]	[28]
[29] 10:00 a.m. HE; SS ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS	[30]	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE – Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; EP – Evening Prayer; PG – Prayer Group				

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Please — If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT!!!

Week beginning Sunday →	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29
Altar Guild	B. Higginbotham	V. Williams	C. Beutell	M. Slayton	B. Higginbotham
	C. Beutell	B. Higginbotham	C. deRosset	M. Heterick	C. Beutell
Coffee Hour	M. Heterick	S. Darby	M. Slayton	E. Paisley	C. deRosset
Ushers	D. Drysdale	G. Terrell	P. Pappas	A. Butterfield	G. Terrell
	L. Brossy	D. Drysdale	M. Slayton	L. Brossy	M. Slayton
Epistoler	G. Terrell	C. von Claparede	A. Butterfield	G. Mauney	T. Paisley
Server	T. Greene	P. Williams	T. Paisley	T. Greene	P. Williams
Crucifer	P. Williams	W. Paisley	T. Greene	W. Paisley	C. von Claparede

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2019 Vestry members: Allen Butterfield, Dan Drysdale, Angela Greene, Ted Paisley, Phil Pappas, George Terrell.