

Shepherd's Voice

MAY 2023

The monthly parish newsletter of

GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH



WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2023

Monday, May 1 @ 12:15 PM

Feast Day of Sts. Philip & James—Red Letter Holy Day

Sunday, May 7 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 14 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 21 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

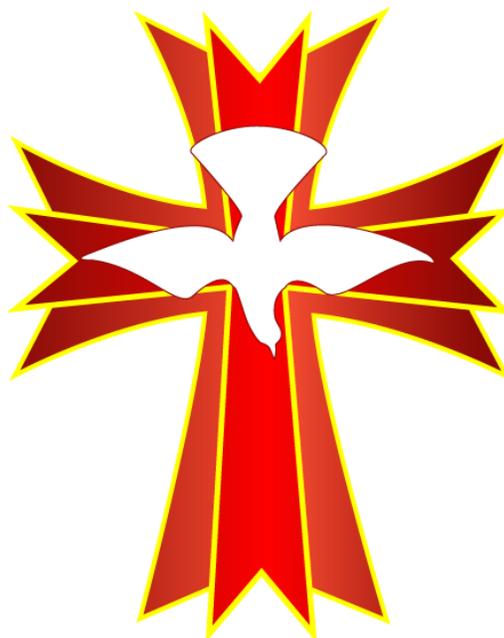
Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Sunday after the Ascension

Sunday, May 28 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Pentecost Sunday

Wednesday, May 31 @ 12:15 PM

Feast of The Visitation—Red Letter Holy Day



FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

PRAYING THE NOVENA OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ADVANCE OF PENTECOST

At a recent Wednesday evening discipleship class, I was asked about the Holy Spirit novena. For the past few years, this devotion has been offered to our family of faith to pray in the nine days between the Ascension of our Lord and the Day of Pentecost. When I first offered this devotion to any willing to pray daily with me for nine days, I expected a couple of people to join me. In actuality, over a dozen people participated the first year, and last year, we were just shy of two dozen participants. This truly amazes me but what really does my heart good is to have a parishioner approach me and enthusiastically ask if we can do it again.

Of course we can do it again! This year, the Feast of the Ascension is Thursday, May 18. That means, from Friday, May 19 through Saturday, May 27, prayer warriors wishing to be a part of this beautiful discipline can pray together (virtually) during the nine days in the lead up to the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to birth the Church as we read about in Acts 1 and celebrate on Pentecost Sunday, May 28.

You may be wondering what exactly a novena is, and more specifically, what a Novena to the Holy Spirit entails. Very good questions. Here are some answers.

The concept of a novena is taken straight out of Holy Scripture. We see in Acts 1 that the disciples "all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." This period of prayer and waiting lasted for nine days, at which time was witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The word *novena* comes to us from the Latin *novem* meaning nine.

The disciples prayerfully spent their time awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who would come and empower them to continue Jesus' mission of spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The disciples would have spent much of this time not only in prayer, but likely also in reflection, discussion, and seeking guidance and direction from God.

Over the 2,000 year history of the Church, many different novenas have been composed and prayed for many different reasons and causes. But the original novena is a Novena to the Holy Spirit we see in Acts 1.

The Holy Spirit Novena we will pray is based in large part on a novena liturgy found in the Anglican *St. Augustine Prayer Book*. While the structure and rhythm of the novena is roughly the same each day, the special intentions offered each day for the Church, change so that on each of the nine days of prayer, participants are praying a different petition, asking God's help for a different area of the greater Church's mission and ministry. The nine distinct petitions are as follows:

Day 1: For the welfare of Christ's Church throughout the world and the welfare of Good Shepherd Church

Day 2: For persecuted Christians throughout the world

Day 3: For churches around the globe forced to meet underground

Day 4: Thanksgiving for the lives of those who, like St. Stephen, were martyred for the One, True, Faith

Day 5: For those churches closing forever and for churches that could carry on their light

Day 6: For the strength of Christian clergy everywhere to hold their churches together, especially in the midst of this troubled world

Day 7: For those churches and parishioners in the Anglican Church in North America, especially those in our Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

Day 8: For churches, congregations, and Christians under the influence of false teachers

Day 9: For Christian clergy throughout the world, that they would remain faithful to the Word and Sacraments of Christ's Church

In the coming days, a link will be made available on our website that will allow folks to sign up to be a part of the Holy Spirit Novena through Good Shepherd Anglican Church. Participants will simply register their name and email address. On the morning of May 19, the first of nine emails will arrive in the participants inbox. In the text of the email will be liturgy of the novena for the participant to read and pray. There will also be a link in the email for those who like to pray along with another. Using that link will cause your computer or device to play an audio of the novena for that day. Emails will come first thing each morning over the course of the nine days.

The Holy Spirit Novena serves as a model for Christians today who seek to deepen their faith and relationship with God. It reminds us of the importance of prayer, reflection, and waiting on God's timing. Through prayer and waiting, we can open ourselves up to the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I pray you will consider being a part of this powerful devotion.

Until next month, let your light shine!



Fr. Randall M. Graf, Rector

DIOCESAN RETREATS

The Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast has two upcoming retreats scheduled for summer.

The Take Courage Ladies Retreat will be held June 2-3 at St. Timothy's Anglican Church in Spring, Texas. Online registration is open at <https://dwgc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1640218>.

The Diocesan Men's Retreat is scheduled for September 8 through September 10 at the Trinity Pines Conference Center in Trinity, Texas. Online registration for this retreat can be found at: <https://dwgc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1649336>



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Recently, leaders from Good Shepherd Anglican Church met to discuss Vacation Bible School for the summer. The initial planning is underway and continues. Dates have been picked.

VBS will run evenings at Good Shepherd this year from Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23. Our start time will be 5:30 PM and VBS will dismiss each evening at 7:00 PM.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information as plans come together and be thinking about youngsters in your life that would benefit from attending VBS.

Of course, we can always use additional volunteers, so please step up if you are able to help. There is plenty of room for assisting, from working directly with students to helping prepare snacks.

For more information, see Rinda Coleman or Fr. Randall.



WOMEN'S GUILD

Last year Good Shepherd the privilege of contributing to the Baby Bottle efforts supporting the Woman's New Life Clinic.

For the month of May, we would like to extend this effort to support new mothers by collecting infant supplies such as **clothes, pacifiers, diapers**, and anything else you feel that they might need. We will provide the items we collect to the Woman's New Life Clinic.

We will honor all mothers during May, especially on May 14, which is designated as Mother's Day.

We appreciate the congregation's support.



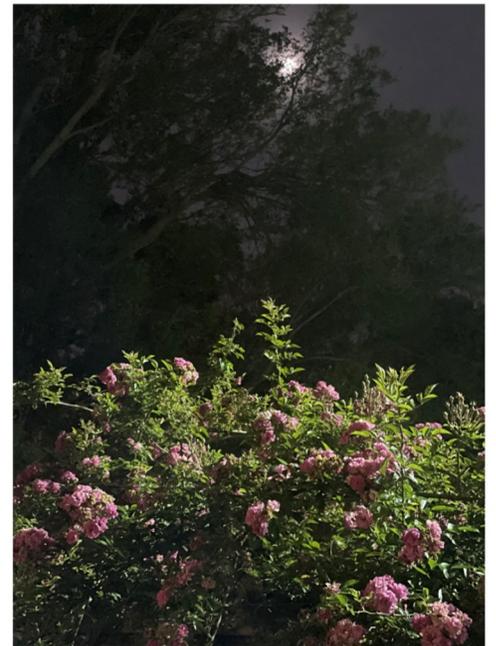
ALL NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL

On the evening of April 6, 2023, following the Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist, Good Shepherd Anglican Church offered an all night prayer vigil in our prayer garden. We had a total of 16 participants who took shifts from 7:30 PM on Thursday until 7:30 AM on Good Friday morning. In the course of 12 hours, these prayer warriors racked up over 50 hours of prayer between them.

Many thanks to each person who participated, including:

Michael T. Abadie, Margarte Aucoin, Mel Aucoin, Rinda Coleman, Joe Edwards, Sandy Graci, Fr. Randall Graf, Madison Graf, Noah Huntley, Jeff Lackley, Suzi Lanier, Stuart Patterson, Danny Pianovich, Matthew Rieger, Carla Scallan, and Karen Strom,

We hope to make this an annual event.



Moon peaking through the prayer garden at 4:23 AM, Good Friday, April 7, 2023.

LASAGNA LUNCHEON

On Sunday, April 16, we held a Lasagna Luncheon fundraiser after church which raised over \$1300! The lasagna was absolutely incredible and followed closely the recipe of the late Mrs. Maria Heikamp.

Many thanks to all who helped make this a success, especially our cooks: Carla Scallan, Margaret Aucion, Gwen Martinez, Izzy Martinez, and Mel Aucion; and our servers: Jacob Aucoin, Sarah Aucion, and Sheila Fussell.



NOTES FROM RINDA

As we enter the month of May I am reminded of the years when I was teaching and looking forward to the end of the school year. Many of us have children or grandchildren who are approaching their summer vacation with a great deal of excitement. We can help them have a rewarding experience by making sure that they are present during VBS.

We truly miss Mr. Stan McDonald and his dedication to the choir. He never missed a rehearsal or worship service. He was an inspiration to all of us.

Our Good Shepherd choir has worked diligently this year. We have gained several new members who have been wonderful additions to our choral sound. I have said this before and I'll continue to

say that this is the most dedicated group of singers I have ever worked with. I am blessed every week by how the Holy Spirit takes our offering and blesses it. No one in the group is in choir for their own glory, but for the glory of God. Pentecost Sunday will be the final offering before summer break for the choir. I can't begin to express my love and appreciation for each member of the Good Shepherd Choir.



Rinda Coleman
Music Director

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www.GSCMet.com



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A COLLECT FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

*Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.***

From the ACNA (2019) Book of Common Prayer, page 654.



PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began, Good Shepherd Church has been streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday morning Service of Holy Eucharist each week. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the lector reads a prayer entitled ***An Act of Spiritual Communion*** for those who are watching at home and are unable to partake in the reception of Holy Communion sacramentally. That beautiful prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 677, ACNA 2019) and can be prayed by a Christian any time they are longing for the grace of Holy Communion but are unable to receive the tangible elements of the sacrament. These are the words to that prayer:

***Dear Jesus, I believe that you
are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to possess you within my soul.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people
gathered around every altar of your Church,
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.***



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Red Letter Holy Days

12:15 PM or 6:30 PM

