

Birthday: Robert Carey, Kasia D'Auria, Patti Sullivan

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Good News Daily

Friday's Calendar
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m. VBS
8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: 20 & 30's

Volume XVIII June 17—June 23, 2018 Number 24

Saturday, June 23

Romans 3:9-20 *What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.* (v.9)

There is a misnomer seeping into pulpits these days; something Paul spoke about in today's verses. It has been embraced by pseudo-spiritual movies and books. It states that mankind is essentially good with a God-spark inside. We just need to tap into it. Wrong.

To believe this negates the reason Jesus came to earth. It reduces him to a wise, love-prophet who taught us how to live with each other a bit better. Yes, once we confess him as Lord, his Spirit dwells within us. But not until then. We are not automatically born into God's family. We have to be re-born into it.

If man is essentially good, then the Garden of Eden never happened. We do not need a Savior, and we can achieve salvation on our own. Many other religions believe this, but only *one* man claimed to be the Way, the Truth and the Life who could lead us out of the darkness of our sins into the light of love. His name is Jesus, and one day every knee will bow at the sound of that name.

Numbers 13:31—14:25; Psalms 87, 90; Matthew 19:1-12

Birthday: Michael Abruzzo, June Gibson, Savanna Nardone

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m. Shepherd Group
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women
12:00 p.m. Nar-Anon "Clean at Noon"
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
6:00 p.m. Taste of St. Mary's
6:30 p.m. Nar-Anon "Kleen N Krazy"
8:30 p.m. Nar-Anon "Not Alone"

Today's Ministry: Acolytes



"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

The Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Todd L. Cederberg, *Rector* - frtodd@stmarys-stuart.org
The Rev. Christian S. Anderson, *Assistant Rector* - christian@stmarys-stuart.org
The Rev. Steve Fregeau, *Retired Assisting* - frsteve@stmarys-stuart.org

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Sunday, June 17

Numbers 6:22-27 *The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites.'"* (vv.22-23 NIV)

Almost every Sunday, our priest raised his hand and repeated these verses as he made the sign of the cross over the congregation. The words became almost diluted of their power after a while until I realized that this was a commandment from God to the priests from the very get-go. Then suddenly their power seared into my heart like a brand onto a steer's hide.

Much of our rich, liturgical tradition stems back from the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Bible. These practices have been carried on for thousands of years and passed from priest to priest, synagogue to church, city to city, all over the globe.

Jesus is our Vine, and the roots of our worship run very, very deep indeed. As it states in the lesson from Luke, the master puts the manager in charge of his servants and holds him (or her) accountable. How often do you thank your priest (or pastor) for carrying out the Master's commands?

Psalms 93, 96; Acts 13:1-12; Luke 12:41-48

Birthdays: Genie DuPell, Morgan Ferrera, Ann Stocker

Anniversaries: Frank & Frances Bell, Thomas & Janet Bevan,
Joseph & Sally Johnson, Rev. Todd & Darla
Cederberg

Sunday's Calendar

DISCRETIONARY FUND SUNDAY
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Coffee Hour in Thrift Store
after the 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Services
Blessing of the Thrift Store

Today's Ministry: Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 18

Psalm 80 *Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.* (v.3)

The allusion to the Aaronic blessing from yesterday’s passage is repeated almost as a chorus throughout this psalm. What does it mean and why is it so important?

Think of when people’s faces shine. Couples in love have a glow about them. So do women who are pregnant, or grandparents when the hug their grandchildren.

When, through confession, our sins are forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus, God can then turn to us. When He does, His face shimmers with love and happiness. His child has returned. The relationship, once broken by sin, is restored. Being able to shine His face upon us, His children, was important enough for God to sacrifice His own Son in order to make it happen. Should it not carry a great deal of weight with us as well?

Lord, may I start out each day with this verse on my lips and in my heart.

Numbers 9:15-23, 10:29-36; Romans 1:1-15; Matthew 17:14-21

Birthdays: Peg Kennelly, Jan Rogan,

Anniversaries: Zachary & Catherine Johnson, Floyd & Barbara McKinnon, Robert & Melinda Rhoads

Monday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 9:00 a.m. VBS
 5:30 p.m. ACA Families
 6:30 a.m. NAMI Group

Today’s Ministry: The Vestry

Tuesday, June 19

Romans 1:16-25 *The wrath of God is being revealed against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness.* (v.18)

If you live in Texas, as I do, June “Teenth” has a special meaning. On this day in history, the slaves in my state learned of the Emancipation Proclamation. (No cyberspace or TV back in 1863 to broadcast the news quickly.) Some owners didn’t want the word to get out. They wanted to keep people in slavery.

Today, people are still enslaved—by sin. Nothing new. As you read what Paul wrote to the first century Romans, you’d almost believe he meant it for today’s readers. Pleasure cannot set us free. Exploitation of others either. Money can’t do it or power. Only the blood of Jesus can.

As was the case two thousand years ago, we have a choice. We can be restored to a right relationship, or go on about our wicked ways just as our ancestors did. Let us choose to loosen the chains that bind us to sin and then quickly proclaim to others the emancipation that is available to all who believe Jesus is Christ.

Numbers 11:1-23; Psalm 78:1-39; Matthew 17:22-27

Birthdays: John Funston

Tuesday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 9:00 a.m. VBS
 9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing
 3:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
 5:30 p.m. Facility Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Overeaters’ Anonymous

Today’s Ministry: Wedding Guild

Wednesday, June 20

Matthew 18:1-9 *And he [Jesus] said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (v.3)

Have you ever watched a child as they expectantly wait for something? Their eager faces and antsy little bodies scream their expectation of the joy which is to soon arrive. And when it happens, be it a pony or an ice cream cone, they are unabashed in showing their pleasure. Such child-like faith.

Do we react that way while waiting for God’s blessings, or do we grumble because He is “taking His sweet time”? Faith is positive anticipation and assured hope that what God has in store for us is good, even if things seem just the opposite at the moment. Also, with the trust of a child to his parents, we must realize that even when the thunder rocks our world, our Father is there to comfort and guide us. We never outgrow the need to have our *Abba* Father near.

Don’t burst a child’s bubble and tell them to grow up and face reality. Instead, adopt their joyous faith—need for dependency, and lack of skepticism. See how much fuller your life can become.

Numbers 11:24-25; Psalm 119:97-120; Romans 1:28—2:11

Anniversary: Christopher & Emily Karr, Robert & Patricia Ditmars

Wednesday’s Calendar

6:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
 7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 9:00 a.m. VBS
 1:00 p.m. Journaling 101
 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
 4:45 p.m. Mary’s Kitchen
 5:30 p.m. AA “Daily Reflections”
 6:00 p.m. Life Groups
 6:30 p.m. “Joy” Two Series Class
 8:30 p.m. Nar-Anon “Klean and Crazy”

Today’s Ministry: Worship Assistant

Thursday, June 21

Psalm 83 *Make them like tumbleweed, my God, like chaff before the wind.* (v.13)

Oh, how honest the psalmist is. Smite my enemies, God. Make them all go away. Show them who’s boss. If only life was so simple, right?

We may not have enemies barreling down upon us to physically threaten us as the psalmist did, but who hasn’t almost prayed, if not downright demanded, for vengeance? If vengeance is yours, God, then would You kindly do something? We’d like a little justice over here, please.

The psalmist asked God to shame his enemies. But Jesus, when he came to earth hundreds of years later, took a different stance. He said to be kind to them and love on them (Matthew 5:43-48). Paul tells us in Romans 12:20, it’ll be like heaping burning coals on their heads.

God answered the psalmist, and He answers us today. Convict them with the love I instill in your hearts. Then they will see I am God, through you. Many an abuser or assaulter has been convicted by a believer’s refusal to retaliate in hate—including the soldier at the foot of the Cross who proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God.

Numbers 12:1-16; Romans 2:12-24; Matthew 18:10-20

Birthdays: Stephani Nardone, Marge Hohman

Thursday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
 9:00 a.m. VBS
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 5:00 p.m. Warden’s Meeting
 5:30 p.m. ACA Men’s Group
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon “Stepping Stones”

Today’s Ministry: Youth Group

Friday, June 22

Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30 *They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.* (v.26)

The explorers reported to the Hebrew people in the desert what lay beyond the Jordan River, i.e. in the “Promised Land.” The sojourners dangled the juicy fruit in front of them knowing these people were tired of eating manna after forty years. Then they added a disclaimer. But wait, you won’t be able to get much of this delicious food because there are mean giants over there. All became discouraged, except for Caleb who trusted the good outweighed the bad. Why? Because he believed God kept His promises.

Are you a glass half-empty or half-full type of person? Do you look for the other shoe to fall, or seek the good in the situation, trusting God is, as the hymn states, working His purpose out? Sometimes blessings come hidden, and at times they are attainable, but at a cost.

It is our perspective that makes all the difference. We can stress over the giants or, like David, trust our God is bigger and that He will provide what we need to fell them.