



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.

Practicing Easter Joy



Here we are, a little over halfway through the Easter season, the fifty-day period from Easter Day until Pentecost. It is a time of celebration, of feasting, and of extra "Alleluias." But my question in this article is this: how intentional are we about the seasons of celebration in the Church year?

When thinking about intentionality, we can look at our penitential seasons and see it very clearly. For Lent and Advent, we make a point of sacrifice and self-denial.

Many people give things up, especially for Lent. Others practice fasting and abstinence from meat, particularly on Fridays. We make lots of small, intentional choices to help us focus on our penitence in preparation for our major feasts. The Church also provides resources like devotional books and guides for self-examination and confession. We have extra services like Stations of the Cross and the entire drama that unfolds through Holy Week.

But what about our seasons of joy? What about Christmas and Easter?

Maybe part of our lack of intentionality in joyous seasons is that celebration feels easier and is simply more fun. But that can become a problem when we get caught up in festivity, or in the relaxing of certain disciplines, and forget why we are celebrating in the first place. Christian celebration is not just having a good time. It is not merely eating richer food, singing louder hymns, or saying more Alleluias. It is the sacred practice of rejoicing in what God has done.

And what God has done is win victory over death, provide for the salvation of our souls, and give us the promise of everlasting life. This season is our opportunity to remember that victory and let that reality sink in. It is a time to let the Resurrection permeate our lives and inform everything we do.

So, how can we be intentional about practicing the joy of Easter? Perhaps in the same small ways we are intentional during our penitential seasons. When it comes to small indulgences, do not simply think of them as a laying aside of discipline. Actively enjoy them with a glad heart. Make a point to give thanks to God for those gifts. Understand the pleasures of this life, not as an escape from everyday drudgery, but as a foretaste of heaven, where all that is good, true, and beautiful will be perfected in the presence of God.

Another idea would be to reach out to someone for the simple purpose of sharing joy. Invite someone you have not spoken with or seen in a while to share a meal, or simply call them to have a conversation. Be mindful of sharing the ways in which you have been blessed. Rejoice with them in their blessings and encourage them in their sorrows.

As we finish out this Easter season, make sure to find reasons to give thanks and ways to experience and spread the joy of the Resurrection. We are, after all, an Easter people who live in hopeful expectation of unending joy. Alleluia!

Fr. Alan Horton+

HE IS RISEN



LADIES TRIP TO THE PAINTED CHURCHES OF SCHULENBURG, TX



Photo by Barbara Edwards

Over 500 photos were taken by our group. These are just a few to share now. A slide show is in the works and will be shared in a few weeks. Special thanks to Milissa Holt for arranging the Google file share so we may all contribute our photos for the slide show. Talk to Cindy or Milissa if you have



First, I would like to thank Angie Griffin for organizing the ladies trip to Schulenburg and the Painted Churches tour. We had eighteen women go and enjoy the fellowship and the beautiful churches. It was educational and inspiring to learn traditions of the older churches and the beauty of each unique church.

May 9th, the diocese is hosting a service and brunch for the women of the church. It is always nice to socialize with other women in our diocese. Mother's Day is always special at St. Gregory's. Everyone anticipates this wonderful brunch. We end the month on May 29th with an old

fashioned Ice Cream Social with all the toppings and games for all ages.

On a more serious note, the Daughters of the Holy Cross accepts the charge of prayer, service, study and evangelism. Striving to do what God has planned for each of us is so important. Our church has had so many members that have had surgery, health problems and families in need of protection and guidance. Rest assured that you are being prayed for by us daily. If you need us, please let us know and we will be glad to add you to our prayer list.

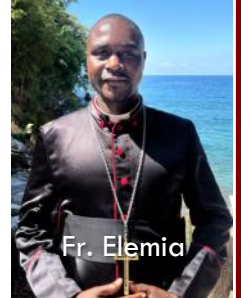
In Christ Alone, Kathy Walker

FR. HORTON HEADS TO MALAWI IN JULY

Fr. Horton is headed to Malawi in July to lead the diocesan clergy retreat for the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi (DNM).

This diocese is centered in Mzuzu, in the Northern Region of Malawi and was established in 1995. The focus of the diocese has been spiritual growth, education and community development, including water sanitation, health services and food security programs.

Parishioners at St. Gregory's are reminded of Malawi each Sunday as we pray for our Centurion Priest, Fr. Elemia (pictured in this article). The Centurion Program was set up by the Diocese of Ft. Worth, which allows us to partner with the priests in the Diocese of Northern Malawi. In addition to offering prayers, St. Gregory's provides financial support to Fr. Elemia by way of a monthly stipend to assist with his ministry in Malawi.



Anyone wishing to contribute to Fr. Horton's journey may do so by writing a check to St. Gregory's Church. Write MALAWI TRIP in the check memo area and put your check in the offering plate. If making a cash donation, enclose your donation in an envelope and write MALAWI TRIP on the envelope. Of course you may speak with Fr. Horton directly about a donation.

Fr. Mark Polley, of St. Vincent's Cathedral, will accompany Fr. Horton on this trip. The two will leave for Malawi on July 9th and return on July 19th.



KUBB TOURNAMENT 2026

RAIN COULD NOT STOP OUR 2ND ANNUAL KUBB TOURNAMENT

Our second annual Kubb tournament was threatened by rain, but after a short delay, the tournament continued with great success, hot dogs, and fun for all! Congratulations to the winning team of John Hamaker and Tim Cannon.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, May 29th

Wilson Hall
6:30



Get ready to scoop up some fun! Wilson Hall will be chilling and buzzing with cold treats on Friday, May 29th, as we gather to enjoy an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social at 6:00 p.m.

Have fun as you create your dream sundaes with a delightful selection of ice cream flavors, topped with fruit, rich chocolate fudge, colorful sprinkles, and more. And for those looking for something beyond dessert, hot dogs and chips will be available to satisfy any savory cravings.

The evening isn't just about the treats. There will be games to bring everyone together for some lighthearted fun and laughter. Come ready to participate in an evening of fellowship, encouraging families and friends to come out, connect, and enjoy a fun night filled with good company and delicious food.

Make sure to mark your calendars and bring your sweet tooth. This is an event you won't want to miss!

May Birthdays

08~Heinz Liedke

10~Joe Cushing

11~Margeaux Horton

13~Robert Durden

17~Carol McKenna

17~Rebecca Jennings

18~Robert Bloomfield

21~Elizabeth Clark

25~Tim Cannon

31~Chris Cushing



May Events & Meetings

- 01~6:00pm Burgers & Bingo
- 02~8:00am Men's Group @Rosa's
10:00am Navigating Life's Final Chapter
- 05~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 07~9:30am Genealogy Meeting
- 08~9:00am St. Clara's Guild
- 10~10:00am Mother's Day Brunch
- 12~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 16~8:00am Men's Group @Rosa's
- 19~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 21~9:00am Dominoes & Donuts
- 23~10:00am DHC Meeting
- 24~9:00 am Youth Sunday Service
Food Drive - Breakfast food items
- 25~Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed
- 26~9:30am Women's Study Group
- 29~6:00pm Ice Cream Social

Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 10th



St. Clara's Guild

Join us for our next meeting on Friday, May 8 at 9:00 am in Wilson Hall when we will continue to make fleece blankets. We will also plan our summer schedule at this meeting.

- Barbara Edwards

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 am, we will host a seminar in Wilson Hall: Navigating Life's Final Chapter.

Six speakers will offer suggestions and planning advice about end of life decisions we all face. We are expecting 30+ attendees. If you didn't sign up to attend, come anyway.

Our next meeting will be May 7th at 9:30 am. in Wilson Hall. We will have a guest speaker from the Arlington Genealogy Society. Lunch will be at Mexican Inn after the meeting. Come join us!

-Gayle Bradburn

God's Vision for the World *(this is a reprint from last month. Part of the article was missed)*

We might be surprised to find out that the most powerful flow of prayer is the way in which God communicates with us, rather than, as we might prefer to view this process, us communicating with God.

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" asked Corrie ten Boom [1892-1983] in her Clippings from My Notebook, 1982.



Submitted by
Heinz Liedke

The role of foreign ambassadors in the world is to equate oneself regularly and consistently with their own government policy and focus on direct instructions from home in a crisis. Things work best if we approach the idea of our relationship with God in the kingdom from the same direction.

The Kingdom of God is where God's will is done, and not necessarily about where we achieve 'what we want', or manage through our persistence, to persuade God to do! To achieve this, we must stay closely in touch with the King of that Kingdom.

It is in realizing this truth, that the beginning of every good (and successful) Kingdom initiative comes directly from God's heart, and is the very foundation for our newly rewarding kingdom life. It raises within us (it would with anyone) the level of a natural 'water table' of trust, the essential building block of any relationship. It serves to underline the basic necessity of listening to what God wants us to pray for, and for us to move into, before any action on our part takes place. The direction we follow, to be counted as righteous in this context, has to be through his instruction.

As a result, we Kingdom people, we agents for change, we prayer-givers, will open gaps in the world to let in the grace-light of heaven. We listen to what God wants to do, and we pray for it to happen and through this partnership, we *"make straight the way of the Lord."*

Then He can move. That is the main characteristic of life in the Kingdom, and it is achieved in practice through the working nature of our prayer partnership with Jesus Christ. - Reverend Mike Endicott

Join Us in Service and Fellowship

Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

Children's Religious Education

Help our children learn more about God and his teachings in our children's Sunday school classes.

St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make up this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



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