

Newsletter for August 27 2023

This Sunday, August 27 2023, is The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.

Service will be at 9:30 am.

The Service bulletin is attached. Print it out and give it to a friend or neighbor who might be considering attending church again.

Coffee and sweets will be served after the service.

Sunday School on Saturday at 10 am on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at the church. Call Fr. Greg for details 352-205-8567

Call Mitzi Hennessey (352-633-9926) if you would like to donate to the Samaritans Purse for a shoe box gifts for kids program. See attached announcement.

If you need a ride to church please call one of the Vestry Members listed on the back of the service bulletin. They will be gratified that you asked and pleased to give you a ride or arrange for one. Contact me, or Fr. Greg, at 352-205-8567.

Fr. Greg's Discretionary Fund - *If you would like to donate to this fund please write a check to St. Alban's Anglican Church with the notation that it is for this fund.*

Prayer List on Service Bulletins - Each week a prayer list is published in the bulletin. Changes to the list should be sent to Fr. Greg Koon. The prayer list includes: Bill, Megan, Kevin, Dale, Tony, Landis, Barbara, Kathy, Nick, Bob, Laura, Andrew, Sarah, Linda, Michael, and Armando.

The Church's coordinates include:

St. Alban's Anglican Church, 625 W. Lady Lake Blvd., Lady Lake, FL 32159

Telephone: 352-205-8567.

When no one is there, it forwards to Fr. Greg Koon.

Note: Lady Lake Blvd is now paved all the way from Rolling Acres Road through to Lady Lake and Rt. 27/441. If you are coming to church from south of 466 on 27/441 turn left on Lady Lake Blvd. which goes right to our parking lot.

Altar Flowers - If you would like to dedicate flowers to some one or some event, donate to the Altar Flower fund. Please contact Mitzi Hennessey a few

weeks in advance so the flowers can be ordered. Call Mitzi at 352-633-9926 or email mitzi2201965@gmail.com.

Please let the editor of this weekly eNewsletter know if it is useful to you, or not, or have suggestions on how to improve it, or would like to help write it.

-Commemorations from the Ordo Kalendar

Unless noted otherwise most information is from <http://www.wikipedia.org>

Please note the use of the term "(Comm. Feria)" beginning in March 2022 in the Ordo Kalendar.

Feria is a day other than the sabbath day. In the liturgy of the Catholic Church, a feria is a day of the week other than Sunday. - In more recent official liturgical texts in English, the term weekday is used instead of feria. - If the feast day of a saint falls on such a day, the liturgy celebrated may be that of the saint, not that of the feria (the weekday liturgy). - Accordingly, in actual liturgical practice a feria or ferial day is "a weekday on which no special ecclesiastical feast is to be celebrated."

The calendar of saints is the traditional Christian method of organizing a liturgical year by associating each day with one or more saints and referring to the day as the feast day or feast of said saint. The word "feast" in this context does not mean "a large meal, typically a celebratory one," but instead "an annual religious celebration, a day dedicated to a particular saint."

August 15 - The Dormition (Assumption) of the Blessed Virgin

Mary into Heaven, informally known as The Assumption, according to the Christian beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church and parts of Anglicanism, was the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.

The Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory" dogmatically and infallibly defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950. Eastern Orthodox tradition teaches that Mary died and then rose to Heaven. In the churches which observe it, the Assumption is a major feast day, commonly celebrated on August 15 and often marked as a Holy Day of Obligation with the related octave continuing through August 22.

Pope John Paul II quoted John 14:3 as one of the scriptural bases for understanding the dogma of the Assumption of Mary. In this verse, Jesus tells his disciples at the Last Supper, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also." According to Catholic theology, Mary is the pledge of the fulfillment of Christ's promise.

The feast of the Assumption on August 15 is a public holiday in many countries, including Austria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Germany (Bavaria only), Greece, Lebanon, Lithuania, Italy, Malta, Mauritius, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Spain and Vanuatu.

August 16 - St. Jochim, Father of the B.V.M. - The canonical scriptures say nothing of the birth or parentage of Mary, but countless art works through the ages have taken their cue from legendary material. From at least the 2nd century, this material proposes that Mary's parents were named Joachim and Anna. They had been childless for 20 years when an angel appeared to them separately and told them to meet in Jerusalem at the Golden Gate, for they were going to have a child "who will be spoken of in all the world." When the child was born they named her Mary.

St. Joachim is described as a rich and pious man of the house of David who regularly gave to the poor and to the temple (synagogue) at Sepphoris. However, as his wife was barren, the high priest rejected Joachim and his sacrifice, as his wife's childlessness was interpreted as a sign of divine displeasure. Joachim consequently withdrew to the desert where he fasted and did penance for forty days. Angels then appeared to both Joachim and Anne to promise them a child. Joachim later returned to Jerusalem and embraced Anne at the city gate. The cycle of legends concerning Joachim and Anne were included in the Golden Legend and remained popular in Christian art until the Council of Trent restricted the depiction of apocryphal events. No liturgical celebration of Saint Joachim was included in the Tridentine Calendar. It was added to the General Roman Calendar in 1584, for celebration on March 20, the day after the feast day of Saint Joseph. In 1738, it was transferred to the Sunday after the Octave of the Assumption of Mary. As part of his effort to allow the liturgy of Sundays to be celebrated, Pope Pius X transferred it to August 16.

August 18 - Flavia Julia Helena, Q,W (c. AD 246/248– c. 330), also known as Helena of Constantinople and Saint Helena, was an Augusta of the Roman Empire and mother of Emperor Constantine the Great. She was born in the lower classes traditionally in the Greek city of Drepanon, Bithynia, in Asia Minor, which was renamed Helenopolis in her honor, though several locations have been proposed for her birthplace and origin.

Helena ranks as an important figure in the history of Christianity. In her final years, she made a religious tour of Syria Palaestina and Jerusalem, during which ancient tradition claims that she discovered the True Cross.

In AD 70. Emperor Hadrian had built during the 130s a temple to Venus over the supposed site of Jesus' tomb near Calvary, and renamed the city Aelia Capitolina. Accounts differ concerning whether the temple was dedicated to Venus or Jupiter. According to Eusebius, "[t]here was a temple of Venus on the

spot. This the queen (Helena) had destroyed." According to tradition, Helena ordered the temple torn down and, according to the legend that arose at the end of the 4th century, chose a site to begin excavating, which led to the recovery of three different crosses.

The legend is recounted in Ambrose, *On the Death of Theodosius* (died 395) and at length in Rufinus' chapters appended to his translation into Latin of Eusebius's *Ecclesiastical History*, the main body of which does not mention the event. Then, Rufinus relates, the empress refused to be swayed by anything short of solid proof and performed a test. Possibly through Bishop Macarius of Jerusalem, she had a woman who was near death brought from the city. When the woman touched the first and second crosses, her condition did not change, but when she touched the third and final cross she suddenly recovered, and Helena declared the cross with which the woman had been touched to be the True Cross.

The Eastern Orthodox Church, Catholic Church, Oriental Orthodox Churches, and Anglican Communion revere her as a saint, and the Lutheran Church commemorates her.

Her feast day in the Roman Catholic Church and in Antiochian Western Rite Vicariate falls on 18 August.

August 24 - St. Bartholomew (Apostle, Martyr) (born and died, 1st century AD)

Bartholomew was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, and is usually identified with Nathanael (alternatively spelled Nathaniel), who is mentioned in John 1. He was introduced to Christ through Philip, another of the twelve apostles as per John 1:43–51, where the name Nathanael first appears. He is also mentioned as "Nathanael of Cana in Galilee" in John 21:2. The account of the calling of Nathanael of Cana occurs at the end of John 1, immediately followed by the account of Jesus' miracle at the Marriage at Cana in John 2. The name Nathanael is the one used for him in John's Gospel. The relationship between Philip and Nathanael is noted as per John 1:43–51.

According to the Synaxarium of the Coptic Orthodox Church, his martyrdom is commemorated on the 1st day of the Coptic Calendar (1st day of the month of "Thout"), which currently falls on September 11 (corresponding to August 29 in the Gregorian Calendar). His feast is June 11 in Eastern Christianity, and August 24 in both forms of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. The festival in August has been a traditional occasion for markets and fairs, such as the Bartholomew Fair held in Smithfield, London since the Middle Ages, which served as the scene for Ben Jonson's homonymous comedy. (Editor's note: What is this about? I find only scant references to it in Wikipedia or Google.)

Of the many miracles performed by Bartholomew before and after his death, two very popular ones are known by the townsfolk of the small island of Lipari (off the coast of Sicily in the Tyrrhenian Sea).

The people of Lipari celebrated his feast day annually. The tradition of the people was to take the solid silver and gold statue from inside the Cathedral of St Bartholomew and carry it through the town. On one occasion, when taking the statue down the hill towards the town, it suddenly got very heavy and had to be set down. When the men carrying the statue regained their strength they lifted it a second time. After another few seconds, it got even heavier. They set it down and attempted once more to pick it up. They managed to lift it but had to put it down one last time. Within seconds, walls further downhill collapsed. If the statue had been able to be lifted, all the towns people would have been killed.

During World War II, the Fascist regime (German/Italian) looked for ways to finance their activities. The order was given to take the silver statue of St Bartholomew and melt it down. The statue was weighed, and it was found to be only a few grams. It was returned to its place in the Cathedral of Lipari. In reality, the statue is made from many kilograms of silver and it is considered a miracle that it was not melted down.

St Bartholomew is credited with many other miracles having to do with the weight of objects.

Patronage: Armenia; bookbinders; butchers; Florentine cheese and salt merchants; leather workers; neurological diseases; plasterers; shoemakers; carriers; tanners; trappers; twitching; whiteners. (The last two baffle me as to what they may be.)

August 25 - Louis IX (25 April 1214 – 25 August 1270), King, Confessor - commonly Saint Louis, was a Capetian King of France who reigned from 1226 until his death. Louis was crowned in Reims at the age of 12, following the death of his father Louis VIII the Lion, although his mother, Blanche of Castile, ruled the kingdom until he reached majority. During Louis's minority, Blanche dealt with the opposition of rebellious vassals and put an end to the Albigensian crusade which had started 20 years earlier.

As an adult, Louis IX faced recurring conflicts with some of the most powerful nobles, such as Hugh X of Lusignan and Peter of Dreux. Simultaneously, Henry III of England tried to restore his continental possessions, but was defeated at the battle of Taillebourg. His reign saw the annexation of several provinces, notably Normandy, Maine and Provence.

Louis's actions were inspired by Christian values, he decided to punish blasphemy, gambling, interest-bearing loans and prostitution, he bought the

relics of Christ for which he built the Sainte-Chapelle and tried to convert the Jews of France.

Louis IX was also a reformer and developed French royal justice, in which the king is the supreme judge to whom anyone is able to appeal to seek the amendment of a judgment. He banned trials by ordeal, tried to prevent private wars that were plaguing the country and introduced the presumption of innocence in criminal procedure. To enforce the correct application of this new legal system, Louis IX created provosts and bailiffs.

According to his vow made after a serious illness, and confirmed after a miraculous cure, Louis IX took an active part in the Seventh and Eighth Crusade in which he died from dysentery. He was succeeded by his son Philip III.

A devout Catholic, he is the only canonized king of France. Consequently, there are many places named after him.

August 28 - Augustine of Hippo (Bishop, Confessor, Doctor) (November 13, 354 – August 28, 430), was bishop of Hippo Regius (present-day Annaba, Algeria). He was a Latin philosopher and theologian from the Africa Province of the Roman Empire and is generally considered as one of the greatest Christian thinkers of all times. His writings were very influential in the development of Western Christianity.

According to his contemporary Jerome, Augustine "established anew the ancient Faith." After his conversion to Christianity and his baptism in 387, Augustine developed his own approach to philosophy and theology, accommodating a variety of methods and different perspectives. He believed that the grace of Christ was indispensable to human freedom, and he framed the concepts of original sin and just war.

When the Western Roman Empire was starting to disintegrate, Augustine developed the concept of the Catholic Church as a spiritual City of God, distinct from the material Earthly City. His thoughts profoundly influenced the medieval worldview. Augustine's City of God was closely identified with the Church, the community that worshiped the Trinity.

In the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion, he is a saint and pre-eminent Doctor of the Church, and the patron of the Augustinians; his memorial is celebrated 28 August, the day of his death. He is the patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians, the alleviation of sore eyes, and a number of cities and dioceses. Many Protestants, especially Calvinists, consider him to be one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation due to his teaching on salvation and divine grace.

His early and influential writing on the human will, a central topic in ethics, would become a focus for later philosophers such as Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. In addition, Augustine was influenced by the works of Virgil (known for his teaching on language), Cicero (known for his teaching on argument), and Aristotle (particularly his Rhetoric and Poetics).

Shortly before Augustine's death, Roman Africa was invaded by the Vandals, a Germanic tribe that had converted to Arianism. The Vandals besieged Hippo in the spring of 430, when Augustine entered his final illness. According to Possidius one of the few miracles attributed to Augustine took place during the siege. While Augustine was confined to his sick bed, a man petitioned him that he might lay his hands upon a relative who was ill. Augustine replied that if he had any power to cure the sick, he would surely have applied it on himself first. The visitor declared that he was told in a dream to go to Augustine so that his relative would be made whole. When Augustine heard this, he no longer hesitated, but laid his hands upon the sick man, who departed from Augustine's presence healed.

Possidius also gives a first-hand account of Augustine's death, which occurred on August 28, 430, while Hippo was still besieged. Augustine spent his final days in prayer and repentance, requesting that the penitential Psalms of David be hung on his walls so that he could read them. He directed that the library of the church in Hippo and all the books therein should be carefully preserved. Shortly after his death the Vandals lifted the siege of Hippo, but they returned not long thereafter and burned the city. They destroyed all of it but Augustine's cathedral and library, which they left untouched.

St. Augustine dealt with the concepts of “free will” and “predestination” at length and while both are too long to describe here, those who wish to read more can do so at this website (and others): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination#Described_in_terms_of_Augustinianism

August 29 - The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (also known as: Decollation of Saint John the Baptist or Beheading of the Forerunner) is a holy day (August 29) observed by various Christian churches which follow liturgical traditions. The day commemorates the martyrdom by beheading of Saint John the Baptist on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his begrudged daughter Salome.

According to the Synoptic Gospels, Herod, who was tetrarch or sub-king of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist because he reproved Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis), and unlawfully taking Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I. On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter (traditionally named Salome) danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he

promised to give her anything she desired, up to half of his kingdom. When the daughter asked her mother what she should request, she was told to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Herod was appalled by the request, he reluctantly agreed and had John executed in the prison.

In the Roman Catholic Church, the story is often retold with the moral lesson of code of honor versus arrogance precipitated by the tyrannical abuse of power. In addition, various speculations regarding the motive of Salome are cited, namely her lewd dancing as a means of revenge and harlotry.

The liturgical commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist is almost as old as that commemorating his Nativity (June 24 and vigil on June 23), which is one of the oldest feasts, if not the oldest introduced into both the Eastern and Western liturgies to honor a saint.

The Roman Catholic Church celebrates the feast on August 29, as does The Lutheran Church and The Church of England including many other national provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Please let the editor of this weekly eNewsletter know if it is useful to you, or not, or have suggestions on how to improve it, or would like to help write it.

If you received this message in error or would like to be removed from the email list please let me know.

Keeping the Faith,

Ed Williams
352-750-5067