

REGENT OF THE SUN

NEWSLETTER

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THOUGHT FROM THE RECTOR

What's the difference between a priest and a doctor? One deals with matters of life and death. The other is just concerned with the health of the body.

This was a question I posed during my homily on September 22nd. The gospel that day was Jesus' parable of the shrewd steward, Lk. 16:1-13. The parable speaks of the unjust steward who has been accused of squandering his master's property. Being desperate, he takes a quick assessment of the situation. He says, "I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg." So, the steward, seeing that he is about to be fired, comes up with a rather nefarious plan. Summoning his master's debtors, he reduces the amount of debt owed by each in half.

Of course, all of Jesus' parables have a marvelous twist to them and this one is no exception. Jesus says, that the steward's master commended the dishonest steward because he had acted shrewdly. Wow! Now, Jesus is not commending us to be cheats, unethical or immoral. The steward is praised for his wisdom in knowing where his salvation lay, not for his dishonesty. He recognizes the hopelessness of his situation. This ex-steward is keenly aware of the one and only source of his "salvation," namely the generosity and mercy of his master, *and risks everything to gain it*. We, too, must be aware of the "hopelessness of our situation" apart from the mercy and grace of our Lord. We must be willing to, as St. Paul states, "...consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things." **Philippians 3:8** As a result of this revelation, our spiritual becomes primary.

Like the steward in this parable, the urgency is for us to act. We can glean from this parable, that we must be as diligent our spiritual formation as we are concerning worldly issues.



Jesus reminds us,

"It profits a man nothing to gain the whole world and lose his soul."

See, **Rector**: p. Cond., page 2

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Actually, Jesus even commends the people of the world for their dealings versus the followers of God when He said, "For the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." Of course, we have to concern ourselves with day-to-day life and work. However, Jesus states, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33) It is about priorities, diligence and putting our spiritual life first.

The Christian Formation ministry at St. Uriel's strives to strengthen the spiritual lives of her members. That is why we offer women's bible studies, parish retreats, Adult Forums, Women of Faith, Order of St. Luke healing ministry, parish seminars, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's men's ministry, youth ministry, and so much more.

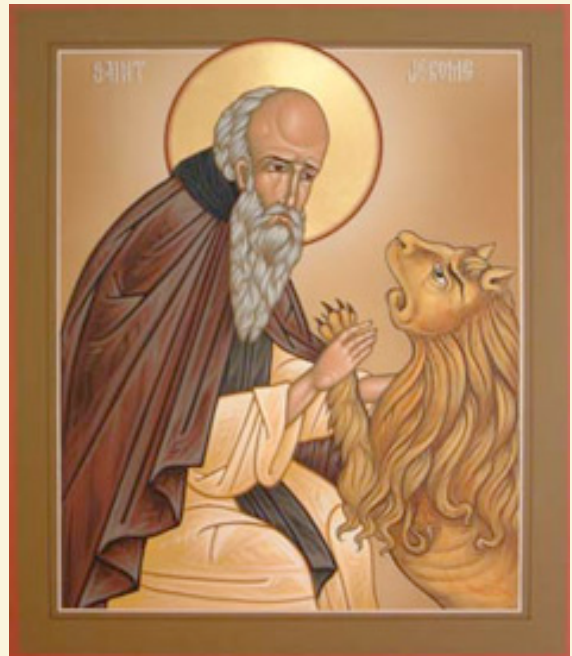
This fall, Adult Forum will consist of an 8 week *Journey through the Bible*. Why is this important and how will it affect our spiritual life? We, as Anglicans, must understand the primacy of Scriptures in our life. God breathes His life into the Word. The Scriptures are a love letter from our heavenly Father and it changes lives.

So why do we have such a difficult time with God's Word? St. Jerome said that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. Some have said, "I don't know the Bible, I am an Episcopalian." If St. Jerome is correct, then one might as well say, "I don't know Christ because I am an Episcopalian." And so, our spiritual life, our soul is in peril. So what are we going to do about it? The question remains, will we let our spiritual life slide, or will we be like the shrewd steward in Jesus' parable? The great virtue of the shrewd steward is that he realized his desperate situation, and he acted. He did something about it.

Parents who have stood for their children at the time they were baptized have the responsibility to study God's Word, to know and understand it, and to pass it on to our children, since parents are the chief catechists. We must understand salvation history and God's plan by "reading, marking, and inwardly digesting" God's word.

When we know the Scriptures, as St. Jerome states, we will grow in our relationship with Jesus our Lord. Our sacramental life will deepen and become more intimate and our families and relationships will become transformed.

Jesus says, "It profits a man nothing to gain the whole world and lose his soul." In another words, do not gain the world if it means that you have lost your relationship with God. Do not lose the spiritual dimension. If you are linked to God; - if you have



St. Jerome: 340-420

St. Jerome is one of the four doctors of the Western Church who ranks just below the Apostles. The four doctors of the Western Church are: Gregory, Ambrose, Augustine, and Jerome.

money, your spiritual life will tell you how to use it. If you have a family, your spiritual life will tell you how to relate to them. If you have success, or fame or pleasure, your spiritual life will tell you what to do with it. Our relationship with God is of paramount significance in our lives. So, act. Act now. Learn the story and come read with us God's love letter to you.

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A Letter from Our Bishop-Elect

[This letter was written in August]



*Dear People of the
Diocese of New Jersey,*

Greetings! Grace and peace to you. Susan and I are delighted to be in New Jersey. As I begin my second week

in the diocese, I wanted to write to you to let you know that our move went well and that we are in place. Although our new home in Trenton is a sea of boxes, we love it and are settling in comfortably.

During these first few months leading up to my consecration in November (God willing and with the consent of the people!), I have a lot to learn from the remarkable staff at Diocesan House and especially from Bishop Cuncell. I am fortunate and blessed that he will mentor me during these crucial months. Please keep him and Ruth in your prayers during this time of transition for them.

You also have a lot to teach me. My "watchwords" during these first few months are "listen and learn." I am new to the Diocese of New Jersey. Yes, I have thoughts and ideas but, during this time, I want to focus especially on listening. This will happen through planned events - meetings of Clericus and Convocations - that are already on the calendar for late summer and throughout the fall. It will also happen as Susan and I travel around the Diocese worshipping in different churches each Sunday and visiting churches that have special events going on during the week, as we will this week, when we visit St.



Episcopal Visitation

Sunday, September 29

The Solemnity of
St. Michael and All Angels

10:00am Mass

Bishop George Cuncell will be making his final visitation to St. Uriel's in his role as diocesan bishop. Bishop Cuncell has been very supportive to the work and ministry of St. Uriel's. He has also been very supportive to the "traditional" Catholic minded priests of this diocese. I personally owe him a great deal of gratitude. It is my prayer that everyone who is capable, will attend this Mass on Sunday, September 29. There will be NO 8 or 9:30am masses that day. We will be combining the two Masses for the Mass at 10:00am.

Bernard's and their Splash! Interfaith Kids Day Camp in Bernardsville on Friday. (Clergy, please note, we will call ahead before coming to your church on a Sunday morning). If you have something you would like us to see, please let us know. Needless to say, we won't be able to accept every invitation, but we like knowing what is going on in the different churches of the diocese.

So that I can share my experiences with you and let you know what I am up to, I will blog regularly and invite you to follow my [blog](#). I also welcome you to ["Friend me" on Facebook](#) and to ["follow" me on Twitter](#). My diocesan e-mail address is wstokes@newjersey.anglican.org. If your church has a Facebook page, let me know so that I can "like it" and follow you on Facebook.

I look forward to being among you, to getting to know you and this diocese more deeply. I pray you and yours may enjoy the remaining days of summer. May God bless us all in our life in Christ together. Thank you for all you do in Christ's service in this diocese, for your welcome, and for your continuing prayers for Susan and for me.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Canon William H. (Chip) Stokes,

Bishop-elect

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Letters from the Troops

*To the parishioners of St. Uriel's Church,
I would like to thank you for the very generous
gifts you have given to my Marines and me.
We always appreciate care packages from
home. Next time I am back in Manasquan,
if you need any help with any events or
anything for that matter, please do not hesitate
to either email me or call me. Once again from
the Marines of seventh communication
Battalion motor transport platoon, I would
like to sincerely thank you for taking the time
out of your days to send us some a thoughtful
care packages.*

Sincerely,

Sgt. J.F.

United States Marine Corps

Members of St. Uriel's Church,

*I apologize this comes so long overdue, but I
wanted to express my deepest gratitude for
sending me numerous care packages while I
am deployed to Afghanistan. The treats and
other items in the packages were terrific! Your
thoughtfulness and generosity was appreciated
by my soldiers. Thank you again for thinking
about many of my fellow soldiers!*

T.H.

Major

U.S. Army

A Letter from in Afghanistan

- Your thoughtfulness and generosity was appreciated by my soldiers

A Letter from a Parishioner

*Last spring, preparing for Confirmation,
Brienne took the 8 week course on the Old
Testament offered here at St. Uriel's. Not to
long ago, I received an e-mail from BJ
Gallina in reference to her daughter
Brienne. I asked BJ permission if I could
reprint this letter and she has since given me
permission.
Father Russ,*

*Just a quick story I wanted to share with
you that I know you would appreciate.
Yesterday in school, I am not sure if it was
English or History, Brienne's teacher asked
who knew what original sin was. Well
only Bri and another girl in the class raised
their hands-the other girl is the daughter of
Father John from St. Mary's by the Sea in
PPB. The teacher called on Cheyanne.
She then asked who knows the story of
Adam and Eve, again only Bri and*

*Cheyanne raised their hands and Brienne
was called on this time. Mind you they are
in a class full of their friends who are
Roman Catholic. I just found it very
interesting that they were the only two who
felt comfortable enough to answer those
questions. Thanks to God and Brienne's
Sunday School teachers over the years and
you!!*

BJ Gallina

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Downey Side

Last winter, the vestry voted unanimously to offer office space to [Downey Side Adoptive](#) ministries. Downey



Side is a national adoption agency dedicated to “special needs” children, whom we call “America’s Waiting Children”. Downey Side is one of

the few national adoption agencies in the United States recruiting families for America’s waiting children.

The Downey Side story began in Springfield, Massachusetts, 1967 when Father Paul Engel, O.F.M., Cap, placed a 17-year-old boy in the home of Margaret Downey. You’ll find five groups of children which Downey Side seeks to find a permanent home for special needs children.

1. Older children (7-17)
2. minority children
3. physically challenged children
4. emotionally wounded children
5. sibling groups

Through just *one* special collection at a Sunday Mass in April, the congregation that day gave enough money to purchase two new computers for the office.

“Every human life has it’s origins in the heart of God.”



***“If there's room in your heart,
there's room in your home...
Consider adopting a foster child
today”***

***Attached are pictures of
Danielle 15 years old and
Adelina 12 years old. They
were recently placed into a
loving family from Texas.***



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2013 Youth Mission Trip to Wintersville, Ohio



Becky Latham, Youth Pastor

This past mission trip was July 21st through July 28th. We went to Wintersville, Oh. There was a lot of work that needed to be done and around 200 kids from all over the United States came out to help. It is

always nice to meet with other believers who come together from all over for one purpose. A lot of what needed to be done was outside work so a lot of the kids did brand new paint jobs on houses, built new porches and fixed sheds that were falling apart. It is definitely eye opening to go to places and see that not all people live like we do and it is important for everyone to get out there and serve. I am so proud of our kids who took the week off from their busy lives to go serve others especially when there is so many other things that they could have been doing and the kids from our youth love to go out and serve. This years theme was "What do you stand for?" and through the five days we were able to look at things in our lives that were holding us back from standing for Jesus. A lot of the youth were moved through the week and I know that each kid and adult went back home a little bit differently. On Friday night during youth group devotions we got to talk about how we were going to stand for Jesus differently when we got home and I am encouraged to see how the kids are growing in their daily walk with Christ each week. I know God is doing big things inside of the youth of our church. Going out on these mission trips is always a fun and unique experience for everyone involved and I would encourage everyone at some point in their lives to go somewhere to serve other people because even though you think that you are the one helping someone you never know how God can work through us in serving others. We are currently looking for places to go and serve next year and if you are interested in going with us please let me know so we can get you involved.



Mission Theme

"What do you stand for? Through the five days we were able to look at things in our lives that were holding us back from standing for Jesus."

"God is doing big things inside of the youth of our church."

"It is definitely eye opening to go to places and see that not all people live like we do and it is important for everyone to get out and serve."



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MATTHEW *The King and His Kingdom*



Matthew: The King and His Kingdom is an exciting study that explores the life and mission of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel. Matthew demonstrates how the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Christ, who establishes a New Law and inaugurates the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Those who participate in the class will come to see Jesus as the awaited Messiah who relives the life and struggles of Israel to become the faithful and victorious King. Set in the rich context of Jesus' Jewish culture, this study will help you to understand *who* Jesus is and *what* the Incarnation of God in Jesus means for the salvation of the world. The course will also focus on the meaning of Jesus' teachings for us today. Matthew is an ideal follow-up study to the basic narrative of Scripture taught in The Bible Timeline study.

We will come to See, Learn, Witness, Discover, and Watch:

- *See* Jesus as the Son of David, the Son of Abraham, the New Moses, the True Manna, the New Temple — and learn what this means for us today.
- *Learn* how Jesus reconstituted the struggling kingdom of Israel around Himself and opened the Kingdom of God to all people.
- *Witness* how Christ established his Church with the Twelve Apostles, and Peter as His vicar.
- *Discover* the roots of the sacraments, and see how Jesus' words and actions are reflected in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
- *Watch* Jesus re-live the history of Israel as the obedient Son who trusts the Father, defeats hell and the grave, and is raised to New Life by the Father.

Time Span: 24 Week Course

Start Date: September 25, 2013

Place: St. Uriel's, 219 Philadelphia Boulevard, Sea Girt, NJ

Day and Time: Wednesdays, 10:30am and 7:00pm

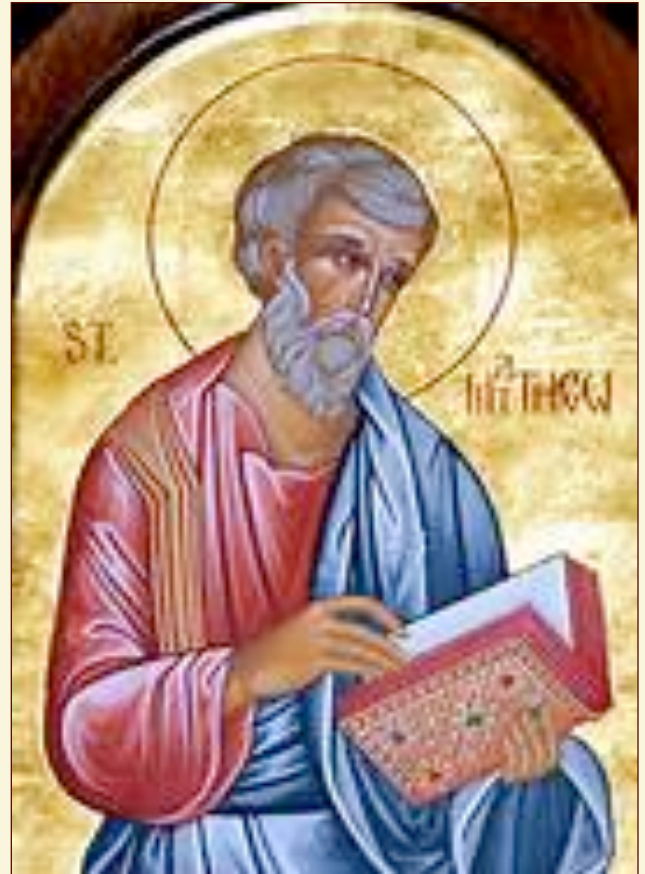
Registration: Parish Office (732) 449-6173

Cost: \$40.00 [Scholarships Available]

Additional Information:

1 week break for Thanksgiving, 4 week break for Christmas,

1 week break for Ash Wednesday



Starts September 25

Parents who have stood for their children at the time they were baptized has the responsibility to study God's Word, know it, and pass it on to our children, because parents at the chief catechists. We must understand salvation history and God's plan if we are going to understand anything about salvation, about our life, to be a husband, to be a wife; whatever it might be, we need to understand the story. Here is your chance!

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Adult Forums for September - December

A Quick Journey Through the Bible is part of *The Great Adventure* Catholic Bible study system. Last spring, we offered this course in two sessions, Wednesday mornings following the 9:30am Mass and 7:00pm Wednesday evenings. This parish-based study was an excellent introduction and overview of the Bible from a Catholic perspective.

The Adult Forums will make available a simplified version of *A Quick Journey Through the Bible*, thereby giving more people an opportunity to grow in the Lord and to gain a deeper understanding of the “story”.

Presented by Jeff Cavins, the *Quick Journey* study briefly covers salvation history in a series of eight, half-hour talks. Since this series will be presented at the Adult Forums this fall, we will not have time for the longer group discussions which we enjoyed during the spring course. However, there will be

opportunities to ask questions after the DVD presentations.

What is so great about this series is that it makes the complexity of the Bible simple through an easy-to-follow narrative approach aided by the color-coded Bible timeline. This is a great way to “get your feet wet” and learn how to begin authentic Catholic Bible study, especially because we will also be starting the 24 week course on the Gospel of St. Matthew.

September 22: *Introduction*

October 6: *Early World*

October 13: *No Forum [Sat. Vigil Mass]*

October 20: *Patriarchs*

October 27: *Egypt and Exodus,*

Desert Wanderings

November 3: *Conquest & Judges,*

the Royal Kingdom

November 10: *No Forum [Sat. Vigil Mass]*

November 17: *Divided Kingdom, Exile*

November 24: *Return, Maccabean Revolt*

December 1: *Advent Wreath Party*

December 8: *No Forum [Sat. Vigil Mass]*

December 15: *Messianic Fulfillment, the Church*

You will become familiar with:

- The 14 narrative books of the Bible and the 12 major time periods of salvation history.
- Discover the major people, places, events, & themes of the Bible.
- Study the six covenants God made with humanity, leading to the establishment of the Catholic Church.
- See how the 14 narrative books fit in with the other 59 books of the Bible.
- Learn how to use the color-coded tools to remember the important time-periods of the Old and New Testaments.

Fr. Michael Becker said, “The effect on my parishioners has been wonderful: a deeper love for Christ, a deeper experience with the sacraments, and continued love for the Scriptures.”

24 Week Course on the Gospel of St. Matthew

In the fall, beginning September 25th, we will be starting the 24 week course lead by Jeff Cavins, The Gospel of Matthew.

Don't let the thought of a 24 week course scare you off. We will have a one week break at

*Thanksgiving and a one week break the week of Ash Wednesday. There will be a **4 week break** at Christmas.*

The timing of this course is excellent since December 1 begins the new Lectionary Cycle - Year A. Throughout Year A the gospel readings on Sundays will be from the Gospel of St.

Matthew. This course will help to bring alive the Sunday readings.

Like the Quick Journey Through the Bible Course, this course will also be offered in 2 sessions on Wednesdays. More information on this course will soon be forth coming. See page 6 in the Newsletter for more information.

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Parish Retreat Feb. 21-23, 2014



Mark your calendars now for The purpose of the retreat is to refresh and revitalize the participants, giving them greater opportunity for time spent in prayer and

contemplation. The retreat rekindles and deepens one's relationship with God. One may take this opportunity to increase in the ability to clearly hear God's call and to seek God's healing grace, thereby attaining a degree of spiritual renewal. The purpose of a spiritual retreat is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions of the world to allow relaxation and an inner change to occur. This ongoing conversion of heart is critical to deepening faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

People will often say, *"I do not have time to go on retreat."* Or, *"I don't need such a thing."* However, the gospels tell us that Jesus Himself needed to go on retreat. Mark [1:35-37] records for us, *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for Him, and when they found Him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!'"* [Mark 1: 35-37] Jesus did not go off to spend time with God only when there were no other pressing matters. On the contrary, He spent quiet time with God *because* there were pressing matters to attend to. Luke records, *"In those days He departed to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12).*

Our retreat this year is scheduled for February 21-23, 2014. In past years,



People will often say, "I do not have time to go on retreat." Or, "I don't need such a thing."

However, the gospels tell us that Jesus Himself needed to go on retreat.



our attendance has been very good averaging about 17 to 18 participants. This year, we must guarantee the Convent at least 15 participants. We can take a maximum of 26 participants.

A sign-up list will be posted in the hallway leading into Hulbert Hall. Registration can also be made through the parish office. The cost is \$150.00.

What a wonderful opportunity... no computers, no television bombarding us with noise. Your meals are prepared for you and there are no dishes to wash. Apart from the daily Mass, Daily Offices, three meditations; you will have the opportunity to take a nice walk on the convent grounds, read and/or catch up on some much need sleep.