

GREAT TIME AND FOOD...ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC...

About 40 people enjoyed the usual great feast at Huddart Park for our Annual Parish Picnic...thanks to all who help make this a remarkably good time...

RESTORATION MIGRATION UPDATE...

Full motion defined days of August following our July 25 announcement of restoration...not unlike Israelites migrating toward Jerusalem, our route is defined by twists, turns and more than few disruptions to attend to other necessities – the good news, we are progressing...as soon as you read this issue you may access the new parish website - [www.saintjosephparish.net](http://www.saintjosephparish.net)

Important note...[christchurchparishacc.org](http://christchurchparishacc.org) automatically redirects to our new site. This will continue for some time.

During September the migration process will become increasingly apparent as our exterior sign changes. We will shortly issue a Press Release announcing our restoration. In late September we will publicize our Annual Saint Francis Day Blessing of Animals on Sunday, October 5.

A vital reiteration...we are now more identifiable as who we are and what we represent...we remain who we are from our founding...*THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM* We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church, doing all things necessary for the continuance of the same.

MORE RESTORATION...THE PARKING LOT...



Restoration and renewal take on several forms...resealing and restriping the parking lot...another August accomplishment.

The Elevator...active pursuit of a solution continues as this goes to press...an update will be provided the instant more is known. Yes, once work is completed, new red carpet WILL appear!

RECTOR'S THOUGHT AND REVIEW

OLD IS CURRENT...

*"I like the Old name made New"* wrote Archbishop Haverland in response to our 25 July announcement in The Parish Times. In subsequent conversation he spoke of how much easier it will be to distinguish ourselves as a parish, not a denomination!

Bishop McClean wrote *"I see this as a grand step forward in faith for the parish and for the Church. It can only bring great - and we pray - astonishing results!"*

The care and support of our Bishops – Reverend Fathers in God - is cherished and very meaningful to the parish.

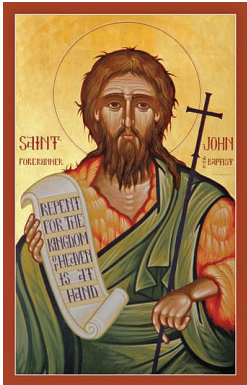
On a completely separate *"Old brought Current"* front, we cannot avoid being horrified by current events in the Middle East...

In the Sermon on the Feast of Saint James I said...

*With alarming intensity, the fate suffered by Saint James is today threatened with increasing intensity very near the site of the murder of James by the very same method. What...?, you might reasonably demand, am I talking about. The distance from Jerusalem to Damascus (Syria) is only about 135 miles – San Mateo to Sacramento. Christians in Damascus are being told to abandon their faith or be killed with a sword. Indeed a chilling reality. Evil is at work this very day in Syria and Iraq.*

*What are we called to do...? This is not a call for the Church to enter into the domain of geopolitical partisan politics or launch a personal mission to a distant land. But it is a call to consider with enhanced seriousness that for which we corporately pray every Sunday...that God may help turn the hearts of evildoers in troubled parts of the world so all may live in peace with their families. Suddenly the life and death of St James becomes current...no longer an abstraction of nearly 2000 years ago.*

In the past several days the world witnessed new horrors, again contemporizing old behaviors...



Similarly, consider the death of **Saint John the Baptist** – same method, same geography. A quick look at the Church Year Calendar reveals 29 August commemorates The Beheading of John the Baptist.

The Church sets aside such days to remind us of the potential for humanity's depraved behavior.

The message of John the Baptist was simply, STOP THIS NOW. Many failed to listen...the consequences were, and remain, far-reaching.

Noted Biblical Scholar Harold Attridge, The Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament at Yale Divinity School wrote...*John the Baptist was killed because he was critical of the contemporary Herodian ruler, Herod Antipas. All of the sources agree on that, both Josephus and the testimony of the gospels. Exactly what was involved in that critique is not entirely clear. The material in the gospels suggests that it had to do with Herod's marital practices and his personal morality. There may have been something more political involved in John's condemnation of Herod, insofar as Herod Antipas was tied in intimately with the Roman imperial authorities. In any case, John was executed by Herod as a troublemaker and a political upstart.*

What do we take away from all this...?

It is altogether too easy to declare irrelevant the deaths Saint James and Saint John the Baptist as "long, long ago"...simultaneously many have come to accept current acts in other parts of the world as "far, far away"...it is very easy to become jaded and indifferent because it is 'not in my neighborhood'...though common, deadly are the consequences of indifference...far away or close to home.

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