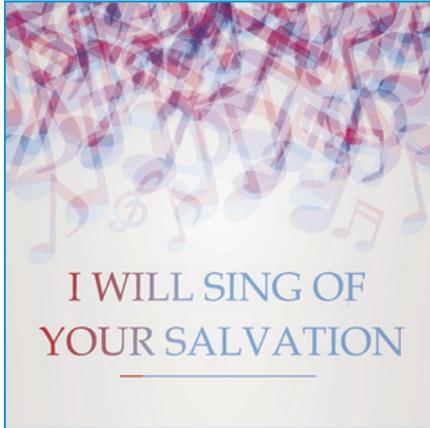


Expectations have a habit of tripping us up. We think we have it all figured out. We know what to expect. But then something happens to surprise us and we have to decide whether to believe it or not. Is this for real? The folks in Nazareth had expectations of their native son. This "son of Joseph" couldn't possibly be the Anointed One, could he? God has a habit of surprising us, of defying our expectations.



Weekday Readings (Feb. 4-9)

Monday:	Hebrews 11:32-40;	Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Hebrews 12:1-4;	Mark 5:21-43
	(or) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31;	Luke 9:23-26
Wednesday:	Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15;	Mark 6:1-16
	(or) Galatians 2:19-20;	Matthew 28:16-20
Thursday:	Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24;	Mark 6:7-13
Friday:	Hebrews 13:1-8;	Mark 6:14-29
Saturday:	Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21;	Mark 6:30-34

Scripture for next Sunday (5th Sunday/Ordinary Time)

- Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8** Here I am, send me!
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11** I handed on to you what I received.
- Luke 5:1-11** They left everything, even their nets, and followed Jesus.



From the Pastor

I hope no one reading this was affected by the recent government shutdown. There is even now, no guarantee that this will not happen again next month, and possibly become an ongoing theme over the next year or so. It left me wondering how many other countries in the world shut down their government as often as we do. This is a situation that seems to be getting worse. One thing that will never change is the blame that is thrown around when this happens. People involved seem to think it is ok to shut down the government, as long as the other party gets blamed for it. This is not an attempt by me to lay blame, since both sides have done this same thing in the past.

(continued in next column)

Instead of laying blame for why this happened on one party or another, I would like to look at something that seems to be happening within our society. We are becoming an increasingly polarized society. What exactly does that mean? It means that more and more, people are affiliating themselves with one side of the political spectrum and refusing to consider anything that comes from the other side. This is not an endorsement or condemnation of either major party, since this is happening on both sides. The two parties tell us they are negotiating to work out their differences and find compromise. The truth is, negotiation has become a political chess game to checkmate the other side, or at least ensure they take the blame for anything that causes the people to be angry with the government. There is no real negotiation or compromise, because too many people are locked into political ideologies. We cling to our ideologies rather than actually observing what is happening around us in a meaningful way.

Is this new? Is this something we have not seen before? I would say no. In fact we have been warned about this. Before he left office, George Washington issued a strong warning against the formation of political parties. This however, is actually one of the more recent warnings against this kind of polarization. This kind of behavior has been discussed by scholars for more than two thousand years.

Somewhere around 380 BC, the Greek philosopher Plato, wrote what some would consider his greatest work, *The Republic*. Within this great dialogue is a story told by Socrates known as "The Cave". To summarize the story, Socrates tells us of a group of people who have lived their entire lives held captive in a cave. They sit in the darkness with a fire burning behind them. The people holding them captive use the fire to cast shadows on the wall in front their captives. These people see the shadows and believe this is the real world, because it is all they have ever seen since birth. At some point, the captives are liberated and led outside the cave where they see sunlight for the first time in their lives. Most of them are amazed to see how beautiful, and how vast the real world is compared to what they have been shown all their lives. Some of them however, are overwhelmed, and cannot handle this bold revelation. Despite the truth being presented to them in an indisputable way, they cannot handle what they are seeing. They choose to go back and live in the cave since it is all they have ever known, and they are not capable of letting go of their old beliefs and embracing the truth before them.

The fact that this story is so old, and yet still so relevant, shows us how easy it is to fall into this trap. It is so easy to cling to perceptions we have had for a long time, maybe even all our lives. Often, letting go of our perceptions can be a life changing experience. This does not just apply to politics, but nearly everything that is important in our lives. When we learn to step away from the way we perceive the world to be, and spend some time observing what is actually around us, it can change our lives as much as stepping out of a dark cave to see the sunlight for the first time. Refusing to do this can be like choosing to live in a cave, rather than the sunlight.



God's abundant blessings and our congratulations to
Carol Reynolds & Kenneth Johnson
who were married here last weekend.
*May they know of our prayers as they begin
their lives together in Christ.*

**“First” Tuesday Adoration
of the Blessed Sacrament**

February 5th

(begins after 8:30a Mass in the Chapel)

Concludes with Benediction at 9 p.m.

*Will you spend some time in prayer
with our Lord this Tuesday?*



Acts of the Apostles Study

begins this Wednesday February 6

The Wednesday Scripture Study group will begin a new study this Wednesday, February 6—**Acts of the Apostles**. No cost—materials provided. Please sign-up at the table in the commons to join this study. The group meets **1:00pm-2:30pm** in the **St. Vincent de Paul Center** followed by an optional hour of prayer.

Prayer Group meeting this week:

**Wednesday, February 6, 2:45pm-3:45pm
in the St. Vincent de Paul Center.**

All are invited to attend. No preparation, no cost. Join us for an hour of prayer!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA

- **Catechumens & Candidates** will meet this **Wednesday, February 6**, in the Great Room **6:30pm-8:00pm**.
- **Inquirers** will meet in the office conference room. Stop by the Great Room for opening prayer at **6:30 p.m.**
- **Children's RCIA** will gather in the hallway by the Great Room at **6:30 p.m.** before going to class

For more information about our RCIA, please contact Sydney Farnum at sydneyfarnum@stannd-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Pastoral Council members are reminded of their meeting this **Thursday, Feb. 7**, at **7 p.m.** in the school conference room.

Respect Life Committee members are reminded of our meeting this **Saturday, February 9**, at **10:30 a.m.** in the parish office conference room.

**“The Mass” - by Bishop Robert Barron
Begins on Sunday, February 10, 9:45 a.m.
in the Great Room**

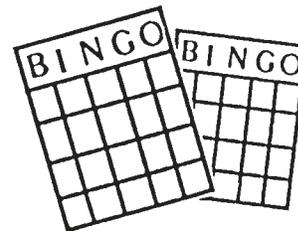
Join us to see how the Mass brings us out of the fallen world and into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and, most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. This series will be offered in our **Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education class at 9:45am-11:00am** in the Great Room and if you miss it on Sunday, you can join us in RCIA on Wednesday evenings where we will also be studying “The Mass”. The RCIA presentation begins at 7 p.m. Be sure to read the bulletin each week to see what episodes we are covering on Sunday and on Wednesday.

“From Slave to Priest”

The Inspirational Story of

Father Augustine Tolton (1854-1897)

In American history, many black people have achieved success against great odds. But Father Tolton faced a different source of prejudice—an opposition from within the Church, the one institution on which he should have been able to rely. The thorough scholarly research and inspirational writing by Sister Caroline Hemesath on the great legacy and courage of this former slave, who became a priest in the face of incredible prejudice within the Church and society, will be a source of strength for modern Christians who also face persecution. This book study **begins Tuesday, February 12**. Book club meets on **Tuesdays from 10:30am-11:30am in the St. Vincent de Paul Center**. Please sign up in the commons so your book can be ordered. Cost of book: \$13.00.



Bingo Volunteers Needed!

If you can help with Bingo (*maybe once a month? Twice a month?*) on Saturday, Monday or Tuesday evening, please sign up at the table in the commons this weekend or next weekend. We are in need of more people willing to help!! **THANKS!!**



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 2

5:30 p.m. †John Paloian

Sunday, February 3

8:30 a.m. †Neal Jewell

11:30 a.m. Spec. Int. (for President Trump & his family)

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, February 5

8:30 a.m. †Mary Pat Flanagan

Wednesday, February 6

8:30 a.m. †Marilyn Mellett

Thursday, February 7

6:00 p.m. †Jack Mellett

Friday, February 8

8:30 a.m. †Denny DeWaard

Saturday, February 9

5:30 p.m. †Rachel McCollum

Sunday, February 10

8:30 a.m. †Jeff Walling

11:30 a.m. †Jeanette Crum

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (Spanish Mass)

COLLECTION REPORT—January 26/27

Regular/Operating \$7,364.00

Additional Respect Life 2nd coll. \$ 135.00

Second Collections in February:

This weekend (Feb. 2/3) St. Anne's School

February 23/24 Bristol Faith in Action

2018 Parish Statements: Parish contribution statements not picked up were mailed this past week. If you have questions regarding your statement, please contact the parish office.

Diocesan Tax letters for the 2018 diocesan Annual Appeal and for Living our Mission were mailed from Richmond on 1/31/19 to all donors who contributed \$250 and above.

VOLUNTEER VAN DRIVERS NEEDED

Van Drivers needed for **Family Promise of Bristol** (van is provided). Responsible for driving families to/from various churches in Bristol TN/VA area: **mornings at 7a and evenings at 5p.** The van operates 7 days a week but volunteers drive at their preferred days/times. Apply at Family Promise (a drug screening & background check will be done by Family Promise). Call 276-696-9425 for information.

PRAY for VOCATIONS!!

"Before you were born, I consecrated you."

Do you think the Lord is calling you to serve him as a priest? Contact Fr. Michael Boehling or Fr. Brian Capuano at the Vocations Office: 804-359-5661 or email vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

Sunday, February 3:

- **Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class (SMARE): Paul—Part 2** 9:45am-11:00am in the Great Room.

Monday, February 4:

- **Adult Faith formation class is on a short break.** Watch the bulletin for announcement of the next study session.

Tuesday, February 5:

- **Book Club:** 10:30-11:30a at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- **Tuesday Evening Scripture Study,** 6:30pm-8:00pm, at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *Pivotal Players—Saint Augustine—the Teacher—Part 2.* Sign-up in the commons to join the study group.

Wednesday, February 6:

- **Little Rock Scripture Study,** 1:00pm-2:30pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *Acts of the Apostles*
- **RCIA: 6:30pm in the Great Room.**

For more information about any of the above programs, email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Living the Eucharist Lent 2019

Our parish will participate in Living the Eucharist during Lent. This Lenten spiritual renewal program provides us with opportunities to grow in our faith through learning more about the Eucharist, participating more actively in Sunday Mass, and living the Eucharist each day as disciples of Jesus. Please consider joining a small group or participating with your family. Watch the bulletin each week for more information about Living the Eucharist and how to sign-up.



Parish Lenten Retreat *"Rejoice and Be Glad"*

Save the date and plan to join us for our **Annual Lenten Retreat on Friday, April 5 & Saturday, April 6 at the Jubilee House Retreat Center** in Abingdon. Our retreat director this year is **Fr. Eric Asamoah**. Watch the bulletin for more details and registration information as we get nearer to the date.

PARISH WEBSITE:

If you are away or ill and didn't get to Mass, remember that you can listen to the homily and read the bulletin by going to our parish website at:

www.stannes-bristol.org



Thank You to the Council of Catholic Women

A big “**Thanks**” goes to the CCW members who once again provided a delicious reception after our recent Respect Life Evening Prayer Service. We appreciate you!

Red Cross Christmas Cards for Local Heroes

Thanks to all who brought in cards before Christmas. With your help, locally the Red Cross distributed cards to 1,000 volunteer firefighters & rescue squads, 250 police officers, sheriff’s departments and 911 dispatchers, and 2,600 veterans. **Thanks for helping the Red Cross appreciate our local heroes during the Christmas season**

BLAST from the PAST

Come and bring your loved ones to see the Highlands Youth Ensemble’s 13th annual **Valentines Cabaret**:

Sun., Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. at Milligan College (or)

Mon., Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barter Theatre

St. Anne Parishioner Grace Mehlferber is a member of the Youth Ensemble and will be singing. For more information, see the poster on the parish bulletin board.

Valentine Dinner
this Friday, Feb. 8
at 6:00 p.m.



Buy your tickets AFTER MASS THIS WEEKEND!!

**Stop by the table in the hallway outside
the Great Room to purchase your tickets.**

The Evangelization Team and the Parish Life Committee are co-sponsoring a catered Valentine dinner for couples of all kinds — married, dating, best friends. A delicious catered dinner of Chicken Calvados with sides, salad, and dessert will be held in the Great Room. We will have music, door prizes, and lots of fun! Get your ticket now. **Cost: \$25 per couple paid with ticket purchase.** Make checks payable to St. Anne Catholic Church. Hope you will join us for a fun-filled evening.

Women of the Parish — Valentine Luncheon

St. Anne’s Council of Catholic Women invite all women of the parish to a covered dish luncheon on **Monday, Feb. 11** at **12:30 p.m.** at the Columbian Center. Sign up in the commons this weekend or next. Let us know what favorite dish you will bring to share. Contact Eileen Gibney for more information: egibneysas@yahoo.com.