



first Sunday MAY 2008

Community of the Cross

Liturgy Schedules

10:00 SUNDAY, Crosswood Centre, Chapel of Mary Magdalene, 5355 Co. Rd. 35, Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:00 AM SUNDAY, Fort Wayne at Redwood Chapel, 2425 Redwood Avenue, Fort Wayne *thanks to Rose and Stan*

9:00 AM SUNDAY, Angola Crosswood at our new location at 3472 North Wayne Street

Anna Baltzer, Author of "Witness in Palestine" Presentation Fascinates All

I'm not sure that "fascinates" is the right word but it's just a headline to get your attention. Anna Baltzer was at Crosswood Centre April 13th following the 10:00 Liturgy and brunch. This was a beautiful presentation for our community with many people attending - the chapel was full. She spoke of the plight of the Palestians and their daily lives in Israel. There are some copies of her book floating around the community and several copies of her DVD. The DVD contains the lecture that she gave us plus some other material and is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to perhaps tell others about what is happening in Israel today and especially how difficult it is for those who live there who are Arab and Christian. If anyone would like to borrow a copy of the DVD, I have one that you might use at home and I am pretty sure several others purchased them and would be glad to loan them out as well.

A special thank you goes to Patty Pendleton (one of our Monday School participants) who helped bring Anna here and who will be joining Anna in her work in Palestine and Israel later this year.

John+

Anthony called his two companions ... and said to them, "Always breathe Christ."

Athanasius of Alexandria, Life of Anthony. XCI (PG 26,969)

The Ascension of Our Lord

May begins this year with the Feast of the Ascension and then follows in 10 days with the feast of Pentecost or the birthday of the church. In the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions these are major feasts of the year. I remember in my younger years in school we always had a free day – of course we had quite a few free days then with the pastor granting one now and then for his feast day or the feast day of the parish or just because it was nice outside. With today's crack down on education and emphasis on "time served" there are fewer of these feast days celebrated.

What is the Ascension about anyway? It is traditionally celebrated on the 40th day after Easter. Don't get too literal here when we speak of 40 because we are simply talking about a "long time." It's the gospel writers' way of saying that Jesus spent some time here with the apostles after his resurrection. He ate with them, talked with them and prepared them a little more to be on their own. I don't think they thought he would really leave them so I imagine the actual Ascension as being somewhat of a surprise to them. Imagine them then being faced with life "without Jesus," waiting and wondering what was going to happen next.

Jesus is said to have "ascended" into heaven – that would be upward movement. You have to remember that the writer here is referring to a world that was divided into three different levels (heavens or the upper world, earth – what we experience, and hades or the underworld where the dead were supposed to have lived). Now don't start thinking that heaven is REALLY "up there" and hell is really "down below." That's a lot too literal for us to believe – for one thing we would have to now the exact position of the earth that day to know which way "up" was – it could be down on a different day, after all we are on a round planet. Imagine, however, that the gospel writers are telling us that Jesus returned to his Father. Now where is that? Everywhere – right?

What is this kingdom of heaven? Matthew uses that term a lot in his gospel. The king of heaven is ...like a mustard seed; ... like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measure of flour; ... is like a treasure hidden in a field; ...is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ... is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of

The Ascension ... Continued

every kind; ...is like the master of the household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old; ... is like a king who wishes to settle accounts with his slaves; ... is like a landowner who went out in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard; ... is like a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son; And we know "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of Thomas is one of the apocryphal gospels that is today judged by scripture scholars to be fairly true to the sayings of Jesus, despite the fact that it isn't in the canon of scripture that we usually read. There is a beautiful quote from Jesus in the Gospel of Thomas in reply to one of the disciples asking him when the kingdom of heaven will come. Jesus replies,

"It will not come by watching for it. It will not be said, 'Look, here!' or 'Look, there!' Rather, the Father's kingdom is spread out upon the earth, and people don't see it."

Earlier in that gospel, in saying 3, Jesus says:

"If your leaders say to you, 'Look, the (Father's) kingdom is in the sky,' then the birds of the sky will precede you. If they say to you, 'It is in the sea,' then the fish will precede you. Rather, the (Father's) kingdom is within you and it is outside you.

When you know yourselves, then you will be known, and you will understand that you are children of the living Father. But if you do not know yourselves, then you live in poverty, and you are the poverty."

In the Apostle's Creed we say, "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." The meaning of the Ascension seems to be simply a way for the Church to let us know that Christ continues to be with us, in us, and in all of creation. We are children of this Living Father. Rest assured as the song says, "God is here. God is here. This I know, God is here."

We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy Ascension Thursday evening (May 1) at 7:00 at the Chapel of Mary Magdalene at Crosswood Centre. Please join us if you can for a prayerful reflection on this Feast of Our Lord.

Fr. John Newbauer

June 14th Retreat with Fr. Ron

Archbishop Earl Brian Carsten

Metropolitan Carsten often says, "*Think about it and pray about it. Then get back to me.*"

Pope Benedict XVI

In his message preparing for his April pastoral visit to USA, he thanked people for their prayers and said, "*Prayer is the most important element of all. Without intimate union with the Lord, human endeavors would mean very little.*"

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

"*So often what we would like to have through prayer, through the deep relationship with God which we long for, is simply another period of happiness...*"

To meet God means to enter into the 'cave of a tiger' – it is not a pussy cat you meet –it's a tiger. The realm of God is dangerous.

The day when God is absent, when He is silent – that is the beginning of prayer.

June Retreat Community of the Cross

Let's come together for reflection
Stepping apart from our business
To share with each other

What Prayer is ?

What Prayer means for us.

What Prayer is in our Spiritual Journey.

Fr. Ron is a good friend of Fr. Skip and the Community of the Cross and is a frequent visitor to our Community.

He is a Roman Catholic priest with a vision that few have. He has spent time among the Orthodox Communities in the Middle East, served as a parish priest, and has ministered to the prisoners on death row in the federal penitentiary. We are very pleased to have him agree to lead us in our Spring-Summer Retreat this June 14. More info in the June Bulletin but save June 14th for a Day of Prayer and Reflection.

Monday and Wednesday School Continues

We are continuing our video series on the history of the Church from Apostolic Times to the Reformation. We've got a long way to go to the Reformation but the material is very interesting and informative. You won't ever read the scriptures again in the same way.

This series was produced with the cooperation of leading Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Reformation scholars. This is a wonderful way to learn from where the Church has come and how it has grown in different ways, met the challenges throughout its history, and continues to grow as a living organism that is the Body of Christ.

Our discussion study groups continue to be held in Fort Wayne at Redwood Chapel on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 and in the Angola area on Wednesdays at Karen Ringler's home at 3420 Orland Rd. from 6:30 - 8 pm.

JOIN US and BRING A FRIEND! This will truly be looking at the Church from many different angles.

Leadership Team

If you need to contact the Leadership Committee, here are their numbers:

Fr. Skip Carsten*, 260-927-6040 (numeric pager)

Fr. Vince Cuestas, 426-8885

Mother Kris'ta Cuestas, 426-8885

Mr. Ken Erlenbaugh, Core Team North, 833-1313

Mr. Stan Gephart, Core Team South

Ms. Carolyn Hurley, Core Team South, 484-8380

Email: celectics@verizon.net

Fr. John Newbauer, 615-0156

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Mother Joan North, 833-3412

Fr./Dcn Tom North, 833-3412

Fr. Cliff Polubinsky 493-4223

Br. Richard Lounsbury & Stella 260-336-2276

Mr. Scott Rutsey, Crosswood Treasurer

Mother Maria van Valkenburg 260-385-3707

Fr. James Spink

Fr. Robert Zahrt, 471-6573

Leadership Team

There's been a slight change in the Leadership Team meeting since Frs. John, Bob, Cliff and +Skip will be in Chicago that day for an ordination. We will have the Team Meeting on the 17th of May at 12:00. That way only John will be absent because of teaching that weekend.

NEXT TWO LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS ARE May 17th at 12:00 and July 19th at 12:00. Please plan to attend if you are on the leadership team. If you are not on the leadership team and want to join us, please do.

the sound of dust

by andrew jones

what does it mean

this howling wind

this sound of dust

this rude awakening

from pentecostal rest of memory and wine

this courtyard scene of rushing men

these fugitives freed in fishing net?

what does it mean

these laughing rabbis with

swollen hands and

weakened knees?

shall they don the robes of priests?

how dare they speak my language well?

how dare they?

how dare they?

how can they?

what does it mean

this language game

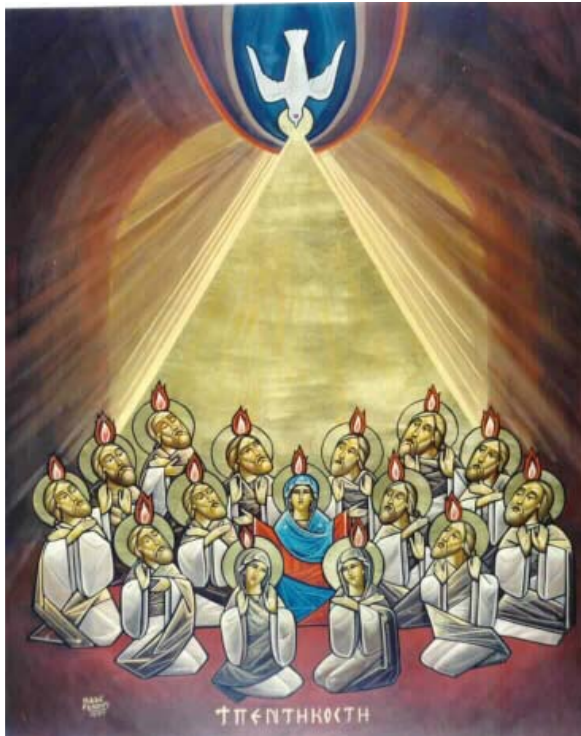
this teenage stunt

this sound of blowing life and death?

something has begun, emerged

and the dust will not settle today

PENTECOST GRID BLOG :: MAY 15, 2005



“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:1-4).

READINGS FOR MAY

Date	Com of Cross Angola	Magdaline Chapel Auburn	Redwood Chapel Ft. Wayne	Open Door Chapel Ft. Wayne	Readings
May 1* Ascension Thursday		John+ 7:00 PM			Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53
May 4 7th Sunday of Pascha or Ascension Observed	Joan+	John+	+Vincent	Roland+	Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 I Peter 4:12-5:11 John 17:1-11
May 11 PENTECOST	+Skip	Maria+	**	Roland+	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b I Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
May 18 Holy Trinity Sunday	Joan+	+Vincent	+Skip	Maria+	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 II Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20
May 25 Proper 3	Joan+	John+	+Vincent	Roland+	Isaiah 49:8-16a Psalm 131 I Corinthians 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34
June 1 Proper 4	+Skip	John+	+Vince	Roland+ Maria+	Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19 or Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28 Psalm 46 or Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24 Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-31 Matthew 7:21-29

*May 1st is Ascension Thursday. There will be a liturgy at Magdaline Chapel at 7:00 PM and all are welcome. The celebration of the Ascension may also be celebrated on the following Sunday (May 4).

** The Redwood Chapel Community will be joining Magdaline Chapel on Pentecost for the Feast Celebration.