

In communion with the saints

By Fr. Ron Baird

The Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls are celebrated in the Church on Nov. 1 and 2, respectively. It is fitting, then, that we take a look today at what the Church teaches about the Communion of the Saints.

Many people ask why it is that we pray for the dead. Their questions often include, "Isn't it already too late for them?" This reveals a narrow understanding of Salvation. Anglicans do not believe that Salvation is merely an endeavor to get into Heaven as

some sort of reward. Rather, it is the all encompassing immersion into life and health that is full relationship with God, our Creator. Eternal life is not a destination. It is real, abundant, joyful life that begins in our baptism into Christ and never ends.

St. Paul tells us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, just as we pray for one another and those whom we love who are present to this world — who are growing deeper and deeper into the eternal life that is theirs



in Christ — we pray for those who have died to this world and this mortal body, because we know that their life in Christ is not ended. It has been transformed into a celestial body and now continues on in that form until the end time.

In Christ, all Christians are gathered into one Body, the Church. The separation of those Saints who have died and gone before us from those who remain is only a physical one, not a spiritual one. In Christ, at his Holy Table, in the communion that is the Eucharist, we are one with them forever! Therefore, we pray for their continued growth in the Lord and we ask through Christ for them to continue to pray for us.

Again, a common misunderstanding about Anglicans is that we pray to the Saints. We do not pray to them. In prayer, we ask them to pray for us, just as we pray for them. Prayer is directed only to God. But as we and the Saints are one in Christ, through our prayers to God we can communicate with them.

We often adopt a patron (or favorite) Saint because their life has served as an example to us of what faith in Christ is really about. As we ask them to pray for us, a large part of the request is that God will engender in us the strength of faith that our favorite Saint has exhibited.

We are all one in Christ. In Christ we have all died and we have all been raised into eternal life. That includes those of us who live in this worldly existence, and those who have died and gone before. In prayer we are connected in Christ Jesus, One Body, One Church.

Pray for those who have died and seek their prayers for us as we all seek to grow into the full stature of Christ in the communion of the Saints.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

— Book of Common Prayer, p. 245

We give thanks to the Father, who has made us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

— Colossians 1:12

Today we remember parishioners who have died since last All Saints Day. We also remember family members and friends submitted by parishioners. May their souls and the souls of all the Saints rest in God's peace, and may light perpetual shine upon them until that day when we are reunited with them in the Kingdom of God.

Members

Jack

Judith

Ronda

Family and Friends

Robert

Lynne

Sally

David

Debora

Mary Frances

Cornelia

Christine

Robert

Evelyn

Nancy

Dorothy

Kaye

Brenda

Chuck

Sandiann

Mabel

William

Christina

Marshall

Anne

If we inadvertently missed a loved one in this list, please contact the Parish Office at 740-548-5112 or Judy Baird at jbaird@standrewspolaris.org.

Christmas Child shoebox collection begins next week



Please remember to bring your shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, starting next Sunday, Nov. 12. Shoeboxes must be returned no later than Sunday, Nov. 19.

“Follow Your Box” allows people who pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child to discover the destination of their gifts when they make their donation for shipping and other program costs online. Samaritan’s Purse sends donors a special label that lets them track their shoebox and learn the country where their gift will be delivered into the hands of a child.

In 2015 when Justin Anthony went online and donated toward shipping, the label he received tracked his shoebox and notified him that his box went to Columbia. In 2016 he learned that his shoebox went to a location that

was undisclosed for the safety of the people there.

Interestingly, St. Andrew’s sponsors the Peterson and Hawkins families who are in areas that remain secret for their protection. We thank God for these families, and for Operation Christmas Child, who minister to the people in these areas who otherwise may not know God.

You may go to samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/ and follow the directions, or you may read the FAQ for additional information. Please remember that your donation of \$9 must be made and paid online to track your shoebox. For more information, please contact Marty Scott at msscott@standrewspolaris.org or 614-284-0182.

Charitable Giving 101

As we enter the season of giving, parishioner Ryan Weiser, a certified financial planner, shares tips on making the most of your charitable donations.

Charitable donations allow you to give and receive — you give money or property to a qualified charity and you may receive an income tax deduction in return. Although this isn’t the main reason to donate, you may be able to lower your tax bill by supporting an organization or cause. In fact, a Harvard Business study found that people are happier when spending money on others. As you plan your giving, it’s important to keep detailed records in case you have to substantiate your gift. Receipts of your charitable donations can confirm your contributions should the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) require proof.

A donor may not claim a deduction for any contribution of cash, a check, or other monetary gift unless the donor maintains a record of the contribution in the form of a bank record (such as a canceled check), or a written communication from the charity (such as a receipt or a letter) showing the name of the charity, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.

For gifts of property, the acknowledgment must describe the gift and provide an estimated valuation. Donations of clothing and household items must be in “good condition” in order to qualify for a tax deduction. Donated property that exceeds \$5,000 requires a qualified written appraisal within 60 days of the date of the gift, and you must submit the appraisal when filing your taxes. Additionally, Form 8253 must be filed with all non-cash gifts when your deduction exceeds \$500.

It’s often common practice for large organizations to recognize donors with a gift of appreciation. If any perk (e.g., sporting or concert tickets, trips, clothing, meals, or books) is provided in exchange for a donation, the written disclosure from the receiving charity must reflect the value received in return. Your tax deduction will be reduced by this amount.

While receipts and other acknowledgments are not filed with your annual Federal income tax return (Form 1040), be sure to file them along with other tax documents for the year in which the donations were made. As a general rule, keep tax records, including all tax forms, investment statements, bank statements, proof of deductions, or any receipts associated with a particular return, for at least seven years. Preparation and organization can help ensure that you have the records you need, when you need them.

St. Andrew’s to serve at Common Ground Nov. 18

St. Andrews will serve at the Common Ground Free Store in Delaware on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We’ll be serving our famous taco salad and hamburger goulash, which shoppers look forward to every time we visit!

Sign-up sheets for both volunteers and food providers are in the Narthex at church. For more information please contact Diane Bobay at 614-846-6921 or bobayfamily@att.net, or Marty Scott at 614-284-0182 or msscott@standrewspolaris.org.

Diapers for Common Ground appreciated

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers or money for diapers to the Common Ground Free Store. Diapers have been added to the Weekly Collections/Shopper Needs list. Now the list for most important needs are diapers, toilet paper, soap, masking tape and feminine hygiene, items along with clothing, shoes, household items and toys. When items were dropped off and being sorted recently, one of the volunteers cheered that there was masking tape, as they had just run out. Thank you, St. Andrew’s, for always showing your love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Upcoming Brotherhood meeting date changed

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 7, has been moved to Thursday, Nov. 9. As always, the meeting will be at the Parish House at 7:30 p.m. The Brotherhood hopes to see everyone there for their continuation of the study “Catholicism — The Pivotal Players.”

New sign-up sheet for coffee hour goodies posted

The coffee hour sign-up sheet has been updated through Feb. 4, and is always on the kitchen door in the Gathering Area. Please consider signing up to bring “goodies” for Sunday mornings!

Coffee hour provides a welcoming atmosphere where members of St. Andrew’s and guests can relax and join in fellowship. For more information please contact Marty Scott at 614-284-0182 msscott@standrewspolaris.org.